

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 147

8 May 1944

Target: City area, Berlin, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 18

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb M-43 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 590 rounds

**E**ighteen aircraft took off to bomb Berlin. The last resort target was any military installation in Germany or any airdrome in occupied countries not adjacent to built-up areas. One aircraft returned, #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter* 359BS (Lt. E.C. **Miller**, 360BS) due to failure of the No. 2 engine. Bombs were jettisoned at the point of turn-back.

Seventeen B-17s dropped a total of 180 500-lb. G.P. M43 bombs from 26,500 feet through 10/10 undercast using PFF bombing. Only a few enemy aircraft were seen and there were no attacks on 303rd BG(H) aircraft. Flak was moderate to intense and accurate. Three B-17s suffered flak damage. Chaff was effective, and friendly fighter support was excellent and as ordered.

Lt. **Ferguson** landed #42-31583 *Clover Leaf*, 358BS, at Hardwick with two engines out. All other aircraft returned safely to Molesworth. There were no casualties.

The biggest enemy of the day was the intense cold. Temperatures dropped to -46 degrees and precautions against frostbite had to be taken. Capt. George T. **Mackin**, who led the mission stated, "I guess it was just like yesterday's mission to Berlin. We didn't see any enemy fighters at all and the flak didn't bother us a great deal."



Princess Pat #42-102453 (358BS) VK-J  
41st CBW-A (358BS) - Pilot Capt G.T. Mackin / CoPilot 1Lt J.W. Watson

## ***NEED I SAY ANYTHING, EXCEPT BERLIN AGAIN***

**8 MAY 1944 — MISSION # 147**

**Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections**

This was my 23rd mission and it was probably one of my worst ones. We were headed for Berlin again, but this time we lost No 2 engine on 42-97272 "Duchess Daughter" out around Hannover, and had to turn around and head home. This was a 359th Bomb Squadron aircraft that was borrowed for this mission.

