

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 160

25 May 1944

Target: Railroad marshalling yards, Blainville, France

Crews Dispatched: 28

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 23,000 & 22,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 205 rounds

**B**eautiful weather with no clouds and only a slight haze permitted two 303rd BG(H) formation of 12 aircraft each to attack the railroad marshalling yards at Blainville, France. Twenty-eight aircraft took off and four spare aircraft returned to Base. No Fortresses returned early.

Twenty-four B-17s bombed the primary target from 23,000 and 22,000 with 240 500-lb. G.P. A.N. M-64 bombs. Bombing was visual with good results: a few hit the Round House and others hit the marshalling yard area.

No enemy aircraft were observed. Meager and inaccurate flak was seen only at Blankenburghe. Chaff was not dropped. Friendly fighters furnished good support. All aircraft returned safely with no casualties.

Major **Shumake** said it was the least exciting mission that he had flown. "It was the milk run I've been sweating out. Not a burst of flak and not an enemy fighter." Lt. Col. **Shayler** reported seeing a few bursts of flak, but no other sign of opposition.

## ***GEE — GOING TO FRANCE FOR A CHANGE*** **Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections**

I got my old crew back again and it was nice. The crew loading list is incorrect as shown below. Both Ellsworth and myself were qualified as first pilots but I was qualified first and was promoted before Paul was. Both of us were completing our missions and according to alphabetical listing, Paul is shown first. But I was the first pilot on this mission as we agreed that if we were to fly again, then Paul would be in command of our second flight together.

Even 1Lt Clarence V. Walenta flew with us today, but Tommy stood down. We were scheduled to strike railroad marshalling yards at Blainville, France. We were carrying ten 500 lb general purpose bombs on a day when weather was beautiful. We flew in the 12 ship formation again today. This seemed to work pretty well and as time passed the 12 ship formation was used more and more. Although we were in the air for six and half hours, it was pretty much a "milk-run."

## ***TRULY-THERE WERE MILK RUNS***

from the book entitled "25 Milk Runs" by Richard R. "Dick" Johnson

Target for today is the marshaling yards at Blainville, France. Since this would be a rather long mission, our take-off time was a little earlier than usual. The first B-17 took off at 5:47 A.M. and the last at 5:58. The 303rd Bomb Group was to supply only twelve aircraft, with two spares, for the 41st Combat Wing, of which we were a part.

London is sixty miles south of our field at Molesworth, and our departure course took us straight south, past London. At that point we turned east and passed over a suburb of London, climbing to 19,000 feet at 7:31 A.M. From here we crossed the English channel in a climb so that we penetrated the French coast at 23,000 feet. Our penetration was at a point about half way between Le Havre and Boulogne as there were no flak guns nearby. Just out of range, we saw a few bursts of flak as we continued on a course which took us within sight of Paris, which lay to our south.

At the target we had taken an earlier lead, since the other combat wings had overshot the penetration course, which put us almost first to the target. We were low group on this mission and since the lead group overshot the IP (Initial Point) we had a longer than usual bomb run.

During the bomb run, the formation is most vulnerable to enemy action, since the bomb-bay doors are open from the IP to the target. This alerts the German antiaircraft gunners that we will be flying a long, straight course to the target. This day, the bomb run was eleven minutes, and we expected to have a great deal of flak come up.

But nothing happened. Evidently the 88 mm guns that we thought were there, had been moved elsewhere. The weather was CAVU (Ceiling And Visibility Unlimited), therefore if there had been flak guns, we would have been "Sitting Ducks."

This was my third mission, and was the first that I saw bombs exploding on the target. The extended bomb run allowed the lead bombardier to kill his drift to perfection, and the Norden Bomb Sight did its job flawlessly.

There were no damaged aircraft and no aborts on this mission, and all twelve of us returned to base just after noon. All the air crews were hoping for a bunch of these "Milk Runs."

Total flight time, five and one half hours. Over enemy territory, almost exactly three hours. We did our part to damage the German war machine for the upcoming invasion

