

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 159

24 May 1944

Target: City area, Berlin, Germany (PFF)

Crews Dispatched: 38

Crews Lost: Lt. Worthley & crew

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 25 minutes

Bomb Load: 16 x 100 lb M-30, 7 x 500 lb M17A1 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitudes: Group A - 27,000 ft; Group B - 25,900 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,690 rounds

Doctor Edwin **Hewitt** flew as a civilian in #42-97329 *Flak Hack*, 360BS-H piloted by 1Lt. Paul R. **Ellsworth**. Lt. Col. Lewis E. **Lyle**, DCO 303BG, flew with Lt. F.X. **Sullivan**, leading the 427BS high Squadron formation.

The 303rd BG(H) furnished 19 aircraft for the high Group of the 41 CBW-A formation. No aircraft returned early. The 303rd BG(H) also furnished 19 aircraft for the high Group of the 41 CBW-B formation with three returning early. #42-97622 *Paper Dollie*, 358BS-K (**Bailie**) - No. 4 engine cylinder. The #3 engine was feathered shortly after take-off. A hard landing was made on the right wheel upon return to Molesworth. The wheel immediately collapsed causing the bomb loaded B-17 to ground loop. There were no injuries. #42-31213 *Pistol Packin' Mama*, 359BS-Z (**Moser**), the pilot had laryngitis, and #42-97058 *Scorchy II*, 359BS-V (**Young**), No. 2 engine failure.

The 303BG-A formation dropped 306 100-lb. G.P. M-30, 132 500-Lb. M17 clusters, and 28 68-lb. M47A1 incendiary cluster bombs on western Berlin between the suburbs of Siemens Stadt and Togel. One aircraft returned with its bombs and another bombed a target of opportunity. This formation saw 50 fighters over Berlin and some others that couldn't be identified. There were no attacks.

The 303BG-B formation experienced considerable problems in assembling with the 41 CBW-B. The assembly altitude was changed after take-off. The Division did not assemble in correct order and Wings were continuously "S-ing" for position. During climbs, dense and persistent contrails were present. In addition to this confusion, the 303BG-B lost its low 358BS and the lead 384BG disappeared. At this time the formation of 15 B-17s dispersed and attached themselves to 3rd Division formations. Four joined the 100BG Low Squadron, four formed the 100BG High Squadron and the remaining seven flew with other combat Wings and pressed home their attacks. The lead B-17 flew with the 388BG (Square "H"). Crews of the 303BG-B spotted 40 to 50 enemy fighters.

Capt. Fred F. **Wilson**, piloting one of the lead ships, said, "There were a few fighters around, but they didn't attack our Wing. We had good fighter escort for protection and they seemed eager to take care of anything that came around. The flak wasn't too rough either, but we knew it was there." Capt. William C. **Heller**, leading the second Group, said the city seemed to be getting a terrific pounding." The whole city was just covered with Fortresses. They were massed up there and the bombs seemed to be raining down from them." One

gunner, S/Sgt. Joseph **Chudej**, ball turret gunner on the Lt. Robert J. **Lynch** crew, got a ringside seat for the fighter attacks on other Groups. "There were about 40 enemy fighters jumping on them at a time," S/Sgt. **Chudej** said. "Then the fighter escort came in and took over, but the Germans knocked down four Forts first. There were dogfights all over the sky."

F/O William B. **Oyler** (42-32037) claimed an ME-109 destroyed. Sgt George R. **Howard** (42-31423) also claimed an ME-109, but it was not confirmed.



