

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 129

27 March 1944

Target: Chartres Airdrome, France

Crews Dispatched: 26

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 13 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 18,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 390 rounds

Twenty-eight aircraft, including two spares, took off to bomb the Chartres, France, Airdrome, an important assembly and repair depot for German fighters. Twenty B-17s, plus two spares, flew as the lead Group of the 41 CBW and as the lead for the 1st Bomb Division. Six aircraft of the 359BS flew as the lead Squadron of the 41st CBW High Group. There were no abortions. The two spares returned early as ordered.

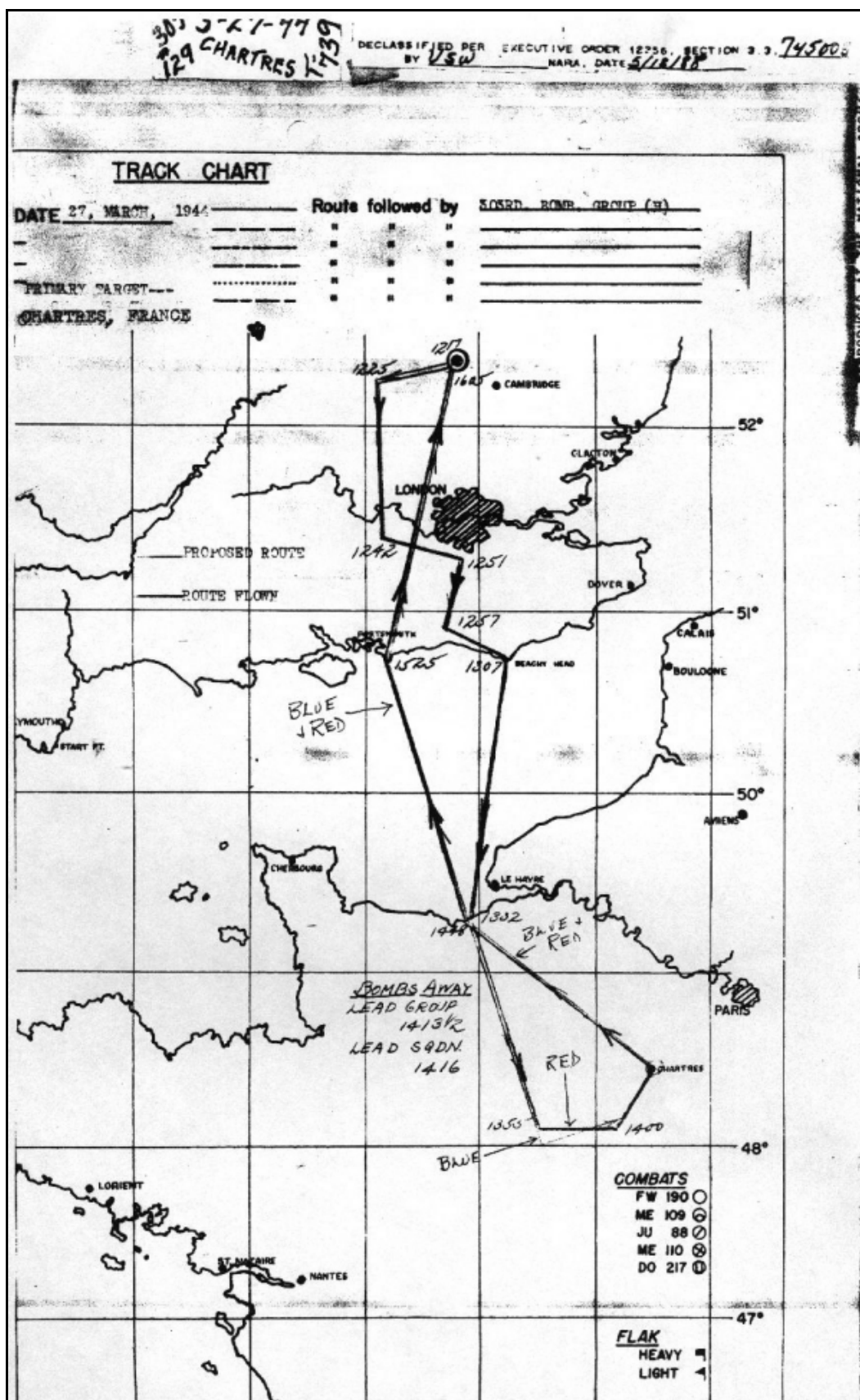
The aircraft experienced good visibility until the bombs dropped—a cloud drifted over the edge of the air field before the bombs hit the ground. Twenty-six aircraft dropped 336 500-lb. H.E. M43 G.P. bombs from 18,000 and 19,000 feet. Flak over the city of Chartres was meager and inaccurate, but became accurate over the airdrome target. No enemy aircraft were seen. Friendly fighter support was generally reported as good, but not up to the high standard of some recent missions. Two men were wounded. One aircraft received minor flak damage and nine major damage. No chaff was dropped.



