303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 33 4 May 1943 Target: General Motor & Ford Motor Co. Plants, Antwerp, Belgium Crews Dispatched: 27 Crews Wounded: 2 crewmembers had slight wounds Length of Mission: 4 hours, 30 minutes Bomb Load: 5 x 1,000 lb. General Purpose bombs Bombing Altitude: 23,500 ft Ammo Fired: 21,907 rounds Enemy Aircraft Claims: 5 Destroyed, 1 Probable

apt. C.F. **Ball**, CO 511BS 351BG, was on this mission flying as co-pilot. Capt. J.W. **Fredericks** was the lead pilot of the High Squadron, main 303rd BG(H) formation, in #42-29570 (*No Name*). Lt. Col. George L. **Robinson** led the VIII BC mission to bomb the General Motors and Ford Company plants and warehouses at Antwerp, Belgium. Three of the four 1st Bombardment Wing Heavy Bombardment Groups participated, with each contributing a Squadron in a fourth composite Group formation.

Six 303rd BG(H) planes aborted the mission:

#42-5482, *Cat-O-Nine Tails*, 359BS (**McClung**). The ball turret gunner, S/Sgt. Carl **Phillips**, became sick.

#42-5243, *FDR's Potato Peeler Kids*, 359BS (**Bales**). The Radio Operator, T/Sgt. Raymond **Kilgore's** mask froze and he passed out from a lack of oxygen.

#42-5081, *Luscious Lady*, 427BS (**Burch**). The navigator, Lt. John D. **Noblin**, fainted from oxygen loss.

#42-5483, *Red Ass*, 360BS (**Clifton**), #42-2973, *Iza Vailable*, 360BS (**Trojan**), and #42-29481, (*No Name*), 427BS (**Jacques**) all experienced mechanical problems.

The visibility on the trip was perfect. The bombers, with full fighter coverage to keep the enemy off, made a faultless bomb run to drop 52 1/2 tons of 1,000-lb. bombs with deadly accuracy right on the target.

The flak was slight and inaccurate and not many crews even saw as much as a puff of it. The bombers were escorted by RAF Spitfires and US P-47 Thunderbolts. From 30 to 40 enemy FW-190s and ME-110s came in for an attack which lasted about 20 minutes. Crews said they never saw so many fighters in the air at one time, with the escort fighters doing an excellent job at keeping them away. However, some came in through the fighter cover to attack the bombers. They came in so close that on several occasions, it looked as though they might collide with the Forts. Five enemy planes were claimed as destroyed and one damaged. Six to eight attacks were made on the 303rd Group.

Many of the gunners commented that they had not been briefed on the fact that friendly Spitfires and P-47s would escort them all the way to the target. As a result, many gunners fired on the Spitfires and Thunderbolts in the belief that they were German

fighters. One crew reported seeing a P-47 shoot down a Spitfire. Additional aircraft recognition classes were requested for both bomber crews and fighter pilots. It was during May that P-47s began regular escorts for distances up to 200 miles.

All of the crews felt that the raid was a success. Great billows of smoke and flames rose from the target area. Photographs confirmed that tremendous damage was done. Lt. Col. William A. **Hatcher**, commanding Officer of the 351st BG(H) at Polebrook who was flying an orientation mission as co-pilot on the Fortress *The '8' Ball MK II*, piloted by Capt. William R. **Calhoun**, stated, "It was my second raid and it was a hell of a lot better than the first one which was Bremen. They tell me the bombing was perfect. I am learning a lot each time." Capt. **Calhoun**, a veteran of many bombing raids, said, "It was a good mission as far as I am concerned. My bombardier, Capt. Robert **Yonkman**, told me that the bombing was really something."

Maj. Keith **Birlem**, a former Washington Redskins professional football player, was making his first mission on his birthday. He commented, "I never thought those Germans would come so close. I was riding co-pilot to Capt. Eddie **Broussard** and one FW-190 came right at us. If Capt. **Broussard** hadn't pulled up the nose, he would have hit us head on." S/Sgt. Hudson **Choice**, ball turret gunner in Capt. **Broussard's** ship, the *Vicious Virgin*, said, "First of all, the bombing was swell. That fighter that came so close to us peeled over right under us and I got him, but good." S/Sgt. William **Fleming**, waist gunner on the *Vicious Virgin*, said, "I'll verify that FW-190 that Sgt. **Choice** shot down. I saw it crash in flames." S/Sgt. Charles **Stoper** said, "I saw the bombs of the first four ships in front of us land right on the target. Plenty of flames and smoke came up. It was really good."