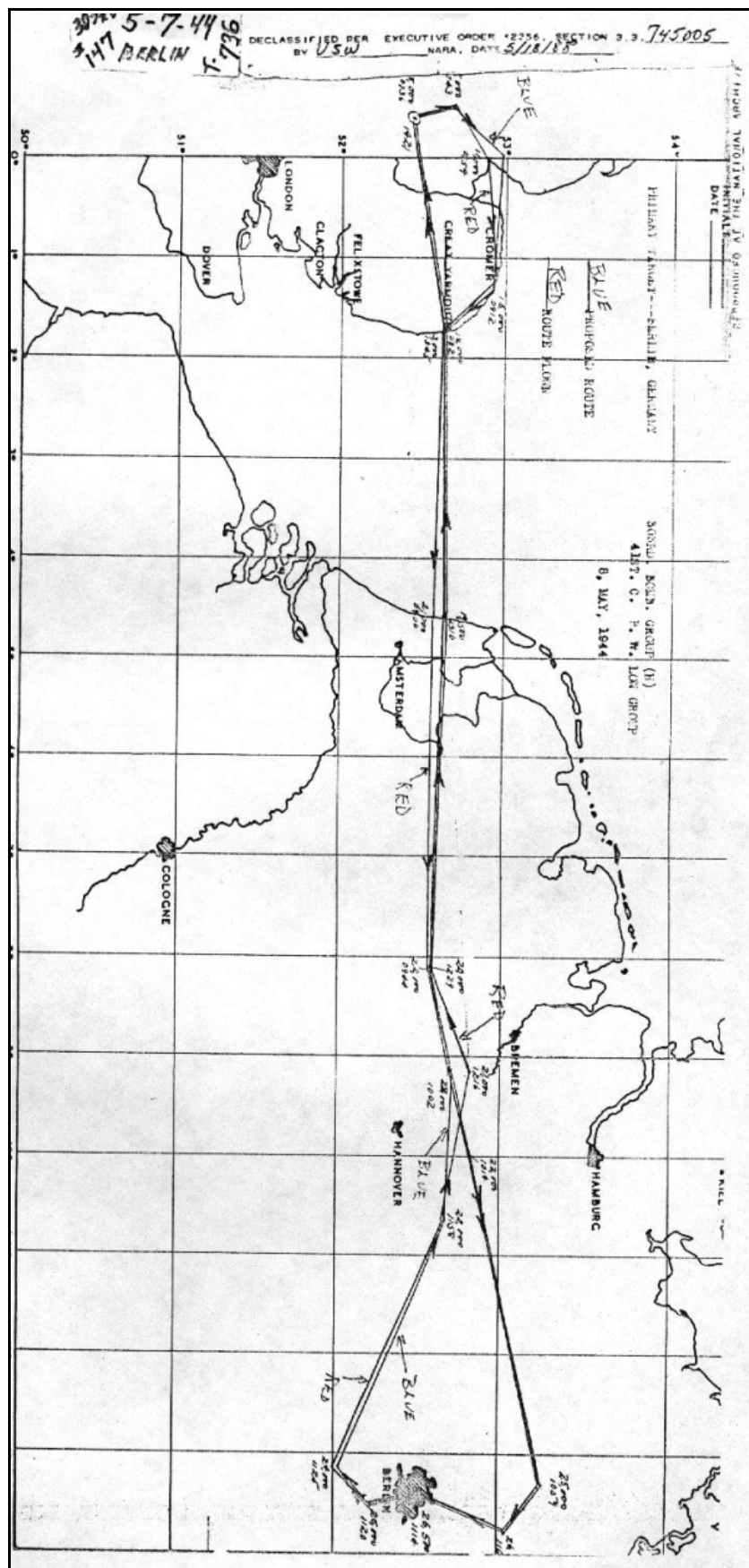


Nose Art B-17G #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter* (359BS) BN-T

I was flying with the Christian crew again today, as Lt Christian was still under the weather with a bad throat. They had me flying in the number five position but again off of "Tommy's" left wing. He was flying with my old crew and 2Lt Robert W. Heussler as co-pilot, probably breaking him in on his first mission.

When we lost the number 2 engine we tried to keep up with the formation but had to give it up and turn around. Luckily there were clouds that we could sneak into if we saw enemy fighters. But we had additional trouble when number 3 engine acted up and had to be feathered. The bombs were dropped to lighten the load but it wasn't enough on two engines. We finally had to go down to the ground to get out of the clouds and was receiving ground fire (from pistols and rifles) as we passed over The Netherlands. At ground level, we were able to restart the number 3 engine and it provided some power. Enough to get us back to Molesworth without being hit by enemy fighters.

Turning back, all alone was a scary situation. But we had no alternative, as we couldn't keep up with our formation. We didn't get to Berlin, but we did get credit for the mission.



Route Map

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

|                                    |                               |                               |                               |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <u><b>Mackin-Watson</b></u><br>453 |                               |                               |                               |  |
| <u><b>Knight</b></u><br>085        |                               | <u><b>Benham</b></u><br>298   |                               |  |
| <u><b>Ferguson</b></u><br>583      |                               |                               |                               |  |
| <u><b>Erickson</b></u><br>405      |                               | <u><b>Howell</b></u><br>006   |                               |  |
| <u><b>Harrison</b></u><br>281      |                               | <u><b>Young</b></u><br>484    |                               |  |
| <u><b>Oranges</b></u><br>569       | <u><b>Mitchell</b></u><br>391 | <u><b>Thompson</b></u><br>496 | <u><b>Sirany</b></u><br>284   |  |
| <u><b>Thomas</b></u><br>405        |                               | <u><b>Williams</b></u><br>329 |                               |  |
| <u><b>Miller</b></u><br>272        | <u><b>Savage</b></u><br>050   | <u><b>O'Beirne</b></u><br>187 | <u><b>Spindler</b></u><br>260 |  |