The mission's highlight was the completion of the 75th mission of #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper* -- an 8th Air Force record. Pilot 1Lt. John N. **Savage** said the ship flew as well as any other ship he had flown. The *Knockout Dropper* received two small holes from flak

Colonel **Stevens**, leader of the 1BD Group, said, "Everything went fine. We had a good run on the target, but just as we dropped our bombs, a cloud came up over the target and we didn't see the bombs hit. It should have been good, though. There wasn't any opposition, it was just like a Sunday afternoon ride." Sgt. Raymond N. **Dean**, waist gunner on *Knock-out Dropper*, got a good look at the bombing and said, "All of them seemed to be hitting in there. Most of the bombs were dropping on the building on the edge of the field."

Lt. Carlton M. **Smith**, Group Photo Interpreter, flew on this mission as an observer, giving him a chance to see bombing from the air rather than from photographs. Lt **Smith** was part of the S-2 Intelligence Section and one of the few "Ground Pounders" to fly five combat missions and earn the Air Medal. His story of the S-2 Section follows this Mission Report on page 9.



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Brinkley - K. Stevens</u> 841			
<u>Lynch</u> 754		<u>Williams</u> 546	
<u>Long</u> 260			
<u>J. Stevens</u> 590		<u>Thomas</u> 048	
<u>McGarry</u> 241		<u>Taylor</u> 669	
<u>Headlee</u> 885	<u>Melton</u> 051	<u>Larson</u> 386	<u>Hofmann</u> 785
<u>Flesh</u> 795		<u>Gorman</u> 739	
<u>Wood</u> 823	<u>Shope</u> 060	<u>Seddon</u> 617	<u>Ames</u> 622
<u>Sullivan</u> 020		<u>Moreau</u> 002	
<u>Ferguson</u> <u>Eisele</u> Spare - 264 Spare - 204			

Composite Group with 379th & 384th Groups

<u>Kalhoefer-Quinn</u> 635	
<u>Moncur</u> 050	<u>Assenheimer</u> 183
<u>Young</u> 483	
<u>Hybert</u> 830	<u>Savage</u> 605

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 - 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 <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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B-17F #41-24605 Knockout Dropper 359th BS (BN-R)

Assigned 359th BS/303rd BG(H) 22 Sep 1942. First Eighth Air Force B-17 to fly 50 combat missions (16 Nov 1942) and 75 combat missions (27 Mar 1944).



Knockout Dropper Ground Crew (Buford G. Pafford, Crew Chief)

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97617 (No Name)

P	Seddon, John R., 2Lt
CP	Burks, Charles D., 2Lt
NAV	Fitzpatrick, George M., 2Lt
BOM	Meldrich, Walter A., 2Lt
ENG	Rogers, Edward E., S/Sgt
LWG	Nemchick, John, Sgt
RO	Hess, John C., S/Sgt
RWG	Holcomb, I.L., Sgt
TG	Mummery, William T., Sgt
BT	Maloney, Donald F., Sgt

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

P	Gorman, Quentin J., 1Lt
CP	Knight, R.A., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Jack N., 2Lt
BOM	Morrison, James P., 2Lt
ENG	Gonsalves, John D., S/Sgt
BT	Swain, Norman F., Pvt
RO	Rabun, Clifford G., Sgt
LWG	Johnston, Wendell B., Sgt
TG	Angelo, George L., S/Sgt
RWG	Hodgins, Robert A., Sgt

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

P	Hofmann, Raymond, 2Lt
CP	Brothers, Calvin S., 2Lt
NAV	Levy, Herbert E., 2Lt
BOM	Feinman, Milton, 2Lt
ENG	Blakeney, William R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Crenshaw, Ollie G., Sgt
RO	Berman, Seymour, S/Sgt
LWG	Miller, David I., Sgt
LWG	Lawson, Tracy W., S/Sgt
TG	Hendin, Bernard J., Sgt

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

P	Taylor, James B., 1Lt
CP	Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Minkowitz, Samuel, 1Lt
BOM	Mack, Austin J., 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 #42-31386 *Sky Duster*

P	Larson, Roy A., 2Lt
CP	Duncan, Ronald E., 2Lt
NAV	Mikulich, Louis F., 2Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Campbell, Thomas J., Sgt
BT	Brim, Lee R., Sgt
RO	Culp, Everett E., Sgt
LWG	Schinker, Arthur W., Sgt
TG	Hodge, Herman L., Sgt
RWG	Gamon, Edward J., Sgt

B-17G #42-107002 *Mairzy Doats*

P	Moreau, Joseph A., 2Lt
CP	Hudson, Hendric S., 2Lt
NAV	Kelly, William T., 2Lt
BOM	Larson, Albert W., 2Lt
ENG	Rossmann, Carl H., Sgt
RWG	Tate, Royce G., Sgt
RO	Lowe, Gareth W., Sgt
LWG	Tomasini, Michael, Sgt
TG	Fox, Howard E., Sgt
BT	Ross, Ben A., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy*

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 G., Sgt

(Spare)

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

P	Ames, Walter J., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Howell, Ernest F., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Grover C., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, William D., 2Lt
ENG	West, Jerome H., Sgt
RWG	Stafford, Sheldon A., Sgt
RO	Lesser, Edward R., Sgt
LWG	Strickland, Frank L., Sgt
TG	MacFarland, Kendall H., S/Sgt
BT	Stone, Robert L., Jr., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Moser, Clinton A., 2Lt
NAV	Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
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	Assenheimer, Edwin H., 1Lt
P	Sassone, Joseph C., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Mayhugh, John C., S/Sgt
RO	Mouser, Lloyd C., T/Sgt
LWG	Thorne, Arver E., S/Sgt
RWG	Hermann, Kurt J., II, T/Sgt
BT	Franceschini, James V., Sgt
TG	Robb, Charles W., S/Sgt

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

P	Young, Elmer W., 1Lt
CP	Cunningham, Robert L., 2Lt
NAV	Schoner, George R., 2Lt
BOM	Hooover, William L., 2Lt
ENG	Steele, John C., T/Sgt
RO	Dulick, Steve, T/Sgt
BT	Lebeck, Richard H., S/Sgt
RWG	Rohaly, Andy, S/Sgt
LWG	Withrow, John W., S/Sgt
TG	Stapleton, Bill, S/Sgt
PAS	Smith, Carlton M., 2Lt

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-17F #41-24635 *The '8' Ball MK II*

P	Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Maj
CP	Quinn, Thomas J., 1Lt
NAV	Palmer, Gerald M., 1Lt
BOM	Bowen, Richard R., 1Lt
ENG	Carter, Edward K., S/Sgt
RO	Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
RWG	Haman, Ray T., S/Sgt
BT	Gilmore, Charles E., T/Sgt
LWG	McKenna, Robert I., S/Sgt
TG	Halpin, Robert H., 2Lt

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

P	Savage, John N., 1Lt
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	Dean, Raymond N., Sgt
PHO	Mahaffey, William D., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Lynch, Robert J., 2Lt
CP	Cohl, Jules R., 2Lt
NAV	Sbrolla, Emilio M., 2Lt
BOM	Merz, Dick W., 2Lt
ENG	Roszell, Thomas M., Sgt
RO	Schuler, Frank H., Sgt
BT	Chudej, Josef R., Sgt
TG	Krogh, Kenneth R., Sgt
LWG	Schoonmaker, Elwood, Jr., Sgt
RWG	Pleasanton, Kenneth H., Sgt

B-17G #42-97590 Virgin Mary

P	Stevens, Joseph E., 2Lt
CP	Evans, Ernest N., 2Lt
NAV	Fleming, Samuel P., 2Lt
BOM	Finley, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Brewster, John L., T/Sgt
RO	Villasenor, Oscar S/Sgt
BT	Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt
TG	Edwards, Marvin R., Sgt
RWG	Fitko, Marion F., S/Sgt
LWG	Cole, Edgar C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-107048 (No Name)

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	Peterson, Elmer L., T/Sgt
RO	DeWitte, Victor W., S/Sgt
TG	Harvey, Roy D., S/Sgt
BT	Johnston, Harold A., Sgt
LWG	Books, Carl O., Sgt

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

P	Eisele, Roy, 2Lt
CP	Girard, Louis F., 2Lt
NAV	Schenker, Murray, 2Lt
BOM	Gladstone, Melvin, 2Lt
ENG	Cowley, Louis M., S/Sgt
RWG	Bell, Richard L., Sgt
RO	Millard, Ralph, S/Sgt
LWG	Butler, Raymond, S/Sgt
BT	Longoria, Efrain, Sgt
TG	Vallee, Edward J., S/Sgt

(Spare)

B-17G #42-97260 Bow-Ur-Neck Stevens

P	Long, John A., 1Lt
CP	Ellsworth, Paul R., 2Lt
NAV	Ross, Lawrence D., 2Lt
BOM	Fahlbusch, Joseph F., 2Lt
ENG	Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt
RWG	Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt
TG	Orlando, Anthony T., S/Sgt
BT	Logan, Frank C., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

P	Williams, John T., 2Lt
CP	Coats, Niel, 2Lt
NAV	Fazio, Joseph J., 2Lt
BOM	Grunseth, Roald J., 2Lt
ENG	Schwenke, Howard A., S/Sgt
RO	Barber, Stewart, L., S/Sgt
BT	Whitten, Cleveland W., Sgt
TG	Ott, John E., Sgt
RWG	Northam, James W., Sgt
LWG	Mitchell, John B., Sgt

B-17G #42-37841 Banshee

P	Brinkley, Pharis C., Capt
CP	Stevens, Kermit D., Col
NAV	Davis, Darius R., 1Lt
BOM	Zwayer, James P., 1Lt
ENG	Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt
LWG	Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt
RO	Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt
RWG	Ferguson, Charles R., S/Sgt
BT	Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt
TG	Bowen, James W., 2Lt
OBS	Rein, William E., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29823 (No Name)

P	Wood, Vere A., 1Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
NAV	Pinnette, William S., 2Lt
BOM	Brown, Thomas G., 2Lt
TT	Tevis, John E., S/Sgt
BT	Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO	Benevento, Andrew G., S/Sgt
RWG	Heathershaw, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Helton, Edward, S/Sgt
LWG	Hoff, Henry, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-38020 V-Packet

P	Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt
CP	Brangwin, Kenneth R., 2Lt
NAV	Kurnik, Walter F., Lt
BOM	Bawol, Walter S., 2Lt
TTG	Frey, James L., S/Sgt
BT	Latta, Thomas B., T/Sgt
RO	Volmer, Lawrence D., T/Sgt
TG	Stone, Vernon W., S/Sgt
LWG	Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
RWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-38051 My Yorkshire Dream

P	Melton, James H., 2Lt
CP	Belknap, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Frechter, Harry G., 2Lt
BOM	Clapp, Keith W., 2Lt
ENG	Rusinak, John C., S/Sgt
BT	Moore, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Stoberl, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG	Anderson, Ralph R., Sgt
LWG	LaPlante, Willard R., Sgt
RWG	Fontaine, Clifford F., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29795 Flying Bitch

P	Flesh, William R., 1Lt
CP	Raistrick, Albert G., Lt
NAV	Peacock, Lawrence A., 1Lt
BOM	Handley, Donald J., Lt
TT	Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
RO	Murphy, John J., T/Sgt
BT	McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
TG	McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt
LWG	Kossin, Jack, S/Sgt
RWG	Rider, Wilbert, Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 Poque Ma Hone

P	Shope, George W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
NAV	Cronin, Ernest L., 1Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., 2Lt
TT	Relyea, Ralph R., T/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	Doyle, Robert V., S/Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt

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

P	Headlee, Dale C., 2Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV	Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
BOM	Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt
ENG	Klunk, James A., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt
RO	Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Robert J., S/Sgt
RWG	Kyle, Clarence, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31241 Spirit of Wanette

P	McGarry, John J., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Cotham, Willie C., 2Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., 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

The S-2 Story

by Carlton M. Smith



Lt. **Carlton M. Smith**, in an effort to more proficient in the understanding of his duties, was one of the few "Ground Pounders" who flew five combat missions. He came home with an Air Medal. As a member of Group Intelligence Staff (S-2), he was an eyewitness to history. He served as the group Photo Interpretation Officer and examined, evaluated and reported on thousands of strike attack photos following 303rd BG(H) combat missions.

"Smitty," as he was known at Molesworth, conducted most of the Bombardier briefings before missions. As a member of the S-2 Intelligence Team, he helped in the missions preparations. He also assisted in crew interrogations and wrote required photo interpretation and other reports, following missions.

He remained in the USAF following WWII. Assignments included duty as Director of Intelligence, 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, in Vietnam. He retired on 30 November 1971 as a Lt. Colonel after almost 30 years of distinguished United States Air Force Service.

Smitty served as the 303rd BGA Membership and Master Directory Chairman from May 1991 until Nov 1997. He served his fellow members with a high degree of devotion and service. Carlton passed away on 18 December 1997.

Back in the war years S-2 designated the Intelligence Staff of a military unit. In the Headquarters building at Molesworth that staff occupied a room between S-1 (Personnel) in the front of the building and S-3 (Operations) in the rear. Across the street from the flagpole and just beyond an open field were the briefing rooms and the map room which were a part of the S-2 complex.

A typical S-2 staff of an 8th Air Force bomb group consisted of the Group Intelligence Officer, the Group Photo Interpreter, a senior NCOIC, an NCO for the map room and the escape and evasion material as well as one or two additional NCOs. Supplementing this small crew were the Intelligence Officers and staff from the four combat squadrons who had desks in the Group office. Each squadron usually had two officers and four NCOs so there were adequate numbers to operate on a 24-hour basis. At first glance it might appear the organizational structure was contrary to effective management with the personnel answering to both the S-2 Officer and their squadron commander, but this was no hindrance to effective operation in the 303rd Bomb Group. Dedication to a common, mission outweighed parochial ties. Duties were assigned and performed by mission functions rather than by squadron designation.

To walk through a typical mission, it would start with the receipt of the field order from Operations. The briefing officers would prepare their notes, maps, photos and other material while the NCOs would post the routes on the maps, prepare the mission kits for the bombardiers and navigators, make up the escape and evasion kits and be ready to assist in the briefings. Usually there was a separate briefing for pilots, bombardiers, navigators and gunners. All would be advised of the importance of the target, flak and enemy fighter threats and recommended escape and evasion procedures. In addition, the S-2 briefing for bombardiers would include detailed target identification information and bomb run landmarks beginning at the initial point (IP).

When the aircraft returned from the mission the S-2 personnel became interrogators. It was then their job to obtain as much information as possible from physically tired crews who were often more anxious to hit the sack than talk about that from which they had just returned. It required tact

and understanding yet a prodding for details which made up the required reports that were due in higher headquarters a few hours later. There was always a mission summary report which had to be compiled and very important for future operations was the flak report. The reports of crew comments and fighter claims were no less important.

As soon as the strike photos were received from the photo laboratory the Photo Interpreter plotted the bomb patterns of each squadron, determining the centers of these patterns and comparing them to the assigned mean point of impact (MPI). From this, a degree of bombing accuracy (range and deflection) could be recorded. The last phase of the PI Report was a damage assessment. The report was sent ASAP to the Group Commander, but it was also of much interest to the bombardiers and many made post-mission stops at the PI desk to review the photos. As the PI, I became close to many of the bombardiers because of this common interest and it was a natural for me to do the bombardier briefings and target identification classes. To upgrade my capabilities in this area I flew missions in various positions of the aircraft and to various types of targets. I don't know what the S-2 Staff did in other Groups, but in the 303rd at least two of us "ground pounders" came home with Air Medals. I mention this not as an ego trip, but to illustrate the extent of dedication in a Group called the Hells Angels.

Who were some of the names behind these desk jobs? As far as this writer can recall, they were: Major Jesse Barrett, Major Claes Johnson, Major Charles McQuaid, Capt Joseph Robinson, Lt Peter Curry, Lt Tony Ficovich, Lt David Fraser, Lt Robert Shaw, Lt Carlton Smith, MSgt Karl Lamb, TSgt Joseph Weinheimer, SSgt George Christenson, SSgt Jerry Reddick, SSgt Joseph Schultz, SSgt Robert Thoma, SSgt Claude Whitson, Sgt Milton Klabe, Sgt Howard Seidler, Cpl Roy Buis and Cpl Rowland Eng.



303rd S-2 Intelligence Personnel

(Top Row) Karl W. Lamb, George Christenson, Joseph Schultz, Howard Seidler, James H. Sackel, Claud B. Whitson, Thomas Basden (3rd Row) Joseph G. Robinson, George D. Conrad, W. Gordon Donnelly, Whitehead, Roger A. Prior, John Higginbotham (2nd Row) Charles D. McQuaid, Claes E. Johnson, Jesse M. Barrett, Charles A. Green, Thomas A. Gabbert, Allan S. Lund, Bert S. VonSchmidt (Front Row) Rowland Eng, Gerald W. Reddick, Raymond E. Grinroth, Roy J. Buis, Milton Klabe