

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 77

10 October 1943

Target: Center of city, Coesfeld, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 1,000 lb G.P. plus 38 x MA47A1 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitude: 24,650 ft

Ammo Fired: 7,120 rounds

The primary and secondary targets were the center of the towns of Muenster and Hamm, with the last resort any target of opportunity. 1Lt. W.T. **Baker** aborted the mission 40 miles west of Molesworth with a severe oxygen leak in #42-5393 *Thumper Again* 360BS.

Ground haze made visibility in the target area very poor. Maj. **Mitchell**, in his mission narrative, described the movement of the Wing formations as follows:

The 384th had a "bunch" of airplanes rather than a "Group formation." There was a three-ship low Squadron that shoved us out of formation twice. An aircraft out of the high Squadron of the 384th Group aborted about two-thirds of the way across the channel and dumped his bombs over our formation, barely missing some of our aircraft. The 384th Group led us across the northern end of the Ruhr Valley over Huls, subjecting us to the fire of approximately 100 flak guns. The fire was extremely accurate for altitude and deflection and was tracking type. The lead Group took no evasive action. Upon reaching the IP, we took interval for the target. The 384th Group turned back to the left which put the 303rd BG(H) Group between them and the primary target. We turned left to get behind the 384th Group again and they bombed a little town, believed to be Coesfeld, Germany. We released our bombs on this town also... and the town was believed to have been well covered by the bomb pattern.

There were 20-30 enemy fighters observed, but no attacks were made. P-47s gave excellent protection and coverage. Anti-aircraft fire was intense and accurate. Fourteen Group aircraft suffered minor damage and one had major damage.

"There weren't many fighters to bother us," reported Maj. **Mitchell**. "The P-47s did a wonderful job of keeping them away. However, it's the first time in my life I've been really scared. That flak was the roughest I've ever seen." 2Lt. J.B. **Halliburton**, bombardier on *Hell's Angels* 358BS that finished its 45th mission said, "The P-47s did a good job today. It could have been a rough trip without them. I saw several dogfights develop in the distance and the P-47s seemed to be doing all right." S/Sgt. Virgil E. **Brown**, who finished his 25th mission on *Jersey Bounce, Jr.* 358BS said of the flak, "It's certainly no place for a man to be if he has a wife and family. The Ruhr Valley was one big black cloud from the flak."

Third Division B-17s came under heavy fighter attack and claimed to have destroyed 177 German aircraft with 20 probable and 49 damaged. The 390th BG claimed 60 fighters destroyed, a record for a bomber Group on one mission. This record was never surpassed.

General **Anderson**, Commanding General of the VIII Bomber Command, sent all Groups the following message after the mission: "In the last two days you have ripped the Hun apart. You have dug him out of his hole. You have shown him that no matter where he goes—Austria, Poland or Prussia—you will search him out and destroy him. My admiration, my congratulations and my appreciation is yours. I am proud to be one of you."

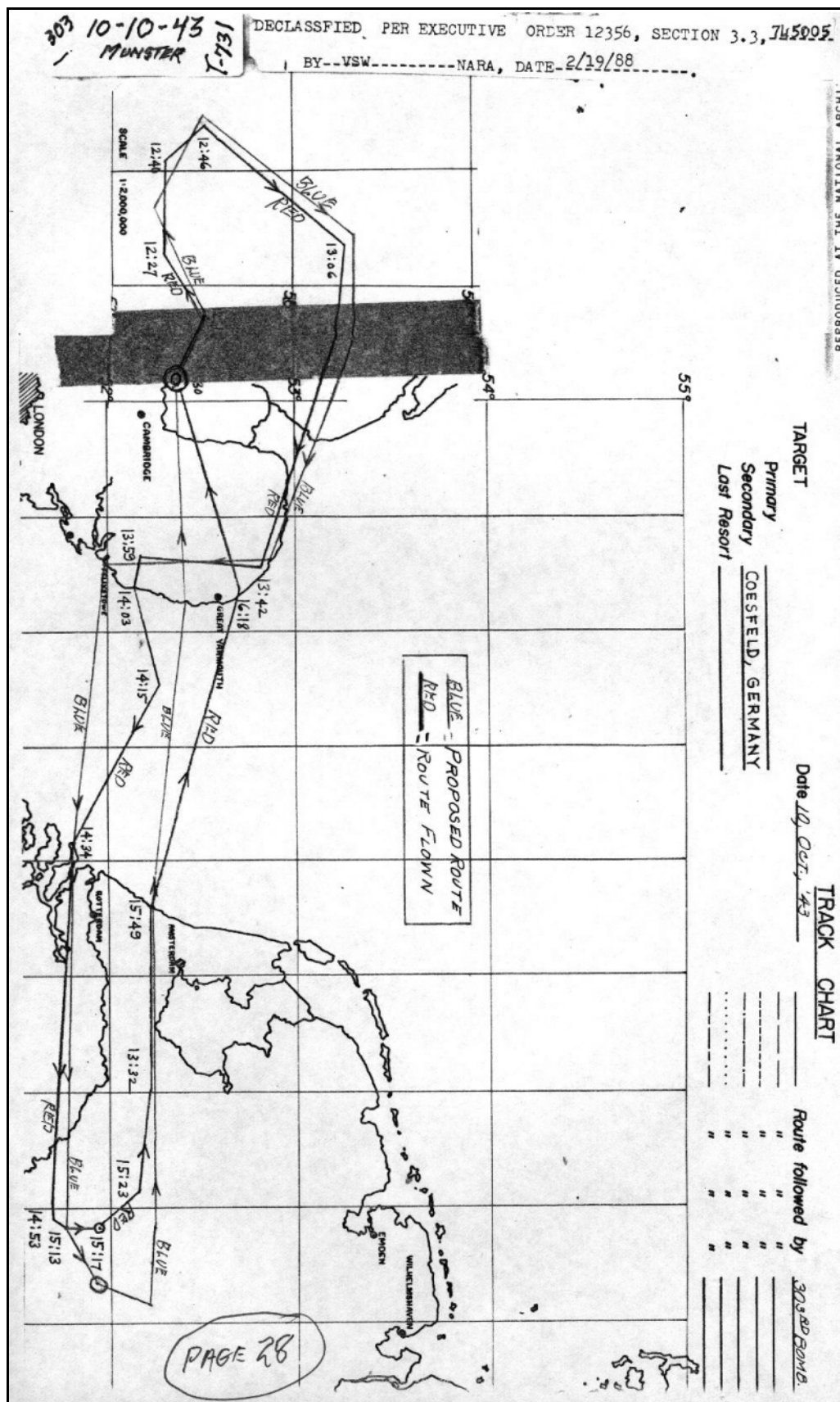


Jersey Bounce #42-29664 (358BS) VK-C
303rd BG Lead - Pilot Maj K.R. Mitchell / CoPilot Capt M.R. Hungerford, Jr.

Maj K.R. Mitchell (P), Maj M.R. Hungerford, Jr. (CP),
1Lt R.E. McElwain (N), 1Lt E.E. Stone (B), Lt G.E. Wright (TG-O)

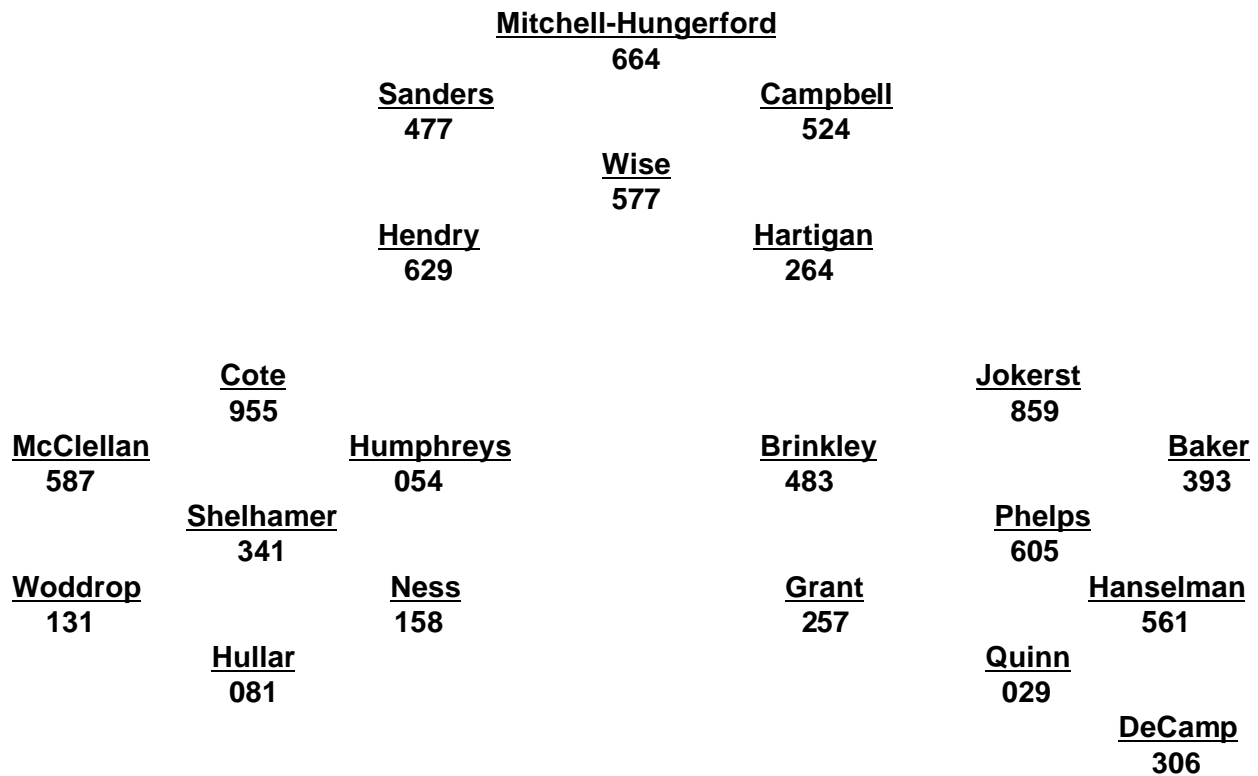
T/Sgt A. Berzansky (E), S/Sgt A.T. Beavers (WG), T/Sgt C.C. Zeller (R),
S/Sgt C.R. Bagwell (BT), S/Sgt V.E. Brown (WG), Sgt W.G. Martin (PHO)

(crewmen are not in order)



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Baker in 393

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Togglier	VI - Voice Interpreter	DOW - Died of wounds
P - Pilot	BT - Ball Turret Operator	OBS - Observer	EVD - Evaded the enemy
CP - Co-Pilot	TT - Top Turret Operator	PAS - Passenger	INT - Interned in neu cntry
NAV - Navigator	TG - Tail Gunner	PHO - Photographer	REP - Repatriated
ANV - Ass't. Navigator	NG - Nose Gunner		RES - Rescued
MNV - Mickey Navigator	RG - Radio Gunner	RESULTS OF MISSION	ESC - Escaped
ENG - Engineer	WG - Waist Gunner	KIA - Killed in action	BO - Bailed out
BOM - Bombardier	LWG - Left Waist Gunner	WIA - Wounded in action	DCH - Ditched
RO - Radio Operator	RWG - Right Waist Gunner	MIA - Missing in action	CR-L - Crashed on land
	GUN - Gunner	POW - Prisoner of war	CR-S - Crashed at sea

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5306 (No Name)

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

P	Hartigan, William R., 2Lt
CP	Goddard, Edward N., 2Lt
NAV	Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt
BOM	Dorsey, Bernard F., 2Lt
ENG	Resto, Clement, T/Sgt
LWG	Guhr, Delbert E., 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 #42-29477 Joan of Arc

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 #42-29524 Meat Hound

P	Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt
BOM	Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Fulanovich, Charles J., S/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 #41-24577 Hell's Angels

P	Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
CP	Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
BOM	Halliburton, 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

B-17F #41-24629 (No Name)

P	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Harper, William B., 2Lt
NAV	McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt
BOM	Webster, Richard E., 2Lt
ENG	Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt
TG	Doherty, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt
BT	Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt
RWG	Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt
LWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

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

P	Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
CP	Hungerford, Merle R., Jr., Capt
NAV	McElwain, Richard E., 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
LWG	Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt
TG	Wright, George E., 1Lt
PHO	Martin, Wallace G., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

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*

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
PHO	Mahaffey, W.D., Sgt

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

P	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt
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*

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt
NG	Quick, George D., T/Sgt
ENG	Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
TT	Laubert, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO	Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
RWG	Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
BT	Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt
PHO	Hunter, Robert G., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 #42-5859 (*No Name*)

P	Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP	Jackson, Theodore M., 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 #42-5393 *Thumper Again*

P	Baker, William T., 1Lt
CP	Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt
NAV	McLane, Joseph T., Lt
BOM	Kulesa, Frank E., Lt
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

(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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	Hadley, Owen W., Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt

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

P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Harmes, D.D., Sgt
ENG	Watts, William A., Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
TG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
LWG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt

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

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	Plante, Royal F., Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Gomes, Theodore, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	Ness, Howard C., 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 L., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Hoff, Henry, Sgt
RWG	Madak, Edward P., Sgt
TG	Ferguson, Jack D., Sgt

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
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	Fuller, Charles, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5054 *Belle of San Joaquin*

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt
RO	Woods, Arthur H., T/Sgt
BT	Ross, Madison H., S/Sgt
RWG	Dare, Melvin M., S/Sgt
TG	O'Neill, Austin J., 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
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

B-17Gs ARRIVE

The 8th Air Force received its first B-17Gs in early September, 1943. However, the 303rd BG(H) waited until 11 October to obtain its first B-17G. On 18 October, 17 arrived, with an additional five on 19 October. The new B-17Gs had Bendix electrically-powered chin turrets. These turrets had been part of the YB-40 B-17 "gunship" arsenal and gave the Flying Fortress improved and more positive firepower to meet the successful head-on attack tactics of the Luftwaffe fighters. While some bombardiers had a hard time adjusting to the "chin turrets," these complaints soon disappeared. The initial B-17Gs were slightly slower than the B-17Fs, creating problems when both B-17Fs and B-17Gs were utilized in the same formation. The B-17Gs also had a revised navigator's station and better actuators for the bomb racks and bomb bay doors.

RETURN TO "NATURAL METAL" COLORS ON B-17s

In October, the factory no longer applied camouflage to the combat aircraft. With the return of the natural silver, the radio call letters on the sides of the B-17s were changed from yellow to black. Dark olive paint was applied in front of the cockpit and on the engine cowlings for anti-glare purposes.



B-17G - NATURAL METAL FINISH
FUSELAGE LETTERING CHANGED TO BLACK

B-17Gs *Miss Lace & Earthquake McGoon* Painting commissioned by Jim Reeves.
Note the incorrect serial number and radio call letter. Radio call letter on tail should be in yellow.