

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 57

12 August 1943

Target: Geisenberg Benzine & Hydrogenation Synthetic Oil Refinery at  
Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: Lt. Pentz, 1 KIA, 8 POW, 1 REP

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 250 lb incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 27,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 54,707 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 4 Destroyed, 4 Probable, 1 Damaged

Into "Happy Valley" (Ruhr Valley) flew a formation of Flying Fortresses to mark the first heavy daylight bombing raid to the heart of the Ruhr. The bombers flew unescorted to the target area but were met on the return journey by P-47 "Thunderbolt" fighters. One 427th BS aircraft, #42-24619 *S for Sugar* (**Shope**), aborted after the No. 4 engine failed. The bombs were jettisoned in the wash.

Weather on the trip was fair with good visibility until the formation reached the target area. At the target flying at 27,000 feet, cloud cover, ground haze and smoke made it impossible for crews to observe the bombing results. However, the bombers had made a good run on the target with evasive action, dodging the most intense flak yet encountered. Later analysis indicated that no 8th Air Force bombers were successful in hitting the primary target.

No fighters attacked until the Fortresses dropped their 38 tons of 320 British 250-lb. incendiary bombs. As soon as they turned away from the target area, 100 to 150 FW-190s and ME-109s started to concentrate their attacks on the 303rd BG(H). The fight lasted 45 minutes with almost continuous attacks. Gunners claimed four destroyed, four probables and one damaged. The attack broke off when the P-47s appeared. Scattered flak was encountered at different stages of the journey, but the Ruhr Valley barrages were intense and accurate.

Aircraft #42-29640 *Old Ironsides* 359BS, piloted by 1Lt. Arthur H. **Pentz**, was last seen at a point ten miles south of Bochum, Germany after dropping its bombs. It fell behind the formation after a fighter attack and was almost completely on fire. It crashed at Moenchengladbach, Ger. Navigator 1Lt. Benjamin B. **Street** was killed in action. 1Lt. **Pentz**, 2Lt. Thomas E. **Mulligan**, 2Lt. Russell O. **Philpitt**, T/Sgt. John A. **Dougherty**, S/Sgt. Robert A. **Horvath**, T/Sgt. Robert L. **Murray**, S/Sgt. Hurd L. **Edwards**, S/Sgt. Elmer T. **Knudsen** and S/Sgt. George Z. **Howard** were captured and became prisoners of war. 2Lt. Russell O. **Philpitt** was later repatriated.

The 8th Air Force lost 25 of the 243 attacking aircraft—nearly a 10% loss rate. When questioned about the mission results, Maj. **Calhoun** said, "They had smoke all over the place. Don't know whether it was a smoke screen or results of RAF night bombing. Saw

about 150 fighters. Some of the other boys caught hell. Before I say anything about the bombing, I want to see the pictures. Those P-47s sure looked good." Capt. **Yonkman**, bombardier on *The '8' Ball MK II* remarked, "We had a good pattern, but there was so much smoke and clouds we couldn't see the hits."

Capt. Dave **Rogan**, pilot of *Jersey Bounce, Jr.* completed his 25th mission and commented, "I really sweated some today. Those boys in that territory don't fool around." S/Sgt. Antonio **Bednarchuk**, tail gunner on *Son* also completed 25 missions and stated, "Happy Valley" is one place that a fellow is glad to get out of. Been here since the start and it's the roughest I've seen. The boys that say they are getting easier are crazy." *The '8' Ball MK II* co-pilot 1Lt. James **Nix** added, "One fighter came barrelling in right through the formation. He wasn't 25 yards from us shooting away. Another blew the tail right off a Fortress in the Group ahead of us. A 'shaky do.'" T/Sgt. James R. **Welch**, waist gunner of the 358th BS ship *Meat Hound* remarked, "My first trip was to Bremen and I thought it was rough but this tops 'em all. One more like that and I'll sit on the ground."

### Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

S/Sgt. J.E. Mills (9635)	ME-109	Possible Destroyed
S/Sgt. W. Gasser (571)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. C.J. Fulanovich (524)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. E.W. Griffin (9635)	ME-109	Damaged
S/Sgt. H.L. Abney (360)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. B.F. Wilson (846)	FW-190	Damaged
T/Sgt. H.W. Herod (002)	FW-190	Destroyed
Sgt. R.R. Strohsack (341)	ME-109	Destroyed
Sgt. A.N. Sherg (341)	FW-190	Destroyed



