

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 44

25 June 1943

Target: Shipyards/Submarine Buildings at Hamburg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 25

Crews Lost: Lt. Palmer - 7 KIA, 4 POW; Lt. Mack - 1 KIA, 9 POW;

Lt. Stallings - 1 KIA, 5 WIA

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 1 WIA

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 19,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 41,841 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 17 Destroyed, 7 Probable, 4 Damaged

The 303rd BG(H) dispatched twenty-five aircraft to bomb Hamburg. One B-17 returned early: #42-3192 (*No Name*), 358BS (**Rogan**). The left landing gear wouldn't retract after take-off.

There was a heavy cloud cover from Molesworth to Germany. Condensation trails and the complete 10/10 overcast at 19,000 feet caused visibility to be nil. Flak experienced over the isle of Norderney and Germany was very intense and quite accurate. Fighter opposition was heavy with 60 to 100 enemy aircraft seen. There were twenty-eight encounters reported and Group claims were seventeen destroyed, seven probables and four damaged.

As a result of the poor visibility, the 103rd PBCW Groups had a difficult time maintaining their assigned formation positions. During one formation turn in heavy condensation trails, the 303rd BG(H) Group scattered. Climbing to a higher altitude, the Group leader with about six other aircraft, broke out into the clear about 19,000 feet. He was unable to see the other PBCW Groups due to the vapor trails. It became apparent that no bombing could be accomplished so a decision was made to turn out to sea. The lead ship co-pilot, Capt. **Shumake**, made a call in the clear on VHF radio using the 303rd BG(H) code name "Big League Six" and advised other Group aircraft of their intention. During the turn, enemy aircraft pressed attacks from all directions, attacking in Squadrons of 4, 12 and 20 aircraft.

The bulk of the Group bombs were jettisoned indiscriminately on the German coastline in the vicinity of the Frisian Islands. Two aircraft dropped their bomb loads in the Bremen area.

Two aircraft were lost:

The Avenger, #42-5390, piloted by 1Lt. Joseph F. **Palmer**, was lost to fighter action and crashed at Borgsweer, Netherlands. Lt. **Palmer**, 2Lt. Robert M. **Sheldon**, S/Sgt. Elmer E. **Duffey**, T/Sgt. Edmund **Gullage**, S/Sgt. Burl M. **Owen**, S/Sgt. Samuel A. **Holder** and S/Sgt. Norman E. **Hornbacher** were all killed. They are all buried in Netherlands American Cemetery, Martgratten, Netherlands. 2Lt.

Claude M. **Kieffer**, Sgt. Leonard C. **Applequist**, S/Sgt. Alva E. **Hodges** and Sgt. James L. **Stringer** were captured by the enemy and taken prisoner. Sgt. **Applequist** was one of the few sergeant bombardiers in the 8th Air Force. He was on his third combat mission.

The Witches Tit #42-5382, piloted by 1Lt. David W. **Mack**, was lost to anti-aircraft guns and crashed in the Oldenburg, Germany area. S/Sgt. Andrew C. **Peterson** was the only member of the crew that was killed. Lt. **Mack**, Lt. Ragnar **Barhaug**, Lt. Roland M. **Smith**, Lt. Charles J. **Cox**, T/Sgt. Daniel T. **Deitch**, S/Sgt. Carl C. **Stewart**, S/Sgt. Salvatore J. **Cicinelli**, S/Sgt. Joseph J. **Biernacki** and Sgt. Robert E. **Spitzfaden** were captured by the enemy and taken prisoner.

Aircraft #42-5468 *Quinine-Bitter Dose* 360BS-I, piloted by Lt. George **Stallings**, came under intense fighter attack. The radio operator, T/Sgt. Dick W. **Jones**, was killed instantly when hit in the chest by a 20mm shell. Waist gunner, S/Sgt. Joseph S. **Klasnick**, had a broken leg and 20mm shrapnel in his left shoulder, but continued to fire his guns. S/Sgt. Robert H. **Yattaw** the other waist gunner, had shell fragments over his left eye. Other shell fragments went through the B-17's nose. One exploded under navigator Lt. J. Ford **Kelley's** table throwing slivers into his leg. He continued to perform his navigational duties and fired his nose guns during the fierce fighter attacks. The engineer, T/Sgt. James A. **Watson**, manned his top turret guns. During lulls, he left his turret to make emergency repairs to the badly damaged Fortress then returned to his guns to continue the fight. Following additional fighter attacks, *Quinine-Bitter Dose* had only limited flying control.

Crossing the English coast, Lt. **Stallings** ordered the crew to bail out. Sgt. **Watson** assisted the crew in departing the stricken B-17. Lt. **Stallings** then headed the aircraft out to sea and bailed out himself. He landed about one-half mile out to sea and swam back to shore. The Fort crashed at sea. The tail gunner, S/Sgt. John J. **Stickler**, had his left lip torn when his parachute opened. T/Sgt. Michael S. **Hlastala**, an observer, had two cracked ribs. Lts. Three of the crew were awarded the Silver Star medal for their heroic mission actions: 1Lt. **Kelley**, T/Sgt. **Watson** and S/Sgt. **Klasnick**. Lt. **Stallings** was awarded both the American and British DFC medals. Lt. J.E. **Bradbury**, copilot, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross medal for his actions.

Group gunners claimed seventeen enemy aircraft destroyed, seven probables and four damaged. Aircraft #42-29656 *The Terrible Ten* 358BS, piloted by Lt. Calvin A. **Swaffer**, landed at Thorpe Abbots, 100BG and refueled before returned to Base. Top turret gunner T/Sgt. Rudolph S. **Lopez** was wounded on the mission.

The mission of 25 June to Hamburg was the first time that the 103rd PBCW team of the 303-379-384 Bomb Groups (H) flew together. They would later form the 1st Division 41CBW that was a team to the end of the war in Europe.

CLOUDS, CONTRAILS, CLOUDS, CONTRAILS

Unusual Experiences of 1/Lt John R. Shoup

My last raid was very memorable in that it was a terrible fiasco. It was on 25 June 1943 and we were going to join the Brit's and demolish Hamburg, Germany. I was flying with Capt Jack Roller and we were leading the high squadron. Bill Cline was my original copilot and he was flying on our right wing with his own crew.

As I recall, we were in bad soup shortly after take off. Trouble already! And it was compounded by serious contrails as we climbed higher and higher. Then we began to lose contact with the other ships in our formation. Our wing men stuck tight and we finally broke through and guess what? Our three ship flight was it!!!

They were not shooting at us very much---So we chugged along—a solid undercast as far as the eye could see. At last we joined up with Capt Billy Southworth and his three 427th Bomb Squadron ships. We couldn't see the ground so somebody decides to go home.

Then we had a nice running fight with a Jerry for quite some time. I finally saw the Island of Baltruin in the Frisians and made a quick "bob and run." Six ships together dodging in and out of the clouds.

Don't know if we did any damage other than plowing sand and I never could find out. Our six got home together, the rest of the group came straggling home in two's and three's. But the 8th Air Force lost eighteen (18) aircraft on this mission, to no avail.

Anyway, when we landed Bob Yonkman, our Bombing Officer, met me at the plane with a big drink of rum.

