

# 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

**T**wenty-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**

<b>CREW POSITIONS</b>	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	<b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b>	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)**

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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**

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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 A., 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**

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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**

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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)**

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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)**

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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**

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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 Misbeahavin***

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)**

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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***

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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)**

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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***

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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)**

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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***

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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)**

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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***

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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)