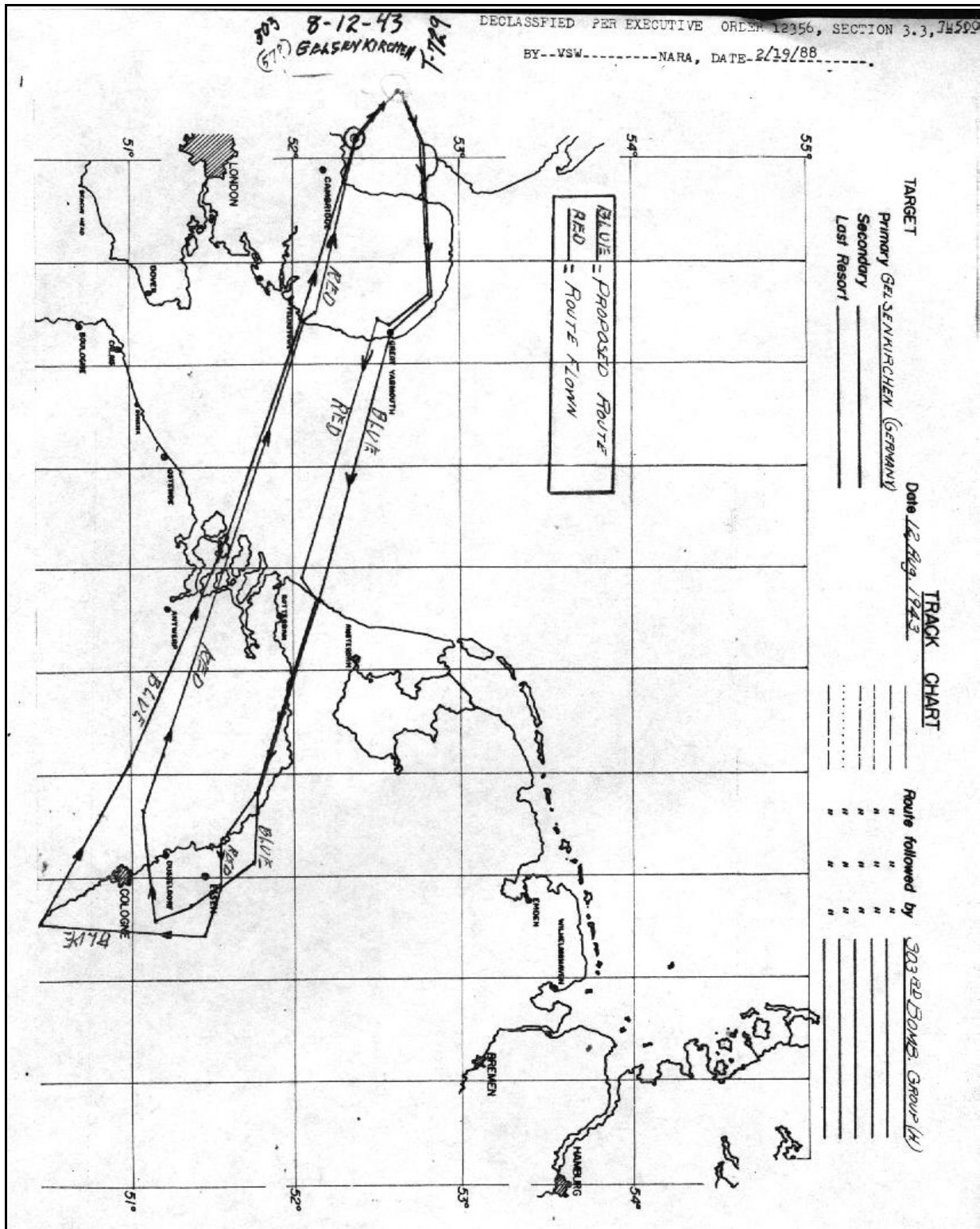
Flak bursting around an unknown B-17



**The '8' Ball MkII #41-24635 (359BS) BN-O**  
**103rd PBCW Low Group - Pilot Maj W.R. Calhoun, Jr. / CoPilot 1Lt J.S. Nix**

(Back L-R) F/O Harold S. Bolsover (TG), S/Sgt Paul C. Lemann (BTG),  
 1Lt James S. Nix (CP), Capt Robert J. Yonkman (B),  
 T/Sgt Arnold S. Doran (E), S/Sgt Lloyd L. Jordan (WG)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Paul P. McGee (R), Capt Joseph M. Strickland (N),  
 Maj William R. Calhoun, Jr. (P), S/Sgt Joseph Kerr (WG)



Route Map

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Calhoun</u> 4635		
	<u>Pentz</u> 640		<u>Reeder</u> 002	
		<u>Campbell</u> 846		
	<u>Manning</u> 565		<u>Brown</u> 257	
	<u>Rogan</u> 664			<u>Strickland</u> 341
<u>Thompson</u> 524		<u>Monahan</u> 571	<u>Shope</u> 619	<u>Cote</u> 221
	<u>Timken</u> 562			<u>Casello</u> 854
<u>Johnston</u> 9635		<u>Sumarlidason</u> 264	<u>Baker</u> 260	<u>Bradbury</u> 393
	<u>Hendry</u> 360			<u>Loughnan</u> 482

One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:  
Lt. Shope in 619

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CREW POSITIONS</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 - 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	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
		<b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5360 *Old Faithful***

P	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
NAV	McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt
BOM	Webster, Richard E., 2Lt
ENG	Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt
LWG	Doherty, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt
BT	Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt
TG	Abney, Howard L., S/Sgt
RWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29524 *Meat Hound***

P	Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt
CP	Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt
NAV	McConnen, James R., 2Lt
BOM	Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Welch, James R., T/Sgt
TT	Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt
RO	Tudor, Mark E., T/Sgt
RWG	Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt
BT	Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt
TG	Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt

(Welch was also LWG)

### **B-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse***

P	Monahan, William J., 1Lt
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
NAV	Maher, William P., 2Lt
BOM	Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt
ENG	Krajacic, Frank G., T/Sgt
RWG	Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt
RO	Kimotek, Frank, S/Sgt
BT	Buinicky, Alfred R., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, David, S/Sgt
LWG	Comer, James H., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24562 *Sky Wolf***

P	Timken, Jack C., 1Lt
CP	Shebeck, Daniel A., 2Lt
NAV	Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt
BOM	Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt
ENG	Knuth, Leland M., T/Sgt
LWG	Redhead, George R., S/Sgt
RO	Baxter, Jack, Sgt
BT	Toy, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt
RWG	Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt
NG	Hitt, William T., Sgt
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt

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

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

### **B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy***

P	Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
CP	Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
NAV	Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt
BOM	Sager, Richard A., 2Lt
ENG	Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
RWG	Stender, Francis H., S/Sgt
RO	Grimm, Richard C., S/Sgt
BT	Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt
LWG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Buske, George W., S/Sgt
NG	Wisniewski, Alexander, Sgt
PHO	Kagey, Martin I., Jr., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead***

CP	Johnston, John R., 1Lt
CP	Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt
BOM	Sweet, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt
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
NG	Olson, Vernon E., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Loughnan, Victor J., 2Lt
CP	Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt
NAV	Maxwell, James L., 2Lt
BOM	Robinson, John M., 2Lt
ENG	High, Eugene W., T/Sgt
LWG	Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt
RO	Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt
BT	McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt
RWG	Barr, Gordon E., S/Sgt
TG	McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt

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

P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj
CP	Nix, James S., 1Lt
NAV	Strickland, Joseph M., Capt
BOM	Yonkman, Robert J., Capt
ENG	Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
LWG	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
RO	McGee, Paul P., S/Sgt
BT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
TG	Bolsover, Harold S., F/O
RWG	Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt

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

P	Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt	POW
CP	Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt	KIA
BOM	Philpit, Russell O., 2Lt	POW/REP
ENG	Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt	POW
LWG	Horvath, Robert A., S/Sgt	POW
RO	Murray, Robert L., T/Sgt	POW
BT	Edwards, Hurd L., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Knudsen, Elmer T., S/Sgt	POW
LWG	Howard, George Z., S/Sgt	POW

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

P	Manning, John P., 2Lt
CP	Blossom, George H., 2Lt
NAV	Antman, Jack, 2Lt
BOM	Pullman, Edward J., 2Lt
ENG	Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
RWG	Kolling, Arthur J., S/Sgt
RO	Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
LWG	Santella, Albert G., S/Sgt
BT	Traylor, Lloyd S., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29846 *(No Name)***

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	McCauley, Patrick N., Sgt
TG	Quick, George D., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Benton F., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3002 *The Old Squaw***

P	Reeder, D.M., 2Lt
CP	McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt
NAV	Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt
BOM	Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt
ENG	Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt
LWG	Hayes, James J., S/Sgt
RO	Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt
RWG	Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt
BT	Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
TG	Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven***

P	Brown, Malcolm E., 2Lt
CP	Szelwian, Felix T., 2Lt
NAV	Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
BOM	Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt
ENG	Kress, Beryl W., T/Sgt
RO	Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG	Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
BT	Wernet, Charles E., Sgt
TG	Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt
RWG	Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5260 *Yardbird II***

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P Baker, William T., 1Lt  
CP Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt  
NAV McLane, Joseph T., 2Lt  
BOM Stamper, William B., M/Sgt  
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt  
RWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt  
RO Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt  
BT Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt  
LWG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
TG Bacon, Charlie M., S/Sgt

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

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P Bradbury, Joseph E., 1Lt  
CP Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt  
NAV Molnar, George 2Lt  
BOM Gibson, Steve M., 2Lt  
ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt  
RWG Oxendine, Simeon, Sgt  
RO Jillson, John S., S/Sgt  
BT Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt  
LWG Fisher, George C., S/Sgt  
TG Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop***

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P Casello, John J., 1Lt  
CP Huguenin, Wesley V., 1Lt  
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., 1Lt  
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., 1Lt  
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt  
TG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt  
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt  
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt  
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt  
RWG Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt  
OBS Sherer, H.A., Maj



## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Shope, George W., Jr., Lt
CP	Ashwell, Silas B., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Reeder, John J., Lt
ENG	Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
TG	Good, James K., T/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt
LWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-5221 *Son***

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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	Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt

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

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