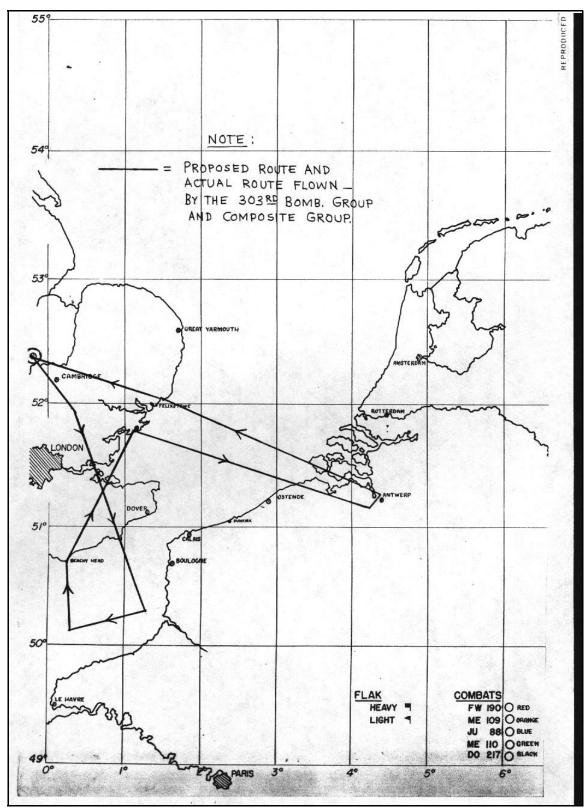


Captains W. R. Calhoun and Clark Gable

Bombardier 1Lt. Mark **Mathis** stated, "I believe we put both General Motors and Mr. Ford out of business in Antwerp today. We had a beautiful bomb run and the bombs were right on the mark." S/Sgt. Fred **Meddaugh**, tail gunner on *Hell's Angels*, commented, "It was a swell show, plenty of fighter support and bombing, couldn't have been better." 1Lt. Joseph **Strickland** navigator on *The '8' Ball MK II*, had a close call. "A 20mm shell cut my flying boot almost in half," he remarked. "I believe it was as good bombing as we have done. Never saw so many fighters in my life. Both ours and the Germans." 1Lt. Lyle **Sherwood**, lead ship bombardier, said, "The aiming was perfect. We couldn't miss as our pictures will prove."

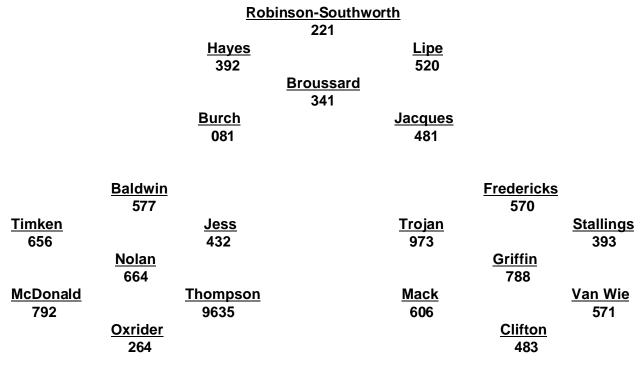
Capt. Clark **Gable** flew as an observer in the lead B-17, *The '8' Ball MK II*. Enemy fighters slightly damaged this aircraft. Capt. **Gable** manned the radio room gun.

Gable and his cameraman chose to begin combat filming on his VIII Air Force combat gunnery training motion picture with a seasoned B-17 Group. He would finish filming with the 351st BG(H) when it finished its theater indoctrination and entered combat. The finished combat film was used as the core of the motion picture, "Combat America."



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point





B-17F Son #42-5221 (427BS) GN-Z 102nd PBCW Main 303BG Lead (427BS) - Pilot LtCol G.L. Robinson / CoPilot Capt B.B. Southworth

CREW POSITIONS CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer	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	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action	DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out 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

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

303rd Aircraft in Composite Group with 305th BG(H) and 91st BG(H) Groups

		<u>Calhoun</u>	
		4635	
 	<u>Campbell</u>		<u>Cline</u>
	561		177
		Bales	
		243	
	<u>Haines</u>		<u>Pentz</u>
	029		624
		<u>McClung</u>	
		482	



The '8' Ball MkII #41-24635 (359BS) BN-O 102nd PBCW Lead - Pilot Capt W.R. Calhoun / CoPilot LtCol W.A. Hatcher (L-R) S/Sgt W.C. Mulgrew (BT), S/Sgt R.C. Fortunak (WG), T/Sgt R.R. Zaorski (E), S/Sgt M.A. Murphy (WG), Capt R.J. Yonkman (B), LtCol W.A. Hatcher (CP 351st), Capt W.R. Calhoun (P), 1Lt J.M. Strickland (N), T/Sgt C.R. Terry (R), S/Sgt W.W. Stephen (TG), Capt Clark Gable (351st passenger)

Crew Report of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. J.E. Bruskotter (792)	FW-190	Claimed
T/Sgt. J.R. Welch (9635)	FW-190	Claimed
T/Sgt. J.E. Rodriguez (577)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. R. Nakaniski (9635)	FW-190	Claimed
Sgt. W.H. Bruns (624)	ME-109	Claimed
Sgt. Hudson Choice (341)	FW-190	Claimed

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5792 The Mugger

Р	McDonald, James M., 1Lt
CP	Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
NAV	Clement, Richard W., 1Lt
BOM	Montgomery, James H., Jr., 1Lt
ENG	Fanning, David D., T/Sgt
RWG	Zioance, John, S/Sgt
RO	Carpenter, Glenn S., T/Sgt
BT	Bruskotter, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Sterling, Robert W., S/Sgt
LWG	Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt

B-17F #41-24577 Hell's Angels

1Lt

Р	Baldwin, Irl E., Capt
CP	Ledaux, Elzia, Capt
NAV	Madsen, Parley W., Jr.,
BOM	Bone, Donald R., 1Lt

- ENG Rodriguez, James E., Jr., T/Sgt
- RWG Meddaugh, Allerton F., S/Sgt
- Warren, Russell M., T/Sgt RO
- Brody, Harry J., S/Sgt ΒT
- LWG Weiskopf, Dennis, S/Sgt
- Godwin, Harold E., S/Sgt ΤG

B-17F #42-5432 The Hunting Club

- Ρ Jess, Ray W., 2Lt
- CP Gunn, Harold W., 2Lt
- NAV Davidson, Robert P., 2Lt BOM Box, Charles M., 2Lt
- ENG Smith, Harold E., T/Sgt
- RWG Hardacre, Charles F., S/Sgt
- Godzinski, Joseph J., T/Sgt RO
- ΒT Johnson, Byron W., S/Sgt
- LWG Wood, James A., T/Sqt
- ΤG White, Frank M., Sgt
- PHO Luman, Morton, Sgt

B-17F #42-29656 The Terrible Ten

Ρ	Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
СР	Wright, George E., 2Lt
NAV	Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt

- BOM Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt
- ENG Knuth, Leland N., S/Sgt
- RWG Paiva, Joseph B., Sgt
- RO Baxter, Jack, T/Sgt
- Toy, James E., S/Sgt ΒT
- ΤG Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
- LWG Redhead, George R., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 Yankee Doodle Dandy

Ρ	Oxrider, George J., 1Lt
CP	Hurlburt, Donald W., 2Lt
NAV	Grant, Donald L., 2Lt
BOM	Steele, Earl A., 2Lt
ENG	Ziemer, Frederick B., T/Sgt
BT	Smith, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Dasher, Everett A., T/Sgt
RWG	Maxwell, Samuel P., S/Sgt
TG	Sadler, James K., S/Sgt
LWG	Heaps, Theodore C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29635 Augerhead

- Ρ Thompson, Frank H., 2Lt CP Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
- NAV O'Connor, James R., 2Lt
- McCord, Lawrence E., 2Lt BOM
- Welch, James R., S/Sgt ENG
- TΤ
- Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt
- RO Hogue, Earl, T/Sgt
- BΤ Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt
- ΤG Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt
- RWG Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29664 Jersey Bounce, Jr.

