

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 158

23 May 1944

Target: Saarbrucken, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 26 + 2 PFF

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 25,000 & 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,310 rounds

Twenty-six B-17s, including four spares, took off to bomb the Nancy/Essey airdrome in France. The secondary target, if the primary target could not be visually bombed, was the marshalling yards at Saarbrucken, Germany. Poor take-off visibility caused some assembly difficulties.

Three of the spares turned back and one filled in for one of the two B-17s that returned early. #42-97546 *Idaliza*, 460BS-E (**Christian**), lost formation over the Channel. #42-31483 *Bonnie B*, 359BS-P (**Sirany**), had a blown piston ring. The crew took off in a standby B-17, but could not catch the formation.

At the primary target, there were 8/10 clouds, prohibiting visual bombing. The secondary target at Saarbrucken was bombed by PFF. Twenty aircraft dropped 237 500-lb. G.P. M43 bombs from 25,000 and 24,000 feet. One aircraft jettisoned twelve 500-lb. bombs.

There were reports of five to eight enemy ME-109s. One made a pass at the Group. Three aircraft sustained damage from the fighter attack. Friendly fighter support was good except for the brief gap when the attack occurred. Flak was meager to moderate. Chaff seemed to be effective since no aircraft sustained flak damage. All aircraft returned safely with no casualties.

Capt. George T. **Mackin** said, "It wasn't too bad. We had two attacks by a group of FW-190s about an hour apart, but they didn't do any damage and the P-51s took care of them in a hurry. Even the Saarbrucken flak gunners seemed to be taking the day off for a change."

There were two gunner claims on enemy aircraft. S/Sgt. Roy D. **Harvey** (#42-97405) claimed and ME-109 as probable, but it was not confirmed as a claim. Sgt. Armin C. **Held** (#42-38050) claimed a damaged ME-109 and was credited with a probable.

**MY CREW DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK — AND
NEITHER DID I — SAARBRUCKEN AGAIN!**

Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

Saarbrucken wasn't the target, but when we began to close in on the Nancy/Essey Airdrome, our primary, it was covered by 8/10 cloud cover. So we headed for the secondary, which was Saarbrucken. My crew and I didn't want to go on to Saarbrucken. But we went, as I was leading the Low Squadron of the Low Group which was led by Captain George Mackin. Lt/Col. Lewis E. Lyle was the Air Commander of the 41st Combat Wing and flew with the 303rd Bomb Group's A formation and 1Lt Donald Stoullil.

My crew was the Cecchini crew and they vividly recalled getting shot so bad that they had to go down on the deck with two engines to try to make it back to England. A bad crash landing put a couple of the crew in the hospital, including 2Lt Anthony Cecchini their pilot.

We were hit twice by two separate attacks by FW-190s and Me-109s. Luckily, the anti-aircraft crews had taken the day off, or maybe it was because we didn't have to drag over the Marshalling Yards for the second time, that we didn't experience too much in the way of flak.

Again, today we had very poor visibility for our take-off and landing at Molesworth but every one got off and back without any casualties.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Lyle-Stoullil</u> PFF-592		
		<u>Raistrick</u> 885	<u>Bordelon</u> PFF-699	
	<u>Edwards</u> 272			<u>Melton</u> 027
<u>Carpenter</u> 206		<u>Tulloss</u> 781	<u>Savage</u> 099	<u>Allen</u> 200
	<u>Van Weelden</u> 284		_____	
<u>Thompson</u> 050		<u>Halpin</u> 496	_____	<u>Mitchell</u> Spare - 569
	_____		_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Mackin-Taylor</u> 453		
		<u>Knight -Baker</u> 085	<u>Hall-Latshaw</u> 298	
	<u>Miller</u> 048			<u>Benham</u> 006
_____		<u>Bartholomew</u> 841	<u>Watson</u> 028	<u>Determan</u> 622
	<u>O'Beirne</u> 805		_____	
_____		<u>Erickson</u> 340	_____	_____
	<u>Ellsworth</u> 405		_____	

Two (2) aircraft aborted this mission:
 Lt. Christian in 546
 Lt. Sirany in 483

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Knight, R.A., 2Lt
 CP Baker, John M., 2Lt
 NAV Claeys, Ronald, 2Lt
 BOM Belles, Frank G., 2Lt
 ENG Kishbaugh, Warren L., S/Sgt
 TT Reichman, Fred P., Sgt
 RO Judd, Fred H., S/Sgt
 BT Bertasso, Joseph S., Sgt
 TG Peters, Archie D., Sgt
 RWG Parker, Stanton A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97622 Paper Dollie

