

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 107

8 February 1944

City area, Frankfurt, Germany (PFF)

Crew Dispatched: 20 plus 2 spares

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 1 minor wound, 1 frostbite

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 21 or 42 x 65 lb M47A1 Indendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,400 ft

**T**he 303rd dispatched 20 aircraft and five aborted:

#42-3158, *Max*, 427BS-Y (**Flesh**) - supercharger regulator failure.

#42-5306, (*No Name*), 359BS-Q (**Hanselman**) - No. 1 engine failure.

#42-31483, *Bonnie B*, 359BS-P (**Bech**) - No. 3 engine failure.

#42-31177, *Lonesome Polecat*, 359BS-L (**Hybert**) - No. 2 engine failure.

#42-5257, *Miss Bea Haven*, 359BS-S (**Stoulil**) - TG ill (breathing).

Flak in the target area was moderate and very accurate. Two aircraft sustained major damage and ten endured minor damage. About eight single-engine fighters, believed to be FW-190s and one ME-109 were the only enemy aircraft seen. They attacked only the lead 379BG with a loss of two fighters before friendly fighters drove them away. Fighter support was as briefed and was very good. Chaff was effective in diverting the anti-aircraft fire.

The 17 attacking aircraft dropped 16 1/2 tons of 65-lb. M47A1 incendiary bombs from 26,400 feet. Germany was covered with 9/10 cloud cover with only a few breaks, necessitating PFF bombing. All aircraft returned safely, although twelve aircraft sustained flak damage. S/Sgt. John Williams in #42-3158 *Max* claimed an ME-109 as "destroyed" though official confirmation credited him with a "damaged."



Capt Louis M. "Mel" Schulstad

According to Capt. **Schulstad**, "The toughest part of the mission was flak. It was moderate and fairly accurate, but it certainly wasn't like we used to get at St. Nazaire in the old days." Lt. **Heller**, said, "Our fighter support was excellent. The clouds were patchy, but we managed to see part of the target for an instant and it looked like our bombs went right into it." "I got a kick out of a P-38 who had an engine knocked out at the target," Capt. **Schulstad** added. "He immediately flew up under a cluster of Forts and stayed there all the way back. Those boys have been giving us good protection. I felt pretty good about being able to reciprocate the favor." Lt. Wilbur "Bud" Klint, pilot of *My Yorkshire Dream* related, "We put another ship in the hangar for major repairs and again it was over Frankfurt. I guess we are giving

those anti-aircraft boys too much practice. This was our second trip there in 5 days and, as on our previous visits, they put those shells right in the formation. We took some heavy hits in our left wing and various parts of the fuselage."

S/Sgt. Walter **Hein**, ball turret gunner on 359BS **Moncur** crew, said he thought he saw a little bit of the bombing. "There was a break in the clouds and I could see flashes where bombs were hitting, but couldn't tell in what part of the city it was. The cloud break lasted just a few seconds."