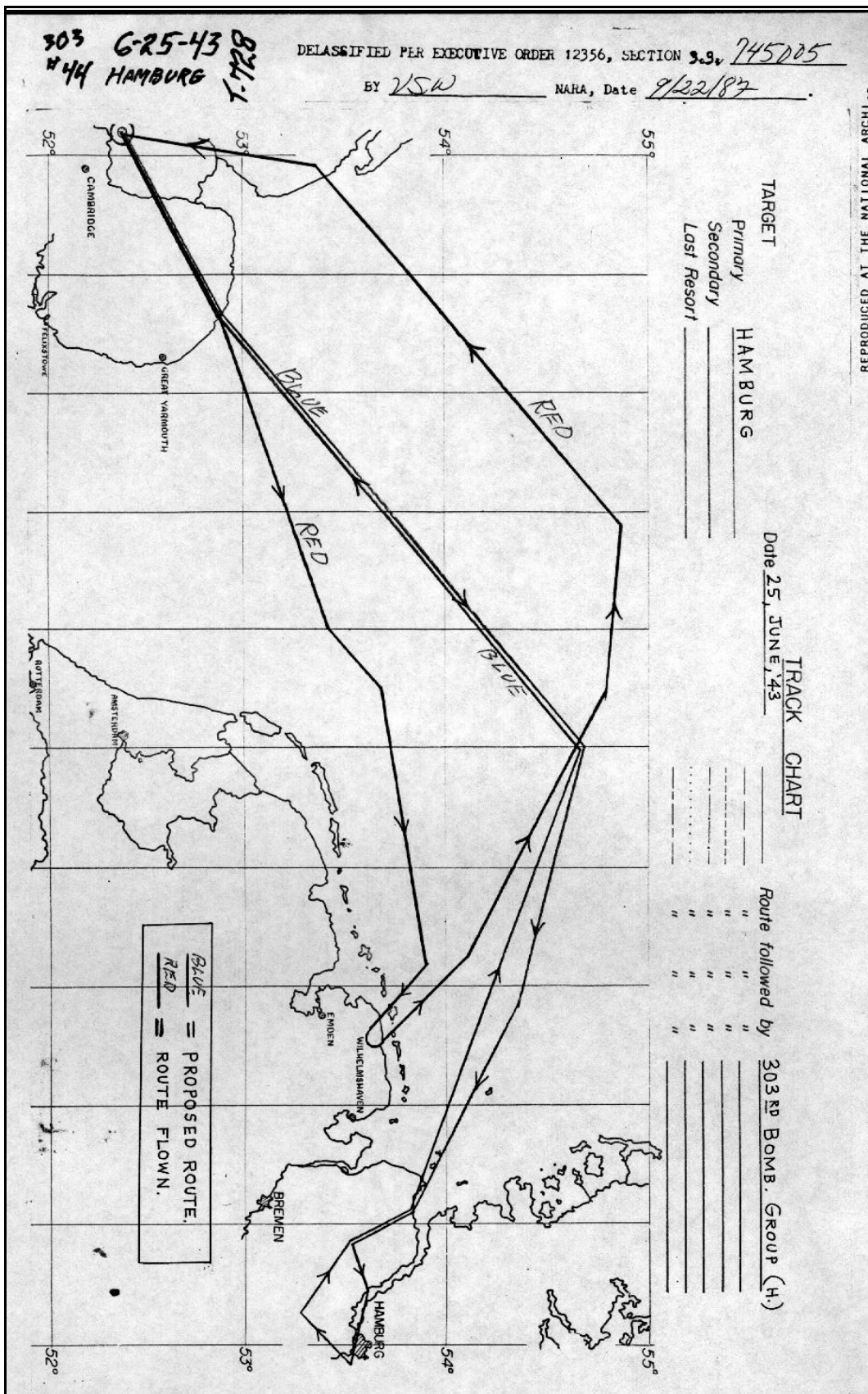
Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. V.E. Brown (571)	ME-109	Damaged
T/Sgt. J.R. Welch (635)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. E.L. Aubrey (635)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. E.L. Aubrey (635)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. C.J. Fulanovich (635)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. D.R. Wilson (635)	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. J.P. Moody (656)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. J.P. Moody (656)	FW-190	Possible
S/Sgt. R. Nakaniski (635)	FW-190	Destroyed
Lt. J.R. Shoup (482)	ME-109	Probable
S/Sgt. L.L. Jordan (561)	FW-190	Possible
T/Sgt. W.M. Eason (434)	ME-110	Destroyed
S/Sgt. R.H. Yattaw (468)	ME-109	Damaged
S/Sgt. J.J. Stickler (468)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. J.A. Watson (468)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. D. Wiegand (434)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. A.S. Stevens (468)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. R. Plummer (434)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. R. Plummer (434)	FW-190	Destroyed

