

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 112

24 February 1944

Target: Kugelfischer Ball Bearing Works, Schweinfurt, Ger.

Crews Dispatched: High Group - 20; Composite Group - 7

Crews Lost: Lt. Henderson and Lt. Smith

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 20 crewmen mission, 1 crew suffered frostbite

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 42 x 65 lb M47A1 Incendiary bombs; 12 x 500 lb G.P.

Bombing Altitude: 23,000 ft; 20,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,150 rounds

**P** rimary targets were the dreaded Schweinfurt for the 1st BD, Gotha for the 2nd BD. and Rostack for the 3rd BD. Three 303rd BG(H) aircraft aborted the mission: #42-5306 (*No Name*), 359BS-Q (**Goolsby**), No. 1 engine failure; #42-31183 *Bad Penny*, 359BS-Y (**Dahleen**), No. 1 engine oil cooler failure; #41-24561 *The Duchess*, 359BS-T (**Edwards**), fuel transfer pump failure.

Twenty aircraft of the High 303rd BG(H) bombed from 20,000 feet with 25 1/4 tons of 65-lb. M47A1 incendiary bombs. Four remaining 359BS B-17s in the Low 384/303BG bombed from 23,000 feet with 9 tons of 500-lb. bombs. On the bomb run, a premonition caused Capt. **Heller**, lead pilot in the 303rd BG(H) High Group, to grasp the pilot's "salvo bomb release" in his hand. The bombardier called "bombs away," but the bombsight failed to release them because the bomb bay doors were not completely open and he was unable to salvo the bombs from the nose. Capt. **Heller** salvoed the incendiary load approximately four seconds late from the cockpit. Bomb results were not observed, but it was believed that the bomb pattern went over the assigned aiming point but did hit in the target area. The 359BS, in the 384/303 Low Group, released on the Group leader, but could not observe the bomb results because of smoke in the target area.

Flak over the target was moderate to intense and accurate. Six 303rd BG(H) aircraft sustained flak battle damage and one sustained friendly battle damage. Fighter support was as planned and was excellent throughout the mission. They were busy dog-fighting Jerries until a short time before reaching the IP. Only a few attacks were made on the Group.

Two 303rd BG(H) High Group B-17s were lost. Conflicting reports were filed on the cause of their loss and places where they went down. B-17G #42-31239 (*No Name*), piloted by 1Lt. Marshall L. **Smith**, was reported as being attacked by an ME-110 which dove out of the sun. Another report attributed the loss to a rocket hit on the nose. It crashed at Hungen, Germany. Lt. **Smith**, 2Lt. Francis J. **Palecek**, 2Lt. Edward J. **Troy**, T/Sgt. Andrew **Dick**, Jr., T/Sgt. Edwin J. **Frolick**, S/Sgt. Gustaf J. **Simon**, S/Sgt. Herman L. **Stauter** and S/Sgt. John **Schor** were all killed. Lt. **Smith**, Lt. **Troy**, S/Sgt. **Simon**, S/Sgt. **Stauter** and S/Sgt. **Schor** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. T/Sgt. **Dick** and T/Sgt. **Frolick** are buried in Netherlands American Cemetery at Martgratten, Netherlands. 2Lt. Edward **Neuwirth** and S/Sgt. Walter O. **Fugate** were captured and held prisoner.



**JOHN F. HENDERSON CREW - 358th BS**  
 (crew assigned 358BS: 04 Feb 1944 - photo: 06 Feb 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt John F. Henderson (P-POW), 1Lt Warren S. Wiggins (N-POW),  
 1Lt Woodrow W. Monkres (B-POW), 2Lt Calvin S. Brothers (CP)  
 (Front L-R) T/Sgt Robert E. King (R), S/Sgt Mike C. Milliff (TG-POW),  
 S/Sgt Stanley J. Moody (WG), Sgt Norman L. Shuhart (WG-POW), T/Sgt William H. Simpkins, Jr.  
 (E-POW), S/Sgt Richard C. Miller (BT-POW), Sgt Paul Kistulentz (R)

Substitute crewmen: 2Lt K.D. Crook (CP-POW) for Brothers,  
 Sgt C.S. Maple (R-POW) for King, Sgt V.W. Powell (LWG-POW) for Moody  
 Sgt Paul Kistulentz (R) was not on this mission.

B-17G #42-31562, 358BS-A (*No Name*), piloted by 2Lt. John F. **Henderson**, was hit by flak which blew off the No. 1 engine as it was leaving the target area. It is believed to have crashed at Boppard, Germany. The entire crew, consisting of Lt. **Henderson**, 2Lt. Kenneth D. **Crook**, 1Lt. Warren S. **Wiggins**, 2Lt. Woodrow W. **Monkres**, T/Sgt. William H. **Simpkins**, Jr., Sgt. Charles S. **Maple**, S/Sgt. Richard C. **Miller**, Sgt. Vernon W. **Powell**, Sgt. Norman L. **Shuhart** and S/Sgt. Mike C. **Milliff**, were all captured and taken prisoner.

While it is believed the bombing on this third trip to Schweinfurt by the 303rd BG(H) was not as good as before, crewmen reported that the city, and especially the factory area, was buried under heavy clouds of smoke as they left. They said that the Groups ahead had certainly found the center of the factory district and that the 303rd BG(H) bombs had "stirred things up a bit." The outstanding mission feature was the lack of fighter opposition in comparison with the other Schweinfurt trips. In October, the 303rd BG(H) engaged enemy fighters for more than an hour in fierce aerial battles. On this mission, P-47s, P-38s and P-51s banded together to give the bombers the best support they had yet had. Brief

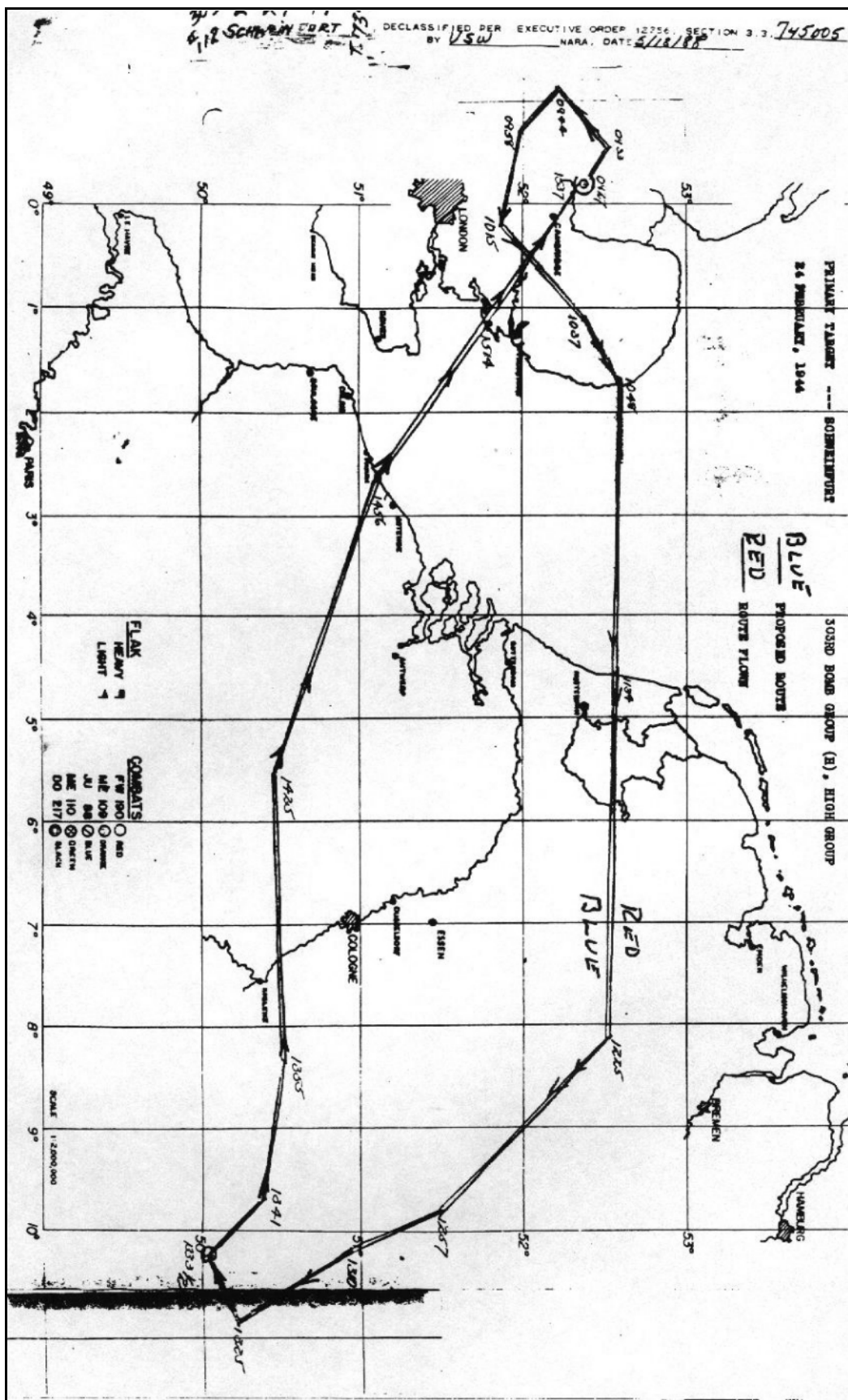
but vicious battles ensued two or three times when enemy fighters managed to slip through the fighter screen and two Group bombers were lost. Gunners, however, said that things would have been really rough without the fighter escort and that the sky was full of dogfights whenever enemy aircraft showed up on the scene. Seven aircraft sustained flak battle damage.