P Determan, Alvin G., 2Lt
 CP Pfahler, Ervin J., 2Lt
 NAV Palmer, Jackson, Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Ledbetter, Lamar E., 2Lt
 ENG Hendrickson, Milton C., S/Sgt
 RWG Livingston, Acel E., Sgt
 RO Asman, Robert H., S/Sgt
 TG Cope, Wayne E., Sgt
 LWG Carroccia, Albert R., Sgt
 BT Vasquez, Manuel, Sgt

B-17G #42-97298 The Floose

P Hall, Charles M., 1Lt
 CP Latshaw, William E., F/O
 NAV Ivy, Wallis S., 2Lt
 BOM McCamy, James A., 2Lt
 ENG Pickens, Donald E., S/Sgt
 RWG Murphy, Joseph A., Sgt
 RO Tidwell, Andrew W., S/Sgt
 TG Hedrick, Warren L., Sgt
 BT Ginn, William E., Sgt
 LWG Miller, Horace J., Sgt

B-17G #42-102453 Princess Pat

P Mackin, George T., Capt
 CP Taylor, James B., Capt
 NAV Merthan, Lawrence C., 1Lt
 NAV Williams, Jack N., 1Lt
 BOM Armstrong, Charles C., 1Lt
 ENG Jones, Douglas L., T/Sgt
 RWG Schweinebraten, Leslie H., S/Sgt
 RO Dulin, Woodroe G., T/Sgt
 BT Czczotka, Theodore R., S/Sgt
 TG Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt
 LWG Cox, James B., S/Sgt

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

P Benham, Philip O., 2Lt
 CP Lojewski, Telesphor, 2Lt
 NAV Hamm, Williard A., 2Lt
 BOM Spatt, Arnold I., 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 #42-107028 (No Name)

P Watson, John P., 2Lt
 CP Neely, Glenn H., 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 #42-107002 Mairzy Doats

P Oliver, Sam, 1Lt
 CP Shankweiler, Stanley R., 2Lt
 NAV Contos, Spiros P., 2Lt
 BOM Chapple, Harry, 2Lt
 ENG Haskell, Whitney, S/Sgt
 RWG Imbrogno, Americo S., Sgt
 RO Kissling, John P., S/Sgt
 BT Russell, Francis H., T/Sgt
 TG Humphries, Wayne, Sgt
 LWG Scalco, Robert, Sgt
 (Spare - Returned)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97781 *The '8' Ball MK III*

P Tulloss, John W., 1Lt
 CP London, Walter H., Jr., 2Lt
 BOM Hollingsworth, William, 2Lt
 ENG Robinson, Charles R., T/Sgt
 TOG Merrow, Robert K., S/Sgt
 RO Montgomery, Robert E., T/Sgt
 BT Jenkins, Crawford W., S/Sgt
 TG O'Connor, Julian J., Sgt
 RWG Richard, John, Sgt.
 LWG Kolenda, Frank M., Sgt

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

P Van Weelden, Douglas C., 2Lt
 CP Sysel, William A., 2Lt
 NAV Saumsiegle, Robert W., 2Lt
 BOM Vincent, Ronald J., F/O
 ENG Olander, Phillip A., S/Sgt
 RO Ledogar, Ralph E., S/Sgt
 BT Raterman, Urban L., Sgt
 TG Barry, John K., Sgt
 LWG Forsythe, William K., S/Sgt
 RWG Welch, John R., Sgt

B-17G #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P Carpenter, Arthur G., 2Lt
 CP Whitaker, Joseph C., 2Lt
 NAV Reid, George E., F/O
 BOM Day, Dean K., 2Lt
 ENG Pordham, Jack F., S/Sgt
 RO Bortolotti, Barney J., S/Sgt
 BT Dean, Raymond N., S/Sgt
 TG Nichols, Dalbee, Sgt
 LWG Edmund, William P., Jr., Sgt
 RWG Vanlandingham, John C., Sgt

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

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 Lemley, Jack A., Sgt
 RWG Christensen, Lars, Sgt

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

P Halpin, Robert H., 1Lt
 CP Daum, Maurice C., 2Lt
 NAV Riley, Milton S., 2Lt
 BOM Manchester, Robert E., S/Sgt
 ENG Mahaffey, William D., S/Sgt
 RO Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
 LWG Franceschini, James V., Sgt
 BT Rohaly, Andy, S/Sgt
 TG Quinn, Charles A., S/Sgt
 RWG Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt

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

P Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
 CP Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
 NAV Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
 BOM Joyce, John D., 1Lt
 ENG Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
 RO Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
 BT Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
 RWG Taylor, Burt W.
 TG Kowalk, Francis H., S/Sgt
 LWG Abernathy, Fay S., S/Sgt

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

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

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 #42-37841 *Banshee*

P	Bartholomew, Dale E., 2Lt
CP	Ross, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Blume, William H., III, 2Lt
BOM	Andreason, Joseph G., 2Lt
ENG	Litwiller, Harold D., S/Sgt
RO	Allard, Charles G., S/Sgt
BT	Pope, Carey G., Sgt
TG	Blackwell, Haywood E., Jr., Sgt
RWG	DeBartolo, Albert L., Sgt
LWG	Lowe, Ralph R., Sgt

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

P	Parker, John T., 2Lt
CP	Heussler, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Lacey, Norman R., 2Lt
BOM	Pence, Granville A., 2Lt
ENG	Wall, Claudia W., S/Sgt
RO	Grace, Charles, Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Rhyne, Samuel A., Sgt
TG	Szczudlo, Joseph W., Sgt
RWG	Weaver, Thomas E., S/Sgt
LWG	Fox, John L., Sgt
(Spare - Returned)	

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Christian, Max A., 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
TG	Elmore, Kenneth L., Sgt
LWG	Lobenherz, Ernest P., Sgt
RWG	Lovett, William F., S/Sgt
(Abortive)	

B-17G #42-97805 (No Name)

P	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 1Lt
CP	Long, Paul H., 2Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
BOM	Clark, Fred T., 1Lt
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 #42-97405 *Mary Cary*

P	Ellsworth, Paul R., 1Lt
CP	Evans, Ernest N., 1Lt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., 1Lt
BOM	Scott, Harold L., 1Lt
ENG	Mason, John W., T/Sgt
RO	DeWitte, Victor W., T/Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., S/Sgt
TG	Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt
RWG	Flenniken, William, S/Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97699 - PFF (305BG)

P	Bordelon, Berton A., 1Lt
CP	Coons, Charles L., 1Lt
NAV	Cromwell, Frederick P., 1Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Shupe, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Clark, James G., 2Lt
ENG	Barker, Forrest, T/Sgt
RO	Fontana, Joseph L., T/Sgt
TG	Couch, Ted, S/Sgt
GUN	Patterson, Harry L., S/Sgt
GUN	Adams, Donald K., S/Sgt

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

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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Raistrick, Albert G., 2Lt
 CP Ligino, Steve, 2Lt
 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
 LWG Gainer, Philip B., Sgt
 RWG Muzyka, Myron M., Sgt

B-17G #42-32027 Betty Jane

P Melton, James H., 1Lt
 CP Belknap, Robert W., 2Lt
 NAV Frechter, Harry G., 2Lt
 BOM Clapp, Keith W., 2Lt
 TT Rusinak, John C., T/Sgt
 BT Moore, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
 RO Stoberl, Donald L., S/Sgt
 TG Anderson, Ralph R., Sgt
 LWG LaPlante, Willard R., Sgt
 RWG Miller, Norman L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31200 Old Crow

P Allen, Charles R., 1Lt
 CP Parham, James S., 2Lt
 NAV Thurmon, John A., 2Lt
 BOM Bourgeault, Louis H., 2Lt
 TT Bourlier, Donald W., Sgt
 BT Knedler, Lee F., Sgt
 RO Reed, John H., S/Sgt
 TG Stansbury, Edward P., Sgt
 RWG Foerster, LeRoy H.M., Sgt
 LWG Bohensiel, Robert L., Sgt

B-17G #42-107099 Old 99

P Savage, Gilbert T., 2Lt
 CP Schwolow, John C., 2Lt
 NAV Landry, Robert J., 2Lt
 BOM Parker, Joseph B., 2Lt
 LWG 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
 TT Jefferson, Arthur G., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102569 Miss Lace

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
 (Spare - Returned)

B-17G #42-97592 PFF 305BG

LtCol Lewis E. Lyle (P) (Hdqs)
 Capt Donald W. Stoullil (CP) (359BS)
 Capt Hobert H. Steely, Jr. (N) (358BS)
 1Lt Harold A. Susskind (N) (359BS)
 Capt James E. McCormick (B) (427BS)