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

**MISSION #11**

Date: February 8, 1944

Target: Frankfurt, Germany

Altitude: 26,000 feet

Plane: X-405

Position: No. 3, Low Squadron, High Group



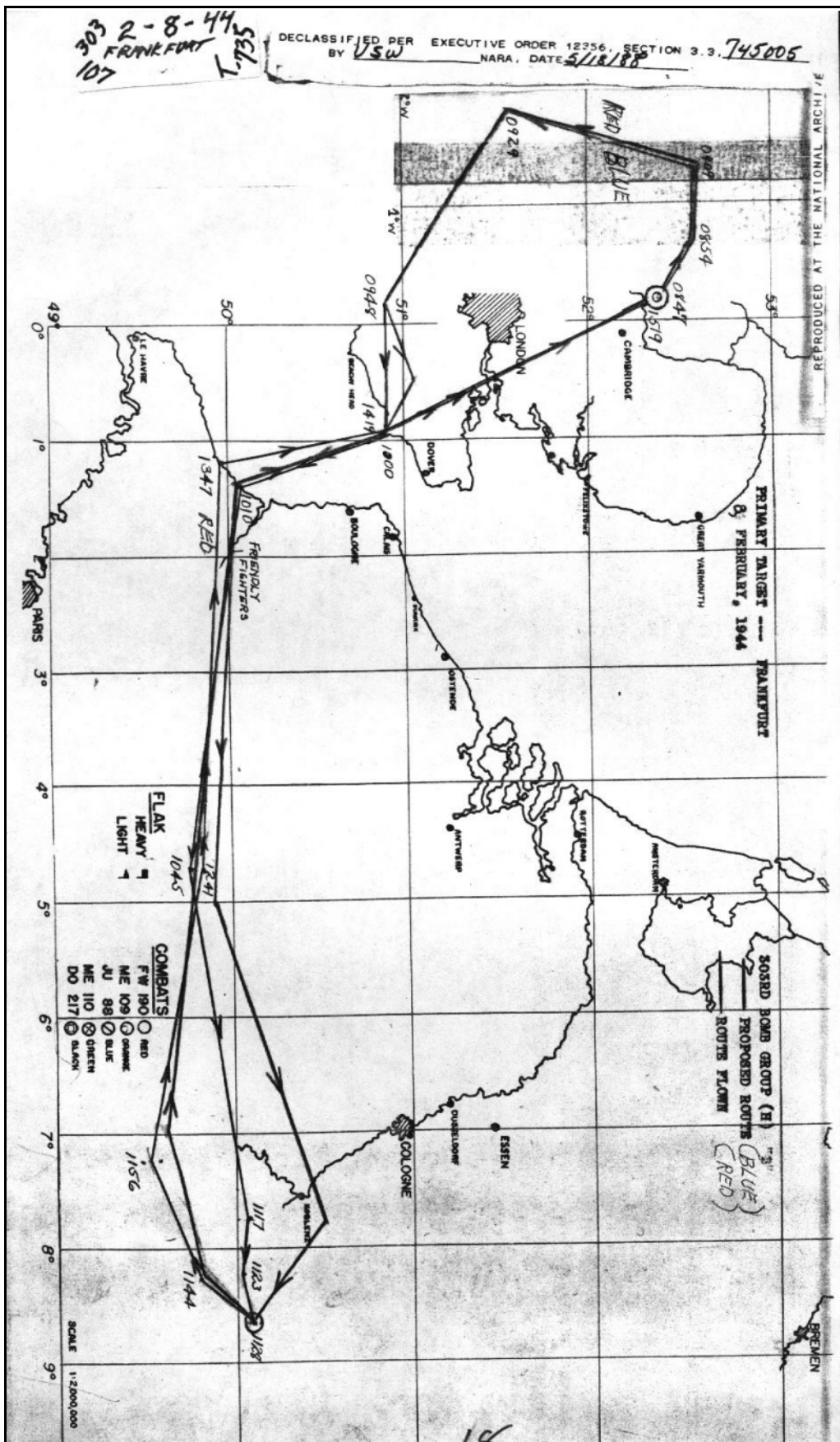
German FW-190 Fighter

This was our third trip to Frankfurt and the flak seemed even thicker than before - if that were really possible. However, it wasn't quite so accurate on our group because we were flying in the high group position. Immediately upon reaching the French coast, the lead group was attacked by FW-190s. These German fighters shot down two Fords within a minute and a half. Three FW-190s were shot down during this time, too. It all happened so quickly that it hardly

seemed possible. The fighters only made one pass at the group, because within five minutes our P-47 escort got there and the Krauts didn't hang around for any more.

Over the target the flak seemed thick enough to walk on. They were using real heavy guns on us this time (probably 155mm guns). We really sweated out our ride across the target. Nothing else of importance happened. Our ship was the only one in the low squadron to finish in its assigned squadron. In fact, we were the entire low squadron the last 100 miles of the trip. Four of our squadron's ships returned to our base before we even reached the target. This left us by ourselves in the low squadron.

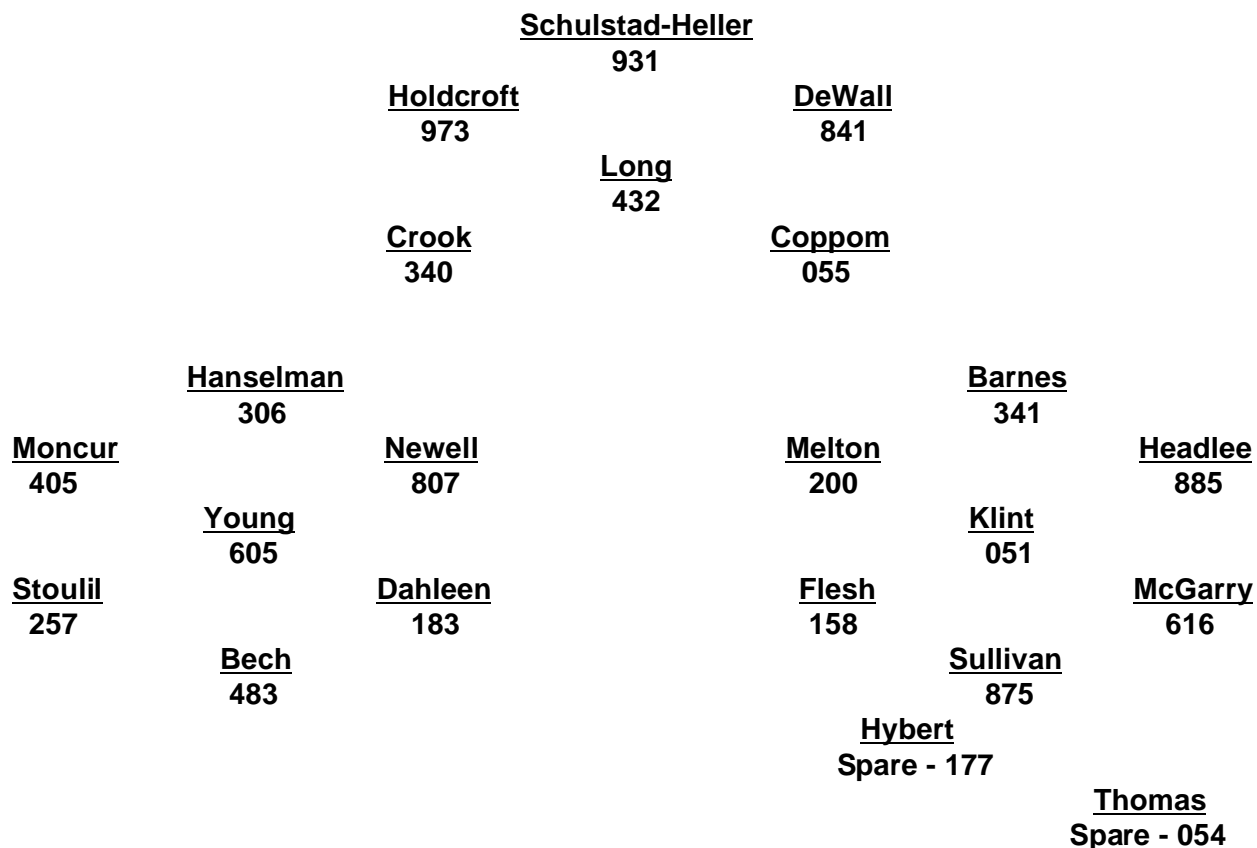
The bomb load was 12 five-hundred pound high explosive bombs. There was no injury to any crew member, but our plane received a big jagged hole in the right wing.



Route Map

Mission 107 - 3

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Five aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Flesh in 158

Lt. Hanselman in 306

Lt. Bech in 483

Lt. Hybert in 177

Lt. Stoulil in 257

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></b>			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Toggler	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	<b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b>	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

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-39807 *Nero***

P	Newell, Noel N., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV	Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Hoover, William L., 2Lt
ENG	Freinwald, Earl C., T/Sgt
LWG	McGee, Richard, S/Sgt
RO	Weepie, Robert F., T/Sgt
TG	Atkinson, William E., S/Sgt
BT	Hart, Edgar B., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Mendel, Myron R., S/Sgt

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

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Lunde, Frithjof M., 2Lt
BOM	Kelly, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Broderick, George V., S/Sgt
RO	Ratford, Edward V., S/Sgt
RWG	Gilcrease, Roland L., Sgt
BT	Jaehne, Charles R., S/Sgt
LWG	Neathery, Ralph P., S/Sgt
TG	Barmak, Paul J., S/Sgt

(Abortive - Spare)

### **B-17G #42-31183 *Bad Penny***

P	Dahleen, Howard D., 1Lt
CP	Edwards, Kenneth C., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell S., 2Lt
BOM	Gauthier, Raymond W., 2Lt
ENG	Malcolm, Orrick H., S/Sgt
RO	Swanson, Clifford E., T/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Harding W., S/Sgt
LWG	Titworth, William E., S/Sgt
BT	Franceschini, James V., Sgt
TG	Covington, Charles G., S/Sgt

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

P	Bech, G. Neil, Jr., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Franklin M., 2Lt
NAV	Cotter, Edward R., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG	Sanelli, Floyd L., T/Sgt
RWG	Boatwright, Edward C., S/Sgt
RO	Dennis, Julian E., T/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Lawrence G., S/Sgt
LWG	Cundiff, Robert W., Sgt
TG	Cox, Elbert S., Jr., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17G #42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II***

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., S/Sgt
RWG	Baer, Richard K., S/Sgt
LWG	Dickman, Thomas J., S/Sgt
TG	Wike, Leonard L., S/Sgt

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

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 1Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 1Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
RO	Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
LWG	Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
BT	Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17F #41-24605 *Knock-Out Dropper***

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

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

P	Stoulil, Donald W., 2Lt
CP	Callahan, Edward F., 2Lt
NAV	Susskind, Harold A., 2Lt
BOM	Trawicki, George J., 2Lt
ENG	Romer, Eugene A., S/Sgt
LWG	Brown, William F., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Owen, James C., S/Sgt
BT	Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt
RWG	Greene, George P., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Turkington, Calvin G., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Thomas, Earl N., Lt
CP	Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., Lt
BOM	Scott, Harold L., Lt
ENG	Mason, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Harvey, Roy D., Sgt
RO	Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
RWG	Flenniken, William, Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee***

P	DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
CP	Chapman, John M., Lt
NAV	Noland, James B., Lt
BOM	Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt
ENG	Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG	Hosso, Harry V., S/Sgt
RO	Fontana, Joseph L., Sgt
BT	Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt
LWG	Friedman, Szymon A., Sgt
TG	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt

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

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 #42-31340 *Miss Liberty***

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

### **B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha***

P	Coppom, John F., Lt
CP	Stevens, Joseph E., Lt
NAV	Fleming, Samuel P., Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., Lt
ENG	Brewster, John L., S/Sgt
RWG	Cole, Edgar W., Sgt
RO	Geisman, Gaylord W., S/Sgt
LWG	Fitko, Marion F., Sgt
BT	Deffinger, John P., S/Sgt
TG	Edwards, Marvin R., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31432 *Old Glory***

P	Long, John A., Lt
CP	Earhart, Amon E., Lt
NAV	Carroll, George M., Lt
BOM	Cascio, Guiseppe, Lt
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	Logan, Frank C., S/Sgt

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

P	Heller, William C., Lt
CP	Schulstad, Louis M., Capt
NAV	Zwayer, James P., Lt
BOM	DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt
ENG	Huston, William J., T/Sgt
RWG	Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt
LWG	Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt
TG	Massimiliano, Joseph, Lt
PHO	Lovett, William F., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-37875 *Empress of D Street***

P	Sullivan, Francis X., Lt
CP	Brangwin, Kenneth R., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Bawol, Walter S., Lt
ENG	Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT	Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO	Sullivan, James J., T /Sgt
TG	Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
RWG	Swanson, Charles A., S/Sgt
LWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31200 *Old Crow***

P	Melton, James H., Lt
CP	Belknap, Robert W., Lt
NAV	Frechter, Harry G., Lt
BOM	Clapp, Keith W., Lt
ENG	Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
BT	Moore, John J., Jr., Sgt
RO	Stoberl, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG	Anderson, Ralph R., Sgt
LWG	Miller, Norman L., S/Sgt
RWG	LaPlant, Willard R., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31616 *Spirit of Flak Wolf***

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

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., T/Sgt
BT	Chancellor, John R., S/Sgt
RO	Kuehl, Fred T., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
LWG	Winters, Craig W., S/Sgt
RWG	Price, John B., S/Sgt
PHO	Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38051 *My Yorkshire Dream***

P	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
CP	Jenkins, Elton L., Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., Lt
ENG	Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	McGrew, Robert H., S/Sgt
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt

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

P	Headlee, Dale C., Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., Lt
NAV	Schweitzer, Jerome D., Lt
BOM	Handley, Donald J., Lt
ENG	Klunk, James A., S/Sgt
BT	Almanzor, Berton F., Sgt
RO	Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt
TG	Bell, Alton R., Sgt
LWG	Kyle, Clarence C.E., Sgt
RWG	Hoff, Henry, Sgt

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

P	Flesh, William R., Lt
CP	Mars, Charles W., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Reeder, John J., Lt
ENG	Albright, Glenn N., T/Sgt
RO	Murphy, John J., T/Sgt
BT	Price, Richard M., S/Sgt
TG	Williams, John P., Jr., S/Sgt
LWG	Strough, Kenneth C., S/Sgt
RWG	Valis, William, Sgt
PHO	Gervais, Joseph R., Sgt
	(Abortive Sortie)