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Watson-Shumake  
453

Maxey  
893

Determan  
298

Ellsworth  
329

Hall-Latshaw  
006

Spindler  
841

Erickson  
340

Oliver  
002

Johnson  
037

Baillie  
Spare - 739

O'Beirne  
048

McMillan  
805

Parker  
432

Christian  
Spare - 224



**Princess Pat #42-102453 (358BS) VK-J**

**41st CBW-B Lead (358BS) - Pilot Capt J.W. Watson / CoPilot Maj G.F. Shumake**

(Back Row L-R) Capt J.W. Watson (P), Capt C.C. Armstrong (N),  
Maj G.F. Shumake (CP), Capt H.H. Steely (N), 1Lt J.N. Williams (N)  
(Front - not in order) T/Sgt R.W. Hoffman (E), S/Sgt H.A. Daniel (WG), S/Sgt E.R. Lesser (R),  
S/Sgt R.G. McArthur (BT), S/Sgt T.R. Czczotka (WG), T/Sgt F.H. Stender (TG)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<b><u>Sullivan-Snyder</u></b> 311				
<b><u>Beiser</u></b> 391		<b><u>Gallagher</u></b> 027		
<b><u>Goolsby</u></b> 058		<b><u>Headlee</u></b> 885		
<b><u>Van Weelden</u></b> 405	<b><u>Thompson</u></b> 781	<b><u>Oranges</u></b> 569	<b><u>Ligino</u></b> 423	
<b><u>Sirany</u></b> 213		<b><u>Allen</u></b> Spare - 099		
<b><u>Carpenter</u></b> 496		<b><u>Meier</u></b> 284		
<b><u>Tulloss</u></b> Spare - 050				

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></b> 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 - Toggler 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  <b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b> 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
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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97298 *The Floose***

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P	Determan, Alvin G., 2Lt
CP	Pfahler, Ervin J., 2Lt
NAV	Palmer, Jackson, Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Rickey, Lowell L., 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 #44-6006 *(No Name)***

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P	Hall, Charles M., 1Lt
CP	Latshaw, William E., F/O
NAV	Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
BOM	Ledbetter, Milton C., S/Sgt
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 #42-107002 *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

### **B-17G #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter***

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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

(Spare-Returned)

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

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

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

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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 #42-102453 *Princess Pat***

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P	Watson, Jack W., Capt
CP	Shumake, Glynn F., Maj
NAV	Steely, Hobart H., Capt
NAV	Williams, Jack N., 2Lt
BOM	Armstrong, Charles C., Capt
ENG	Hoffman, Robert W., T/Sgt
RWG	McArthur, Robert G., S/Sgt
RO	Lesser, Edward R., S/Sgt
BT	Czeczotka, Theodore R., S/Sgt
TG	Stender, Francis H., T/Sgt
LWG	Daniel, Herbert A., S/Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **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 #42-102496 Special Delivery**

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 #42-97781 The '8' Ball MK III**

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 #42-31213 Pistol Packin' Mama**

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 #42-97284 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 #42-97058 Scorchy II**

P Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt  
 CP Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt  
 NAV Bates, Robert L., 2Lt  
 BOM Rawlings, Loren F., 2Lt  
 ENG Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt  
 RO Greenhalgh, Chester, T/Sgt  
 BT Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt  
 TG Strobel, Walter A., S/Sgt  
 RWG Withrow, John W., S/Sgt  
 LWG Rothrock, Harry J., S/Sgt

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

P Tulloss, John W., 1Lt  
 CP London, Walter H., Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Hollingsworth, William, 2Lt  
 ENG Robinson, Charles R., T/Sgt  
 TOG Mellow, 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  
 (Spare-Returned)

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31432 *Old Glory***

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P Parker, John T., 2Lt  
 CP Anderson, John G., 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 #42-37841 *Banshee***

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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., 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

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

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P Ellsworth, Paul R., 1Lt  
 CP Miller, Edgar C., 1Lt  
 NAV Walenta, Clarence V., 1Lt  
 BOM Scott, Harold L., 1Lt  
 ENG Hubley, Warren G., 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  
 OBS Hewitt, Dr. Edwin, Civilian

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

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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  
 (Spare-Returned)

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

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P O'Beirne, Nelson B., 1Lt  
 CP Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt  
 NAV Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt  
 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 #42-31340 *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

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

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P McMillan, Murdock B., 1Lt  
 CP Polezoes, Stanley, 2Lt  
 NAV Cottrell, John W., 1Lt  
 BOM Nebhut, Kenneth E., S/Sgt  
 ENG Debannes, Camil, S/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

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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 #42-102569 *Miss Lace***

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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 #42-32027 *Betty Jane***

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P Gallagher, John W., Jr., 2Lt  
 CP Bitel, Peter, 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

### **B-17G #42-107099 *Old 99***

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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  
 (Spare-Returned)

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

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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***

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P Headlee, Dale C., 1Lt  
 CP Fogerson, Joseph E., F/O  
 NAV Shemwell, John T., 2Lt  
 BOM Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt  
 TT Weed, Lowrey A., T/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 #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby***

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P Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt  
 CP Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., LtCol  
 NAV Olsen, Kenneth L., 1Lt  
 NAV Shupe, John W., 2Lt  
 BOM Orvis, George T., Jr., Capt  
 TT Frey, James L., S/Sgt  
 BT Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt  
 RO Sullivan, James J., T/Sgt  
 LWG Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt  
 TG McCall, Robert S., 2Lt  
 RWG Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt