

# 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

**S**eventeen 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

Goodge  
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

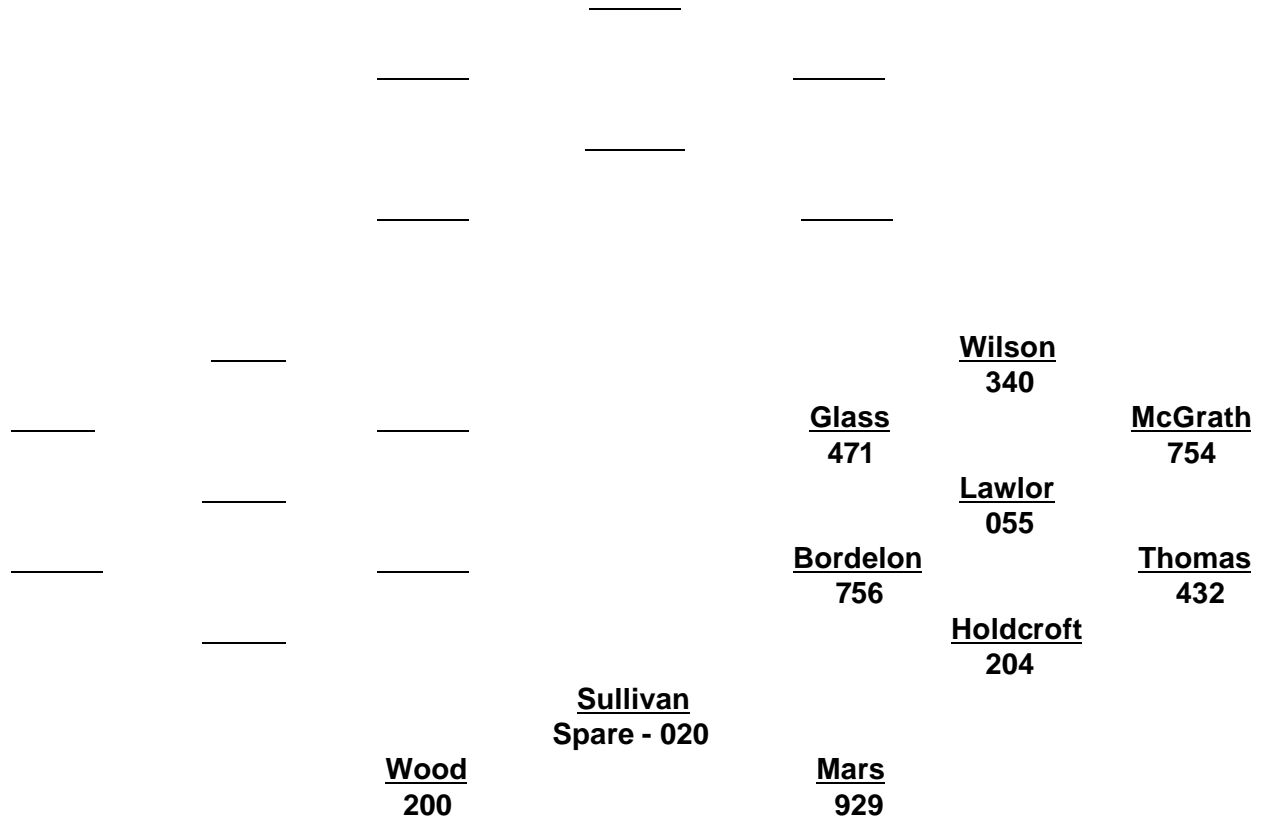
Headlee  
Spare - 158

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

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></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 - 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  <b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></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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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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*)**

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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***

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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***

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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*)**

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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***

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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***

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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***

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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)**

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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***

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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***

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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)**

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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)**

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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