T/Sgt. A. Hlebasko (393)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. T.F. Kelly (393)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. J.E. Serpa (131)	JU-88	Destroyed
S/Sgt. R.K. Sink (131)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. E.E. McGill (392)	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. D.L. Hinds (131)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. C. Bryant (131)	ME-109	Destroyed
Lt. L.B. Bierman (955)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. P. Gunsauls (944)	ME-109	Possible

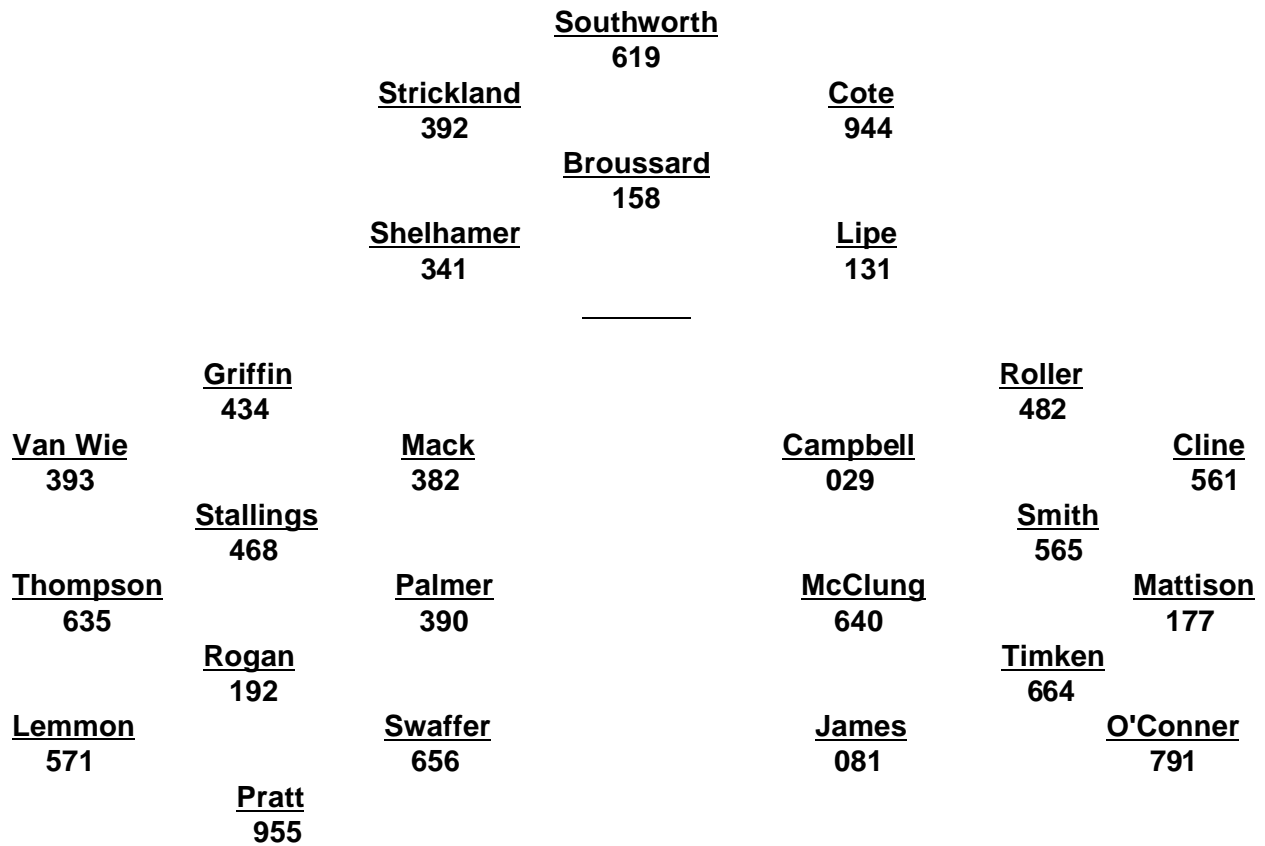


S-for-Sugar #41-24619 (427BS) GN-S
103rd PBCW #2 Low (427BS) - Pilot Capt B.B. Southworth / CoPilot Capt G.F. Shumake



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission:

- Lt. Rogan in 192
- Lt. Timken in 664
- Lt. O'Connor in 791

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 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-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse*

P	Lemmon, John V., 1Lt
CP	Clark, Elmo E., F/O
NAV	Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt
ENG	Berzansky, Andrew, T/Sgt
RWG	Beavers, Albert T., S/Sgt
RO	Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt
BT	Bagwell, Clayton R., S/Sgt
TG	Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt
LWG	Briggs, Wayne E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29791 *Memphis Blues*

P	O'Connor, Robert S., 2Lt
CP	Manifold, Donovan B., 2Lt
NAV	Halioris, Andrew N., F/O
BOM	Bitter, Emile V., Jr., S/Sgt
ENG	Koenig, Bernard H., T/Sgt
LWG	Goff, James P., S/Sgt
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt
BT	Carroll, Albert V., S/Sgt
TG	Sadler, James K., S/Sgt
RWG	Martin, James C., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
CP	Wright, George E., 2Lt
NAV	Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt
BOM	Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt
ENG	Knuth, Leland M., T/Sgt
RWG	Paiva, Joseph B., S/Sgt
RO	Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt
BT	Toy, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
LWG	Redhead, George R., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-3192 *(No Name)*

P	Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
CP	Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
NAV	McSween, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt
ENG	Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt
LWG	Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO	Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT	Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
RWG	Schmeltzer, Charles S., Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead*

P	Thompson, Frank H., 2Lt
CP	Sumaridason, Arni L., 2Lt
NAV	McConnen, James R., 2Lt
BOM	Sweet, William T., 2Lt
ENG	Welch, James R., S/Sgt
TT	Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt
RO	McGuire, Robert J., T/Sgt
BT	Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt
TG	Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt
RWG	Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29656 *The Terrible Ten*

P	Swaffer, Calvin A., 1Lt	
CP	Johnston, John R., 1Lt	
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt	
NG	Zioance, John C., S/Sgt	
ENG	Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt	WIA
RWG	Mills, James E., S/Sgt	
RO	Matthews, James O., T/Sgt	
BT	Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt	
TG	Moody, John P., S/Sgt	
LWG	Cobb, Edward N., Sgt	
PHO	Kagey, Martin I., Jr., Sgt	

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess*

P	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	Murray, Robert L., T/Sgt
TG	Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt
RWG	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
BT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
LWG	Kerr, Joseph, Sgt

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

P	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
BT	Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt
TG	Quick, George D., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Benton, Sgt

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

P	Roller, Jack, Capt
CP	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Henson, Walter C., 1Lt
BOM	Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Marcelonis, Joseph G., S/Sgt
RO	Williams, Lemuel T., T/Sgt
TT	Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt
BT	Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
LWG	Gonsalves, John D., Sgt

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

P	Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Case, Spencer F., 2Lt
NAV	Rich, David A., 1Lt
BOM	Shafer, John H., 1Lt
ENG	Green, Frederick J., T/Sgt
RO	Nordyke, Lloyd E., T/Sgt
TG	McEachern, David C., S/Sgt
BT	Schneider, James E., S/Sgt
LWG	Rettinhouse, Robert A., S/Sgt
TT	Vogel, George W., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24565 *Idaho Potato Peeler*

P	Smith, Sanford T., Capt
CP	Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV	Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt
BOM	Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG	Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt
RO	York, Robert F., T/Sgt
LWG	Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
BT	Tibbles, Russell F., S/Sgt
TG	Howard, Earl R., Sgt
RWG	Powell, Marvin F., Sgt

B-17F #42-29640 *Old Ironsides*

P	McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
CP	Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt
NAV	Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
BOM	Philpitt, Russell O., 1Lt
ENG	Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt
RWG	Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO	Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
TG	Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt
BT	Edwards, Hurd L., Sgt
LWG	Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5468 *Quinine-Bitter Dose* - DCH