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></b><br>CMP - Command Pilot<br>P - Pilot<br>CP - Co-Pilot<br>NAV - Navigator<br>ANV - Ass't. Navigator<br>MNV - Mickey Navigator<br>ENG - Engineer<br>BOM - Bombardier<br>RO - Radio Operator | TOG - Togglier<br>BT - Ball Turret Operator<br>TT - Top Turret Operator<br>TG - Tail Gunner<br>NG - Nose Gunner<br>RG - Radio Gunner<br>WG - Waist Gunner<br>LWG - Left Waist Gunner<br>RWG - Right Waist Gunner<br>GUN - Gunner | VI - Voice Interpreter<br>OBS - Observer<br>PAS - Passenger<br>PHO - Photographer<br><br><b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b><br>KIA - Killed in action<br>WIA - Wounded in action<br>MIA - Missing in action<br>POW - Prisoner of war | DOW - Died of wounds<br>EVD - Evaded the enemy<br>INT - Interned in neu cntry<br>REP - Repatriated<br>RES - Rescued<br>ESC - Escaped<br>BO - Bailed out<br>DCH - Ditched<br>CR-L - Crashed on land<br>CR-S - Crashed at sea |
|---|--|--|---|

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31583 *Clover Leaf***

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|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Ferguson, Wendell Z., 1Lt  |
| CP  | Moody, James D., 2Lt       |
| NAV | Brown, James F., 2Lt       |
| BOM | Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt      |
| ENG | Matthews, David R., Sgt    |
| LWG | Smithson, Clyde E., S/Sgt  |
| RO  | Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt |
| RWG | Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt     |
| TG  | Brooks, Richard S., Sgt    |
| BT  | Rhodes, Kenneth G., Sgt    |

### **B-17G #44-6006 (*No Name*)**

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|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| P   | Howell, Ernest F., 2Lt        |
| CP  | Miller, Campbell, 2Lt         |
| NAV | Williams, Grover C., 2Lt      |
| BOM | Campbell, William D., 2Lt     |
| ENG | West, Jerome H., Sgt          |
| RWG | Stafford, Sheldon A., Sgt     |
| RO  | Lesser, Edward R., Sgt        |
| LWG | Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt    |
| TG  | MacFarland, Kendall H., S/Sgt |
| BT  | Ruppel, Edward, S/Sgt         |

### **B-17G #42-97085 (*No Name*)**

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|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Knight, R.A., 2Lt          |
| CP  | Watson, John P., 2Lt       |
| NAV | Coe, Charles F., 2Lt       |
| BOM | Borg, John E., 2Lt         |
| ENG | Kapes, Paul J., S/Sgt      |
| TT  | Hollifield, Robert G., Sgt |
| RO  | White, John H., S/Sgt      |
| RG  | Goldfarb, Wallace, Sgt     |
| TG  | Cummings, James E., Sgt    |
| LWG | Byerly, William C., Sgt    |

### **B-17G #42-97298 *The Floose***

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|     |                              |
|-----|------------------------------|
| P   | Benham, Philip O., 2Lt       |
| CP  | Lojewski, Telesphor, 2Lt     |
| NAV | Hamm, Williard A., 2Lt       |
| BOM | McCamy, James A., 2Lt        |
| ENG | Van Drunen, Cornelius, S/Sgt |
| RWG | Garcia, Robert L., Sgt       |
| RO  | Downs, Reginald, S/Sgt       |
| BT  | Hill, Reginald L., Sgt       |
| TG  | Dellinger, Lenoir E., Sgt    |
| LWG | Bonenberger, Robert E., Sgt  |

### **B-17G #42-102453 *Princess Pat***

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|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| P   | Mackin, George T., Capt       |
| CP  | Watson, Jack W., 1Lt          |
| NAV | Merthan, Lawrence C., 1Lt     |
| NAV | Williams, Jack N., 2Lt        |
| BOM | Armstrong, Charles C., 1Lt    |
| ENG | Hoffman, Robert W., T/Sgt     |
| RWG | McArthur, Robert G., S/Sgt    |
| RO  | Balzano, Christopher, T/Sgt   |
| BT  | Czeczotka, Theodore R., S/Sgt |
| TG  | Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt    |
| LWG | Daniel, Herbert A., S/Sgt     |

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-102484 *Heller's Angel***

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P Young, Elmer W., 1Lt  
CP Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt  
NAV Walsh, Myles J., 1Lt  
BOM Joyce, John D., 1Lt  
ENG Steele, John C., T/Sgt  
RO Dulick, Steve, T/Sgt  
BT Lebeck, Richard H., S/Sgt  
RWG Rohaly, Andy, S/Sgt  
LWG Withrow, John W., S/Sgt  
TG Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97284 *Ain't Misbehavin***

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P Sirany, George R., 2Lt  
CP Batton, James H., 2Lt  
NAV Ehrke, Warren D., 2Lt  
BOM Prussman, Henry G., 2Lt  
ENG Stephenson, Thomas O., S/Sgt  
RO Van Horn, Everett E., S/Sgt  
BT Bale, Gordon E., Sgt  
TG McPherson, Frank V., S/Sgt  
LWG See, Cecil J., Sgt  
RWG Umberger, Robert C., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-102496 *Special Delivery***

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P Thompson, Lawrence C., Capt  
CP Johnson, Richard O., 2Lt  
NAV Young, Warren I., F/O  
BOM Champ, William J., 2Lt  
ENG Hammons, Charles G., S/Sgt  
RO Hamann, Delos, H., S/Sgt  
BT Jenkins, Crawford E., S/Sgt  
TG Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt  
LWG Lamley, Jack A., Sgt  
RWG Christensen, Lars, Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago***

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | O'Beirne, Nelson B., 2Lt   |
| CP  | Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt  |
| NAV | Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt        |
| BOM | Clark, Fred T., 1Lt        |
| ENG | Henselman, Miles A., S/Sgt |
| RO  | Blumberg, Marvin R., S/Sgt |
| BT  | Faraone, Sam S., Sgt       |
| TG  | Studt, Allo L., Sgt        |
| RWG | Rogers, Winford E., Sgt    |
| LWG | Cammack, Francis C., Sgt   |

### **B-17G #42-97329 *Flak Hack***

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Williams, John T., 2Lt     |
| CP  | Coats, Niel, 2Lt           |
| NAV | Fazio, Joseph J., 2Lt      |
| BOM | Grunseth, Roald J., 2Lt    |
| ENG | Schwenke, Howard A., S/Sgt |
| RO  | Barber, Stewart, L., S/Sgt |
| BT  | Whitten, Cleveland W., Sgt |
| TG  | Ott, John E., Sgt          |
| RWG | Fitko, Marion F., S/Sgt    |
| LWG | Mitchell, John B., Sgt     |

### **B-17G #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter***

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt      |
| CP  | Francis, John R., 2Lt      |
| NAV | Cotner, Nyle E., 2Lt       |
| BOM | Parrilla, Rufe H., 2Lt     |
| ENG | Kuczewski, William J., Sgt |
| RO  | Tibbetts, Arthur P., S/Sgt |
| BT  | Britt, Jack E., S/Sgt      |
| RWG | Elmore, Kenneth L., Sgt    |
| TG  | Lobenherz, Ernest P., Sgt  |
| LWG | Howald, Hans, Sgt          |

### **B-17G #42-97405 *Mary Cary***

|     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| P   | Thomas, Earl N., 1Lt      |
| CP  | Heussler, Robert W., 2Lt  |
| NAV | Walenta, Clarence V., 2Lt |
| BOM | Scott, Harold L., 2Lt     |
| ENG | Mason, John W., T/Sgt     |
| RWG | Flenniken, William, S/Sgt |
| RO  | DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt |
| TG  | Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt     |
| BT  | Johnston, Harold A., Sgt  |
| LWG | Books, Carl O., Sgt       |

