B-17 Flying Fortress

The Boeing B-17 was a private initiative on the part of Boeing based on the Boeing 247 fast passenger aircraft. Boeing had received no orders, but were convinced that the military would need a four-engined long range bomber in the near future. When in 1934 the US Army Air Corps invited tenders for a long range bomber with a range of 5000 km and a bomb load of 2 tonnes, Boeing worked hard for them. Only one order came, from the US Army Air Corps, for the B-17. The prototype was delivered on 20 October 1935, followed in 1936 by the first production units. The first B-17 production machines were delivered on 20 October 1936 and followed by a further 38 by March 1940. The American entry into World War II accelerated the development of the B-17 which was now urgently needed in the European theatre of war. The first large-scale series consisted of 3,436 B-17s which were built in various variants. In the early months of the war they bore the main burden of attacks on targets in Germany under the command of the 8th Air Force. The B-17, which flew for the first time on 29 April 1942, was the ultimate B-17. By 20 July 1945, a total of 8,500 of this type had been built by Boeing, Douglas and Lockheed Vega. The B-17 differed little from the B-17F onwards. A characteristic feature was the chin turret with two machine guns under the nose of the B-17, a feature that is also present on the last 883 B-17s which set a new world record. The B-17F, which was used in the太平洋 theatre of war, was flown by the 9th Air Force, which had 52 wings in service. In Europe the B-17 flew a total of 299,308 missions with 643,633 tons of bombs dropped, mostly against targets of war. After World War II the B-17 continued in service in various roles. In the Korean War and the beginning of the Vietnam War the B-17 flew a variety of special missions. A handful of B-17s have survived to this day and still take part in flying events.

### Technical data:

- **Wing span:** 33.60 m
- **Length:** 27.00 m
- **Height:** 9.80 m
- **Engine:** 4 x Wright R-1820-97 Cyclone
- **Capacity:** 4 x 1,200 hp at 2,300 rpm
- **Weight empty:** 15,956 kg
- **Tare weight:** 29,192 kg
- **Maximum speed:** 410 km/h
- **Cruising speed:** 375 km/h
- **Range:** 6,023 km
- **Bombs load:** 8,721 kg
- **Ammunition:** 12 x 12.7 mm
- **Crew:** 10 men

### Dimensions:

- **Width:** 3.42 m
- **Length:** 27.08 m
- **Height:** 9.80 m
- **Maximum speed:** 410 km/h
- **Range:** 6,023 km
- **Bombs load:** 8,721 kg
- **Ammunition:** 21 x 12.7 mm
- **Armament:** 12 x 12.7 mm
- **Crew:** 10 men

### Armament:

- **Ammunition:** 21 x 12.7 mm
- **Crew:** 10 men
Boeing B-17G-25-VE „Man O War”
322nd Bomber Squadron, 91st Bomber Group
Bassingbourn, April 1944