P	Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt	BO
CP	Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt	BO
NAV	Kelley, James F., Lt	WIA/BO
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., Lt	BO
ENG	Watson, James A., T/Sgt	BO
RWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt	WIA/BO
RO	Jones, Dick W., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt	BO
TG	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt	BO
LWG	Klasnick, Joseph S., S/Sgt	WIA/BO
OBS	Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt	BO/WIA

B-17F #42-5390 *The Avenger* - CR-L

P	Palmer, Joseph F., Lt	KIA
CP	Sheldon, Robert M., Lt	KIA
NAV	Kieffer, Claude M., Lt	POW
BOM	Applequist, Leonard C., Sgt	POW
ENG	Duffey, Elmer E., S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Gullage, Edmund, T/Sgt	KIA
LWG	Hornbacher, Norman E., Sgt	KIA
BT	Owen, Burl M., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Hodges, Alva E., S/Sgt	POW
RWG	Holder, Samuel A., S/Sgt	KIA
PHO	Stringer, James L., Sgt	POW

B-17F #42-5382 *The Witches Tit* - CR-L

P	Mack, David W., Lt	POW
CP	Barhaug, Ragnar, Lt	POW
NAV	Smith, Roland M., Lt	POW
BOM	Cox, Charles J., Lt	POW
ENG	Deitch, Daniel T., T/Sgt	POW
LWG	Stewart, Carl C., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Cicinelli, Salvatore J., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Biernacki, Joseph J., S/Sgt	POW
BT	Peterson, Andrew C., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Spitzfaden, Robert E., Sgt	POW

B-17F #42-5434 *Lady Luck*

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

B-17F #42-5393 *Thumper Again*

P	Van Wie, John A., Lt
CP	Walsh, James D., 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	Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt
TG	Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Capt
CP	LeFevre, William G., Lt
NAV	Herman, Charles L., Lt
BOM	Rohrlich, Robert L., Lt
ENG	Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt
RO	Karanson, William A., Jr., T/Sgt
BT	Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt
LWG	Jurosek, Bernard, S/Sgt
RWG	Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt
TG	Coomes, Clarence S., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar*

P	Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt
CP	Shumake, Glynn F., Capt
NAV	Illgen, Frederick J., Lt
BOM	Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt
ENG	Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Belk, Jack, S/Sgt
RO	Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt
TG	Mackin, George T., Lt
RWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
LWG	Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt
OBS	Stevens, Kermit D., LtCol

B-17F #42-5392 *Stric Nine*

P	Strickland, Alexander C., Lt
CP	Olsen, Curtis M., Lt
NAV	Hokans, Carl A., Lt
BOM	Lamme, Edwin G., Lt
ENG	Baart, James C., T/Sgt
BT	Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt
RO	Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt
RWG	Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt
TG	Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt
LWG	McGill, Edward E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3131 *Flak Wolf*

P	Lipe, Fort W., Lt
CP	Rolfson, Jack G., Lt
NAV	Butt, Byron K., Lt
BOM	Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt
ENG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Brandfas, Dale F., T/Sgt
LG	Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt
TG	Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt
RWG	Barron, Dante G., Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady*

P	James, Jacob C., Lt
CP	Ness, Howard C., Lt
NAV	Scroggins, Paul W., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Means, Lucian W., Jr., T/Sgt
RWG	Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
RO	Ashworth, George W., T/Sgt
LWG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
BT	Kesky, Leonard A., S/Sgt
TG	Tripp, Jesse E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5341 *Vicious Virgin*

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willet, John K., S/Sgt
BT	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
LWG	Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
RWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29944 *Winning Run*

P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	May, Cecil M., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt
LWG	Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt
RWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29955 *Mr. Five by Five*

P	Pratt, James H., Lt
CP	Bowling, William A., Lt
NAV	Boner, Allen M., Lt
BOM	Bierman, Leonard B., Lt
ENG	Scheuerer, Joseph E., Sgt
RO	Royar, Frederick J., S/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., Sgt
TG	Johnston, Walter J., S/Sgt
LWG	Schilling, D.E., Sgt
RWG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt