

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 97

7 January 1944

Target: I.G. Farben Chemical Works at Ludwigshafen, Ger.

Crews Dispatched: 36

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x or 6 x 500 lb G.P. bombs, 1 B-17 carried "Nickels"

Bombing Altitude: Lead Group 25,000 ft - Low Group 24,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,170 rounds

While over enemy territory, two aircraft aborted the mission. #41-24561 *The Duchess*, 359BS-T (**Shoup**) and #42-5052 *Mizpah*, 427BS (**Sawyer**) both had supercharger failures and could not keep up with their Group formation.

Major **Mitchell**, lead pilot of the 41st CBW lost his No. 2 supercharger when nearing the enemy coast. He dropped six of his twelve bombs, enabling him to reach altitude. The lead was turned over to PFF B-17 #42-27745 (482BG with pilot **Asumsun**) about 20 minutes from the target. The PFF ship made a beautiful bomb run and Wing aircraft dropped their bombs on his red flare and VHF code words "E-Easy G-George."

The Wing encountered moderate and accurate flak in the Cologne area and meager, inaccurate flak in the target area. Thirteen aircraft received minor damage from flak. There were no casualties. No enemy fighters were seen. Friendly fighters picked up the Wing before they entered enemy territory and stayed with them throughout the trip. Their area support was excellent.

Most of the crews described the mission as "uneventful," saying they had been on tougher ones. Maj. **Mitchell** said, "Personally, I think it was the best blind bombing job we have done so far. If the target was where it was supposed to be, we hit it, all right. We had an uninterrupted bomb run. The fighter support was absolutely perfect all the way to the target, over it and back. We ran into a little flak, but it didn't bother us any. I didn't see an enemy fighter in the sky. Some of the boys said there was one or two around, but they didn't bother us a bit."

Lt. Edward M. **Woddrop**, leader of the composite Group, echoed Maj. **Mitchell**. He reported, "There were no enemy fighters and comparatively little flak. It was a pretty good trip." Lt. Jack **Antman**, navigator of *The '8' Ball MK II*, finished his tour of operations and said, "The fighters gave us closer cover than I've ever seen on my previous missions. One P-38 stayed within 100 ft. of our Fort while we made the bomb run."

In response to previous complaints, crews were given a very hot meal after the mission. It was described as "plentiful, varied and better prepared than in the officer's mess." It included fresh meat, lacking in recent QM-issued rations. Crews also had the choice of hot cakes or eggs or both at breakfast. Some crews, however, stated that hot cakes were "too heavy for high altitude flying." The poor mess officers found it difficult to satisfy everyone.

From the Journal of Vern L. Moncur, 359th BS Pilot

MISSION #4

Date: January 7, 1944

Target: Ludwigshafen, Germany

Altitude: 25,000 feet

Plane: Q-306 "Queenie"

Position: No. 5, Low Squadron, Lead Group

This was another mission into Germany. Upon getting well into France, we encountered heavy flak as we went near "Happy Valley" (Ruhr Valley). We received hits in our plane in four different places: the oil cooler of No. 1 engine; 3 fairly good sized holes in the left side of the radio compartment; the supercharger bucket wheel on No. 1 engine; and in the fuselage, near the main entrance door of the plane. The engines performed very well. No trouble of any kind was encountered with them.

Upon reaching the target, we were unable to drop all of our bombs because of a bomb rack malfunction. Only three bombs were released, and after that we were unable to get the bomb bay doors closed. We had to fly back to England with them wide open.

Because of the increased drag (and resultant loss of air speed) due to the open bomb bay doors, we were running a little low on gasoline. Lt. **Chang** was finally able to salvo one of the bombs by prying it loose with a screw driver as we crossed over the English Channel. This was done in an attempt to decrease our load and save a little gasoline. But before he could release the other two bombs, we were nearly to the English coast. He then replaced the pins in the fuses of the remaining two bombs, which made it safe to land with them, and we brought them back to England with us. We landed with our bomb bay doors still open - they barely cleared the runway by about three inches.