Capt. **Schulstad** said, "It was a well-planned and well-executed mission. There were only a few fighters, while the flak was interesting, but unexciting. Our fighter support couldn't have been better. We couldn't see much of our own bombing, but the Groups ahead raised a bit of a muss around the target and I guess we added to it." Capt. William **Heller**, lead ship pilot with Capt. **Schulstad** added, "I was on the last Schweinfurt without any fighter escort, and on the one today, we had fighters to spare. I'll be ready to go again tomorrow if they bring all of those P-38s, P-51s and P-47s along."

S/Sgt. Walter C. **Slusser**, waist gunner on *Iza Vailable*, said he spent most of the day watching dogfights. "I didn't see any of our own fighters go down, but I watched our boys shoot down four German planes which exploded. Those fighter escort boys are really on the ball. We'd probably have got our tails shot off if it hadn't been for them." S/Sgt. Douglas L. **Jones**, engineer on *Daylight Delivery*, was surprised at the lack of opposition. "It would have been rough if it hadn't been for our fighter support," he said. "The sky was full of dogfights every time the Germans came around."



**Miss Liberty #42-31340 (360BS) PU-D**  
**41st CBW-A High (360BS) - Pilot Capt W.C. Heller / CoPilot Capt L.M. Schulstad**  
 (Back L-R) 1Lt J. DeSousa, Jr. (B), 1Lt J.P. Zwayner (N), S/Sgt M.E. Schultz (BT),  
 Capt W.C. Heller (P), Capt L.M. Schulstad (CP)  
 (Front L-R) Sgt P.E. Buckley (photo), T/Sgt R.N. Snyder (R), S/Sgt A. Laurinitis (WG),  
 2Lt D.F. Hicks (TG-O), S/Sgt G.S. Payne (WG), T/Sgt W.J. Huston (E)



Route Map

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - High Group

		<u>Schulstad-Heller</u> 340		
		<u>DeWall</u> 432		<u>Thomas</u> 854
			<u>Parrott</u> 841	
		<u>Bordelon</u> 471		<u>Holdcroft</u> 973
	<u>G. Henderson</u> 051			<u>Litman</u> 574
<u>Headlee</u> 7875		<u>Melton</u> 885		<u>Taylor</u> 393
	<u>McGarry</u> 241			<u>Watson</u> 830
			<u>J. Henderson</u> 562	
<u>Hoeg</u> 423		<u>Estes</u> 020		<u>Snyder</u> 739
	<u>Harrison</u> 9875			<u>Smith</u> 239
			<u>Maxey</u> 158	

## Composite Group with 384th Group

[illegible]

Three (3) aircraft aborted this mission: Lt. Goolsby in 306, Lt. Dahleen in 183  
Lt. Edwards in 561

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5393 *Thumper Again***

P	Taylor, James B., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Levy, Herbert E., 2Lt
BOM	Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Douglas J., 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	Loveland, William H., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31830 *Marie***

P	Watson, Jack W., 1Lt
CP	Burns, James R., 2Lt
NAV	Connors, Edward B., 2Lt
BOM	Feinman, Milton, 2Lt
ENG	Hoffman, Robert W., S/Sgt
RWG	Daniels, Herbert A., Sgt
RO	Kistulentz, Paul, Sgt
BT	Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt
TG	McArthur, Robert G., Sgt
RWG	Smythe, Samuel W., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31239 (No Name) CR-L**

P	Smith, Marshall L., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Palecek, Francis J., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Neuwirth, Edward, 2Lt	POW
BOM	Troy, Edward J., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Dick, Andrew, T/Sgt	KIA
LWG	Schor, John, S/Sgt	KIA
RO	Frolick, Edwin J., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Simon, Gustof J., S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Fugate, Walter O., S/Sgt	POW
RWG	Stauter, Herman L., Sgt	KIA

### **B-17G #42-31562 (No Name) CR-L**

P	Henderson, John F., 1Lt	POW
CP	Crook, Kenneth D., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Wiggins, Warren S., 1Lt	POW
BOM	Monkres, Woodrow W., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Simpkins, William H., T/Sgt	POW
RWG	Shuhart, Norman L., Sgt	POW
RO	Maple, Charles S., Sgt	POW
BT	Miller, Richard C., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Millif, Mike C., Sgt	POW
LWG	Powell, Vernon W., Sgt	POW

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

P	Maxey, Frank, 2Lt
CP	Knight, R.A., 2Lt
NAV	Shamban, Marcus F., 2Lt
BOM	Spatt, Arnold I., 2Lt
ENG	Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
LWG	Barteau, Edward L., S/Sgt
RO	Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
BT	Swain, Norman F., Sgt
TG	Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter***

P	Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Cook, John H., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Jack N., 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 #42-31574 *Ole George***

P	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP	Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt
NAV	Merthan, Lawrence C., 2Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., S/Sgt
RWG	Gamon, Edward J., Sgt
RO	Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT	Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
TG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
LWG	Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-31386 *Sky Duster***

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

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

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P	Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt
CP	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Towberman, P.E., 2Lt
BOM	Marlatt, Ray G., 2Lt
ENG	Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt
RWG	Rothrock, Harry J., S/Sgt
RO	Greenhalgh, Chester W., T/Sgt
BT	Chraniuk, William, S/Sgt
TG	Strobel, William A., S/Sgt
LWG	Cueto, Frank Z., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

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

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P	Stouill, Donald W., 1Lt
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	Holder, Kenneth L., S/Sgt
RWG	Greene, George P., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Turkington, Calvin G., S/Sgt
PHO	Hunter, Robert G., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

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P	Hybert, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Brooks, James, 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

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

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P	Savage, John N., 2Lt
CP	Marsh, Richard K., 2Lt
NAV	Walsh, Myles J., 2Lt
BOM	Joyce, John D., 2Lt
ENG	Davis, Eugene B., S/Sgt
RO	Minks, George A., S/Sgt
BT	Munson, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Moessner, Raymond J., S/Sgt
LWG	Rogers, Warren G., Sgt
RWG	Ferrell, William R., Sgt

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

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P	Dahleen, Howard D., 1Lt
CP	Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell S., 2Lt
BOM	Gauthier, Raymond W., 2Lt
ENG	Newman, John F., S/Sgt
RO	Swanson, Charles E., T/Sgt
RWG	Smith, Harding W., S/Sgt
LWG	Hermann, Kurt J., III, T/Sgt
BT	Hirn, Edward M., S/Sgt
TG	Covington, Charles G., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

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

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P	Edwards, Kenneth C., 2Lt
CP	Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Anderson, Everett J., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO	Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
LWG	Champagne, Adam, Sgt
TG	Kowalk, Francis H., Sgt
RWG	Abernathy, Fay S., Cpl
PHO	Green, William H., T/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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

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

P DeWall, Hershel R., 2Lt  
 CP Chapman, John M., 2Lt  
 NAV Becker, Sylvester J., 1Lt  
 BOM Peterson, Elmer L., S/Sgt  
 ENG Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt  
 RWG Hosso, Harry V., S/Sgt  
 RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt  
 BT Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt  
 LWG Friedman, Szymon A., Sgt  
 TG Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt

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

P Parrott, John H., 1Lt  
 CP McGrath, Leo B., 2Lt  
 NAV Volk, Anthony D., 2Lt  
 BOM Barker, Havelock W., 2Lt  
 ENG Green, Jack E., S/Sgt  
 RO DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt  
 BT Mayfield, James E., Sgt  
 RWG Huddleston, D.O., S/Sgt  
 TG Laible, Gilbert N., Sgt  
 LWG Rein, William E., S/Sgt

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

P Holdcroft, Lloyd L., 1Lt  
 CP Bradley, Clyde W., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Pace, Charles M., 2Lt  
 BOM O'Donnell, John J., 2Lt  
 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 #42-31471 *Doolittle's Destroyer***

P Bordelon, Berton A., 1Lt  
 CP Coons, Charles L., 2Lt  
 NAV Cromwell, Frederick P., 2Lt  
 BOM Cottrell, John W., 2Lt  
 ENG Barker, Forrest, S/Sgt  
 RWG Adams, Donald K., S/Sgt  
 RO Fontana, Joseph L., S/Sgt  
 LWG Patterson, Harry L., S/Sgt  
 BT Harrington, Joseph F., S/Sgt  
 TG Couch, Ted, Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31340 *Miss Liberty***

P Heller, William C., Capt  
 CP Schulstad, Louis M., Capt  
 NAV Zwayer, James P., 1Lt  
 BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., 1Lt  
 ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt  
 RWG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt  
 RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt  
 LWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt  
 BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt  
 TG Hicks, David F., 2Lt  
 PHO Buckley, Paul E., Sgt

#### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<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	TOG - Togglier 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>RESULTS OF MISSION</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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## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde***

P	Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., Lt
CP	Bastean, Stephen B., Lt
NAV	Kurnik, Walter F., Lt
BOM	Biedanski, Edmund J., Lt
ENG	Rombach, Joseph H., S/Sgt
BT	Dye, James W., S/Sgt
RO	Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
LWG	Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
RWG	Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt
PHO	Gervais, Joseph J., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-38020 *V-Packet***

P	Estes, Shirley W., Lt
CP	Byers, Ballard T., Lt
NAV	Minter, Thomas W., Lt
BOM	Shemwell, John T., Lt
ENG	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Wiley, Nathan H., Sgt
RO	Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
TG	Noah, Norbert O., Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ross, Samuel C., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31423 *Jigger Rooche***

P	Hoeg, Kenneth A., Lt
CP	O'Hare, Phil W., Lt
NAV	Olsen, Kenneth L., Lt
BOM	Cronin, Ernest L., Lt
ENG	Relyea, Ralph R., T/Sgt
BT	Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt
RO	Benevento, Andrew G., S/Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt
LWG	Vargas, Michael A., S/Sgt
TG	McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt

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

P	Headlee, Dale C., Lt
CP	Fogerson, Joseph E., F/O
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	Rider, Wilbert, Sgt

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

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	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
RO	Wilson, Elmer A., S/Sgt
TG	Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt
LWG	Brown, Edgar S., Sgt
RWG	Hilborn, Ervin, Sgt
PHO	Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt

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

P	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
CP	Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
NAV	Arvanites, George L., Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., Lt
ENG	Weed, L.A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt
TG	LaFrenier, James E., S/Sgt
RWG	Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt
LWG	Musashe, Michael, S/Sgt

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

P	Melton, James H., Lt
CP	Belknap, Robert W., Lt
NAV	Frechter, Harry G., Lt
BOM	Clapp, Keith W., Lt
ENG	Rusinak, John C., S/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