

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 75

8 Oct 1943

Target: Center of City, Bremen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 42 x 65 lb M47A2 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 28,900 ft

Ammo Fired: 9,700 rounds

## Black Week - 8-14 Oct 1943

The primary target was the important submarine-building yard at Bremen. During 1942, this yard produced 10.6% of total German production. On 8 October, there were 21 submarines under construction and 10 being fitted out. There were also four "Seetier" class destroyers being constructed and two being fitted out. The yard capacity had recently been increased by one slip. Another plant in Bremen was producing 75 JU-87 aircraft each month. The secondary target was the center of the city of Bremen.

Aircraft #41-24577 *Hell's Angels* turned back at the English coast when the pilot, Lt. John R. **Johnston** 358th BS, lost his No. 1 engine.

The effectiveness of the target smoke screen, in combination with a haze that extended to altitude, caused the Group to attack the secondary target. Twenty-seven tons of M47A1 65-lb. incendiary bombs were dropped from 28,000 feet and appeared to have landed east of the aiming point.

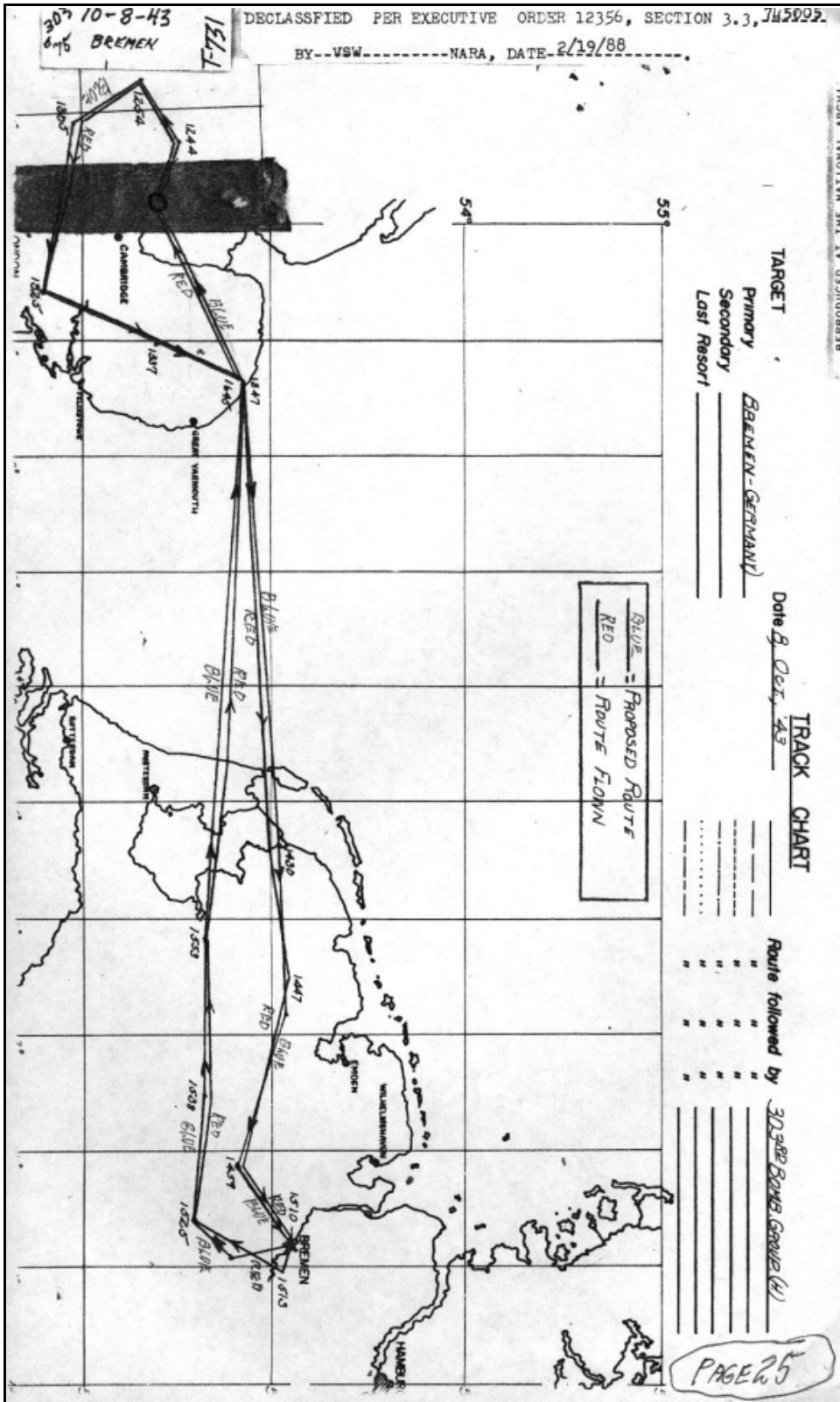
Flak in the target area was intense and accurate for Groups below the 303rd BG(H) formation. Both barrage and continuously pointed fire were employed. Meager inaccurate flak was met at various points to and from the target. Up to 300 enemy aircraft were seen, but there were very few attacks by the ME-109s, ME-110s and FW-190s. There were no claims made by the Group, no aircraft lost and no casualties. Nine aircraft suffered minor flak damage. Fighter support was good.

