

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 80

3 November 1943

Target: Joiner Shop & Dock Yards at Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 23

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 42 x M47A1 Incendiaries; Group B, 10 x 500 lb G.P.

Bombing Altitude: 22,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 9,100 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 2 Destroyed, 1 Probable

**P**athfinder aircraft of the 482nd BG(H) led each of the seven combat wings dispatched on this mission. The 812th BS(H) furnished nine Pathfinders with the newly US-developed H2X airborne radar. These new radar sets produced images with greater definition, using a newer and shorter microwave length, than did the British-developed H2S radar sets.

The 303rd BG(H) was assigned to fly as the lead Group of the 41st Combat Wing with the 379th BG(H) low and the 384th high. Lt. Col. Eugene **Romig** was the Wing Air Commander in the 482nd BG lead Pathfinder B-17F #42-5909, equipped with an H2S radar set. The Wing Pathfinder lead crew had 12 men--a regular 10-man crew, a second navigator and the Air Commander.

The Group dispatched 24 B-17s--an 18-ship normal Group formation plus another six as part of a composite 303/379/384 BG formation. One aircraft, #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper* 359BS (Lt. **Manning**), turned around ten miles off the English coast when the No. 1 engine developed problems.

A solid overcast obscured the target, but bombs were dropped by the lead Pathfinder aircraft. The Group dropped 15 tons of 500-lb. bombs and 21 3/4 tons of M47A1 65-lb. incendiary bombs. Capt. Claude **Campbell**, flying his 24th mission in *The '8' Ball MK II*, stated that the intent was "to burn up the city." Bombs were released from 22,000 ft. and only meager and inaccurate flak was encountered. Fifteen to twenty-five enemy fighters were seen, but only a few attacked 303rd BG(H) B-17s. P-38s and P-47s furnished excellent fighter support. Crew comments at interrogation contained several complimentary remarks about the effective P-38 coverage. Crews submitted claims for two probable and one damaged enemy aircraft. There were no mission casualties or aircraft losses.

The mission was comparatively easy, according to 2Lt. Fred C. **Humphreys**, pilot of the Fortress *Mizpah*. "The P-38s did a wonderful job," he said. "Those boys were really right in there. No enemy aircraft attacked my Squadron at all. For us, it was one of the best trips we have had." "There was a little flak, but not enough to bother. They didn't bother us at all while we were dropping our bombs," reported 2Lt. William H. **Karraker**, navigator on the famous *Hell's Angels*. The gunners were exceptionally enthusiastic about the fighter support. T/Sgt. Clarence C. **Baggs**, tail gunner in *Flak Wolf* 427BS, who formerly flew with the RAF said, "Those P-38s were great today. They chased those

German fighters right out of the sky. It looked like they were running circles around the FW-190s."

"I saw four P-38s take out after an ME-109 that got too close to a formation of Forts," added Sgt. Howard E. **Fouss**, top turret gunner on *Fast Worker MKII* 359BS. "Each P-38 took one pass at him and he just blew up."

The Fortress *Hell's Angels* completed its 46th mission, while *S for Sugar* followed with 44. *Knockout Dropper* took off on its 49th mission, but returned early with engine trouble.

The 8th Air Force dispatched 566 heavy bombers; 539 attacked the target. This was the first mission with over 500 aircraft dispatched by the 8th Air Force.

#### **Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged**

S/Sgt. W.C. Sparks (052)	FW-190	Damaged
2Lt. G.T. Orvis (052)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. J.J. Hayes (561)	ME-109	Probable

#### **PATHFINDER (PFF)**

In August 1943, the 482nd bombardment Group (H) was activated at Alconbury, which is eight miles east of Molesworth, with a three-fold mission: develop combat operations; develop techniques and test radar devices; and train Pathfinder crews. It went on to train crews from all of the Bombardment Groups.

