

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 156

20 May 1944

Target: Airdrome at Orly, France

Crews Dispatched: 12 + 2 spares

Length of Mission: 5 hours

Bomb Load: 6 x 1,000 lb M-44 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 170 rounds

**F**ourteen aircraft, including two spares, took off to bomb the airdrome at Orly, France. The secondary target was an airdrome at Oreil, France. The two spare aircraft returned as ordered. No other aircraft returned early.

Twelve B-17s dropped 72 1,000-lb. M44 bombs from 24,000 feet with good results. Weather had no effect on the mission. There were no clouds in the target area, but some haze.

No enemy aircraft were seen. Moderate and inaccurate flak was encountered in the target area with some scattered fire along the route. No aircraft sustained any battle damage and there were no casualties. Friendly fighter support was excellent and it was considered that chaff had some beneficial effect.

Maj. Louis M. **Schulstad** reported, "The mission can be described in six words — good weather, good bombing, no opposition. There's no way we can make it sound exciting."

All aircraft returned safely to England, although Lt. **O'Beirne**, piloting #42-107097, *Sweet Melody*, 360BS, landed at Bradwell Bay with two engines out.

## ***SURPRISE! — THERE IS A MILK RUN AMONGST MY MISSIONS***

**Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections**

We tried out a new type of formation today — a twelve aircraft formation with just two squadrons. I flew in the number 3 position off the lead aircraft, piloted by Major Louis M. Schulstad. My crew was the Cecchini crew as Tony was still not on flying status. But he had a very well qualified crew, which made it very simple for me — being a newcomer to their territory.

We bombed the airfield at Orly, France just outside of Paris. One would have thought that the Germans would have really stacked the area with anti-aircraft guns but we had little opposition from flak and no opposition at all from enemy aircraft.

The specific target was the Villacoublay Aircraft Works, an Orly Airdrome. We bombed visually and the results were good. We met meet no opposition from the air and flak was not a serious obstacle. But the weather on take-off out of Molesworth was the real bug-a-boo of this mission. We had such poor visibility that the 8th Air Force lost 5 B-17s and 3 B-24s that crashed on take-off, largely due to restricted visibility.

It sure was nice to have a "Milk Run" for a change — and not be headed for Berlin.



## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

P	Spindler, Benjamin L., 1Lt
CP	Doughty, Gordon R., 2Lt
NAV	Caffrey, James J., F/O
BOM	Proud, Rexford I., 2Lt
ENG	Pfeffer, William W., T/Sgt
RO	Uhl, Willard H., T/Sgt
BT	McKinnon, Neil W., S/Sgt
TG	Petrie, Joe D., S/Sgt
LWG	Fambry, Lewis F., S/Sgt
RWG	Babbitt, Bruce E., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee***

---

P	Miller, Edgar C., 1Lt
CP	Fisher, Stanley L., 2Lt
NAV	Cottrell, John W., 1Lt
BOM	McDevitt, Theodore D., 2Lt
ENG	Bachman, Clifford D., T/Sgt
RO	Smith, Benjamin H., T/Sgt
BT	Kepics, George, S/Sgt
TG	Nebhut, Kenneth E., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Hearn, Robert J., S/Sgt
RWG	Cogdell, Clarence L., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-107097 *Sweet Melody***

---

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

### **B-17G #42-31997 (No Name)**

---

P	Erickson, Roger W., 1Lt
CP	Tellinghuisen, Oscar A., 2Lt
NAV	Roche, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Moul, John D., 2Lt
ENG	Manser, Charles, S/Sgt
RO	Haynie, John D., S/Sgt
BT	Smith, Victor H., S/Sgt
TG	Heitman, Alfred V., Sgt
LWG	Jacobs, John W., S/Sgt
RWG	Davis, Harry R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-107048 (No Name)**

---

P	Ellsworth, Paul R., 1Lt
CP	Bartholomew, Dale E., 2Lt
NAV	Vell, Ona L., 2Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., 1Lt
ENG	Mours, John D., S/Sgt
RO	Habich, Arthur L., S/Sgt
BT	Flammia, Joseph E., S/Sgt
TG	Olson, Keith R., Sgt
RWG	Donohoe, Thomas D., Sgt
LWG	Abbott, Wesley C., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31340 *Miss Liberty***

---

P	McMillan, Murdock B., 1Lt
CP	Polezoes, Stanley, 2Lt
NAV	Shaw, Marvin E., 2Lt
BOM	Prince, James R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Payne, George S., T/Sgt
RO	Noller, Paul J., S/Sgt
BT	Karp, Harold, Sgt
TG	Cain, Leroy H., Sgt
RWG	Cox, James D., Sgt
LWG	Herr, Allen H., Sgt

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

---

P	Lynch, Robert J., 2Lt
CP	Schulstad, Louis M., Maj
NAV	Sbrolla, Emilio M., 2Lt
BOM	Barker, Havelock W., 1Lt
ENG	Roszell, Thomas M., T/Sgt
RO	Schuler, Frank H., T/Sgt
BT	Chudej, Josef R., S/Sgt
TG	Krogh, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
LWG	Schoonmaker, Elwood, Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Pleasanton, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
OBS	Hewitt, Dr. Edwin (Civilian)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

---

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

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

---

P Oranges, Chester N., 2Lt  
 CP Lawrenson, George C., 2Lt  
 NAV Whitman, John H., 2Lt  
 BOM Harper, Kenneth L., 2Lt  
 TT Eisenhower, 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 #42-97096 (No Name)**

---

P Beiser, Theodore R., 2Lt  
 CP Johnson, Richard R., 2Lt  
 NAV Gepner, Isadore, 2Lt  
 BOM Cooper, Edward G., 2Lt  
 TT Buchanan, Lonnie J., T/Sgt  
 BT Latta, Charles W., Sgt  
 RO Gorchesky, Benny J., S/Sgt  
 TG Brackey, Carroll H., Sgt  
 LWG Haines, James W., Sgt  
 RWG Glass, David, Sgt

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

---

P Headlee, Dale C., 1Lt  
 CP Fogerson, Joseph E., F/O  
 NAV Handley, Donald J., 2Lt  
 BOM Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt  
 ENG Klunk, James A., S/Sgt  
 BT Almanzor, Berton F., S/Sgt  
 RO Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt  
 TG Bell, Alton R., S/Sgt  
 LWG Wilson, Robert J., S/Sgt  
 RWG Kyle, Clarence, S/Sgt

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

---

P Raistrick, Albert G., 2Lt  
 CP Gallagher, John W., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Hibbard, Troy W., 2Lt  
 BOM Tow, Weyman J., 2Lt  
 TT Lynn, William V., Sgt  
 BT Kail, Nicholas F., Sgt  
 RO Sullivan, James J., T/Sgt  
 TG Jacques, Warren, Sgt  
 LWG Joyce, Jess, Sgt  
 RWG Soltero, John, Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31423 Jigger Rooche**

---

P Greenwood, Ernest G., 2Lt  
 CP Ligino, Steve, 1Lt  
 NAV Smith, Arthur M., 2Lt  
 BOM Dugger, William A., 2Lt  
 TT Rau, Harvey L., S/Sgt  
 BT Howard, George R., Sgt  
 RO Dahms, Edward R., S/Sgt  
 TG Dudley, Howard E., Sgt  
 RWG Muzyka, Myron M., Sgt  
 LWG Gainer, Philip B., Sgt

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

---

P Shope, George W., Jr., 1Lt  
 CP McCall, Robert S., 2Lt  
 NAV Shupe, John W., 2Lt  
 BOM Landry, Robert J., 2Lt  
 TT Relyea, Ralph R., T/Sgt  
 RO Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt  
 BT Teno, James R., S/Sgt  
 TG Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt  
 LWG O'Neil, Austin J., Sgt  
 RWG Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt  
 OBS Hight, J.L., Capt