

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 61

19 August 1943

Target: Airdrome & Storehouses at Gilze-Rijen, Holland

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: 1Lt J.S. Nix (11 crew), 2Lt L.H. Quillen (10 crew),
6 wounded, 21 missing

Length of Mission: 3 hours, 25 minutes

Bomb Load: 24 x 100 lb H.E. M-30 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 19,700 ft

Ammo Fired: 52,414 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 12 destroyed, 10 probable, 6 damaged

All aircraft were airborne and there were no abortions. Each B-17 carried 24 100-lb. General Purpose bombs. The Group left the English coast in poor combat wing formation. The lead Group failed to drop its bombs after reaching the initial point. The poor bomb run, ground haze and sun made it impossible for the 303rd BG(H) to pick out the target. After falling back into Wing formation, a second bomb run was attempted by the 303rd BG(H) while the other Groups headed for home without making another bomb run.

On the second 303rd BG(H) bomb run, bombardier 1Lt LeRoy V. Gordon could not find the target due to sun glare and didn't drop his bombs. Ten Group B-17s did drop their bombs. By this time the other two Groups were 10 to 15 miles ahead of the 303rd BG(H), leaving them alone. About 20 to 30 enemy fighters attacked the Group when no U.S. Fighter support materialized. The 10 aircraft that didn't drop their bombs on the bomb run jettisoned their bombs in the water when the heavy fighter attacks began. Persistent head-on attacks were made out of the sun. Crews were unanimous in stating that they had never seen enemy fighters come in so close. The Group, separated from the rest of the combat Wing, was subjected to continuous fighter attacks until 10 miles off the enemy coast.

Meager flak was encountered near Antwerp but it was very accurate. Eleven Group aircraft sustained flak battle damage. Two Group aircraft were lost. B-17F #42-3192 (*No Name*, often called *G for George*) 358BS-G piloted by 1Lt. James S. **Nix**, was shot down by enemy fighters halfway between the target and the enemy coast. It crashed between Odsterhout and Raamsponkvoor, Holland. 1Lt. **Nix**, 2Lt. Daniel A. **Shebeck**, 1Lt. Robert K. **Solverson** and T/Sgt. Frank G. **Krajacic** were killed in the crash. 1Lt. **Nix**, 2Lt. **Shebeck** and T/Sgt. **Krajacic** are buried in Netherlands American Cemetery, Martgratten, Netherlands. 2Lt. Dwight M. **Curo**, T/Sgt. Curtis O. **Brooke**, S/Sgt. Frank F. **Perez**, S/Sgt. George W. **Buck**, S/Sgt. Joseph **Gross**, S/Sgt. Fred C. **Boyd** and 1Lt. Louis T. **Moffatt** were captured by the enemy and held prisoner.

B-17F #42-5392 *Stric Nine* 427BS, piloted by 2Lt. Lauren H. **Quillen**, was hit by flak and caught fire. Some of the crew bailed out over the Dutch coast (presumed off Hock van Holland) then crashed into the North Sea. 2Lt. **Quillen**, 2Lt. John R. **Homan**, 2Lt. B.W. **Colby**, 2Lt. William N. **Irish**, T/Sgt. Eldon F. **Richter** and S/Sgt. Salvador J. **Di Cosmo** were killed in the crash. The bodies of Lts. **Quillen**, **Colby**, **Irish** and **Richter** washed

ashore and were buried in local Dutch cemeteries. They were later reinterred. S/Sgt. Elbert O. **Price**, S/Sgt. Joseph H. **Brown**, S/Sgt. Paul W. **Abernathy** and S/Sgt. A.K. **Sauer** were captured by the enemy and held prisoner.

Group gunners claimed 21 enemy aircraft destroyed, one probable and two damaged. Lt. John **Hendry** of the 358BS landed #41-24416 *Black Diamond Express* at Framingham to care for his tail gunner S/Sgt Howard L. **Abney**, who had been hit by 20mm shells in the right hip and arm. He was taken to the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Redheart, Lt. **Hendry** then returned to Molesworth with his aircraft. Five other crewmen also were wounded.

Both Maj. **Calhoun** and his co-pilot Capt. **Shumake** stated definitely that this so-called "milk run," was as tough a battle as they had seen. 358BS tail gunner Sgt. George W. **Buske** and his crew members were subjected to repeated and determined fighter attacks. One 20mm shell penetrated the tail, knocking out his left gun and exploding his tracer ammunition. Though painfully wounded, he manned his remaining gun with such skill that he destroyed one enemy plane and warded off numerous fierce attacks. For this heroic action he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



DANIEL A. SHEBECK CREW - 358th BS
photo with B-17F #42-29664 *Jersey Bounce*, Jr. (358BS) VK-C

(Back L-R) 2Lt Daniel A. Shebeck (P-KIA), 2Lt Dwight M. Curo (N-POW),
2Lt Paul W. Campbell (CP), 2Lt Charles W. Spencer (B)
(Front L-R) S/Sgt Frank F. Perez (BT-POW), T/Sgt Mark E. Tudor (R), T/Sgt Frank G. Krajacic (E-KIA),
S/Sgt Joseph Gross (RWG-POW), S/Sgt Fred W. Boyd (TG-POW), S/Sgt George W. Buck (LWG-POW)

Shebeck was flying as CoPilot to Nix (KIA). Spencer was flying with the Frank H. Thompson Crew.
Campbell and Tudor were not on this mission.

POW CAMP, POW CAMP, POW CAMP
Unusual Experiences of S/Sgt Curtis O Brooke

As an original crew member, I flew six missions with Lt F.O. Clark as 1st pilot. I flew 2 missions as a replacement radio operator on Lt Shebecks crew with Lt Nix as 1st pilot. On my 8th mission on 19 August 1943, we were shot down over Gilze-Rijen, The Netherlands. 1Lt J.S. Nix was Killed in Action. 2/Lt D.A. Shebeck was KIA. T/Sgt F.G. Krajacic was KIA. I and the remainder of the crew were taken prisoner of war.

I was sent to a POW Transit Camp at Moosburg, Bavaria in October 1943. We were moved by box car to a camp in Krems, Austria—Stalag 17B. On 8 April 1945 we were force marched from Stalag 17B to a wooded area on the Austrian–Bavarian border where we were held until liberated by General Patton’s tank corp on 3 May 1945.

We then flew to a R.A.M.P. camp in France as the war ended. Then we were sent to Camp Lucky Strike, France. As this camp was so crowded, I was given the opportunity to visit Molesworth, England before returning to the US.

Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

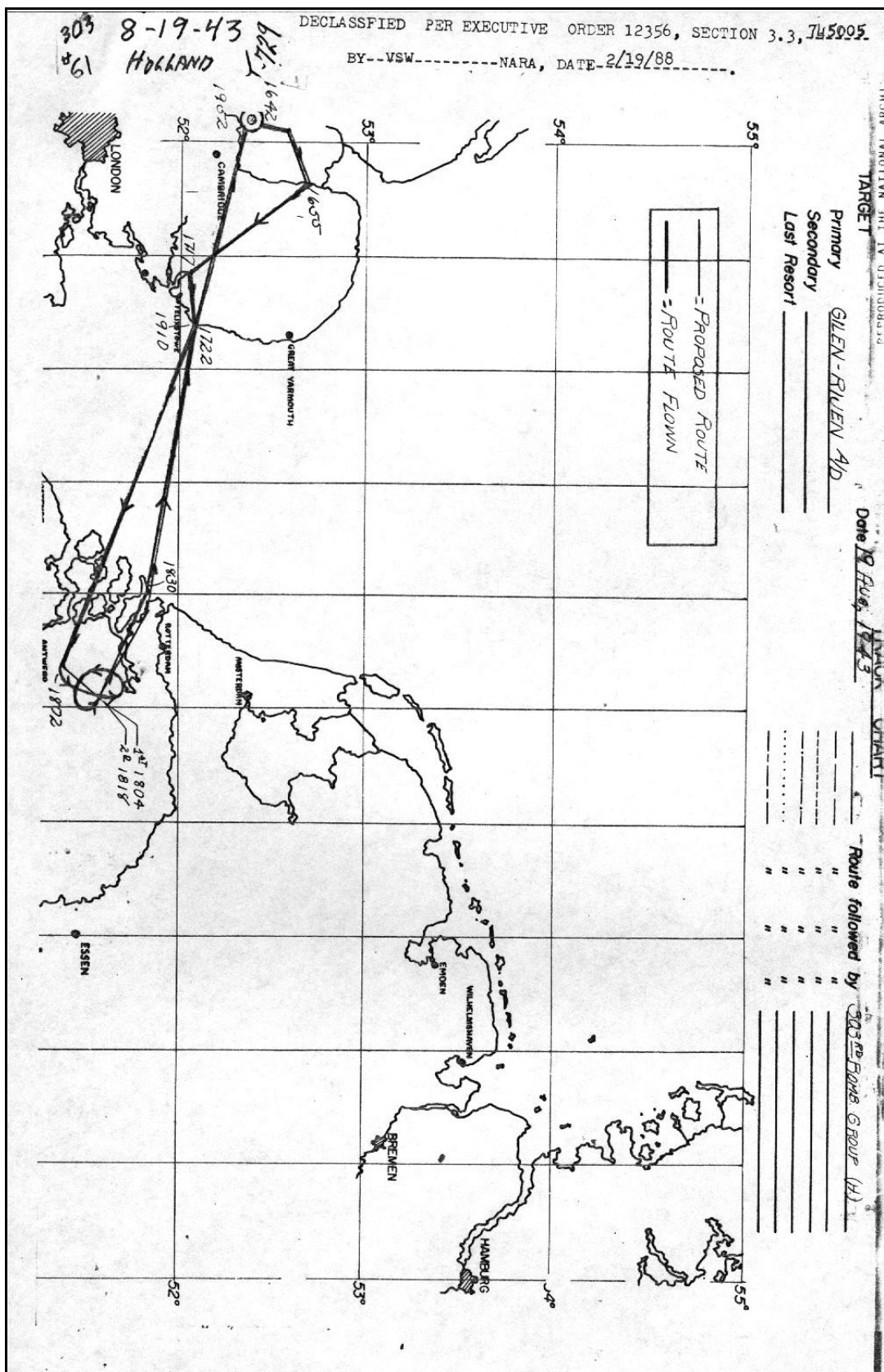
S/Sgt. Alfred R. Buinicky	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Frank Kimotex	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Ralph Nakaniski	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Charles J. Fulanovich	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. David Miller	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Edward J. Cassidy	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Eldred L. Aubrey	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. James H. Comer	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. George W. Buske	FW-190	Destroyed
2Lt. James R. McConnen	ME-109	Destroyed
T/Sgt. James R. Welch	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. Stanley J. Backiel	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. Howard L. Abney	FW-190	Destroyed
2Lt. William P. Maher	FW-190	Destroyed
Sgt. Frank M. Mathews	ME-109	Destroyed
Sgt. Charles Wernet	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. K.L. McGee	FW-190	Destroyed
2Lt. J.M. Robinson	ME-109	Destroyed
1Lt. David A. Rich	FW-190	no claim
S/Sgt. J.R. Sawicki	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. R.D. Ford	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. N.D. Borrer	ME-109	no claim
S/Sgt. F.J. Dioquardo	JU-88	Destroyed
Sgt. M.G. Stachowiak	FW-190	Damaged
T/Sgt. P. Kistulentz	FW-190	no claim
S/Sgt. J.C. Burke	FW-190	no claim
S/Sgt. J.C. Burke	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. C.H. Marson	ME-109	Destroyed

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Calhoun</u> 635		
		<u>Brown</u> 257		<u>Reeder</u> 561
			<u>Mattison</u> 605	
		<u>Loughnan</u> 482		<u>Quillen</u> 392
	<u>Nix</u> 192			<u>Clifton</u> 434
<u>Thompson</u> 664		<u>Johnston</u> 002		<u>Cogswell</u> 483
				<u>Crockett</u> 754
	<u>Gamble</u> 562			<u>Stallings</u> 788
<u>Monahan</u> 577		<u>Benepe</u> 264		<u>Baker</u> 260
	<u>Hendry</u> 416		<u>Bradbury</u> 393	
				<u>Hullar</u> 029

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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Route Map

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24416 *Black Diamond Express*

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	WIA
(Abortive Sortie)		

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

P	Monahan, William J., 1Lt	
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt	
NAV	Maher, William P., 2Lt	
BOM	Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt	
LWG	Redhead, George R., S/Sgt	
ENG	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	Gamble, Donald, 1Lt	
CP	Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt	
NAV	McSween, William D., 2Lt	
BOM	Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt	
ENG	Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt	
RWG	Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt	
RO	Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt	
BT	Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt	
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt	
LWG	Schmeltzer, Charles S., S/Sgt	
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt	

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

P	Benepe, Louis M., 1Lt	
CP	Wright, George E., 2Lt	
NAV	Chamberlain, William B., 1Lt	
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	

B-17F #42-3192 (No Name) - CR-L

P	Nix, James S., 1Lt (359BS)	KIA
CP	Shebeck, Daniel A., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Curo, Dwight M., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Solverson, Robert K., 1Lt	KIA
ENG	Krajacic, Frank G., T/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Gross, Joseph, S/Sgt	POW
RO	Brooke, Curtis O., T/Sgt	POW
BT	Perez, Frank F., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Boyd, Fred C., S/Sgt	POW
LWG	Buck, George W., S/Sgt	POW
PAS	Moffatt, Louis T., 1Lt	POW

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

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	Baxter, Jack, Sgt.	
RWG	Wilson, Donald R., S/Sgt	
BT	Nakaniski, Ralph, S/Sgt	
TG	Aubrey, Eldred L., S/Sgt	

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

CP	Johnston, John R., 1Lt	
CP	Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt	
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt	
BOM	Sweet, William D., 2Lt	
ENG	Knuth, Leland M., 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	

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Reeder, D.M., 1Lt
 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
 (Abortive Sortie)

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
 (Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper*

P Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
 CP Case, Spencer F., 1Lt
 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 Boling, Shuble A., Sgt
 TT Vogel, George W., S/Sgt
 PHO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
 PAS Neff, William J., Capt
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

P Loughnan, Victor J., 1Lt
 CP Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt
 NAV Maxwell, James L., 2Lt
 BOM Robinson, John M., 2Lt
 ENG High, Eugene W., T/Sgt
 RWG Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt
 RO Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt
 BT McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt
 LWG 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 Shumake, Glynn F., Capt
 NAV Jacobsen, Norman N., 1Lt
 BOM Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
 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 Halpin, Robert, F/O
 RWG Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt
 PAS Gray, E.D., LtCol
 (Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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
TG	Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt
LWG	Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Clifton, David S., 1Lt
CP	Garvey, John L., Lt
NAV	Rosenblum, Nathan J., Lt
BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Lt
ENG	Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt
LWG	Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt
RG	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt
RWG	Jameson, Jimmie E., S/Sgt
TG	Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt
BT	Schulstad, Louis M., Capt
OBS	Briggs, J.E., Col

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5788 *A.O.G. Not in Stock*

P	Stallings, George V., Jr., Capt
CP	Davey, Kenneth W., Capt
NAV	Molnar, George, Lt
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., Lt
ENG	Watson, James A., T/Sgt
RWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
BT	Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt
TG	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
LWG	Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-29754 *Shangrila Lil*

P	Crockett, George W., Jr., Lt
CP	Barsam, Merian A., Jr., Lt
NAV	Millner, Israel, Lt
BOM	Cransie, William J., Lt
ENG	Tepper, Morris, T/Sgt
RWG	Homer, Eddie D., Sgt
RO	Jaynes, Allen D., T/Sgt
BT	Clarke, Benjamin, Jr., S/Sgt
LWG	Williams, Eugene F., S/Sgt
TG	Burke, James C., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Bradbury, Joseph E., 1Lt
CP	Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt
BOM	Gibson, Steve M., 2Lt
ENG	Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
NG	Deffinger, John P., Sgt
LWG	Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
RO	Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
BT	Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
RWG	Oxendine, Simeon, Sgt
TG	Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt

B-17F #42-5483 *Red Ass*

P	Cogswell, Robert W., Lt
CP	DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
NAV	Kennedy, John D., Lt
BOM	Currie, Herman C., Lt
ENG	Bengston, Gilbert E., T/Sgt
RWG	Etheredge, Alvin, S/Sgt
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, S/Sgt
BT	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt
LWG	Tharp, Wallace L., S/Sgt
TG	Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Quillen, Lauren H., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Homan, John R., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Colby, B.W., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Irish, William N., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Richter, Eldon F., T/Sgt	KIA
BT	Price, Elbert O., S/Sgt	POW
RO	DiCosmo, Salvador J., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Sauer, A.K., S/Sgt	POW
RWG	Abernathy, Paul W., S/Sgt	POW
LWG	Brown, Joseph H., S/Sgt	POW

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	McCormick, James E., Lt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
LWG	Fullem, Charles, S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt