

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 209

21 July 1944

Target: Airdrome, Lachen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 5 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb G.P. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 27,400, 16,400 & 27,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Strategic aircraft industry, ball-bearing works and airfields were targeted by the 8th Air Force. The 303rd BG(H) primary target was the Schwabisch-Hall airfield with Ludwigshafen "military installations" in the event that PFF bombing was required. Last resort German targets included an airfield at Lachen. Lt. Col. Richard H. **Cole** led the 41st CBW-A with lead, low and high Group formations of 36 aircraft plus a 305BG PFF B-17. Three 303BG aircraft flew as the high flight, high Group, 41st CBW-B.



ORIGINAL STEVE LIGINO CREW - 427th BS

B-17G #42-102595 Little Tush GN-L

(crew assigned 427BS: 04 May 1944 - photo: May 1944)

(Back L-R) Lt Steve Ligino (P), Lt Frederick B. Tyler, Jr. (CP),

Lt Arthur M. Smith (B), Lt William A. Dugger (N)

(Front L-R) T/Sgt Harvey L. Rau (E), Sgt Howard E. Dudley (TG),

T/Sgt Edward R. Dahms (R), Sgt George R. Howard (BT),

Sgt Phillip B. Gainer (WG), Sgt Myron M. Muzyka (WG)

Twenty-three Group Fortresses of the lead and high Groups dropped 230 500-lb. G.P. M43 bombs on Ludwigshafen. Results of the PFF bombing were unobserved. The twelve aircraft of the low Group visually bombed the Lachen airfield with 50 500-lb. bombs from 16,400 ft. Some bombs hit a hangar, but most went over the target. The weather in the target area was 7/10 to 9/10 cumulus with tops at 12,000 ft., 7/10 to 9/10 altostratus with 17,000 ft. base and tops at 20,000 ft., and cirrus between 24,000 and 27,000 ft. The low Group lost the other Groups going through the clouds and had to go down to 16,400 ft. to make a visual bombing.

No enemy aircraft were seen. Crews reported friendly fighter support as excellent — the best the group ever experienced. Moderate to intense flak was encountered at Ludwigshafen. The low Group found moderate and accurate flak at Nuremberg. One aircraft had major and two, minor battle damage. All B-17s returned safely to Molesworth with no casualties.

The three Group aircraft of the 41st CBW-B formation bombed Ludwigshafen by PFF and reported enemy action and bombing results similar to the 41st CBW-A.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Cole-Rosser</u> 592 - PFF			
		<u>Brabant</u> 960		<u>Altman</u> 405	
	<u>Morgan</u> 537			<u>Ligino</u> 569	
<u>Arnold</u> 483		<u>Akers</u> 177		<u>Dubose</u> 9875	<u>Gallagher</u> 027
	<u>Eldridge</u> 076			<u>Markos</u> 622	
<u>Crozier</u> 944		<u>Baltes</u> 183	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Spindler-Polezoes</u> 805			
		<u>Hobbs</u> 055		<u>Fontana</u> 224	
	<u>Tellinghuisen</u> 544			<u>Brown</u> 166	
<u>Hallum</u> 546		<u>Crawford</u> 841		<u>Newton</u> 423	<u>Cook</u> 597
	<u>Hahn</u> 329			_____	
<u>Yarnall</u> 860		<u>Baehr</u> 853	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

<u>Benham-McNamara</u>				
838				
	<u>Larson</u>		<u>Vermeer</u>	
	085		972	
	<u>Bailie</u>			<u>Keating</u>
	945			411
<u>McConnell</u>		<u>Lee</u>	<u>Bliss</u>	<u>Griggs</u>
680		949	666	099
	<u>Stein</u>			
	086			
<u>Stark</u>		<u>Freeland</u>		
006		590		

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group D

			<u>Lojewski</u>	
			453	
				<u>Gould</u>
			<u>Nafius</u>	7875
			861	

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 - 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 RESULTS OF MISSION 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 #43-37590 *Neva-The Silver Lady*