The lead pilot, Capt. **Casello** reported, "My crew saw bombs hitting on the center of town. There was a lot of flak, but the P-47s kept the enemy fighters away most of the time. We had a few tail attacks, but they didn't damage the ship any." "They definitely haven't taken any flak away from Bremen." added Maj. **Shayler**. "We were lucky enough to fly above most of it, but it must have been hell for the boys flying below us. The flak was bursting fiercely down there. However, we weren't bothered much by fighters. They didn't seem to want to come up to our altitude and mix with the P-47s."

S/Sgt. Virgil E. **Brown**, tail gunner on *Sky Wolf*, said he saw three FW-190s attack one Fortress when the P-47s weren't around. "That tail gunner was really on the ball. He shot down two of the FWs in about thirty seconds and the other one turned around and got

out of there fast," Sgt. **Brown** reported. S/Sgt. Chester **Petrosky**, tail gunner on *Miss Bea Haven* said, "I've never seen flak as thick as it was today. It looked like we could have gotten out and walked on it."

The crew of *Star Dust* 358BS, had the roughest Group trip of the day. Over the target flak hit the ship, damaged a supercharger and caused a runaway propeller. Flying on three engines, *Star Dust* fell behind the rest of the formation, but went on to bomb the target. Two bombs stuck in the racks and the bomb bay doors refused to close, slowing the ship down even more. To complicate matters, oxygen masks froze at the sub-zero altitude. Bombardier Lt. Phillip A. **Reed** passed out from lack of oxygen. Engineer T/Sgt. Joseph A. **Roze**k went back to the bomb bay to try to close the doors and increase the speed of the ship a little. He dislodged the two bombs, which rolled out of the partially closed doors. Then Sgt. **Roze**k passed out on the narrow catwalk over the open bomb bay doors five miles above earth. Seeing Sgt. **Roze**k's position, 2Lt. Roy C. **Sanders**, pilot of *Star Dust*, left the controls in the hands of the co-pilot 2Lt. Henry F. **Nogash**. After dragging Sgt. **Roze**k to a safer spot and fitting him up with an emergency oxygen system, Lt. **Sanders** went to the nose and succeeded in reviving Lt. **Reed**. "We were lucky to get back," the crew agreed. "We weren't in very good shape to keep off fighters, but those P-47s were all around us. Boy! They really looked good—as welcome as a letter from home."



Route Map

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<b><u>Shayler-Casello</u></b>			
931			
<b><u>Brinkley</u></b>		<b><u>Heller</u></b>	
483		973	
<b><u>Jokerst</u></b>			
854			
<b><u>Baker</u></b>		<b><u>Grant</u></b>	
498		257	
<b><u>Lemmon</u></b>		<b><u>Shelhamer</u></b>	
562		955	
<b><u>DeCamp</u></b>	<b><u>Campbell</u></b>	<b><u>Clifford</u></b>	<b><u>Whitcomb</u></b>
571	524	158	131
<b><u>Johnston</u></b>		<b><u>Cote</u></b>	
577		052	
<b><u>Hartigan</u></b>	<b><u>Wise-Fort</u></b>	<b><u>Hullar</u></b>	<b><u>McClellan</u></b>
264	477	221	587
<b><u>Sanders</u></b>		<b><u>Quinn</u></b>	
064		029	
		<b><u>Phelps</u></b>	<b><u>Reeder</u></b>
		177	561
		(Spare)	(Spare)

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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

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P DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt  
 CP Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt  
 NAV Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt  
 BOM Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt  
 ENG Hembree, William T., T/Sgt  
 RO King, Robert E., Sgt  
 LWG Hitt, William T., Sgt  
 BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt  
 TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt  
 RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

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

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P Hartigan, William R., 2Lt  
 CP Goddard, Edward N., 2Lt  
 NAV Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt  
 NG Hoffman, Robert W., Sgt  
 ENG Resto, Clement, T/Sgt  
 LWG Lowther, John W., S/Sgt  
 RO Ward, Robert L., T/Sgt  
 RWG Dove, Charles J., S/Sgt  
 BT Stoddard, Val F., S/Sgt  
 TG Ince, James T., S/Sgt

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

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P 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., S/Sgt  
 (Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-3064 *Star Dust***