1Lt Joe R. Worthley

Flak over Berlin was intense and accurate. Twenty-five aircraft sustained flak damage. Aircraft #42-97787 (*No Name*), 358BS-M, piloted by 1Lt. Joe R. **Worthley**, was missing in action. It was last observed over the English Channel at 21,000 feet on fire at 1018 hours. Eight men were spotted leaving the airplane. Three 'chutes opened immediately and five apparently delayed jumps. The aircraft was not observed hitting the ground or water. The cause of loss was unknown. The only crew member to survive the crash was the Tail Gunner, Sgt. Elmer E. **Simpson**, who was captured and taken prisoner. Lt. **Worthley**, 2Lt. Alfred B. **Clumpner**, 1Lt. Carroll **Binder**, Jr., 1Lt. Austin J. **Mack**, Sgt. James S. **Baker**, S/Sgt. Erwin C. **Zimmer**, Sgt. John W. **Goetz**, S/Sgt. Kenneth R. **Pickell** and S/Sgt. Leslie H. **Schweinebraten** were all killed. Lt. **Clumpner**, Sgt. **Baker** and S/Sgt. **Schweinebraten** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium.



Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT — BERLIN AGAIN!
Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

A person would not believe that of all of the 364 missions flown by the 303rd Bomb Group, that one person could draw such a stacked deck — to get almost half of his 30 missions to Berlin. Here is the list of missions where the primary target was the Center of the City of Berlin or an aircraft factory on the outskirts of the City — and I was on the crew loading list of every one!

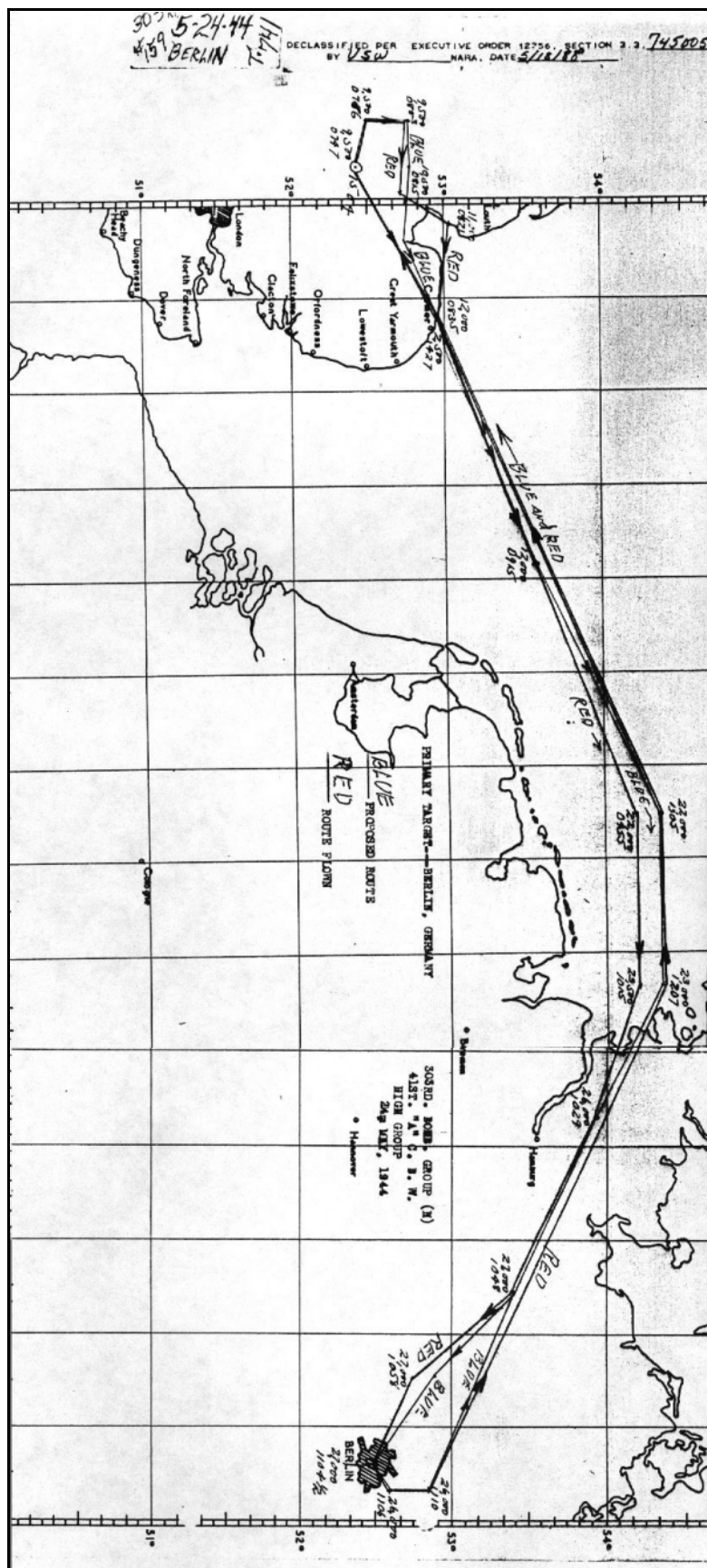
Mission 116	March 3, 1944	Berlin (Erkner), Germany
Mission 117	March 4, 1944	Berlin (Center of the City)
Had to attack Bonn & Koln due to bad weather		
Mission 118	March 6, 1944	Berlin (Erkner), Germany
Mission 119	March 8, 1944	Berlin (Erkner), Germany
Mission 120	March 9, 1944	Center of City of Berlin
Mission 125	March 22, 1944	Center of City of Berlin
Mission 136	April 18, 1944	Berlin City Area
Mission 144	April 29, 1944	Center of City of Berlin
Had to abort this mission due to B/T door being broken		
Mission 150	May 4, 1944	Friedrichstrasse Station, Berlin
Was in wrong 303 rd Group—The “B” Group received no credit		
Mission 146	May 7, 1944	Friedrichstrasse Station, Berlin
Mission 147	May 8, 1944	Berlin City Area
Mission 155	May 19, 1944	City Area of Berlin
Mission 159	May 24, 1944	Center of City of Berlin