P Freeland, Troit D., 2Lt
 CP Prudhoe, Louis J., 2Lt
 NAV Kosta, Alexander, 2Lt
 BOM Nugent, Robert F., 2Lt
 ENG Abernathy, Wylie C., S/Sgt
 WG Moran, George J., Sgt
 RO Wilson, Clarence K., S/Sgt
 TG Dyszel, Bernard J., Sgt
 BT Cerzosimo, Bernard P., Sgt

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

P Stark, Donald D., 1Lt
 CP Conley, George L., 2Lt
 NAV Nelson, Richard G., 2Lt
 TOG Mikola, Robert, S/Sgt
 ENG Batten, Delmer G., S/Sgt
 RO Steinhagen, Joseph R., S/Sgt
 TG Morrow, James C., Sgt
 BT Richkind, Max, Sgt
 WG Eggink, James H., Sgt

B-17G #42-97949 (No Name)

P Lee, Gareth G., 2Lt
 CP Bowman, William E., F/O
 NAV Sweig, Morris, 2Lt
 BOM Townsend, Charles D., 2Lt
 ENG Leimgruebler, Victor H., S/Sgt
 WG Olive, Martin, Sgt
 RO Adkinson, James E., S/Sgt
 TG Newman, Gerald D., Sgt
 BT Grundon, Joseph D., Sgt

B-17G #44-6086 *My Blonde Baby*

P Stein, Lawrence J., 2Lt
 CP Riseden, Jack W., 2Lt
 NAV Connor, John P., 2Lt
 BOM Carloss, Earl W., 2Lt
 ENG Card, Harry R, S/Sgt
 WG Grissom, Manley E., Sgt
 RO Meyer, Fred R., S/Sgt
 BT Truesdell, William P., Sgt
 TG Williams, Clarence J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97972 (No Name)

P Vermeer, Bernard E., 2Lt
 CP Byrnes, James H., 2Lt
 NAV Wyner, Maxwell I., 2Lt
 TOG Splawn, Elzie B., Sgt
 ENG Varvil, Willis E., S/Sgt
 BT Schley, John G., S/Sgt
 RO Moon, Charles E., S/Sgt
 TG Kennedy, Robert F., S/Sgt
 RWG Ferris, James H., Sgt

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

P Larson, Oliver B., 2Lt
 CP Kersting, George B., 2Lt
 NAV Gard, John M., 2Lt
 BOM Draves, John J., 2Lt
 ENG O'Connor, Robert E., S/Sgt
 BT Sweeney, Charles R., Sgt
 RO Mullaney, Donald F., S/Sgt
 WG Holland, Huber D., Sgt
 TG Philson, Norbert M., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-102680 (No Name)

P	McConnell, John, 2Lt
CP	Whittall, Ernest A., 2Lt
NAV	Atwood, Thomas M., 2Lt
BOM	Bennett, Robert W., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Jack M., S/Sgt
WG	Schneider, Lawrence J., Sgt
RO	Rego, Charles J., S/Sgt
BT	Krebs, Henry R., Sgt
TG	Messerich, Jerome R., Sgt

B-17G #42-102945 Sweet Pea

P	Bailie, Homer P., 1Lt
CP	Graham, Edward, 2Lt
NAV	Waterland, Edward L., 1Lt
BOM	Barkin, Herbert L., 1Lt
ENG	Ham, William J., S/Sgt
BT	Martinez, Gregorio, Sgt
RO	Sawyer, Robert B., S/Sgt
TG	Oss, Frank E., Sgt
WG	Munn, Charles F., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-37838 Fearless Fosdick

P	Benham, Phillip O., 1Lt
CP	McNamara, James F., Capt
NAV	Contos, Spiros P., 1Lt
BOM	Ledbetter, Lamar E., 1Lt
ENG	Van Drunen, Cornelius, T/Sgt
RO	Downs, Reginald, T/Sgt
TG	Dellinger, Lenoir E., S/Sgt
BT	Hill, Reginald L., S/Sgt
WG	Bonenberger, Robert E., S/Sgt
PHO	Zaphiriou, James G., Sgt

