

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 153

13 May 1944

Target: Stettin, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 13

Length of Mission: 10 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 38 x 65 lb M47A1 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 715 rounds

Stettin, a city in eastern Germany was chosen as the last resort target after the primary at Posen, Poland and the secondary at Peenemunde, Germany were obstructed by thick clouds. The 303rd BG(H) flew as the lead and low Squadrons of the 303rd BG(H) composite Group led by Capt. Leroy E. **Daub**, 359BS Operations Officer. No aircraft returned early.

Bombing was accomplished from 24,000 feet, with 534 65-lb. M47A1 incendiary bombs dropped on markers released by the PFF B-17. Some of the city could be seen through the 7/10 to 10/10 cloud cover, allowing airmen brief glimpses of bombs bursting and fires starting below. Some of the flames were making good progress and smoke was beginning to rise.

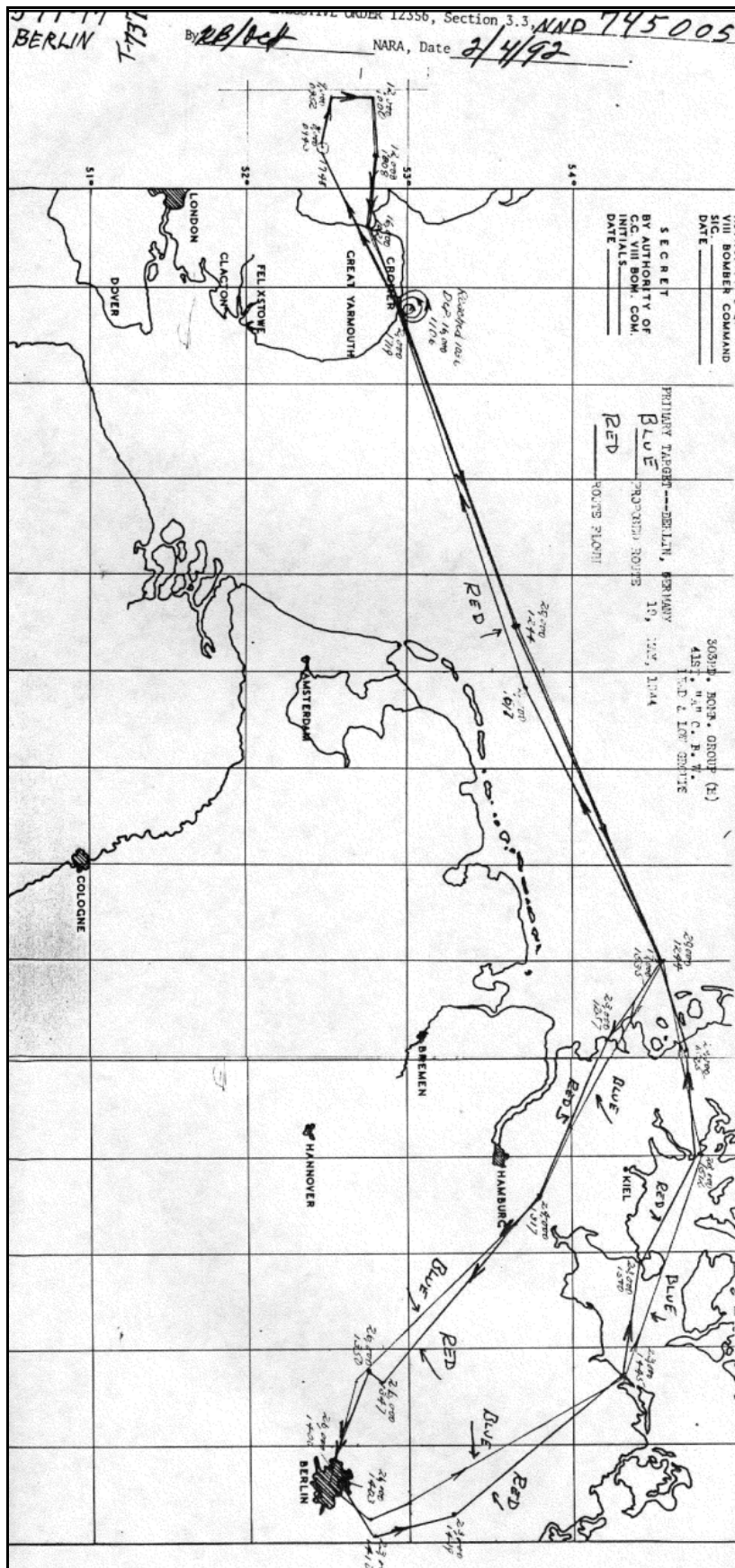
Moderate and inaccurate flak was encountered at Stettin, Xappeln, Politz and Juvre. Chaff did not seem to have any effect. Gunners reported from 35 to 100 enemy fighters. They started to queue up to attack when P-51s roared up, breaking up the enemy attack and shooting down several ME-109s. One airman said he saw four P-51s attack the entire group of 50 enemy fighters, shoot down five of them on the first pass, and so thoroughly break up the German formation that it never fully regained its attack plan. A few German fighters did manage to break away and attack another group, shooting down at least one Fortress. Gunners said that fighter escorts moved in and took most of the attack from the bombers.

Capt. Leroy **Daub** reported, "We had some opposition, but four P-51s split up a formation of 50 ME-109s and shot down five of them as they started to queue up to attack us. Then they really got to work on the Germans, and ME-109s were going down in flames all over the place."

All aircraft returned safely with no casualties, though three aircraft sustained flak damage.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Daub-Young</u> 058		
	<u>Tulloss</u> 483		<u>Assenheimer</u> 405	
		<u>Marsh</u> 272		
	<u>Thompson</u> 391		<u>Halpin</u> 050	
	<u>Moreau</u> 7787			_____
<u>Maxey</u> 432	<u>Ames-Watson</u> 893			_____
	<u>Hall-Davis</u> 622			_____
<u>McNamara</u> 9787	<u>Way</u> 085			_____
	<u>Johnson</u> 885			_____



Scorchy II #42-97058 (359BS) BN-V
41st CBW-A, 303BG High - Pilot Capt L.E. Daub / CoPilot 1Lt E.W. Young
 (Back L-R) 1Lt Myles J. Walsh (N), 1Lt Elmer W. Young (CP),
 Capt LeRoy E. Daub (P), 1Lt Frithjof M. Lunde (N), 1Lt Richard R. Bowen (B)
 (Front L-R) S/Sgt Robert I. McKenna (WG), S/Sgt Ray T. Haman (WG),
 S/Sgt Louis W. Considine (TG), S/Sgt Richard H. Lebeck (BT),
 T/Sgt Edward K. Carter (E), T/Sgt Victor S. Kelly (R)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97622 *Paper Dollie*

P	Hall, Charles M., 1Lt
CP	Davis, William C., 2Lt
NAV	Garrett, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Alderson, Raleigh L., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Walter K., S/Sgt
RWG	Roseland, Ralph A., Sgt
RO	Sandler, David L., S/Sgt
TG	Hiland, Robert L., Sgt
BT	Clarke, Kenneth, Sgt
LWG	Rogers, Joseph S., Sgt

B-17G #42-97787 (*No Name*)

P	Moreau, Joseph A., 1Lt
CP	Cook, John H., 2Lt
NAV	Binder, Carroll, Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Larson, Albert W., 2Lt
ENG	Rossmann, Carl H., Sgt
LWG	Tate, Royce G., Sgt
RO	Lowe, Gareth W., Sgt
RWG	Tomasini, Michael, Sgt
TG	Fox, Howard E., Sgt
BT	Ross, Ben A., Sgt

B-17G #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*

P	Johnson, Harlan J., 2Lt
CP	Wright, Charles E., 2Lt
NAV	Hamilton, Bruce B., 2Lt
BOM	Oyler, William B., F/O
ENG	Braun, Duane M., S/Sgt
RWG	Stidham, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Berrier, Edwin H., S/Sgt
TG	Buddingh, Frederick, Sgt
BT	George, William R., Sgt
LWG	Ciglar, Joseph, Sgt

B-17G #42-39787 *Wanton Woman*

P	McNamara, James F., Capt
CP	Satre, Leland H., 2Lt
NAV	Krouskup, Wayne E., 2Lt
BOM	Ney, Russell L., F/O
ENG	Rodgers, John E., S/Sgt
RWG	Mikola, Robert, Sgt
RO	Kustic, Mark S., S/Sgt
TG	Jones, John, Sgt
BT	Lappo, Teddy, Sgt
LWG	Wagner, William H., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam*

P	Ames, Walter J., Jr., 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
BT	Goldfarb, Wallace, Sgt
TG	Cummings, James E., Sgt
RWG	Byerly, William C., Sgt

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

P	Way, Henry G., 2Lt
CP	Raese, Warren G., 2Lt
NAV	Sigurdson, Elden A., 2Lt
BOM	Bell, Julian P., 2Lt
ENG	Lynam, Stanley A., S/Sgt
TT	Paolino, Vincent C., Sgt
RO	May, James G., S/Sgt
BT	LaFleur, Paul L., Sgt
TG	Parks, Robert E., Sgt
RWG	Manning, Robert L., Sgt

B-17G #42-102432 *Tiny Angel*

P	Maxey, Frank, 2Lt
CP	Neely, Glenn H., 2Lt
NAV	Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
BOM	Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
ENG	Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
LWG	Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
RO	Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
BT	Swain, Norman F., Pvt
TG	Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P	Tulloss, John W., 2Lt
CP	Gorecki, Victor T., 2Lt
NAV	Hollingsworth, William, 2Lt
BOM	Yelsky, Fred B., 1Lt
ENG	Robinson, Charles R., T/Sgt
RO	Swanson, Clifford, T/Sgt
BT	Manchester, Robert E., S/Sgt
TG	O'Connor, Julian J., Sgt
LWG	Richard, John, Sgt.
RWG	Kolenda, Frank M., Sgt

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

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	Stephan, Kenneth R., Sgt
TG	Held, Armin C., Sgt
LWG	McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RWG	Christensen, Lars, Sgt

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

P	Marsh, Richard K., 1Lt
CP	Sysel, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Forve, Frank F., 2Lt
TOG	Trawicki, George J., 1Lt
TT	Murphy, Carl B., S/Sgt
RO	Minks, George A., S/Sgt
BT	Hart, Edgar B., S/Sgt
TG	Moessner, Raymond J., S/Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Warren G., Sgt
LWG	Dean, Raymond N., Sgt
OBS	Barrett, Jesse M., Maj

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	Halpin, Robert H., 1Lt
CP	Moyer, William G., 2Lt
NAV	Bates, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Rawlings, Loren F., 2Lt
ENG	Merrow, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Hanson, Robert W., Sgt
BT	Salmon, Earl D., Sgt
TG	Miller, Theodore G., Sgt
LWG	Arendt, John L., Sgt
RWG	Frederick, Lee W., S/Sgt

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

P	Assenheimer, Edwin H., 1Lt
CP	Cunningham, Robert, 2Lt
NAV	Corbin, Frederick O., 2Lt
TOG	Meier, Wayne G., Sgt
ENG	Mayhugh, John C., S/Sgt
RO	Mouser, Lloyd C., T/Sgt
RWG	Rettinhouse, Robert A., S/Sgt
TG	Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt
BT	Manchester, Robert E., Sgt
LWG	Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97058 *Scorchy II*

P	Daub, Leroy E., Capt
CP	Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
NAV	Lunde, Frithjof M., 1Lt
NAV	Walsh, Myles J., 1Lt
BOM	Bowen, Richard R., 1Lt
ENG	Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RO	Kelly, Victor S., T/Sgt
LWG	McKenna, Robert I., S/Sgt
RWG	Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
BT	Lebeck, Richard H., S/Sgt
TG	Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt

DID YOU EVER GO ON A MISSION TO BLARNEY? — YES, YOU DID!

14 MAY 1944

Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

The Operational Narrative for this mission to hit the target identified as "Blarney" reported the following results: Strike photos not yet Available. Crews report excellent results. Bridge completely destroyed. Direct hits knocked out two spans and center pier. Bomb pattern well concentrated around "AP" (aiming point) which was center of bridge. No leaflets were carried.

It continued as follows: Vicious enemy aircraft attacks in the target area. Attacks were in bunches of five - seven on the nose and tail, level and low. Only a few team attacks. About 25 - 40 enemy aircraft seen, FW-190 and Me-109s. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire encountered in target area. CAVU (clear and visibility unlimited) at target, with weather having no affect on the mission. Friendly fighter support excellent, with effective protection for this group. No additional observations not already reported as hot news. End of report.

Thirty-six (36) B-17s from the 303rd Bomb Group attached the primary target at Blarney. The planes flew as Lead and Low Group of the 41st "A" Combat Wing, each Group consisting of eighteen (18) aircraft. Bomb were away at 11:18 hours. The planes were over enemy territory from 10:27 hours until 12:00 hours and their altitudes varied from 11,100 feet and 12,400 feet.

No aircraft gunfire was observed or encountered along the route over enemy territory. At the target and in its immediate vicinity, there was INTENSE and ACCURATE fire. The bursts were black in color. Damage caused by anti-aircraft gunfire was as follows: Lead Group — one major and six minor flak damaged. For the Low Group — one major and four minor flak damaged aircraft.

VHF (very high frequency) reception reported good. Two aircraft reported sets inoperative after target. No security violations were reported. All Radio Operators received the weather report from 1st Air Division ground stations on 6635 KCs. Bomber strike message was sent by LVAA and receipt obtained. Liaison transmitter in "G" was unserviceable.

This mission was lead by Lt/Colonel Lewis E. Lyle, Deputy Commander of the 303rd Bomb Group, while acting as Air Commander of the 41st Combat Wing. Take-off was at 06:45 hours and all returned safely to base at 12:40 hours. Two men were wounded. 416 x 500 lb General Purpose bombs were dropped on the primary target with results which are reported as excellent. It is reported that the bridge was completely destroyed.

The crews on this mission report excellent area fighter support by P-47s. The support was picked up in the target area at 11:18 hours and remained in sight until 12:00 hours. Many dog fights were reported in this area at an altitude of 12,000 feet. From 25 to 40 enemy aircraft were sighted and vicious attacks were made on this Group.

Aircraft # 42-39876 piloted by Lt. J. E. Smith, flying at 12,000 feet at 12:27 hours reported seeing a dingy about five miles off the English coast. Four men were in dingy. This incident was reported on sighting in the specified manner of VHF.

Aircraft # 42-19728 piloted by Lt. D. Fraser reported seeing a concentration of 30 tanks five miles northeast of target. A B-17 was seen to ditch about six miles off the English coast. Six chutes were seen. A B-17 was seen to go down in the target area at 11:18 hours. One engine was on fire and believed to be the results of enemy aircraft attacks.

Advanced info on Field Order Blarney. The purpose of this exercise is to test lines between various headquarters and units and to provide staff with experiences as near to actual conditions as can be simulated. It is assumed that the assault phase attack on beach targets was made at 03:00 hours on 14 May 1944, and that all aircraft had landed by 05:30 hours.

Advanced info to Practice Mission "Blarney." It is proposed as a staff exercise, in preparation for D-Day Operations. This exercise will be conducted on Sunday, 14 May 1944, which is set as "D-Day." It is again emphasized that this Field Order will be for staff planning purposes only and does not involve combat crew or aircraft to be airborne.

As soon as possible after simulated landing time, units will send flash reports to this headquarters, indicating the estimated damage to targets assigned to them. Although all orders and reports will be fictitious, it is desired that every effort be made to make all activities as realistic as possible in order that all concerned may derive the utmost benefit from this exercise. Lessons learned from this exercise will provide a basis for corrections to be made and difficulties to be expected on future operations.

So — Yes you did go to Blarney — "ON PAPER," but no one ever went on the Mission to Blarney in an aircraft.



Russian Generals and their party visit the Molesworth on 12 May 1944.