This was my 25th mission and it was another one to Berlin. I was flying Squadron Lead in aircraft #42-97546 “Idaliza” with most of my original crew. Only Tommy and Walenta were not aboard as they both moved up to be lead crew members. 2Lt John G. Anderson was my co-pilot and 2Lt William J. Roche was my navigator. It sure was nice to be flying with some “old-hands.”

This was a disaster waiting to happen — as we never did form up properly and there were B-17s all over the sky, especially at the target. Many formations were hit by fighters. One crew member reported four B-17s being knocked down by fighters before our escort could drive them away. And flak was as usual — intense and accurate. We lost one aircraft due to flak that got most of the way home before having to crash near the ocean.

During the climb we became lost from our lead squadron and in some cases we couldn't see the squadron that was flying right next to us. Persistent contrails and dense haze was our problem today. It became so bad that we had to attach ourselves to a 3rd Air Division Group and tag along with them to the target. We dropped on the 3rd Air Division leader, and when the bombs were away, we made a very sharp turn to the left. It was so tight that I believe the aircraft wings were absolutely vertical. How we managed to escape being clipped by another aircraft I will never know. It was a real harrowing turn, with everybody not being able to keep up with the leaders.

Of all of the missions that I flew this seemed to be the worst in terms of being able to keep up with our leaders and remain in formation. The weather just would not allow it and it was real surprising that we didn't get a recall due to severe weather conditions.



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

<u>Wilson-Lynch</u> 544				
<u>Johnston</u> 841		<u>Parker</u> 997		
<u>Ellsworth</u> 329				
<u>Miller</u> 546		<u>Spindler</u> 590		
<u>Estes</u> 432		<u>Lyle-Sullivan</u> 311		
<u>Mitchell</u> 885	<u>Basteau</u> 569		<u>O'Hare</u> 391	<u>O'Beirne</u> 048
<u>Melton</u> 027		<u>Williams</u> 340		
<u>Savage</u> 099	<u>Ligino</u> 423		<u>Christian</u> 805	<u>Allen</u> 096
			<u>Oliver</u> 002	

Three "B" Group aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Bailie in 622
Lt. Moser in 213
Lt. Young in 058

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	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
		RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Heller-Edwards</u> 484		
	<u>Carpenter</u> 206		<u>Meier</u> 284	
		<u>Moser</u> 213		
	<u>Van Weelden</u> 405		<u>Thompson</u> 496	
	<u>Worthley</u> 787		<u>Young</u> 058	
<u>Hall</u> 085	<u>Maxey</u> 224		<u>Knight</u> 177	<u>Tulloss</u> 781
	<u>Benham</u> 298		<u>Ferguson</u> 006	
<u>Johnson</u> 037	<u>Bailie</u> 622		<u>Determan</u> 291	<u>Watson</u> 739
			<u>Sirany</u> 272	



Heller's Angel #42-102484 (359BS) BN-K

41st CBW-B High (359BS) - Pilot Capt W.C. Heller / CoPilot 1Lt K.C. Edwards

(Back L-R) 2Lt V.T. Gorecki (TG-O), 2Lt G.H. Counts (N), 1Lt K.C. Edwards (CP),

1Lt F.M. Lunde (N), Capt W.C. Heller (P), Capt R.R. Bowen (B)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt F.H. Kowalk (WG), T/Sgt H.W. Kennedy (R),

T/Sgt K.V. Johnson (E), S/Sgt A.G. Guzman (BT), S/Sgt F.S. Abernathy (WG)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*

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 #42-97291 *Myasis Dragon*

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 #42-97085 *(No Name)*

P	Hall, Charles M., 1Lt
CP	Latshaw, William E., F/O
NAV	Ivy, Wallis S., 2Lt
BOM	Rickey, Lowell L., 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 #42-97298 *The Floose*

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 #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter*

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

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*

P	Maxey, Frank, 1Lt
CP	Whittall, Ernest A., 2Lt
NAV	Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
BOM	Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
ENG	Johnston, Wendell B., S/Sgt
RO	Lesser, Edward R., S/Sgt
BT	Swain, Norman F., Pvt
TG	Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt
RWG	Stafford, Sheldon A., Sgt
LWG	Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #42-32037 (No Name)

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 #42-97622 *Paper Dollie*

P	Bailie, Homer P., 2Lt
CP	Markos, Costa, F/O
NAV	Waterland, Edward L., 2Lt
BOM	Barkin, Herbert L., 2Lt
ENG	Ham, William J., S/Sgt
TT	Martinez, Gregorio, Sgt
RO	Sawyer, Robert B., S/Sgt
BT	Oss, Frank E., Sgt
TG	Naylor, Richard G., Sgt
RWG	Munn, Charles F., Sgt

(Abortive)

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

P	Ferguson, Wendell Z., 1Lt
CP	Kirkland, Robert A., F/O
NAV	Brown, James F., 2Lt
BOM	Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
ENG	Matthews, David R., Sgt
LWG	Smithson, Clyde E., S/Sgt
RO	Phillips, Robert E., T/Sgt
RWG	Splawn, Elzie B., Sgt
TG	Brooks, Richard S., Sgt
BT	Rhodes, Kenneth G., Sgt

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

P	Worthley, Joe R., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Clumpner, Alfred B., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Binder, Carroll, Jr., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 1Lt	KIA
ENG	Pickell, Kenneth R., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Schweinebraten, Leslie M., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Zimmer, Erwin C., S/Sgt	KIA
LWG	Baker, James S., Sgt	KIA
TG	Simpson, Elmer E., Sgt	POW
BT	Goetz, John W., Sgt	KIA

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 #42-102496 *Special Delivery*

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 #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

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 #42-97272 *Duchess' Daughter*

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 #42-107206 *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 #42-31213 *Pistol Packin' Mama*

P	Moser, Clinton A., 1Lt
CP	Arnold, William J., 2Lt
NAV	Andreasen, Rolf W., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Frank P., 2Lt
ENG	Mays, Pearl E., S/Sgt
RO	Zionkoski, John T., S/Sgt
TT	Duffey, Willis A., Sgt
BT	Parrish, Vernon, Sgt
TG	Seelock, Joseph J., Sgt
LWG	Raines, Donald E., Sgt
	(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Meier, Russell W., 1Lt
CP Reed, John W., 2Lt
NAV Prince, Alan M., 2Lt
TOG Kolling, Arthur J., S/Sgt
ENG Danford, Emmett J., S/Sgt
RO Connors, Joseph Q., S/Sgt
RWG Titsworth, William E., S/Sgt
LWG Colley, Smith K., Sgt
BT Richard, Vernon, Sgt
TG Butler, Ashley A., Sgt

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

P Heller, William C., Capt
CP Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
NAV Lunde, Frithjof M., 1Lt
BOM Bowen, Richard R., Capt
ENG Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
TG Gorecki, Victor T., 2Lt
LWG Kowalk, Francis H., S/Sgt
RWG Abernathy, Fay S., S/Sgt

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

P Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
CP Peterson, Everett V., 2Lt
NAV Sanders, Coleman, 1Lt
BOM Joyce, John D., 1Lt
ENG Steele, John C., T/Sgt
RO Dulick, Steve, T/Sgt
BT Lebeck, Richard H., S/Sgt
TG Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt
LWG Withrow, John W., S/Sgt
RWG Rohaly, Andy, S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Miller, Edgar C., 1Lt
CP	Anderson, John G., 2Lt
NAV	Roche, William J., 2Lt
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
LWG	Books, Carl O., S/Sgt
RWG	Flenniken, William, S/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

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

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

B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee*

P	Johnston, Donald M., 1Lt
CP	Long, Paul H., 2Lt
NAV	Schultz, Milo R., 2Lt
BOM	Cascio, Guiseppe, 1Lt
ENG	Barnum, Abraham E., M/Sgt
RO	Treece, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Pesetsky, Paul W., S/Sgt
TG	Nestok, Frank, S/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Herbert L., S/Sgt
LWG	Turner, Kenzie H., S/Sgt

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

P	Williams, John T., 1Lt
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., S/Sgt
TG	Ott, John E., S/Sgt
RWG	Northam, James W., S/Sgt
LWG	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97590 *Virgin Mary*

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	McKinnon, Neil W., Sgt
TG	Petrie, Joe D., Sgt
RWG	Fambry, Lewis F., Sgt
LWG	Babbitt, Bruce E., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 1Lt
CP	Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt
NAV	Cottrell, John W., 1Lt
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	Ellsworth, Paul R., 1Lt
CP	Fisher, Stanley L., 2Lt
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
RWG	Cogdell, Clarence L., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Hearn, Robert J., S/Sgt
OBS	Hewitt, Dr. Edwin, Civilian

B-17G #42-102544 Sack Time

P	Lynch, Robert J., 1Lt
CP	Wilson, Fred F., Capt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., 1Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
BOM	Merz, Dick W., 2Lt
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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-32027 *Betty Jane*

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

B-17G #42-97096 *(No Name)*

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	Bohenstiel, Robert L., Sgt

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

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 #42-107099 *Old 99*

P	Savage, Gilbert T., 2Lt
CP	Schwolow, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Coffey, John B., 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 #42-97391 *(No Name)*

P	O'Hare, Phil W., 1Lt
CP	Flick, Chester E., 2Lt
NAV	Landry, Robert J., 2Lt
BOM	Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt
TT	Souder, Lee F., Jr., T/Sgt
RO	DuBray, Ernest D., S/Sgt
BT	Dye, James W., S/Sgt
RWG	Doyle, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Brock, Charley F., Sgt
LWG	Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt

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

P	Estes, Shirley W., 1Lt
CP	Byers, Ballard T., 2Lt
NAV	Shemwell, John T., 1Lt
BOM	Minter, Thomas W., 2Lt
TT	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Wiley, Nathan H., S/Sgt
RO	Abeyta, J. Charles, T/Sgt
TG	Ross, Samuel C., S/Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ford, Thomas P., Sgt
PASS	Hight, J.L., Capt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Ligino, Steve, 1Lt
CP	Tyler, Frederick B., 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
RWG	Muzyka, Myron M., Sgt
LWG	Gainer, Philip B., Sgt

B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby*

P	Lyle, Lewis E., LtCol
CP	Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt
NAV	Shupe, John W., 2Lt
BOM	Roode, William A.T., 2Lt
TT	Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT	Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO	Sullivan, James J., T/Sgt
TG	Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
LWG	Swanson, Charles A., S/Sgt
RWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

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

P	Bastean, Stephen B., 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	Gervais, Joseph R., S/Sgt
TG	Jacques, Warren, Sgt
LWG	Joyce, Jess, Sgt
RWG	Soltero, John, Sgt

HIS LAST MISSION
FROM THE DIARY OF LT. CARROLL 'TED' BINDER
Mission #159–24 May 1944 to Bomb the City of Berlin

Somewhere in England – May 1944 – This letter, written during the middle part of May, was before Lt Binder flew this Mission – his last. As the summary of the mission stated, Ted's aircraft was missing in action and last observed over the English Channel at 21,000 feet, on fire at 10:18 hours. Eight men were spotted leaving the aircraft. Three chutes opened immediately and five apparently delayed jumps, due to the cold air. The aircraft was not observed hitting the ground or water. Only one man survived (the tail gunner, Sgt E. E. Emerson) and he became a POW.

If you have read the Diary of Lt. Carroll "Ted" Binder that have been included with some of the previous mission reports, you will agree that the world has lost a real leader, a man who was compassionate with his fellow men, and who was a seriously deep thinker on world affairs. What a great loss his death has brought to his family, to his friends, the nation and the world. (Ed Miller, Editor)

This was, indeed, Lt Binder's "Last Mission." But beforehand, he had placed these words in his Diary:

It makes men in the Eighth Air Force furious to hear that some local hero at home has put in fifty missions in the Fifteenth or Ninth Air Forces or even more than that in the South Pacific. We know that to people who have not been in combat, one mission seems like another – a man who has done fifty has done twice as much fighting as one who had done twenty-five.

Whether or not these facts determined the original length of tours, they are certainly important to an Eighth Air Force flier. A Ninth (Marauders and Bostons) or Fifteenth (Libs and Fords in Italy) Air Force man has a little better chance on finishing fifty mission than we have twenty-five. Fliers in the South Pacific lost less bombers from November 1 to February 1 than we did one raid I was on.

Another thing people forget is the tremendous difference between a raid to Munich or Berlin (involving six or seven hours on oxygen, four or five hours over enemy (flak) territory, four hours within five minutes' flight time of an enemy fighter base) and a raid such as the Marauders make to Brussels (two hours' oxygen, forty minutes over Europe), the Mediterranean Fords to Rome or Florence or even Belgrade or Bucharest (five hours' oxygen, meager flak, antique fighter opposition), or the Pacific boys to island targets (practically no oxygen, flak only over targets, fighter opposition so sporadic that some planes go twenty missions without attacks).

To make a long story short, Eighth Air Force men want it known that in the air war, at least, the Germans are the big league opposition, and that only an occasional attack like Ploesti, Tokyo, or Regensburg can rank with almost routine raids flown out of England.

Perhaps there is a better way to fight a war than ours, but I haven't heard of it. Certainly we see more beautiful sights than any other fighting men. One of them was a sunset over Devon the other night as we came back from a late evening raid on France. There were a few clouds in the west, enough to give the sun a red glow and reflect a yellow ray here and there. The air was clear, and from four miles up we could see the Bristol Channel to the north, the sea to the south, and the outline of western Devon and Cornwall to the west. As the sun sank into the sea, the features of the ground below us became obscured until only a silhouette of the old smuggler's coast remained, standing out against the lighter shade of the calm water.

It was nice to think that the sound of bombers flying over this beautiful western country no longer meant terror for the people of Plymouth and Bristol. Perhaps it wouldn't be long before bombing would be over for the Germans as well.

Almost as beautiful was a man-made sight a few days before. We were flying over the forests west of Berlin when we saw a cloud of locusts off in the distance to our right. They proved to be Me-109's, a swarm such as I had never seen before. In flights of three they peeled off and hit the group ahead of us. Silhouetted against the deep blue sky the exploding twenty-millimeters all around the formation looked like fire-flies, tiny lights blinking on for a second and then disappearing.

Several Forts left the group with engines feathered or smoking but only one with its tail shot off was out of control. I counted eight white chutes opening just before the plane went into a dive, and was following them as they drifted down when I saw a brilliant orange flash. On its last crazy trip to the ground the crippled Fort had exploded, and what fell the rest of the way was only burning pieces.

What must have been most of the fuselage came to rest in the middle of the Elbe River where the river winds past Magdeburg. It continued to burn on the water for five minutes, like one of the huge bonfires on rafts that used to light up our Fourth of July nights. And to climax the scene of this funeral pyre of a fighting plane, the tiny white specks of the parachutes could be seen landing in the dark evergreen forest east of the river just as the flames began to flicker out.

Wonderful news is doubly wonderful when it comes unexpectedly. I don't think I'll ever forget the feeling I had when an intelligence officer brought me word about Ray (1/Lt Raymond Hofmann) and the gang (that had been interned in Switzerland).

At first I could hardly believe it. It could only be another of the rumors I'd heard since that Black Monday (Mission #140). But the men kept insisting that he's had the report direct from the Red Cross, and finally I accepted what had seemed too good to be true.

Yes, they were in Switzerland, every one of the crew.

I don't know what I did after that. I'm sure I never bothered to thank my informant. I was so damn happy that I didn't particularly care what I said or did. As far as I was concerned the worst of the war was over. My gang was safe.

When a fancy diver hurts himself on a half-gainer he goes right back and does the same dive over again. Otherwise he'll think about it too much before he tries again, and he may develop a fear he can never overcome.

It's the same with combat. If a kid goes through a rough raid or has his best pal killed, the best thing to do with him is to send him out again the next day. That's what happened to me the day after Ray went down, and I was awfully glad to have it that way. The mission kept me plenty busy, and by the end of the day I had pretty well forgotten about the recent tragedy. It never regained its former proportions in my mind.

(Editor's note: This was the crew that Ted had been assigned to when he graduated from navigation training, and started his training that led him to end up with them at Molesworth.)

I think I've learned as much about my fellow G.I.'s in the hours I've spent as censor as I have in any other way. I've had a good opportunity to form conclusions, as I've had our own enlisted men's mail to censor regularly, and the letters of the squadron's ground support personnel about once a month.

Several things I've found are pretty encouraging. Morale, for instance, seems to be no problem at all, even among those who have been here nearly two years and feel they deserve a leave at home. Almost without exception, the gripes I've come across have been of a very minor nature—involving things like English weather, the frequency of meat loaf in the mess hall, the weakness of English beer.

Little "Ted" now wears a silver bar (promoted to First Lieutenant). It would be nice to think that I was being promoted because I had done a good job, but unfortunately advancement in the Army comes just as frequently because of longevity as anything else. I got mine simply because I had been around long enough to fly lots of missions.

For me one of the least comprehensible phases of American foreign policy is our attitude toward France. The Polish Government in Exile, controlling no territory and dwindling resources, without the slightest claim to a democratic or popular origin, is recognized as the voice of Poland. Marshal Badoglio's government, headed by a pillar of Fascism and until today containing few who had opposed Mussolini before 1943, is permitted to govern conquered Italy. But the French Committee of National Liberation, through the blackest years a staunch United Nations supporter, and the French National Assembly, without question the most broadly representative body any exiled government can claim, are told bluntly by our government that they do not speak for France. How General Eisenhower, whose political talents were demonstrated in the Darlan deal, is to pick more worthy administrators of conquered French territory is difficult to see.

I heard De Gaulle speak on Algiers radio a fortnight ago. He's no orator, but his case is such an undeniably good one that I was much impressed. He explained the reasons for the inclusion of two communists on a broadened National Committee, and he certainly convinced me that his government now represents France so well that it is the rightful—the only rightful—government for the country until general elections can be held.