The time of this flight was 7 hours. We received no injury to any member of the crew, though our plane was shot up quite badly in several places. On this raid there was excellent fighter coverage by our P-47 and P-38s.

We carried one bomb bay gasoline tank with us in order to give us the needed range. In the other bomb bay, we had 6 five-hundred pound demolition bombs.

Comment from James S. Andrus, Moncur's Radio Operator

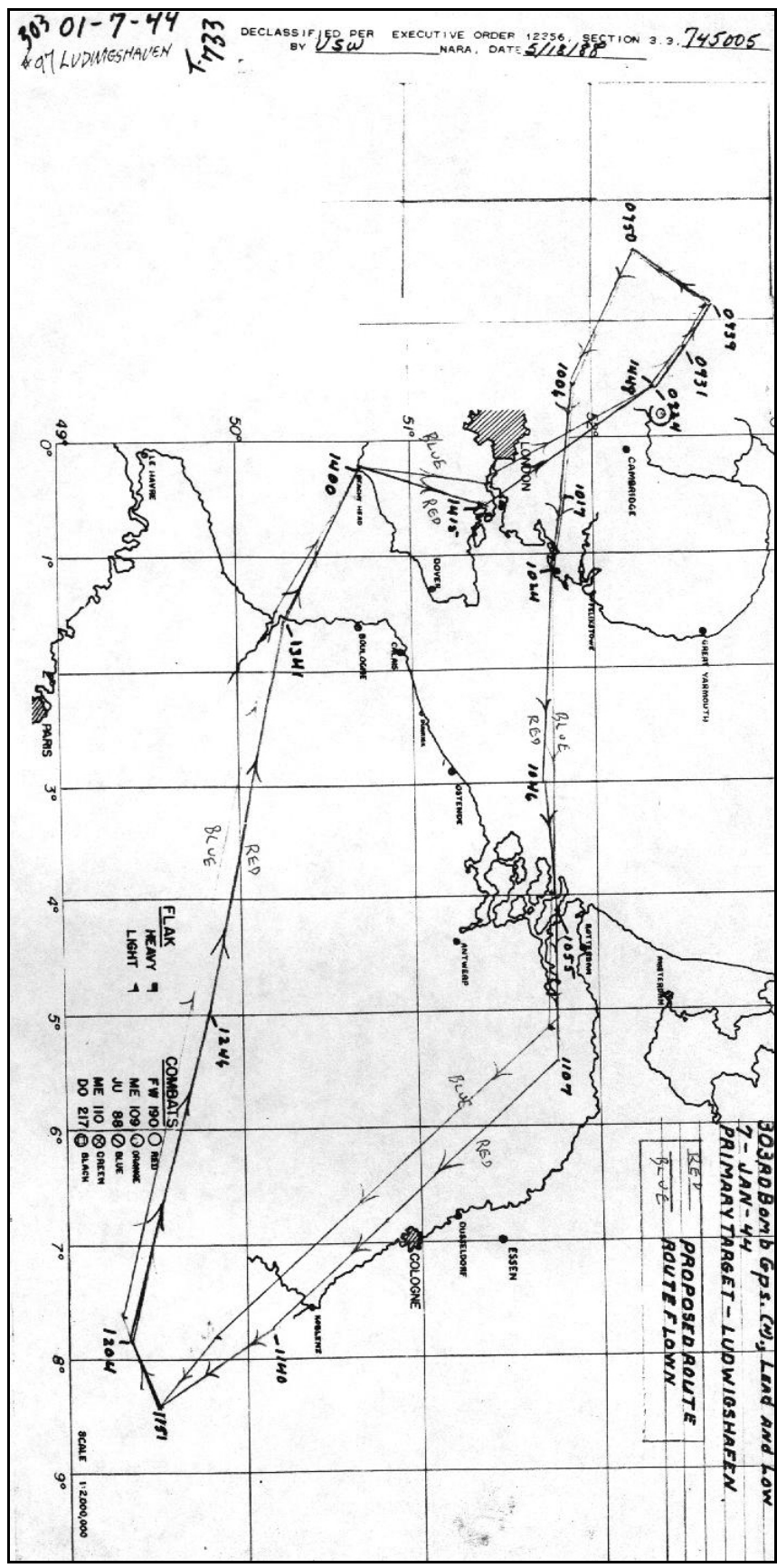
Number four has gone by. It was the best raid I was on. We had excellent fighter cover with P-38s and P-47s again. We only dropped three of our bombs. Lt. Moncur tried to salvo the bombs and so did Lt. Chang, but they wouldn't release. Lt. Chang got one released by the time we were over the channel by using a screwdriver. Sgt. **Hein** held onto him while he put the pins back in the bombs. The doors were open and wouldn't come shut so we had to land with our bomb bay doors open. The flak was rather heavy over the target and at a few different other places. One piece of flak hit the radio compartment just below the window, but didn't do anything - but tear a hole in the fuselage. I would have been hit if I had been sitting down instead of standing.

