

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 64

27 August 1943

Target: Special V-weapons Installation Site, Watten, France

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: 1 crew - Lt. Crockett (10 crewmen),
4 slightly wounded on other crews

Length of Mission: 3 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 2 x 2,000 lb H.E. M-34 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 16,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 29,309 rounds

This was the first 8th Air Force attack on a German V-weapons site. They were used to launch attacks on the U.K. Brigadier General **Williams**, Commanding General of the 1st Bomb Wing, flew as a passenger on Lt. A.C. **Strickland's** 427BS B-17 #42-4341 *Vicious Virgin* (sometimes known as the *Scarlet Harlot*). Each aircraft carried 2,000-lb. G.P. bombs. There were no abortive aircraft.

Intense flak was encountered as the formation approached the target at 16,000 feet. Approximately three miles north of St. Omer, aircraft #42-29754 *Shangrila Lil*, flown by 2Lt. George W. **Crockett**, Jr., was hit in the vicinity of its bomb bay practically disintegrating the ship in midair. It was flying on the left wing of Maj. **Calhoun's** lead ship. Four to six parachutes were seen to open. 2Lt. Merian A. **Barsam**, Jr., 2Lt. William J. **Cramsie** and T/Sgt. Morris **Tepper** were killed in the crash. Lt. **Barsam** is buried in Normandy American Cemetery near Coleville-sur-Mer, France. 2Lt. **Crockett**, 2Lt. Israel **Millner**, T/Sgt. Allen D. **Jaynes**, S/Sgt. Eugene F. **Williams**, S/Sgt. Eddie D. **Homer**, S/Sgt. Benjamin **Clarke**, Jr. and S/Sgt. James C. **Burke** were captured by the enemy and taken prisoner.

Nineteen aircraft bombed the target, with results reported from good to poor. The bomb run was again directly into the sun. There was a terrific haze which reduced visibility to less than five miles. The lead bombardier, 1Lt. Jack B. **Fawcett**, had the target in his bombsight for less than sixty seconds.

Enemy air opposition was slight with 20 to 30 fighters observed and only a few attacks on the Group. Fighter escort was a few minutes late but Spitfires provided excellent support. The badly damaged #42-2973 *Iza Vailable* 360BS, piloted by Lt. Robert **Cogswell**, landed at Manston with all crewmen safe. The number one engine's controls were shot away, the number two engine was on fire and had to be feathered and the number three engine's oil lines were knocked out. After the emergency landing, Radio Operator T/Sgt. Eddie **Deerfield** counted 200 flak holes from the nose to the tail.

Maj. **Calhoun** commented, "We had about a three-and-one-half minute bomb run as straight as an arrow. There was haze and cloud cover for about half the bomb run and with about one minute to go, my bombardier got the target in his sights and let the bombs go. I only saw four or five fighters myself and won't worry much about any bombing results opinions until I see pictures." Lt. Curtis M. **Olsen**, pilot of #42-5221 *Son*, finished his 25th

mission and said, "From all of that flak I thought that I was coming back without any cover on my plane, but I fooled them. It would take more than that to keep me from coming back today." Another crewman finishing his 25th mission was T/Sgt. James K. **Good** who added, "About 25 enemy fighters swept right through but they didn't do any damage and they didn't come back." The right waist gunner S/Sgt. Delvyn **Smith** said, "Rough! That flak was terrible, booming all around us." Other men finishing 25 missions were Capt. David S. **Clifton**, pilot of *Lady Luck*, 360BS who commented, "The high cover of Spits kept what fighters we did see underneath us so they didn't bother us much" and Lt. John D. **Noblin**, navigator of *Flak Wolf* #42-3131 427BS, who remarked that the flak was "like someone throwing a bunch of pebbles at us." The veteran Fortress *Hell's Angels* flew its 40th mission with Lt. William **Monahan** as its pilot.



GEORGE W. CROCKETT JR. CREW - 360th BS
B-17F Shangri-La Lil #42-29754 (360BS) PU-B
(crew assigned 360BS: 13 July 1943 - photo: 12 Aug 1943)

(Back L-R) 2Lt William J. Cramsie (B-KIA), 2Lt George W. Crockett, Jr. (P-POW),
 2Lt Isreal Millner (N-POW), 2Lt Meran A. Barsam, Jr. (CP-KIA)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Benjamin Clarke, Jr. (RWG-POW), S/Sgt Eugene F. Williams (BT-POW),
 S/Sgt James C. Burke (TG-POW), T/Sgt Allen D. Jaynes (R-POW),
 Sgt Eddie D. Homer (LWG-POW), T/Sgt Morris Tepper (E-KIA)

FLAMES - AND EMPTY BUNKS IN OUR NISSEN HUT
Unusual Experiences of T/Sgt Eddie Deerfield-Radio Operator

Harold "Red" Timm and I are the only known surviving members of the original 360th Bomb Squadron crew, piloted by Bob Cogswell. Bob was killed in action on B-29's during the Korean War. Alvin "Pappy" Etheredge lies in the American Cemetery at Cambridge, England. Dwight Kennedy, Gil Bengston and P. J. Davis have passed on. We have been unable to trace Ed Cobb, Paul Tippet and Gus Brundage.

I used to puzzle over "the luck of the draw" in aerial combat. Why was it that some of us gave our lives, some were shot down and taken prisoner, others were wounded or suffered through the roughest of missions, and still others breezed through tours with barely a flak dent in their B-17? It serves no purpose to dwell on this. We need to thank whatever Gods may be for having had the privilege of serving our country, and to go on honoring the memories of lost comrades.

Our Cogswell bunch earned the unenviable tag of "jinx crew" almost from the time of our first mission on 10 July 1943. We ditched before the end of July, barely managed an emergency landing at an RAF base a month later and bailed out four weeks after that. Throw Hamburg and Schweinfurt into the mix of those first 13 missions, and it was a recipe for disaster.

Let me tell you about the mission to Watten on 27 August 1943. Our favorite B-17 "Iza Vailable" was heavily damaged by deadly accurate anti-aircraft fire and we barely made it back to England for an emergency landing at a coastal RAF base. As we walked around the aircraft, checking damage, we counted more than 200 flak holes, yet none of us was wounded. Tragically, "Shangri-La Lil" flying nearby in our 360th formation took a direct hit and blew up. We saw only four parachutes.

Later, on a mission to strike Nantes, France, on 26 September 1943, that was recalled because of cloud cover over the target, our crew had a narrow escape. On our return, approaching Southampton on the southern coast of England, Bob Cogswell was unable to feather a runaway prop. When the engine began pouring smoke, he ordered the crew to bail out. We came down on rooftops, in trees and on farmer's fields in the vicinity of Alresford and Winchester. "Lady Luck" crashed in a lake, and the only fatalities were six grazing cows. Ironically, we didn't even get credit for a mission!

Cogswell was injured in the bailout, and the original crew drifted apart after that. I went on to complete 30 missions, flying with four different crews. Twelve of those missions were with Joe Stevens at the controls. A flak burst smashed a hole in the wall of my radio room on the Saarbrücken mission, and my face was cut up by metal fragments.

My most vivid memories, however, even after all these years, are the B-17's exploding in flames and the empty bunks that night in our Nissen hut.



