

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 115

2 March 1944

Target: V.K.F. Ball Bearing Works, Frankfurt, Germany
and Messerschmidt Aircraft Factory, Hochstenbach, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 31

Crews Lost: Lt. Elder - 2 KIA, 8 POW

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 3 men had frostbite

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes: Group - 26,000 ft; Squadron - 20,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 995 rounds

Thirty-one Group aircraft took off with four abortive:

#42-5054 *Belle of San Joaquin*, 360BS-I (**Headlee**) - No. 2 supercharger.

#42-31405 *Wallaroo MK II*, 359BS-X (**McManus**) - co-pilot sick.

#42-37893 *Bam Bam*, 358BS-O (**Taylor**) - No. 4 engine failure.

#42-31669 *Shoo Shoo Baby*, 359BS-J (**Snyder**) - No. 2 engine failure.

The main "A" Group and 384/303 "B" Group dropped their bombs on the primary target at Frankfurt with 779 65-lb. M47A1 bombs. The 384/303 "B" Group dropped thirty 500-lb. G.P. bombs and the 379/303 "C" Group bombed a target of opportunity, the railroad marshalling yard of Hochstenbach, Germany, with fifty 500-lb. G.P. bombs. All bomb runs were made manually.

Flak in the Frankfurt area was meager to moderate and was generally inaccurate. Eight aircraft sustained flak battle damage. Crews reported seeing 15 to 20 enemy fighters, but no attacks were made on Group aircraft. Excellent fighter support was furnished.

One Group aircraft flying in the 384/303 "B" Group was lost between the IP and the target. The Squadron sustained one pass by two ME-109s, which may have been the reason for the loss. When last seen #42-97509 *Old Hickory*, piloted by 2Lt. Damon C. **Elder**, was about 3,000 feet below the Squadron formation, under full control, although the No. 1 engine was smoking. The crew bailed out over Belgium and the aircraft crashed two kilometers west of Serinchamps. 2Lt James R. **Burns** (CP) was killed when his parachute failed to open. He landed in the Village of Serinchamps. He is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. T/Sgt David L. **Wilson** (E) body was found burned inside the B-17 wreckage. He is buried in Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium. 2Lt Edward B. **Connors** (N) and SSgt Verden D. **Swank** (TG) traveled across France and were captured near the Spanish border. 2Lt Damon C. **Elder** (P), S/Sgt Frank J. **Mirenda** (BT) and S/Sgt Mario D. **Garcia** (RWG) spent two weeks in hiding in Antwerp, Belgium, with the aid of Resistance Forces, before being captured. 2Lt Albert W. **Stravinsky** (B), T/Sgt Daniel F. **Gilmore** (R) and Sgt Norman M. **Clark** (LWG) were captured and made POWs.

Except for the extreme cold, with temperatures below -50E, most crewmen said the mission was "routine." Maj. Walter K. **Shayler** described it as, "easy, compared to some of them we have been on. The toughest part of the trip was the cold weather that was just too cold for comfort. We couldn't see the bombing, but we think that we were right over the target when we dropped our bombs. We had good fighter escort all the way and only saw about 20 enemy fighters all day." T/Sgt. Kurt J. **Hermann**, waist gunner, noted, "I saw a few enemy fighters today, but they certainly weren't anxious to come in. Mostly they were being chased by P-51s."

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

MISSION #15

Date: March 2, 1944

Target: Frankfurt, Germany

Altitude: 27,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 6, High Squadron, High Group



Thunderbird Gunner S/Sgt Richard K. Baer
Though listed as "Waist Gunner" on the loading lists, Baer flew most of his missions as Tail Gunner, trading positions with S/Sgt Wike.

This was an easy trip, but it could have been plenty tough if we hadn't had perfect fighter cover. Even then we were jumped by about fifteen Jerry's, but the P-51s soon made them "hit the clouds." We ran into our usual hot reception over Frankfurt from flak gunners down below. We always went over Frankfurt at pretty high altitude. It just wasn't healthy to go in at a lower altitude. However, our group seemed to get less attention from the flak gunners than did the other groups which were flying a little lower than we were. The outstanding thing on this mission was the perfect fighter cover given us by the P-47s, P-51s and a few P-38s.

The bombing was done by "Pathfinder" (radar) as we had a complete undercast in the target area. One of the reasons that the flak was not quite as accurate as usual was the fact that we used what we called "chaff." This was metallic strips thrown out of the planes as they approached the target area. Since we were completely out of sight because of the undercast, the Krauts used radar to sight and

aim their flak guns. This chaff disrupted the reception of their radar plane detectors, thereby throwing them off on their range and deflection.

Our trip to the target took one hour (from the enemy coast) while the flight from the target took us a full three hours. We had a very strong tailwind on the way in and just as strong a headwind on the way out. We carried eleven men on this trip. A cameraman was with us, but he was unable to get any pictures because of the undercast.

There was no injury to any member of the crew, though we did have the right window in the cockpit shattered by a piece of flak. This was the only damage to the plane this time. Our bomb load was 42 one-hundred pound incendiary bombs. The temperature on this flight was very cold. The thermometer registered at 50 degrees below zero.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Brinkley-Shayler
340

Holdcroft DeWall
055 432

Coppom
754

Glass Bordelon
204 997

Wilson Goolsby
471 168

Edwards Thomas Bech Savage
561 785 483 605

Henderson Stoullil
051 386

Hybert Headlee Moncur McManus
830 054 050 405

Wood Dahleen
200 183



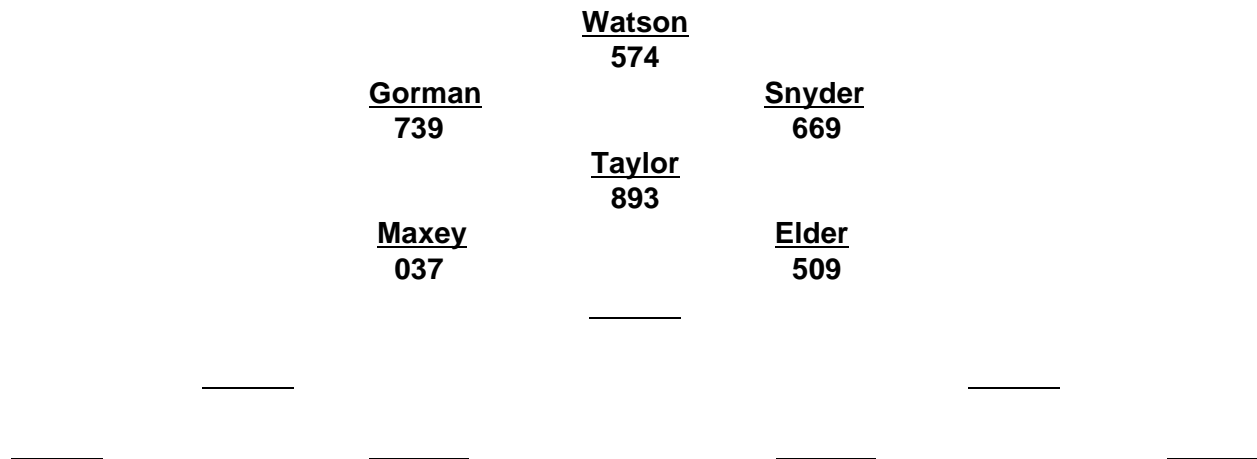
DAMON C. ELDER CREW - 358th BS

(crew assigned 358BS: 02 Mar 1944 - photo: 10 Feb 1944)

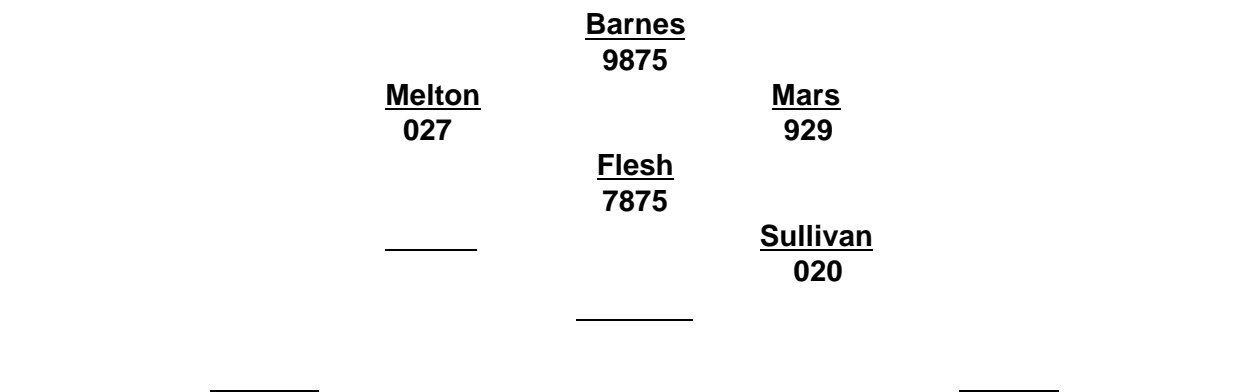
(Back L-R) 2Lt Damon C. Elder (P-POW), 2Lt James R. Burns (CP-KIA),
2Lt Edward B. Connors (N-POW), 2Lt Albert W. Stravinsky (B-POW)

(Front L-R) T/Sgt David L. Wilson (E-KIA), T/Sgt Daniel F. Gilmore (R-POW),
Sgt Frank J. Mirenda (BTG-POW), Sgt Norman M. Clark (LWG-POW),
Sgt Mario D. Garcia (RWG-POW), S/Sgt Verden D. Swank (TG-POW)

Composite Group with 384th Group - Group B



Composite Group with 379th Group - Group C



Four (4) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Headlee in 054	Lt. McManus in 405
Lt. Taylor in 893	Lt. Snyder in 669

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 - 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	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer RESULTS OF MISSION 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 cuntry 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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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Taylor, James B., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Levy, Herbert E., 2Lt
BOM	Feinman, Milton, 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

(Abortive)

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

P	Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
CP	Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
NAV	Binder, Carroll, 2Lt
BOM	Israelson, Elmo P., 2Lt
ENG	Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt
RO	Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt
LWG	Galloway, John B., Sgt
TG	Jensen, Bob, Sgt
RWG	Williams, James O., Sgt.

B-17G #42-31574 *Ole George*

P	Watson, Jack W., 1Lt
CP	Packard, Peter L.M., Capt
NAV	Minkowitz, Samuel, 1Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 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	Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31669 *Shoo Shoo Baby*

P	Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Brothers, Calvin B., 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

(Abortive)

B-17G #42-32037 *(No Name)*

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	Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
RO	Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
BT	Czeczotka, Theodore R., Sgt
TG	Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

B-17G #42-97509 *Old Hickory CR-L*

P	Elder, Damon C., 2Lt	BO/POW
CP	Burns, James R., 2Lt	BO/KIA
NAV	Connors, Edward B., 2Lt	BO/POW
BOM	Stravinsky, Albert W., 2Lt	BO/POW
ENG	Wilson, David L., S/Sgt	BO/KIA
LWG	Clark, Norman M., Sgt	BO/POW
RO	Gilmore, Daniel F., S/Sgt	BO/POW
BT	Mirenda, Frank J., Sgt	BO/POW
TG	Swank, Verden D., Sgt	BO/POW
RWG	Garcia, Mario D., Sgt	BO/POW

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV	Ramsey, Elijah W., 1Lt
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
TG	Barmak, Paul J., S/Sgt
LWG	Neathery, Ralph P., S/Sgt

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

P	Dahleen, Howard D., 1Lt
CP	Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Noland, James B., 1Lt
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

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

P	Bech, G. Neil, Jr., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Franklin M., 2Lt
NAV	Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Van Zandt, Roland, 1Lt
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	Murphy, Carl B., Sgt

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

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., Sgt

B-17G #42-38168 *Dear Mom*

P	Goolsby, Billy M., 1Lt
CP	Assenheimer, Edwin H.P., 2Lt
NAV	Klingensmith, Russell, 2Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 1Lt
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

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

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	Rose, William A., Sgt
RWG	Doezema, Albert, S/Sgt
LWG	Jewett, William B., S/Sgt
BT	Davies, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Cowles, Clifton G., S/Sgt
	(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

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
PHO Hunter, Robert G., S/Sgt

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

P Stoullil, Donald W., 1Lt
CP Sassone, Joseph C., 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

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P Moncur, Vern L., 1Lt
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
PHO Mahaffey, William D., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	DeWall, Hershel R., 1Lt
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 #42-31754 (No Name)

P	Coppom, John F., 1Lt
CP	Stevens, Joseph E., 2Lt
NAV	Fleming, Samuel P., 2Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., 2Lt
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 #42-31055 *Aloha*

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 #42-31340 *Miss Liberty*

P	Brinkley, Pharis C., Capt
CP	Shayler, Walter K., Maj
NAV	Davis, Darius R., 1Lt
BOM	Wallen, George A., 1Lt
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	Huguenin, Wesley V., 1Lt
PAS	Rein, William E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31997 (No Name)

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 #42-31471 *Doolittle's Destroyer*

P	Wilson, Fred F., 1Lt
CP	Bowen, James W., 2Lt
NAV	Przybyszewski, Henry S., Lt
BOM	Fahlbusch, Joseph F., 2Lt
ENG	Goland, Harry, T/Sgt
RO	Mirkin, Herman H., T/Sgt
LWG	Petree, Wendell R., S/Sgt
BT	Webbink, Elvin F., S/Sgt
TG	Roads, Dwight W., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-38204 (No Name)

P	Glass, Henry F., 1Lt
CP	McMahan, Eugene A., 2Lt
NAV	Pepe, Nicholas A., 2Lt
BOM	Robrock, Paul A., 2Lt
ENG	Carbillano, Dominick J., Sgt
LWG	Stellato, Francis A., S/Sgt
RO	Miller, Gordon R., T/Sgt
RWG	Patrone, Frank, S/Sgt
BT	Michael, David O., S/Sgt
TG	Roberts, James E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-39785 *Thru Hel'en Hiwater*

P	Thomas, Earl N., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Edgar C., 2Lt
NAV	Walenta, Clarence V., 2Lt
BOM	Scott, Harold L., 2Lt
ENG	Mason, John W., T/Sgt
RWG	Oxendine, Simeon, S/Sgt
RO	Crowder, Gayther B., T/Sgt
TG	Bacon, Charles N., Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 Wilson, Robert J., Sgt
 RWG Kyle, Clarence, Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17G #42-32027 *Betty Jane*

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., Sgt
 RWG LaPlant, Willard R., Sgt

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

P Sullivan, Francis X., Lt
 CP Brangwin, Kenneth R., Lt
 NAV Peacock, Lawrence A., 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 Wood, Vere A., Lt
 CP Knutson, Wilmer A., Lt
 NAV Pinnette, William S., Lt
 BOM Brown, Thomas G., Lt
 ENG Watts, William A., T/Sgt
 BT Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
 RO Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sg
 TG Helton, Edward, Sgt
 RWG Heathershaw, Charles L., Sgt
 LWG Tevis, John E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31929 *Tennessee Hillbilly*

P Mars, Charles W., Lt
 CP Dallas, William J., Lt
 NAV Clark, James G., Lt
 BOM Webster, Charles M., Lt
 ENG Foster, Raymond L., Sgt
 BT Dunlap, Charles W., Jr., Sgt
 RO McGinnis, Eddie, Sgt
 TG Angione, Vincent A., Sgt
 RWG Senechal, Albert J., Sgt
 LWG Ford, Thomas P., 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 Hoff, Henry, S/Sgt

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

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., T/Sgt
 TG Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
 LWG Winters, Craig W., S/Sgt
 RWG Price, John B., S/Sgt
 OBS Geyer, H.M., Maj

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

P Flesh, William R., Lt
 CP Combs, Americus V., III, 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 Kossin, Jack, S/Sgt
 PHO Gervais, Joseph J., Sgt