

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 117

4 March 1944

Target: Bonn and Köln, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 27

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 6 crewmen were frostbitten

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: "A" - 10 x 500 G.P.; "B" - M47A1 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitudes: "A" - 26,700 ft; "B" - 24,800 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,070 rounds

Seventeen 303BG-A main formation B-17s and ten 360BS B-17s flying with the High Squadron of the 305/303BG Composite Group took off. Five aircraft aborted:
#42-39785 *Thru Hel'en Hiwater*, 358BS-H (**Ferguson**) - power turrets out.
#42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter*, 358BS-P (**Hofmann**) - supercharger failed.
#42-3158 *Max*, 427BS-Y (**Headlee**) - No. 1 supercharger failed.
#42-31756 (*No Name*) 360BS-M (**Bordelon**) - No. 4 engine rough and tail gunner's oxygen failed.
#42-31754 (*No Name*) 427BS-L (**McGrath**) - oxygen leak and took off late.

Fourteen 303BG Main "A" Group aircraft dropped 140 500-lb. G.P. bombs on a target of opportunity believed to be Köln (Cologne). Six 360BS B-17s dropped 252 M47A1 incendiary bombs on a target of opportunity believed to be Köln or Bonn. Both Groups dropped on the PFF aircraft and bombing results could not be observed through the overcast. Bombs were dropped from 26,500 and 25,000 feet.

Flak was moderate to intense and accurate. Fifteen B-17s suffered flak damage. Four enemy aircraft were seen, but there were no attacks on the 303rd BG(H) formations. Six crewmen suffered frostbite. All aircraft returned safely. Good fighter support was furnished. Lt. **Sheets**, pilot of #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*, reported, "There was an awful lot of flak today. It lifted our ship up a couple of times, but it didn't do any damage. Fighter cover was very good and we didn't see any enemy fighters all day. We couldn't see the bombing because of the clouds."

The 8th Air Force lost fifteen B-17s while the gunners made claims of six enemy aircraft destroyed, two possibly destroyed and two damaged. Twenty-three fighters were lost: 16 P-51s, 4 P-38s and 3 P-47s. Fighters claimed eight enemy aircraft destroyed, three possibly destroyed and four damaged.

The 427th BS 1Lt George W. **Shope** crew was on a single aircraft Air Sea Rescue mission on this date in B-17F #42-4341 *Vicious Virgin*. They were not part of the combat mission to Bonn & Köln. Crewmen were: 1Lt George W. **Shope** (P), 2Lt Elton L. **Jenkins** (CP), 2Lt Everett Z. **Randall** (N), 2Lt Robert W. **Meagher** (B), T/Sgt Charles E. **Walsh** (E), T/Sgt Leonard E. **Ratcliff** (R), S/Sgt Royal F. **Plante** (BT), S/Sgt Nyle F. **Smith** (TG), Sgt Edward J. **Doyle**, S/Sgt Edgar A. **Wright** (RWG) and 2Lt Arnold **Bregman** (OBS)

LET'S TRY TO HIT BERLIN --AGAIN

4 March 1944 — Mission #117

Ed Miller's Memories and Recollections

Five hundred and two B-17s (Eleven Combat Wings) were dispatched to attack targets in the Berlin area, but due to extremely adverse weather conditions, all but one Combat Wing turned back in the area east of Coblenz and attacked four Rhineland cities. All bombing was done by PFF (Pathfinder) bombing due to 8/10 tenths cloud cover. The one Combat Wing (30 B-17s) continued on to Berlin and attacked the southwestern section of the city—no results were observed. but they dropped 67 tones of bombs.

Heavy snow showers at the English bases of the 2nd Air Division's B-24s forced them to cancel their mission flights. The 1st Air Division put up six PFF aircraft and they came in handy as these aircraft (186 of them) dropped bombs on Bonn, Dusseldorf, Cologne and Frankfurt. The 41st Combat Wing, lead again by Colonel Kermit D. Stevens, dropped their bombs on Bonn and Köln (Cologne), Germany. Ten aircraft of the 360th Bomb Squadron (my Squadron) flew as the High Squadron of the 305/303 Bomb Group's Composite Group.