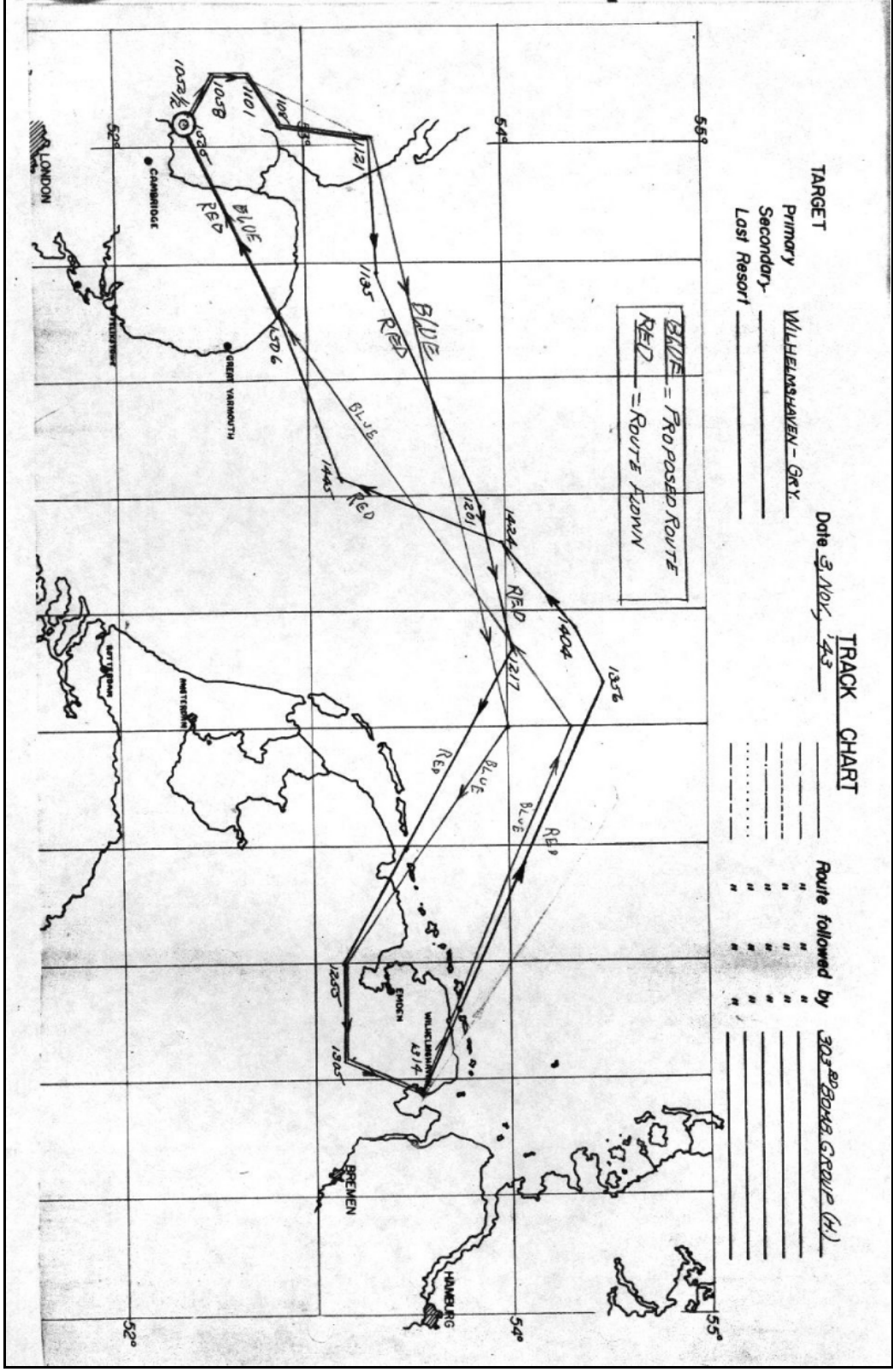
This Group would provide a "Pathfinder" (PFF) B-17 and crew that was specially equipped with an H2S airborne radar scanning that would be used in lieu of the normal bombsight target scanning. The British Royal Air Force provided considerable technical assistance and instruction, particularly during the formative months.

The first practice mission was conducted on 23 September 1943, with the plan that the radar navigator ("Mickey" operator) would use his H2S radar scope (Stinky) to determine the target aiming point, through clouds that completely obliterated the target aiming point. Major Kirk R. **Mitchell**, 358th Bomb Squadron Commanding Officer led the 41st Combat Wing, with the 303rd Bombardment Group flying the lead.

The lead ship Bombardier then dropped his bombs and signaled all other Combat Wing aircraft to drop their bombs. British colored parachutes were dropped as the signal for the Group bombing. Each Group was instructed to fly formations as close as safely possible to permit the bombing pattern to be as small as possible.

This first mission, with a target at the Bombing range located in the North Sea, was considered a success and the use of the PFF equipped B-17s as lead ships was continued for the remainder of the War.

11-3-43  
 WILHELMSHAVEN  
 80  
 T.J.L.  
 DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, 745005  
 BY USW NARA, DATE 5/18/88



TARGET  
 Primary WILHELMSHAVEN - GRV  
 Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Resort \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3 Nov 43

TRACK CHART

Route followed by 303<sup>RD</sup> BOMB GROUP (H)

Route Map

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Romig</u> 42-5909 (482BG)		
	<u>Brown</u> 257		<u>Daub</u> 894	
		<u>Manning</u> 605		
	<u>Grant</u> 565		<u>Hanselman</u> 177	
	<u>C.W. Campbell</u> 635			<u>Shelhamer</u> 341
<u>Heller</u> 973		<u>Baker</u> 788	<u>Humphreys</u> 052	<u>Eckhart</u> 619
	<u>Brinkley</u> 854			<u>Hullar</u> 823
<u>Reeder</u> 561		<u>Fyler</u> 483	<u>McClellan</u> 795	<u>Woddrop</u> 131
	_____			_____

## Composite Group with 379th and 384th BS

		<u>379th</u>		
		_____		_____
		_____		
		_____		_____
	<u>Gamble</u> 562			<u>384th</u>
<u>DeCamp</u> 064		<u>P.W. Campbell</u> 524	_____	_____
	<u>Johnston</u> 577			_____
<u>Quinn</u> 054		<u>Wise</u> 264	_____	_____
	_____			_____

# 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Wise, Calder L., 2Lt  
 CP Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Nothstein, John P., 2Lt  
 BOM Spencer, Charles W., 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 #42-3064 Star Dust**

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

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

P Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt  
 CP Riddick, McDonald L., 2Lt  
 NAV Halliburton, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt  
 NG Fee, George H., Sgt  
 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 #41-24577 Hell's Angels**

P Johnston, John R., 1Lt  
 CP Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt  
 NG Mills, James E., S/Sgt  
 ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt  
 RWG Arasin, John C., 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

## **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

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter                  OBS - Observer                  PAS - Passenger                  PHO - Photographer</p> <p><b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b>                  KIA - Killed in action                  WIA - Wounded in action                  MIA - Missing in action                  POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Manning, John P., 1Lt  
 CP Blossom, George H., 2Lt  
 NAV Antman, Jack, 2Lt  
 BOM Robinson, John M., 1Lt  
 ENG Keesling, George R., T/Sgt  
 TG Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt  
 RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt  
 RWG Santella, Albert C., S/Sgt  
 BT Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt  
 LWG McKenna, Robert I., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

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

P Quinn, Thomas J., F/O  
 CP Rice, Charles M., 2Lt  
 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 #41-24565 Idaho Potato Peeler***

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, Anthony T., S/Sgt  
 RO Sexton, Edward J., T/Sgt  
 BT Anderson, Francis D., S/Sgt  
 LWG Hauer, Joseph J., Sgt  
 TG Petrosky, Chester, S/Sgt

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

P Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt  
 CP Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt  
 NAV Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Livermore, William D., 2Lt  
 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

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

P Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt  
 CP Miller, Arthur W., 2Lt  
 NAV Davis, Darius R., 2Lt  
 BOM Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt  
 ENG Newman, John F., S/Sgt  
 RO Mouser, Lloyd C., Sgt  
 RWG Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt  
 LWG Quinn, Charles A., Sgt  
 BT McCauley, Patrick N., Sgt  
 TG Quick, George D., S/Sgt  
 PHO Hunter, Robert G., Sgt

### ***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, John 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 Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt  
 NAV Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt  
 RNG Horton, Carl R., Sgt  
 ENG Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt  
 TT Manchester, Robert E., Sgt  
 RO Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt  
 LWG Boling, Shuble A., S/Sgt  
 BT Konecko, John, Sgt  
 TG Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt

### ***B-17F #42-29894 Baltimore Bounce***

P Daub, Leroy E., 2Lt  
 CP Assenheimer, Edwin H.P., 2Lt  
 NAV Palmer, Gerald M., 2Lt  
 BOM Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt  
 ENG Barrett, John J., S/Sgt  
 RO Kelly, Victor S., S/Sgt  
 RWG Haman, Ray T., Sgt  
 LWG Carter, Edward K., Sgt  
 BT Gilmore, Charles E., Sgt  
 TG Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt  
 PHO Mahaffey, William D., Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt  
CP Ward, Robert C., Lt  
NAV Molnar, George, Lt  
BOM Gibson, Steve M., Lt  
ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt  
LWG Fisher, George C., S/Sgt  
RO Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt  
BT Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt  
TG Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt  
RWG Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt

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

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P Heller, William C., Lt  
CP Coppom, John F., Lt  
NAV Zwyer, 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  
PHO Egge, Nellings P.S., Sgt

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

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

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P Baker, William T., 1Lt  
CP Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt  
NAV McLane, Joseph T., Lt  
NG Borror, Norwood D., S/Sgt  
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt  
RWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt  
RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt  
BT Deffinger, John P., S/Sgt  
TG Bacon, Charlie M., S/Sgt  
LWG Huddleston, D.O., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-29823 (No Name)**

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P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	Plante, Royal F., Sgt
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 #42-5052 Mizpah**

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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	Sparks, William C., Sgt

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

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P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Hadley, Owen W., Sgt
ENG	Watts, William A., S/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
TG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Hoff, Henry, Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29795 Flying Bitch**

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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
TG	Yarian, Robert G., S/Sgt
LWG	Heaton, Barnell S., Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt

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

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P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Capt
CP	Dubell, Richard P., Capt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willett, John K., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
BT	Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
LWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

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

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P	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
CP	Jenkins, Elton L., Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., Lt
TT	Neuner, Francis X., Sgt
BT	Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
RO	Kuehl, Fred T., S/Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	Madak, Edward P., S/Sgt
RWG	Musashe, Michael, Sgt