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P Sanders, Roy C., 1Lt  
 CP Nogash, Henry F., 2Lt  
 NAV Wood, Gordon W., 2Lt  
 BOM Peed, Philip A., 2Lt  
 ENG Rozek, Joseph A., T/Sgt  
 RWG Carll, Martin V., Sgt  
 RO Trest, James G., T/Sgt  
 BT Kremer, Mathias J., S/Sgt  
 TG Cockrum, Alfred E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Smith, Riker K., S/Sgt

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

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P Lemmon, John V., Capt  
 CP Harper, William B., 2Lt  
 NAV Gust, Darrell D., 1Lt  
 BOM Stone, Elbert E., 1Lt  
 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 #42-29524 *Meat Hound***

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P Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt  
 CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt  
 NAV McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt  
 BOM Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt  
 ENG Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt  
 RWG Wisniewski, Alexander, S/Sgt  
 RO McGuire, Robert J., S/Sgt  
 BT Brooks, John W., Sgt  
 TG Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt  
 LWG Hoy, James F., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29477 *Joan of Arc***

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P Wise, Calder L., 2Lt  
 CP Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Nothstein, John P., 2Lt  
 BOM Hallibutron, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt  
 ENG Mullins, Grover C., S/Sgt  
 RWG Pleasant, James H., S/Sgt  
 RO Supple, James C., S/Sgt  
 BT Zeitner, Howard H., Sgt  
 TG Sutton, Bernard J., Sgt  
 LWG Viszneki, John G., S/Sgt  
 PHO Martin, Wallace G., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo***

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P Quinn, Thomas J., F/O  
CP Eisenhart, William E., F/O  
NAV Howlett, Oscar D., 2Lt  
BOM Van Zandt, Roland, 2Lt  
ENG Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt  
RWG Kalafut, Joe J., S/Sgt  
RO Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt  
BT Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt  
LWG Reynolds, James B., S/Sgt  
TG Pelkey, Elwood R., S/Sgt

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

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P Grant, Ambrose G., 2Lt  
CP Hall, Franklin C., 2Lt  
NAV Berger, James F., 2Lt  
BOM Blackburn, Marion D., 2Lt  
ENG Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt  
TT Kujawa, Tony T., S/Sgt  
RO Sexton, Edward J., T/Sgt  
TG Anderson, Francis D., S/Sgt  
RWG Greenlee, Woodrow W., S/Sgt  
BT Petrosky, Chester, S/Sgt

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

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P Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt  
CP Bolsover, Harold S., F/O  
NAV Johnson, Lloyd S., 2Lt  
BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 1Lt  
ENG Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt  
TT Robb, Charles W., Sgt  
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt  
BT Joubert, Francis M., S/Sgt  
TG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt  
LWG Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt

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

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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  
RWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt  
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt  
LWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt  
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt  
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Casello, John J., Capt  
CP Shayler, Walter K., Maj  
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt  
NAV Molnar, George, Lt  
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt  
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt  
TG Jackson, Theodore M., Lt  
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt  
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt  
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt  
RWG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt

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

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P Heller, William C., Lt  
CP Coppom, John F., Lt  
NAV Zwayer, James P., Lt  
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt  
ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt  
RWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt  
RO Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt  
LWG Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt  
BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt  
TG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt

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

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P Brinkley, Pharis C., Lt  
CP Parrott, John H., Lt  
NAV Becker, Sylvester J., Lt  
BOM Petrolino, James S., Lt  
ENG Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt  
LWG Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt  
RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt  
RWG Ferguson, Charles R., S/Sgt  
BT Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt  
TG Rein, William E., S/Sgt

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

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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 Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt  
LWG Wilson, George W., S/Sgt  
TG Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29498 *Dark Horse***

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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 Bonn, Charles J., Sgt  
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
TG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
LWG Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check***

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P	McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV	Kaliher, John C., Lt
BOM	Cornish, Merlin L., Lt
ENG	Tempesta, David, T/Sgt
RWG	Chiles, Alfred B., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Callihan, George A., T/Sgt
BT	Yarian, Robert G., S/Sgt
LWG	Heaton, Barnell S., Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah***

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P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3158 *Max***

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P	Clifford, Bernard J., Lt
CP	Jahn, Charles O., Lt
NAV	Stata, Charles M., Lt
BOM	Bruce, Robert V., Lt
ENG	Horning, A.E., S/Sgt
RWG	Dyke, Andrew A., T/Sgt
RO	Hartzog, F.G., T/Sgt
BT	Gale, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Heller, W.O., S/Sgt
LWG	McLarty, J.L., S/Sgt

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

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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
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
LWG	Fullem, Charles, S/Sgt

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

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P	Whitcomb, Ralph E., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., Lt
ENG	Sparks, William C., S/Sgt
TT	Glendening, Vane N.L., S/Sgt
RO	Kuehl, Fred T., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	Young, Earl W., Sgt

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

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P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willett, John K., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
BT	Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
TG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
LWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt
OBS	Johnson, Hans C., Capt