It seemed like we saw more flak in the air than in any of my previous seven missions. That was probably because we were "roaming" around the heavily defended Ruhr Valley, trying to find a good target for the main Group's 500 lb General Purpose Bombs. Our Group, the Composite was carrying M47A1 Incendiaries. The flak was considered to be intense and accurate almost everywhere we went today.

Our Wing was pretty lucky with respect to enemy aircraft, as very few crew members reported seeing any. But the 8th Air Force was not so lucky—either due to flak or fighters as they lost fifteen (15) B-17s. In our Group, we had 15 B-17s with flak damage, more than half the 25 planes that hit the target. So for the second time in two days, weather kept us from striking Big "B."

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

MISSION #17

Date: March 4, 1944

Target: Bonn, Germany

Altitude: 27,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 2, Low Squadron, Lead Group

Again our target was Berlin, and again the weather forced us to go to 27,000 feet. Therefore, our briefed route was too long to allow for this added climb because of the possibility of running short of gasoline. Our combat commander decided to bomb a target of opportunity somewhere in Germany. We flew over the southern part of "Happy Valley" and bombed Bonn, Germany.

The flak was quite thick over the target, as it always was over the Ruhr Valley, and we were lucky to be flying as high as we were. We picked up a few flak holes, but all of them were small. There was no injury to any of the crew. Our bomb load was 12 five-hundred pound high explosive bombs.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - A Group