B-17G #42-97622 Paper Dollie

P	Markos, Costa, F/O
CP	Charnick, Roman P., 2Lt
NAV	Goldfield, Solomon, 2Lt
BOM	Garcia, Robert L., S/Sgt
ENG	Carrissimo, Paul P., S/Sgt
WG	Herod, Francis G, Sgt
RO	Neidringhaus, Robert H., S/Sgt
TG	Schulz, Arthur W., Sgt
BT	Byrd, Fred O., Sgt

B-17G #42-102453 Princess Pat

P	Lojewski, Telesphor, 2Lt
CP	Helms, John R., 2Lt
NAV	Claeys, Donald, 1Lt
BOM	Morris, Warren B., 2Lt
ENG	Rodgers, John E., T/Sgt
RO	Kustic, Mark S., T/Sgt
TG	Jones, John, Sgt
BT	Lappo, Teddy, S/Sgt
WG	Wagner, William H., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-37875 *Flying Bison*

P Gould, Graham C., 2Lt
CP Lasker, Yale, 2Lt
NAV Leigh, Thomas W., 2Lt
BOM Reynolds, Ralph J., 2Lt
ENG Mogck, Leonard, S/Sgt
RO Anderson, Augustus C., S/Sgt
BT Thompson, Val E., Sgt
TG Gloria, Tony N., Sgt
WG Bandy, Peter C., Sgt

B-17G #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P Eldridge, Truman K., 2Lt
CP Sheehan, Daniel J., Jr., 2Lt
NAV Durkin, James A., 2Lt
BOM O'Neill, Owen H., 1Lt
ENG Barnes, Frederick E., S/Sgt
RO Rowlett, Samuel A., S/Sgt
BT Strong, Ralph T., Cpl
TG Panos, Andrew T., Cpl
WG Wesley, LaFon, Sgt

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

P Arnold, William J., 1Lt
CP Quiggle, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV Claster, Stanley M., 2Lt
BOM Callahan, Ellsworth D., 2Lt
ENG Williams, Robert M., S/Sgt
RO Moreira, Joseph A., S/Sgt
BT McClure, James D., Sgt
TG Surrell, John M., Sgt
WG Lichtenwalter, Ralph W., Sgt

B-17G #42-31183 *Bad Penny*

P Baltes, George E., 2Lt
P Marble, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV Macaulay, Edward H., 2Lt
BOM Glover, Fred E., 2Lt
ENG Stenger, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
RO Giltenboth, Charles L., S/Sgt
BT Kanz, Milton C., Sgt
TG Posluszny, Branislaw B., Sgt
WG Godsey, Austin C., Sgt

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

P Akers, Robert O., 2Lt
CP Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV Montone, Neil A., 2Lt
BOM Cappucci, Joseph R., Sgt
ENG Shanker, Herbert, S/Sgt
RO Meyer, Gerald E., S/Sgt
BT Saam, Donal W., Sgt
TG Vogel, Cletus H., Sgt
WG Meyer, Fulton R., Sgt

B-17G #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*

P Crozier, Harry J., 2Lt
CP Mowrey, Paul M., 2Lt
NAV Kennedy, Clyde R., 2Lt
TOG McCoy, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG Passenant, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO Hoyt, Robert B., S/Sgt
BT Jara, Felix M., Sgt
TG Stumpff, George W., Sgt
WG Butcher, Robert C., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*

P Morgan, William D., 2Lt
CP Parker, John W., 2Lt
NAV Nielsen, Carl V., 2Lt
BOM Destito, Frank S., 2Lt
ENG Hayes, Theron M., S/Sgt
RO Stemmler, Edward C, S/Sgt
BT Lloyd, Stanley W., Sgt
TG Caperton, James R., Sgt
WG Gross, James J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*

P Altman, Maurice V., 2Lt
CP Zimmerman, Paul E., F/O
NAV Donovan, James R., 2Lt
BOM Torley, Donald W., 2Lt
ENG O'Leary, Dan R., S/Sgt
RO Whisman, Chester C., S/Sgt
BT Gray, William W., S/Sgt
TG Mulstein, John E., Sgt
WG Munn, Edwin C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102960 (*No Name*)

P Brabant, Patrick H., 2Lt
CP Judy, Ira J., 2Lt
NAV Heatherly, Phillip P., 1Lt
TOG Wolfe, Ralph E., S/Sgt
ENG Hodge, Dona A., S/Sgt
RO Rose, William A., Sgt
BT Marquez, Robert P., Sgt
TG Millek, John P., Sgt
WG Valentine, Robert J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97592 - PFF (305BG)

P Cole, Richard H., LtCol
CP Rosser, Samuel E., 1Lt
NAV Lunde, Frithjof M., Capt
NAV Metko, Earl D., 2Lt
NAV Clark, James G., 1Lt
BOM Rickey, Lowell L., 1Lt
ENG O'Leary, James M., S/Sgt
RO Rowe, Ollice Z., S/Sgt
TG Pressentin, Robert H., Sgt
WG Foster, William D., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P	Nafius, Verner H., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	George, Sidney L., 2Lt
BOM	Cummins, James E., 2Lt
ENG	Ellis, Richard R., S/Sgt
RO	Birkenholz, Irving, S/Sgt
BT	McGinley, James E., Sgt
TG	Jinkens, Billy B., Sgt
WG	Rydquist, Roy K., Sgt

B-17G #42-102544 *Sack Time*

P	Tellinghuisen, Oscar A., 2Lt
CP	Caldwell, Frederick J., 2Lt
NAV	Roche, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt
ENG	Manser, Charles, T/Sgt
RO	Haynie, John D., T/Sgt
BT	Watson, Judson F., S/Sgt
TG	Cain, Leroy H., S/Sgt
WG	Jacobs, John W., S/Sgt

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

P	Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Nurock, Leon, F/O
BOM	Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., S/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., S/Sgt
BT	Durfee, James R., Sgt
TG	Price, Kirkland T., Sgt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., Sgt

B-17G #42-97860 *(No Name)*

P	Yarnall, Winfield L., 2Lt
CP	Bertich, Louis A., 2Lt
NAV	Sanford, Isaac N., 2Lt
BOM	Britter, Harry B., 2Lt
ENG	Fidares, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Baker, Albert W., S/Sgt
BT	Taxon, Rubin, Sgt
TG	Birenbach, Melvin, Sgt
WG	Di Salvo, Dominick, Sgt

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

P	Hahn, James T., 2Lt
CP	Fulks, James O., 2Lt
NAV	Dunn, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Kleppner, Clarence J., F/O
ENG	Kalasky, Pete M., S/Sgt
RO	Conkling, John R., S/Sgt
BT	Darbowski, Andrew, Sgt
TG	DeBartolo, Albert L., S/Sgt
WG	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97853 *Lucky Linda*

P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 2Lt
CP	King, John E., F/O
NAV	Peacock, Thomas I., 2Lt
BOM	Smith, William H., 2Lt
ENG	Brackett, Clarence H., S/Sgt
RO	Ploeger, Jesse, S/Sgt
BT	Decker, Bruce O., Sgt
TG	Keipper, Carl E., Sgt
WG	Baldwin, Kenton F., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-31055 Aloha

P Hobbs, Willard, 1Lt
CP Huckins, Earl R., 2Lt
NAV Wade, Robert E., 2Lt
BOM Asplund, Carl L., T/Sgt
ENG Cole, Bethel A., S/Sgt
RO Wiggans, Earl E., Sgt
BT Bibik, James J., Sgt
TG Glaser, Morris B., Sgt
WG Callahan, Fred, Sgt

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

P Spindler, Benjamin L., 1Lt
CP Polezoes, Stanley, 1Lt
NAV Vell, Ona L., 1Lt
BOM Blythe, Robert W., Jr., 1Lt
ENG Roszell, Thomas M., T/Sgt
RO Schuler, Frank H., S/Sgt
BT Chudej, Josef R., S/Sgt
TG Krogh, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
WG Elmore, Kenneth L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-37841 Banshee

P Crawford, William C., 2Lt
CP Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt
NAV Caffrey, James J., 2Lt
BOM Smith, Herbert L., S/Sgt
ENG Le Roux, Lyle W., S/Sgt
RO Miller, William L., S/Sgt
BT Whitney, Daniel F., Sgt
TG Barder, Emmett R., Sgt
WG Patton, Nelson R., Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

P Hallum, Bertrand, Jr., 2Lt
CP Romstad, Alfred N., 2Lt
NAV Olson, Charles F., 2Lt
BOM Fetzko, John, Jr., 2Lt
ENG Young, Horace B., S/Sgt
RO Botkin, Jack S., S/Sgt
BT Ax, Heinz R., Sgt
TG Ross, Milt I., Sgt
WG Stroud, George E., Jr., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-102411 *Miss Lace*

P	Keating, Donald W., 1Lt
CP	Ferguson, Gilbert L., 2Lt
NAV	Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
ENG	Dombrowski, Alexander, 2Lt
TT	Foerster, LeRoy H.M., S/Sgt
BT	Czerwonka, Joseph A., Sgt
RO	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
TG	Brown, Edgar S., S/Sgt
WG	Wilson, Robert J., Sgt

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

P	Newton, John A., 2Lt
CP	Mowatt, Frank G., 2Lt
NAV	Lange, George L., 2Lt
ENG	Muzyka, Myron M., S/Sgt
TT	Turner, Leonard A., S/Sgt
BT	Bricker, Albert W., Sgt
RO	O'Leary, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Hobgood, John F., Sgt
WG	Reeves, James E., Sgt

B-17G #44-6166 *The Red*

P	Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt
NAV	Rusk, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM	Prusha, Elmer E., F/O
TT	Duffek, Francis T., S/Sgt
BT	Born, Robert S., Sgt
RO	Bridge, Howard R., S/Sgt
TG	Blim, Raymond C., Sgt
WG	Fisher, Clelland F., Sgt

B-17G #43-37666 *Full House*

P	Bliss, Robert P., 2Lt
CP	Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV	Smoleroff, Theodore L., 2Lt
BOM	Sullens, Tom C., S/Sgt
TT	Shumar, Carl K., Sgt
BT	Eakins, Charles A, Jr., Sgt
RO	Herman, Benjamin, Sgt
TG	Plesinger, Michael J., Sgt
WG	Curry, Richard L., Sgt

B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P	Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Sandhagen, Paul R., 2Lt
TT	Jones, Jesse T., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Kidd, Robert E., Sgt
RO	Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG	Watson, Byron W., Sgt
WG	Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt
WG	Henry, Donivan D., Sgt

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

P	Ligino, Steve, 1Lt
CP	Tyler, Frederick B., 2Lt
NAV	O'Brien, William P., 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
WG	Gainer, Philip B., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon*

P Cook, Harry S., 2Lt
CP Mason, Frederick H., 2Lt
NAV Page, Ralph E., 2Lt
BOM Warmuth, Werner G., 2Lt
TT Slight, Joseph L., S/Sgt
BT Eaglehouse, Robert F., Sgt
RO Howell, Forrest W., S/Sgt
TG Smalley, John L., Sgt
WG Duggan, William W., Sgt

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

P Griggs, John C., 2Lt
CP Dumont, Merrill J., 2Lt
NAV Malone, William A., 2Lt
BOM Rohner, William L., 2Lt
TT Monnig, Alvin R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Duffel, Robert L., Sgt
RO Benning, Joseph F., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Means, Henry H., Jr., Sgt
WG Bruce, Miles R., Sgt

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

P Gallagher, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP Bitel, Peter, 2Lt
NAV Cooper, Edward G., 1Lt
BOM Johnson, O.D., Sgt
TT Lynn, William V., S/Sgt
BT Kail, Nicholas F., S/Sgt
RO Glass, David, S/Sgt
TG Jacques, Warren, S/Sgt
WG Joyce, Jess, S/Sgt
(Abortive)