### **B-17G #42-97260 *Bow-Ur-Neck Stevens***

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Spindler, Benjamin L., 2Lt |
| CP  | Doughty, Gordon R., 2Lt    |
| NAV | Caffrey, James J., F/O     |
| BOM | Proud, Rexford I., 2Lt     |
| ENG | Pfeffer, William W., S/Sgt |
| RO  | Uhl, Willard H., S/Sgt     |
| BT  | Smith, Victor H., S/Sgt    |
| TG  | Petrie, Joe D., Sgt        |
| RWG | Fambry, Lewis F., Sgt      |
| LWG | Babbitt, Bruce E., Sgt     |

### **B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II***

|     |                              |
|-----|------------------------------|
| P   | Erickson, Roger W., 2Lt      |
| CP  | Tellinghuisen, Oscar A., 2Lt |
| NAV | Roche, William J., 2Lt       |
| BOM | Cottrell, John W., 1Lt       |
| ENG | Manser, Charles, S/Sgt       |
| RO  | Haynie, John D., S/Sgt       |
| BT  | Watson, Judson F., Sgt       |
| TG  | Nebhut, Kenneth E., S/Sgt    |
| RWG | Jacobs, John W., Sgt         |
| LWG | Davis, Harry R., Sgt         |

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

|     |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| P   | Savage, Gilbert T., 2Lt     |
| CP  | Schwolow, John C., 2Lt      |
| NAV | Coffey, John B., 2Lt        |
| BOM | Parker, Joseph B., 2Lt      |
| TT  | Kelly, J.D., S/Sgt          |
| BT  | Holt, Richard R., Sgt       |
| TG  | Paul, Samuel D., S/Sgt      |
| TG  | Stover, Edward J., Sgt      |
| RWG | Layton, Wilber A., Sgt      |
| LWG | Jefferson, Arthur G., S/Sgt |

### **B-17G #42-102569 *Miss Lace***

|     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| P   | Oranges, Chester N., 2Lt  |
| CP  | Lawrenson, George C., 2Lt |
| NAV | Webster, Charles M., 2Lt  |
| BOM | Harper, Kenneth L., 2Lt   |
| TT  | Eisenhauer, James A., Sgt |
| BT  | Gentry, Richard A., Sgt   |
| RO  | Sorese, Leonard V., S/Sgt |
| TG  | Franklin, Robert E., Sgt  |
| RWG | Korpi, Walfred J., S/Sgt  |
| LWG | Ward, Homer J., Jr., Sgt  |

### **B-17G #42-97391 *(No Name)***

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| P   | Mitchell, Fred E., 2Lt     |
| CP  | Ferguson, Gilbert L., 2Lt  |
| NAV | Shupe, John W., 2Lt        |
| BOM | Isaac, Kenneth W., 2Lt     |
| TT  | Cavagnol, Joseph J., S/Sgt |
| BT  | Landa, Hyman J., Sgt       |
| RO  | Parr, Joe A., S/Sgt        |
| TG  | Omile, Harold A., Sgt      |
| LWG | Byers, William R., Sgt     |
| RWG | Carpenter, Robert R., Sgt  |

### **B-17G #42-97281 *Queenie***

|     |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| P   | Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., 1Lt |
| CP  | Bastean, Stephen B., 2Lt        |
| NAV | Shemwell, John T., 2Lt          |
| BOM | Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt       |
| ENG | Rombach, Joseph H., T/Sgt       |
| BT  | Dye, James W., S/Sgt            |
| RO  | Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt      |
| TG  | Brown, Edgar S., S/Sgt          |
| LWG | Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt     |
| RWG | Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt         |