Stevens-Bliss
PFF #42-97532 482BG

Sheets
875

Goode
PFF #42-31801 482BG

McGarry
051

Melton
027

Estes
616

Young
168

Watson
574

Hofmann
739

Snyder
154

Hybert
830

Taylor
622

Dahleen
183

Edwards
213

Ferguson
785

Maxey
037

Moncur
050

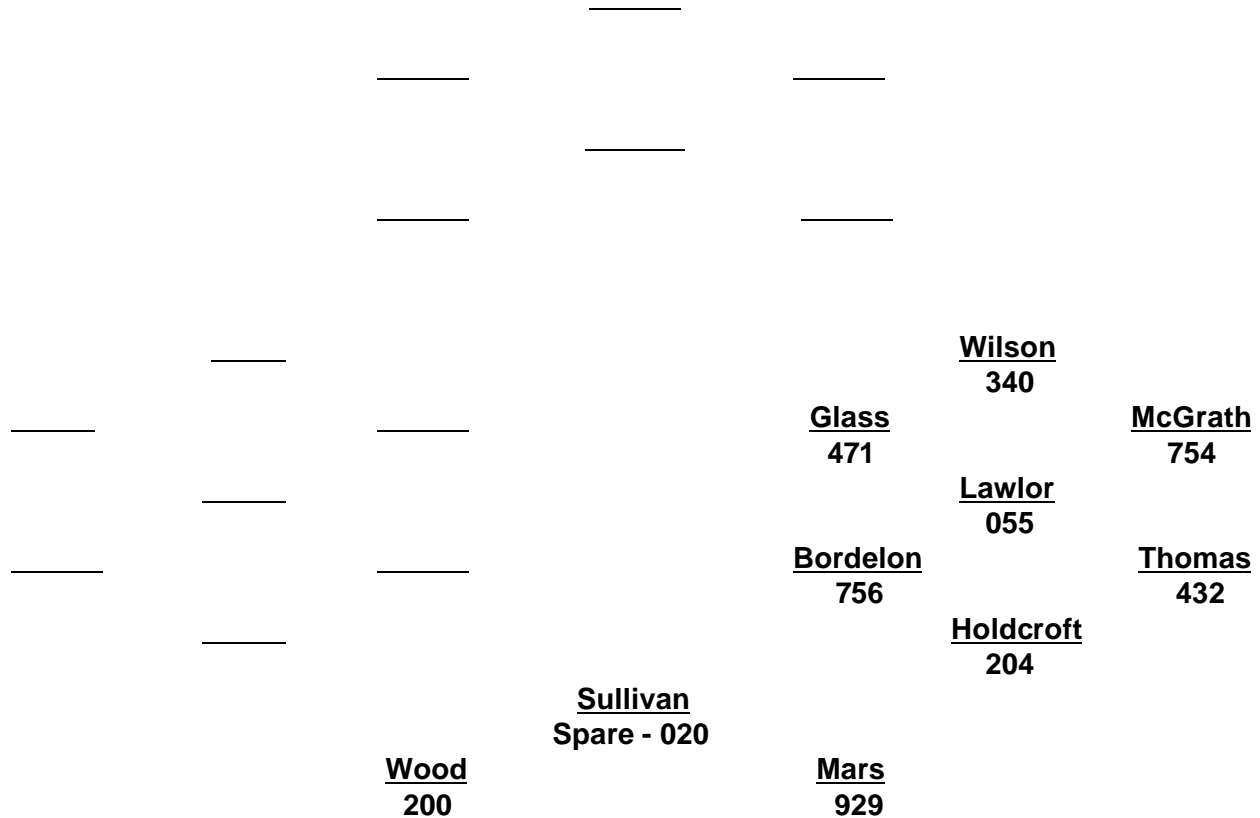
Headlee
Spare - 158

Bech
Spare - 483



B-17G #42-31340 360BS (PU-D) Miss Liberty Ground Crew
(L-R) Crew Chief Willis G. Meyer, Charles F. Prosser,
Ralph P. Anderson, Donald W. Lau, Vincent W. Hesler

Composite Group with 305th Group - B Group



Five (5) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Ferguson in 785 Lt. Hofmann in 739
 Lt. Headlee in 158 Lt. Bordelon in 756
 Lt. McGrath in 754

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

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

B-17G #42-97622 *Paper Dollie*

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	Czeczotka, Theodore R., 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 #42-32037 *(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	Swain, Norman F., Pvt
TG	Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

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

P	Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
CP	Brothers, Calvin S., 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.

(Abortive)

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	Hickey, Thomas P., Sgt

B-17G #42-38154 *(No Name)*

P	Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Putiri, John G., 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, Sgt

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

P	Ferguson, Wendell Z., 2Lt
CP	Moody, James D., 2Lt
NAV	Brown, James F., 2Lt
BOM	Schmid, Ralph D., 2Lt
ENG	Matthews, David R., Sgt
LWG	Smithson, Clyde E., Sgt
RO	Phillips, Robert B., S/Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt
TG	Brooks, Richard S., Sgt
BT	Rhodes, Kenneth C., Sgt
PHO	Barteau, Edward L., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Donaldson, Douglas C., 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	Kurnik, Walter F., 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., II, 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	Yelsky, Fred B., 2Lt
ENG	Sanelli, Floyd L., T/Sgt
RWG	Boatwright, Edward C., S/Sgt
RO	Dennis, Julian E., T/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Lawrence G., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel, S/Sgt
LWG	Murphy, Carl B., Sgt

PFF B-17G #42-97532 *482BG*

CMP	Stevens, Kermit D., Col (303HQ)
P	Bliss, C.C., Capt
CP	Chase, M.L.
NAV	Hackett, J.E.
NAV	Steely, Hobart H., 1Lt (358BS)
BOM	Houston, J.
ENG	Brown, A.N.
RO	Porche, R.
BT	Olson, G.
TG	Keneall, D.A.
LWG	Livingston, R.A.
RWG	Grant, R.S.

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

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

P	Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
CP	Assenheimer, Edwin H., 2Lt
NAV	Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM	Ulbricht, Walter E., 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	Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt

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

P	Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
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	Mahaffey, William D., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Wilson, Fred F., 1Lt
CP Bowen, James W., 2Lt
NAV Przybyszewski, Henry S., Lt
BOM Fahlbusch, Joseph F., 2L
ENG Hubley, Warren G., S/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 Goland, Harry, T/Sgt

B-17G #42-31471 *Doolittle's Destroyer*

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 Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG Roberts, James E., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31754 (No Name)

P McGrath, Leo B., 2Lt
CP Hicks, David F., 2Lt
NAV Volk, Anthony D., 2Lt
BOM Peterson, Elmer L., S/Sgt
ENG Green, Jack E., S/Sgt
RO DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt
BT Mayfield, James E., Sgt
RWG Friedman, Szymon A., Sgt
TG Laible, Gilbert N., Sgt
LWG Hosso, Harry V., Sgt
(Abortive)

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P Lawlor, John C., Jr., 1Lt
CP Chapman, John M., 2Lt
NAV Noland, James B., 1Lt
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., 1Lt
ENG Tower, Jack W., T/Sgt
RWG Baker, Nelson, S/Sgt
RO Esposito, Frank B., T/Sgt
LWG Krenek, Joe W., S/Sgt
BT Kuntashian, Warren V., S/Sgt
TG Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt
PHO Lovett, William F., Sgt

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

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 Flenniken, William, S/Sgt
RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt
TG Bacon, Charles N., Sgt
BT Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG Books, Carl O., Sgt

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

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 #42-31756 (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
(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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 Teno, James R., S/Sgt
 RO McGinnis, Eddie, Sgt
 TG Angione, Vincent A., Sgt
 RWG Senechal, Albert J., Sgt
 LWG Nivens, Delbert S., Sgt

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

P Estes, Shirley W., Lt
 CP Byers, Ballard T., Lt
 NAV Shemwell, John T., 2Lt
 BOM Minter, Thomas W., Lt
 ENG Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
 BT Wiley, Nathan H., Sgt
 RO Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
 TG Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
 RWG Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
 LWG Hoff, Henry, S/Sgt

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

P McGarry, John J., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Cotham, Willie C., 2Lt
 NAV Halligan, Robert W., 2Lt
 BOM Foe, Kenneth D., 2Lt
 ENG Grace, Henry J., T/Sgt
 BT Friedman, Ira, S/Sgt
 RO Stuphar, Stephen, S/Sgt
 TG Kowalonek, Walter A., Sgt
 LWG Musashe, Michael, S/Sgt
 RWG Hilborn, Ervin, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

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 #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P Sheets, Robert W., 1Lt
 CP O'Hare, Phil W., 2Lt
 NAV Doyle, Robert V., 1Lt
 BOM Reeder, John J., 1Lt
 ENG Neuner, Francis X., S/Sgt
 BT King, Earl J., S/Sgt
 RO Kuehl, Fred T., T/Sgt
 TG Sullens, Tom C., S/Sgt
 LWG Donnelly, James F., S/Sgt
 RWG Smith, Leonard C., S/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., 1Lt
 CP Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
 NAV Arvanites, George L., 2Lt
 BOM Brown, Thomas G., 2Lt
 ENG Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
 BT Tambe, Angelo J., S/Sgt
 RO Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sg
 RWG Ford, Thomas P., Sgt
 TG Helton, Edward, S/Sgt
 LWG Tevis, John E., S/Sgt

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

P Melton, James H., 2Lt
 CP Belknap, Robert W., 2Lt
 NAV Frechter, Harry G., 2Lt
 BOM Clapp, Keith W., 2Lt
 ENG Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., T/Sgt
 BT Moore, John J., Jr., Sgt
 RO Stoberl, Donald L., S/Sgt
 TG Anderson, Ralph R., Sgt
 LWG Miller, Norman L., Sgt
 RWG Fontaine, Clifford F., S/Sgt
 OBS Geyer, H.M., Maj