I have a lot more respect for a flak suit now. It's a good show watching that flak burst. It was so darn close I could hear it bursting. I looked out the top hatch in the radio room and saw a sky full of black puffs of smoke where we had been. Those Germans are fighting for keeps over here. That was about all there was that happened, so it wasn't bad. We had four whole engines going while we were over our target for a change."

303 01-7-44
 401 LUDWIGSHAFFEN

T-733

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Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

Mitchell-Campbell

865

Asmussen
(482BG PFF #42-27745)

Lake
794

Clark
264

Litman
810

Kyse
360

Bolsover
635

Brinkley
931

Shoup
561

Bech
483

Bordelon
841

Coppom
055

Daub
894

Long
896

Young
177

Moncur
306

Holdcroft
340

Glass
788

DaShiell
893



(no name) #42-30865 (358BS) VK-G

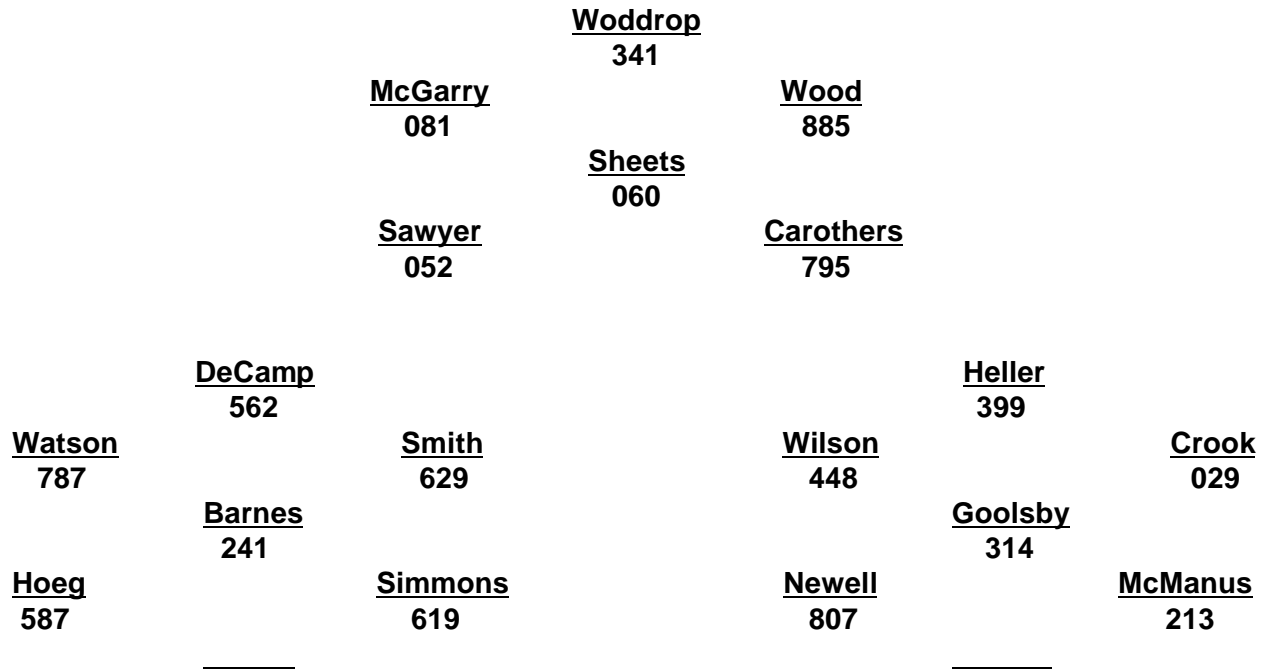
303rd BG-A Lead - Pilot Maj K.R. Mitchell / CoPilot 1Lt P.W. Campbell

Maj K.R. Mitchell (P), 1Lt P.W. Campbell (CP), 2Lt J.P. Nothstein (N),
1Lt W.D. McSween (N), 1Lt W.T. Sweet (B), 2Lt J.R. Burns (TG-O)

T/Sgt S.J. Backiel (E), S/Sgt A.J. Wisniewski (WG), T/Sgt C.C. Zeller (R),
S/Sgt J.W. Brooks (BT), S/Sgt J.F. Hoy (WG)

(crewmen are not in order)

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Two (2) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Shoup in 561

Lt. Sawyer in 052

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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</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><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-39794 (No Name)

P	Lake, Lester A., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Cook, John H., 2Lt
NAV	Leverton, John G., 2Lt
BOM	Morrison, James P., 2Lt
ENG	Haggerty, Jerome J., S/Sgt
LWG	Delaney, Jessie L., Sgt
RO	Rumpf, Charles W., S/Sgt
RWG	Balzano, Christopher, Sgt
TG	Hunt, John L., Sgt
BT	Chadick, Neal T., Sgt

B-17G #42-30865 (No Name)

P	Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
CP	Campbell, Paul W., 1Lt
NAV	Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
NAV	McSween, William D., 1Lt
BOM	Sweet, William T., 1Lt
ENG	Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
RWG	Wisniewski, Alexander, S/Sgt
RO	Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt
BT	Brooks, John W., Sgt
LWG	Hoy, James F., S/Sgt
TG	Burns, James R., 2Lt

B-17F #42-5360 Old Faithful

P	Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
CP	Taylor, James B., 2Lt
NAV	Steely, Hobart H., 2Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Douglas L., S/Sgt
BT	Kennard, Royal G., Sgt
RO	Dulin, Woodroe G., S/Sgt
RWG	Schweinebraten, Leslie H., Sgt
TG	Cox, James B., S/Sgt
LWG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-39810 Big A Bird

P	Litman, Arnold S., 2Lt
CP	Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
NAV	Merthan, Lawrence C., 2Lt
BOM	Stravinsky, Albert W., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., S/Sgt
RWG	Lawson, Tracy W., Sgt
RO	Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT	Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt
TG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., Sgt
LWG	Miller, Victor R., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 Yankee Doodle Dandy

P	Clark, Martin L., 1Lt
CP	Bass, Julius E., 2Lt
NAV	Abernathy, Milton B., 2Lt
BOM	Zientar, Matthew S., 2Lt
ENG	Quevedo, Alfonso, S/Sgt
RWG	Grsetic, John P., Sgt
RO	Hensley, James C., S/Sgt
LWG	Canale, Michael J., Sgt
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
BT	Brown, Harold J., Sgt
PHO	Dockendorf, Cyril J., Sgt

B-17F #42-29629 Connecticut Yankee

P	Smith, Marshall L., 2Lt
CP	Palecek, Francis J., 2Lt
NAV	Neuwirth, Edward, 2Lt
BOM	Troy, Edward J., 2Lt
ENG	Dick, Andrew, S/Sgt
LWG	Schor, John, Sgt
RO	Frolick, Edwin J., S/Sgt
BT	Clink, Robert L., Sgt
TG	Fugate, Walter O., Sgt
RWG	Stauter, Herman L., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt
CP Voorhees, Burton K., LtCol
NAV Wiggins, Warren S., 2Lt
BOM Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt
ENG Hoffman, Robert W., Sgt
RO King, Robert E., Sgt
LWG Hitt, William T., S/Sgt
BT Miller, Richard C., Sgt
TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt
RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

B-17G #42-39787 *Wanton Woman*

P Watson, Jack W., 2Lt
CP Doty, John C., 2Lt
NAV Vogel, Joe B., 2Lt
BOM Colvin, Vance R., 2Lt
ENG Rowland, Samuel L., S/Sgt
LWG Stewart, Eugene R., Sgt
RO Romaniec, Harry, S/Sgt
RWG Fussner, William H., Sgt
TG Kosinski, Roman P., Sgt
BT Booth, Fred H., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam*

P DaShiell, William C., 2Lt
CP Mabie, Hilton C., 2Lt
NAV Sutherland, Thomas A., 2Lt
BOM DeLaura, Don J., 2Lt
ENG Stevenson, Robert L., S/Sgt
BT Robinson, Authur H., Sgt
RO Radebaugh, Bernard J., S/Sgt
RWG Owen, Robert J., Sgt
LWG Parker, Robert A., Sgt
TG McKinney, Clifford M., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Daub, Leroy E., 2Lt
CP Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV Palmer, Gerald M., 2Lt
BOM Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
ENG Haman, Ray T., Sgt
RO Kelly, Victor S., S/Sgt
TT McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt
LWG Carter, Edward K., Sgt
BT Gilmore, Charles E., Sgt
TG Considine, Louis W., S/Sgt

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

P Bolsover, Harold S., 2Lt
CP Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV Antman, Jack, 1Lt
BOM Gauthier, Raymond W., 2Lt
ENG Mayhugh, John C., Jr., Sgt
TG Robb, Charles W., Sgt
RO Mouser, Lloyd C., S/Sgt
BT Joubert, Francis M., S/Sgt
RWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt
LWG Hermann, Kurt J., II, T/Sgt

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

P Shoup, Noel E., 2Lt
CP Litherland, James, 2Lt
NAV Clark, Byron F., 2Lt
BOM Ulbricht, Walter E., 2Lt
ENG Bragg, Ben W., S/Sgt
RWG Gribble, Robert F., Sgt
RO Rose, William A., Sgt
LWG Asvestos, Nick, S/Sgt
BT Hostetter, William L., Jr., Sgt
TG Ross, Harry C., Sgt
(Abortive)

B-17G #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*

P Young, Elmer W., 2Lt
CP Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG Steele, John C., S/Sgt
RO Dulick, Steve, S/Sgt
BT Lebeck, Richard H., Sgt
RWG Rohaly, Andrew, Jr., Sgt
LWG Withrow, John W., Sgt
TG Stapelton, Bill, Sgt

B-17G #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P Bech, G. Neil, Jr., 2Lt
CP Hall, Franklin M., 2Lt
NAV Cotter, Edward R., 2Lt
BOM Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG Sanelli, Floyd L., S/Sgt
RWG Boatwright, Edward C., Sgt
RO Dennis, Julian E., S/Sgt
BT Johnson, Lawrence G., Sgt
LWG Cundiff, Robert W., Sgt
TG Cox, Elbert S., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #42-39807 *Nero*

P Newell, Noel N., 2Lt
CP Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV Rhoads, Lester A., 2Lt
BOM Hoover, William L., 2Lt
ENG Freinwald, Earl C., S/Sgt
LWG McGee, Richard, Sgt
RO Weepie, Robert F., S/Sgt
TG Atkinson, William E., Sgt
BT Hart, Edgar B., Jr., Sgt
RWG Mendel, Myron R., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Moncur, Vern L., 2Lt
CP Cunningham, Billy A., 2Lt
NAV Brooks, James, 2Lt
BOM Chang, David K.S., 2Lt
ENG Rosier, Robert L., S/Sgt
RO Andrus, James S., S/Sgt
BT Hein, Walter E., Sgt
RWG Baer, Richard K., Sgt
LWG Dickman, Thomas J., Sgt
TG Wike, Leonard L., Sgt

B-17G #42-31213 *Pistol Packin' Mama*

P McManus, Henry, F/O
CP Bishop, Robert F., 2Lt
NAV Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG Row, Robert A., S/Sgt
RO Colburn, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG Doezema, Albert, Sgt
LWG Jewett, William B., Sgt
BT Munson, James E., Sgt
TG Cowles, Clifton G., Sgt

B-17G #42-31314 *Scorchy*

P Goolsby, Billy M., 2Lt
CP Savage, John N., 2Lt
NAV Towberman, P.E., Lt
BOM Bowen, Richard R., 2Lt
ENG Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
LWG Rothrock, Harry J., Sgt
RO Greenhalgh, Chester W., S/Sgt
BT Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt
TG Strobel, William A., Sgt
RWG Cueto, Frank Z., Sgt
PHO Green, William H., Jr., T/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31399 (No Name)

P	Heller, William C., Lt
CP	Chapman, John M., 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-17G #42-31340 Miss Liberty

P	Holdcroft, Lloyd L., Lt
CP	Bradley, Clyde W., Jr., Lt
NAV	Pace, Charles M., Lt
BOM	O'Donnell, John J., Lt
ENG	DeMarco, John A., S/Sgt
RWG	Hustus, Walter L., Sgt
RO	Francis, Walter G., S/Sgt
LWG	Slusser, Walter C., Sgt
BT	Kern, Lloyd F., Sgt
TG	Krumholz, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-37841 Banshee

P	Bordelon, Berton A., Lt
CP	Coons, Charles L., Lt
NAV	Cromwell, Frederick P., Lt
BOM	Cottrell, John W., Lt
ENG	Barker, Forrest, S/Sgt
RWG	Adams, Donald K., Sgt
RO	Fontana, Joseph L., S/Sgt
LWG	Patterson, Harry L., Sgt
BT	Harrington, Joseph F., Sgt
TG	Couch, Ted, Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 Aloha

P	Coppom, John F., Lt
CP	Hallden, Robert H., Lt
NAV	Limon, Gerald N., Lt
BOM	Hubenschmidt, John W., F/O
ENG	Beben, Henry M., S/Sgt
LWG	Moore, C.E., Sgt
RO	Hutchins, Dalton R., S/Sgt
RWG	Hays, Henry G., Sgt
BT	Robinson, Robert B., Sgt
TG	Chatoian, Carl H., Sgt

B-17F #42-3448 (No Name)

P	Wilson, Fred F., Lt
CP	Bowen, James W., Lt
NAV	Przybyszewski, Henry S., Lt
BOM	Fahlbusch, Joseph F., Lt
ENG	Goland, Harry, S/Sgt
RWG	Roads, Dwight W., Jr., Sgt
RO	Mirkin, Herman H., S/Sgt
LWG	Petree, Wendell R., Sgt
BT	Webbink, Elvin F., Sgt
TG	Huble, Warren G., Sgt

B-17G #42-37896 (No Name)

P	Long, John A., Lt
CP	Earhart, Amon E., Lt
NAV	Carroll, George M., Lt
BOM	Stamper, William B., M/Sgt
ENG	Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt
LWG	Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
RWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt
TG	Orlando, Anthony T., S/Sgt
BT	Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3029 Wallaroo

P Crook, Charles D., Lt
CP Evans, Ernest N., Lt
NAV Davis, Roscoe, Lt
BOM DeLuca, Joseph, F/O
ENG Breitenbach, Louis H., S/Sgt
RWG Chavez, Salvador, Sgt
RO Hannan, Robert J., S/Sgt
LWG Williams, Norris R., Sgt
BT Cheek, Roy A., Sgt
TG Hensley, James H., Sgt

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

P Brinkley, Pharis C., 1Lt
CP Clark, William A., Lt
NAV Becker, Sylvester J., Lt
BOM Cascio, Guisepppe, Lt
ENG Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt
RWG Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt
RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt
LWG 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

P Glass, Henry F., Lt
CP McMahan, Eugene A. Lt
NAV Ross, Lawrence D., Lt
BOM Robrock, Paul A., Lt
ENG Patrone, Frank, S/Sgt
LWG Stellato, Francis A., Sgt
RO Miller, Gordon R., S/Sgt
RWG Carbillano, Dominick J., Sgt
BT Michael, David O., Sgt
TG Roberts, James E., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31241 *Spirit of Wanette*

P Barnes, Deane L., Lt
CP Raistrick, Albert G., Lt
NAV Randall, Everett Z., Lt
BOM Roode, William A.T., Lt
ENG Sparks, Willie T., S/Sgt
BT Chancellor, John R., Sgt
RO Doyle, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG Underwood, Clifford B., Sgt
LWG Winters, Craig W., Sgt
RWG Price, John B., Sgt

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

P McGarry, John J., Jr., Lt
CP Cotham, Willie C., Lt
NAV Halligan, Robert W., Lt
BOM Foe, Kenneth D., Lt
ENG Grace, Henry J., S/Sgt
BT Friedman, Ira, Sgt
RO Wilson, Elmer A., S/Sgt
TG Kowalonek, Walter A., Sgt
LWG Brown, Edgar S., Sgt
RWG Hilborn, Ervin, Sgt

B-17G #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*

P Wood, Vere A., Lt
CP Knutson, Wilmer A., Lt
NAV Pinnette, William S., Lt
BOM Brown, Thomas G., Lt
ENG Tevis, John E., Sgt
BT Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sg
TG Helton, Edward, Sgt
RWG Heathershaw, Charles L., Sgt
LWG Noah, Norbert O., Sgt

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

P Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP Dubell, Richard P., Capt
NAV Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM McClain, Charles J., Lt
ENG Watts, William A., S/Sgt
BT Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
RO Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
TG Jenkins, Elton L., Lt
RWG Valis, William, S/Sgt
LWG Hoff, Henry, S/Sgt

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

P Simmons, Thomas L., Lt
CP Reichel, Fred E., Lt
NAV Clyatt, William L., Jr., Lt
BOM Vaughan, R.W., Lt
ENG Elliott, W.S., S/Sgt
BT DiPietra, Dante C., Sgt
RO Bennett, Joseph A., S/Sgt
TG Hasty, Wesley L., Sgt
LWG Stewart, Robert D., Sgt
RWG Livingston, Robert F., Sgt

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

P Hoeg, Kenneth A., F/O
CP O'Hare, Phil W., Lt
NAV Olsen, Kenneth L., Lt
BOM Cronin, Ernest L., Lt
ENG Relyea, Ralph R., S/Sgt
BT McMahan, Bonnar P., Sgt
RO Kuehl, Fred T., T/Sgt
TG Vargas, Michael A., Sgt
LWG McFall, Leonard C., Sgt
RWG McLaughlin, Jesse W., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Carothers, John W., Lt
CP Frost, Charles E., Lt
NAV Linnehan, Arthur, Lt
BOM Barriscale, Howard W., Lt
ENG Scott, Harvey E., S/Sgt
BT Peavy, Robert T., Sgt
RO Rajcula, George S., S/Sgt
TG Ziegler, Roland R., Sgt
LWG Morneau, Francis J., Sgt
RWG Rogers, Wiley A., T/Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 *Poque Ma Hone*

P Sheets, Robert W., Lt
CP McCall, Robert S., Lt
NAV Peacock, Lawrence A., Lt
BOM Wallen, George A., Lt
ENG Neuner, Francis X., S/Sgt
BT King, Earl J., Sgt
RO Du Bray, Ernest D., S/Sgt
TG Sullens, Tom C., Sgt
LWG Donnelly, James F., Sgt
RWG Smith, Leonard C., Sgt

B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah*

P Sawyer, Frederick W., Lt
CP Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
NAV Arvanites, George L., Lt
BOM Landry, Robert J., Lt
ENG Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Teno, James R., Sgt
RO Benevento, Andrew G., Sgt
TG La Frenier, James E., Sgt
LWG Wright, Edgar A., Sgt
RWG Kotel, Tofil P., Sgt
(Abortive)

Famous Flying Fortress Gives the 303rd its Name: *Hell's Angels*



#41-24577 Hell's Angels 358BS (VK-D)

The original 303rd crews received new B-17F aircraft at Kellogg Field, MI and were given the opportunity to name their new Flying Fortresses. The flights to Gander Field, NF allowed crews to check their aircraft for deficiencies before making the over-the-water flight to the UK.

The Group's most famous B-17, Hell's Angels was not named when Captain **Irl E. Baldwin** and his crew flew her from Kellogg Field, MI to England. On their B-17s 4th or 5th mission, Captain **Baldwin** remarked on interphone that he was thinking about a name. He asked, "How about 'Hell's Angels' from the movie of that name. One of the crewman, commenting on the mission being flown stated, "This is the closest to hell that angels will ever get!" The crew then agreed that Hell's Angels would be a good name for their B-17.

The Hell's Angles nose art was designed and painted on the right side of the fuselage by PFC **Bernard K. Kastenbaum** in late November or early December, 1942. Eighth Air Force Headquarters later issued a directive that squadron and aircraft letters would be painted on the side of the fuselage of all bombers. Bernie K. **Kastenbaum** was transferred to the 1st Bomb Wing Headquarters at Brampton Grange on 19 December 1942 and was promoted to S/Sgt as a draftsman. His original nose art was removed to permit the painting of the squadron and aircraft letters (VK-D). The art work was then repainted on the nose by S/Sgt **Harold E. Godwin**, Tail Gunner on the Captain **Baldwin** crew. S/Sgt **Godwin** completed his 25th mission tour on 25 May 1943 and departed the 358th BS for the USA on 2 June 1943.

On 07 January 1944, following several weeks of suggestions, debates and arguments, and by a vote of the 303rd BG(H) staff and Squadron commanders, the name Hell's Angels was adopted by the 303rd Bombardment Group (H). At that time the numerical designation of bomb groups in England was still on the secret list, and the men of the 303rd wanted some name that was simple, descriptive and appropriate for one of the Eighth Air Force's top organizations. The name was taken from the old B-17F Hell's Angels, one of the group's original planes that had already made an impressive record of dependability, endurance and mechanical efficiency.

The old Fortress had helped make the group famous by running up a total of 25 missions without returning early (the first heavy bomber in the Eighth Air Force to reach that mark) and went on to the 40th mission before a slight mechanical failure forced an early turnback.

At 48 missions Hell's Angels and her ground crew of six men were selected from the Eighth Air Force to return to the U.S. for a tour of the war factories. On hand for the sendoff ceremony was Ben Lyon, then a Lt. Col. in the USAAF on the staff of Gen. **Ira Eaker**, commander of the 8th AF.

On this tour Hell's Angels, both as an airplane and as a Bomb Group, became famous all over the entire United States. The crew told hundreds of thousands of war workers of the trials and hardships of the early days of daylight bombing missions and pointed out the patches that covered the old Fort from nose to tail. They were very proud of the fact that no member of its aircrew was ever wounded in action.

Although this record was surpassed many times by many aircraft during the later years, Hell's Angels was the champion of the early days and will always be the champion in the eyes of the 303rd.