Satan's Workshop #42-29931 (360BS) PL-U

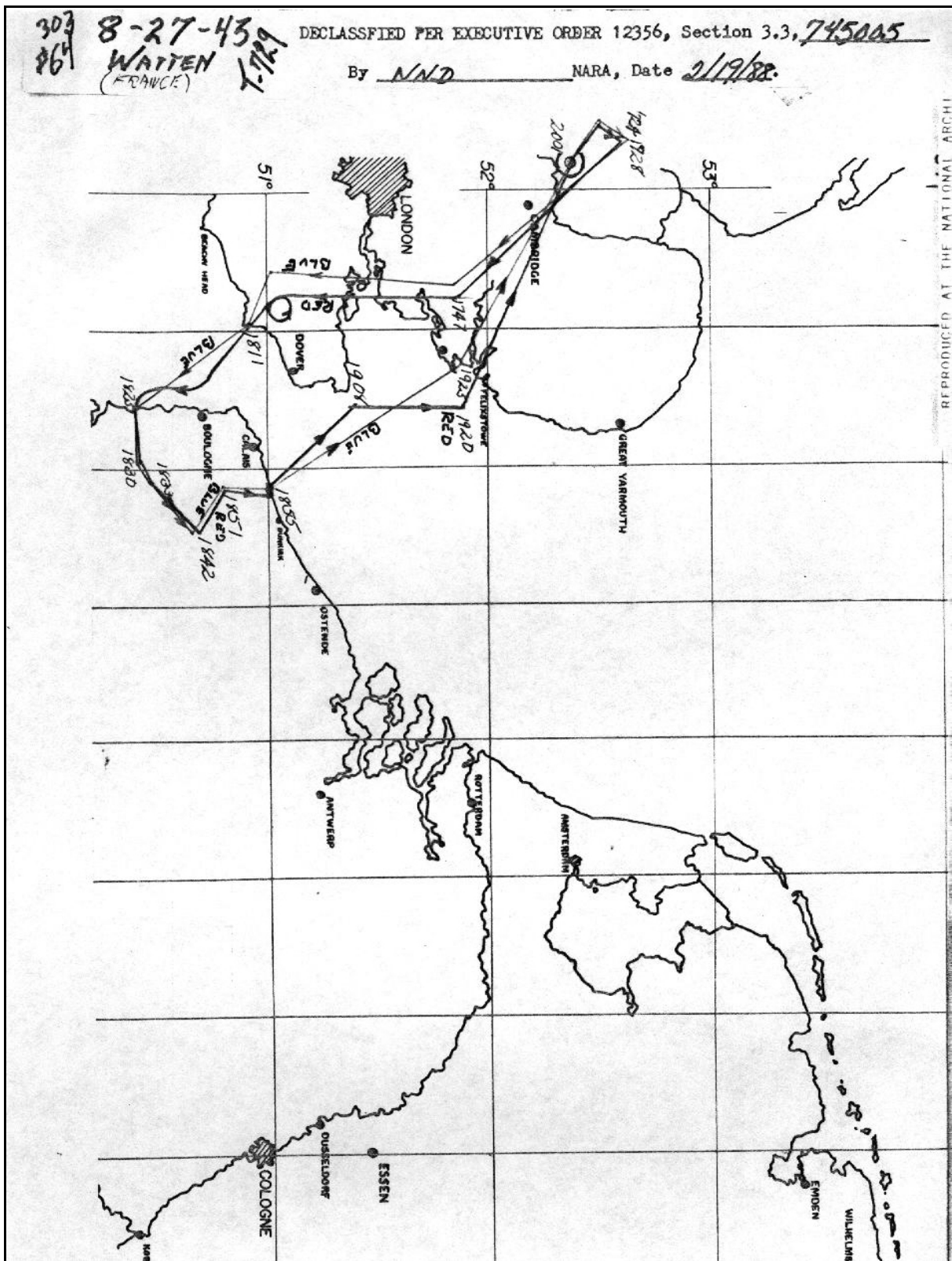
103rd PBCW Lead (360BS) - Pilot Maj W.R. Calhoun / CoPilot Col J.K. Lacy

Maj W.R. Calhoun (P 359th), Col J.K. Lacey (CP - CO 384th BG),
Lt N.N. Jacobsen (N), Lt E.F. Effinger (N), Lt J.B. Fawcett (B)

T/Sgt H.S. Carnathan (E), S/Sgt C.A. Frost (WG), T/Sgt A. Calco (R),
S/Sgt T.S. Ponder (BT), S/Sgt J.E. Gray (WG), Lt J.L. Garvey (TG)

(crewmen are not in order)

Lt. J.L. Garvey had a claim of an FW-190 damaged.