- Ρ Nolan, Robert J., Capt CP Kruse, Richard L., 2Lt Anderson, William J., 2Lt NAV Hopper, Richard R., 1Lt BOM
- Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt ENG
- ΒT Mathews, Frank M., Sgt
- RO Hamill, Milton, T/Sgt
- Bitter, Emile V., Jr., S/Sgt ΤG
- LWG Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt
- RWG Goff, James P., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24561 The Duchess

Р	Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Arthur W., 2Lt
NAV	Ririe, George M., 2Lt
BOM	Boutelle, Winston E., 2Lt
ENG	Hernan, Howard E., T/Sgt
RO	Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt
RWG	Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt
ΒT	Catozza, Peter P., S/Sgt
TG	Quick, George D., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Benton, Sgt

B-17F #42-5243 FDR's Potato Peeler Kids

Р	Bales, Ross C., Capt
CP	Dooley, Walter E., 1Lt
NAV	McColl, Daniel A., 1Lt
BOM	Cargill, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Winter, Raymond K., Jr., T/Sgt
RG	O'Reilly, Francis W., S/Sgt
RO	Kilgore, Raymond H., T/Sgt
BT	Zsamper, Joseph G., S/Sgt
TG	Snell, Jack D., S/Sgt
RWG	Van Ravenstein, Edward A., S/Sgt
PAS	Neff, William J., Capt
(Abortive Sortie)	

B-17F #42-3029 Wallaroo

Р	Haines, Rolland M., 1Lt
CP	Kramer, Mayer, 2Lt
NAV	Delorenzo, D.D., 2Lt
BOM	Morse, Anthony E., 2Lt
ENG	Garcia, Robert A., S/SGt
RO	Kalk, Kenneth T.M., T/Sgt
TG	Davis, Charles E., S/Sgt
LWG	Martin, Raymond W., S/Sgt
ΒT	Foster, Allen G., S/Sgt
RWG	Morgan, Robert L., Sgt

B-17F #42-29624 Pappy

Р	Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt
CP	Wallace, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., 2Lt
BOM	Philpit, Russell O., 2Lt
ENG	Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt
RO	Murray, Robert L., S/Sgt
LWG	Horvath, Robert A., Sgt
BT	Bruns, William H., Jr., SGt
TG	Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt
RWG	Howard, George Z., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5177 Fast Worker MK II

Ρ	Cline, William J., 1Lt
CP	Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt
NAV	Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt
BOM	Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
ENG	Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
RO	McGee, Paul P., T/Sgt
TG	Milliff, Mike C., S/Sgt
RWG	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
ΒT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
LWG	Kerr, Joseph, Sgt

B-17F #41-24635 The '8' Ball MK II

- P Calhoun, William R., Jr., Capt CP Hatcher, W.A., LtCol (351BG) NAV Strickland, Joseph M., 1Lt BOM Yonkman, Robert J., 1Lt ENG Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt RO Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt LWG Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt BT Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt TG Stephen, Willard W, S/Sgt
- RWG Murphy, Murel A., S/Sgt
- PAS Gable, Clark, Capt

B-17F #42-5482 Cat-O-Nine Tails

Р	McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
CP	Nix, James S., 1Lt
NAV	Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
BOM	Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt
ENG	Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
RWG	Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO	McCoy, Gordon K., Sgt
TG	Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt
ΒT	Phillips, Carl W., S/Sgt
LWG	Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt
PHO	Kagey, Martin I., Jr., Sgt
(Abortive)	

B-17F #42-5393 Thumper Again B-17F #42-29570 (No Name)

Р	Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt
CP	Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Kelley, James F., Lt
BOM	Kieffer, Claude M., Lt
ENG	Watson, James A., T/Sgt
LWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Jones, Dick W., S/Sgt
ΒT	Semonick, Martin A., S/Sgt
TG	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
RWG	Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt

B-17F #42-29571 Charley Horse B-17F #42-5483 Red Ass

Р	Van Wie, John A., Lt
CP	Vaughan, Thomas S., Lt
NAV	Blank, Paul, Lt
BOM	Rice, Bernard, Lt
ENG	Hlebasko, Albert, T/Sgt
BT	Morton, Eugene L., S/Sgt
RO	Noll, Robert W., T/Sgt
RWG	Spring, Benjamin F., S/Sgt
LWG	Swanson, Theodore G., S/Sgt
TG	Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5788 A.O.G. Not in Stock B-17F #42-2973 Iza Vailable

Ρ	Griffin, Loyd D., Lt
CP	Swanson, Walter C., Lt
NAV	Preston, William M., Lt
BOM	Taylor, Robert L., Lt
ENG	Eason, William M., T/Sgt
LWG	Edwards, Samuel L., S/Sgt
RO	Schwartz, Vernon E., T/Sgt
TG	Wiegand, Lynwood D., S/Sgt
ΒT	Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt
RWG	Henderson, Paul E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29606 Butch

Ρ	Mack, David W., Lt
CP	Barhaug, Ragnar, Lt
NAV	Smith, Roland M., Lt
BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
ENG	Deitch, Daniel T., T/Sgt
LWG	Stewart, Carl C., S/Sgt
RO	Cicinelli, Salvatore J., S/Sgt
TG	Biernacki, Joseph J., S/Sgt
ΒT	Peterson, Andrew C., S/Sgt
RWG	Spitzfaden, Robert E., Sgt

	· · · · · ·
Ρ	Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt
CP	Ball, C.F., Capt (351 GP)
NAV	Hoyt, Otis A., Lt
BOM	Fonorow, Milton S., Lt
ENG	Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt
LWG	Schneiderman, Henry G., S/Sgt
RO	Smith, Richard J., T/Sgt
BT	Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt
TG	Murray, Gilbert A., Jr., Sgt
RWG	Collins, Harvie L., S/Sgt
OBS	Tippet, Paul S., Lt
	B-17F #42-5483 Red Ass

Р	Clifton, David S., Lt
CP	Garvey, John L., Lt
NAV	Wright, Howard R., Lt
BOM	Currie, Herman C., Lt
ENG	Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt
RWG	Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt
ΒT	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt
TG	Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt
LWG	Jameson, Jimmie E., Sgt
(Aborti	ve)

Р	Trojan, Joseph E., Lt
CP	Way, Arthur C., Lt
NAV	Auman, Rictor H., Lt
BOM	Stewart, Jack W., Lt
ENG	Hassler, Kenneth C., T/Sgt
RWG	Klasnick, Joseph S., Sgt
RO	Lindewall, Erick K., T/Sgt
ΒT	Sunderlin, Joseph R., S/Sgt
TG	Bartlett, Frank W., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Connell, Lincoln T., S/Sgt
OBS	Quinney, Donald E., Capt
(Aborti	ve)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17 #42-5081 Luscious Lady B-17F #42-5341 Vicious Virgin

Ρ	Burch, Armand F., Lt
CP	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
NAV	Noblin, John D., Lt
BOM	Butt, Byron K., Lt
ENG	Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt
BT	Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt
RO	Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt
LWG	Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt
TG	Brown, Howard T., S/Sgt
RWG	Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
(Aborti	ive)

B-17F #42-29520 (No Name)

	-
Ρ	Lipe, Fort W., Lt
CP	Woodley, Robert F., Lt
NAV	McElwain, Richard E., Lt
BOM	Mathis, Rhude Mark, 1Lt
ENG	Gray, J.R., T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Brandfas, Dale F., T/Sgt
TG	Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt
LWG	Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
RWG	Barron, Dante G., Sgt

Р	Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Lt
CP	Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick, J., Lt
BOM	Blythe, Leon W., Capt
ENG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
TG	Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt
RO	Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt
LWG	Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt
RWG	Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Otto D., Sgt
	-

Р	Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Capt
CP	Birlem, Keith C., Maj
NAV	Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt
ENG	Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt
RO	Karanson, William A., Jr., T/Sgt
ΒT	Choice, Hudson, S/Sgt
LWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
RWG	Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt
TG	Jurosek, Bernard, Sgt

B-17F #42-5221 Son

Ρ	Robinson, George L., LtCol
CP	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
NAV	Soha, Walter M., Capt
BOM	Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt
NAV	Menees, R.W., Lt
ENG	Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt
ΒT	Belk, Jack, S/Sgt
TG	Henderson, George W., S/Sgt
LWG	Brandt, Waldo B., S/Sgt
RWG	Harmon, Edward Z., S/Sgt

B-17F # 42-5392 Stric Nine B-17F # 42-29481 (No Name)

	• •
Р	Jacques, Chester D., Lt
CP	Holder, Alvin D., Lt
NAV	Bradshaw, John W., Lt
BOM	Carlson, Robert C.A., Lt
ENG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
RWG	Clapshaw, Keith L., S/Sgt
RO	Vasel, Warren T., Sgt
BT	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
TG	Kirkpatrick, Ward M., S/Sgt
LWG	Ryan, Clayton W., Sgt
(Abortive)	
-	