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Calhoun-Lacey</u> 931			
<u>Crockett</u> 754	<u>Clifton</u> 434		<u>Jokerst</u> 483
<u>Baker</u> 260			<u>Cogswell</u> 973
<u>Mattison</u> 605		<u>Strickland</u> 341	
<u>Bradbury</u> 393	<u>Manning</u> 565	<u>Olsen</u> 221	<u>Cardwell</u> 131
<u>Loughnan</u> 482		<u>James</u> 944	
<u>Johnston</u> 064	<u>Reeder</u> 561	<u>Monahan</u> 577	<u>Hullar</u> 081
<u>Hendry</u> 571		<u>Thompson</u> 635	

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u> 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 <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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
---	--	--	---

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt
RWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29635 *Augerhead*

P	Thompson, Frank H., 1Lt
CP	Campbell, Paul W., 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 #41-24577 *Hell's Angels*

P	Monahan, William J., 1Lt
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
NAV	Maher, William P., 2Lt
BOM	Hargrove, Walter, 2Lt
RWG	Gasser, Walter, S/Sgt
ENG	Knuth, Leland M., T/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 #42-3064 *Star Dust*

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	King, Robert E., 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	Robichaud, Joseph E., Sgt
RO	Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt
RWG	Carver, William H., Sgt
BT	Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
TG	Swan, Henry, S/Sgt
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt

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

P	Loughnan, Victor J., 1Lt
CP	Mackin, George T., 1Lt
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
PHO	Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt

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

P	Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt
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	Case, Spencer F., 1Lt

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	Mace, LeRoy L., Sgt
TG	Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt

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., Lt
NG	Stout, Otis T., S/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	Borror, Norwood D., S/Sgt
LWG	Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt

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

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

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

P	Clifton, David S., 1Lt
CP	Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt
NAV	Molnar, George, Lt
BOM	Currie, Herman C., Lt
ENG	Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt
LWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt
BT	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt
RWG	Jameson, Jimmie E., S/Sgt
TG	Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt

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

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

B-17F #42-2973 *Iza Vailable*

P	Cogswell, Robert W., Lt
CP	DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
NAV	Cobb, Edward L., Lt
BOM	Kennedy, John D., Lt
ENG	Bengston, Gilbert E., T/Sgt
RWG	Etheredge, Alvin, S/Sgt
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, S/Sgt
BT	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt
LWG	Peterson, Elmer L., Sgt
TG	Timm, Harold R., S/Sgt

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

P	Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP	Bergeron, Willard H., Lt
NAV	Noland, James B., Lt
BOM	DeFeis, Robert N., Lt
ENG	Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG	Stephen, William H., S/Sgt
RO	Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt
BT	Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG	Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29931 *Satan's Workshop*

P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Maj
CP	Lacey, J.K., Col (CO 384BG)
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., 1Lt
NAV	Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
BOM	Fawcett, Jack B., Lt
ENG	Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt
LWG	Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt
RO	Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt
BT	Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt
TG	Garvey, John L., Lt
RWG	Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Fuller, 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

B-17F #42-5221 *Son*

P	Olsen, Curtis M., Lt
CP	Ashwell, Silas B., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Reeder, John J., Lt
ENG	Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Delvyn, S/Sgt
LWG	Jessee, Jesse J., T/Sgt
TG	Good, James K., T/Sgt

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

P	Strickland, Alexander C., Lt
CP	Dubell, Richard P., Lt
NAV	Hokans, Carl A., Lt
BOM	Lamme, Edwin G., Lt
ENG	Strohsack, R.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
PAS	Williams, Robert B., Bgen (CG 1BW)

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

P	James, Jacob C., Lt
CP	Ness, Howard C., Lt
NAV	Scroggins, Paul W., Lt
BOM	Witt, Walter E., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A.
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Hamilton, A.J., S/Sgt
RWG	Misiak, Frank L., S/Sgt
LWG	Fleming, William W., S/Sgt
TG	Tripp, Jesse E., Sgt

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

P	Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
CP	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
NAV	Noblin, John D., Lt
BOM	Bierman, Leonard B., Lt
ENG	Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt
BT	Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG	Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
TG	Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt
RWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt