

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 133

10 Apr 1944

Target: Airdrome & Aircraft Factory, Brussels/Evere, Belgium

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 X 1000 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 21,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 480 rounds

Results of this mission were rated as excellent. This airdrome had important repair facilities for the airframes of the ME-111 and ME-110 and ME-109 engines. One hundred twenty-three B-17s dropped 126 x 1,000 General Purpose bombs and 434 x 500 General Purpose bombs (171.5 tons) and 2498 x 100 Incendiary bombs (125 tons) between 0917 to 0935 hours from 21,000 to 23,000 feet.

A heavy concentration of General Purpose bombs fell into a hangar area on the far eastern side of the airfield. A large hangar approximately 150 x 250 received at least three direct hits and could be seen burning fiercely and was still burning in the later stages of the attacks. A second hangar of the same size received a near miss at one corner.

An unidentified building approximately 210 x 210 received at least two direct hits and could be seen burning fiercely. A fire could be seen on the machine gun testing building. Two blast shelters received direct hits. One of these shelters was seen to be 50 percent destroyed, while the second shelter was on fire. Two small unidentified buildings, probably stores, were hit and probably seriously damaged from blast and incendiary action.

Three medium T/E aircraft were set on fire. A concentration of incendiary bombs fell into the area of the aircraft works located on the northern boundary of the airfield. A large works building received at least two direct hits from incendiaries. Three incendiary bursts could be seen on a medium works building approximately 75 x 190. The three-bay workshop received at least two direct hits from incendiaries. Two small workshops received one direct hit respectively. The administrative offices of the Sabina area received two direct hits from incendiary bombs and the experimental building in this same area received one hit. A concentration of G.P. bombs fell immediately adjacent to the main workshop area, but most of these bombs are in open fields. A concentration of G.P. bombs fell into the southwest corner of the airfield and the barracks-hangar area. Two small workshops received direct hits and were seriously damaged. A third workshop received one hit. Two medium hangars were damaged from near misses. Three barracks buildings received direct hits.

The concentrations of incendiary bombs fell in the immediate vicinity of the target area. Another concentration fell into a large marshalling yard west of the target, starting fires in freight cars and in a railroad work shop. The second concentration fell into a suburban area in the northern part of the city of Brussels, starting fires in a residential area.

No aircraft returned early. There were no casualties or aircraft losses. There was 2/10 to 4/10 cloud cover and visibility was unlimited. Meager to moderate and fairly accurate flak was encountered at the target. Twelve aircraft sustained flak battle damage and one received damage from friendly fire. No enemy aircraft were seen. Friendly fighter support was good. All aircraft returned to Molesworth.

Maj. Richard H. **Cole** led the Group and reported that the bombing was not as good as yesterday's. "We had good visibility over the target and met no opposition," he reported. "We were able to make two runs over the target, but the results were not exceptionally good. When we dropped our bombs, a Group ahead of us had already been there and had done pretty good. Our tail gunner, 1Lt. Robert H. **Halpin**, also reported that the Group behind us laid their bomb loads right on the target."

Gunners reported that the trip was uneventful, with only a little flak to worry them. One or two crewmen said they saw some rocket flak, but it was not close enough to them to cause any damage.



Scorchy II #42-97058 (359BS) BN-V

41st CBW-A Low (359BS) - Pilot Maj R.H. Cole / CoPilot 1Lt T.J. Quinn

(Back L-R) 1Lt Thomas J. Quinn (CP), 1Lt James P. Zwayer (B),

1Lt George M. Carroll (N-360th BS), Maj Richard E. Cole (P), 1Lt Robert H. Halpin (TG-O)

(Front - not in order) Sgt Robert K. Merrow (E), T/Sgt Joseph Vieira (R),

S/Sgt Robert E. Manchester (BT), S/Sgt Arver E. Thorne (RWG), S/Sgt Derrell S. Jones (LWG)

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

MISSION #28

Date: April 10, 1944 (HAPPY DAY!!)

Target: Brussels, Belgium

Altitude: 21,000 feet

Plane: U-050 "Thunderbird"

Position: No. 4, Lead Squadron, Low Group

This was the one we were all waiting for!! It finished the combat four for all of us on the crew except S/Sgt. Wike, who still had two more missions to go. This was really a nice one to finish up on, too, because it was so short. The flight only took four hours and forty-five minutes and we landed back at our base at 11:00 a.m.

The bomb load on our last mission was six one-thousand pound high explosive bombs. The bomb run was a little rough because of very accurate and intense flak. On our first approach to the target, another group got in our way and it was necessary for us to make a second run on the target. Incidentally, this was the only time our crew ever had to make a second run on a given target. On the second run, we got a large hole in each wing and had our left tire shot off. Everything else went fine and we returned to our home base OK.

Our landing was a very easy and good one considering the fact that the tire was gone on the left wheel. The plane stayed on the runway all the way down and I ground-looped it out of the way near the end of the runway so that other planes could land behind us.

I had always told my crew that on the last ride, I was going to just let the plane roll to the end of the runway, cut all the switches, and then walk home. I just wouldn't take any more chances. I got my wish. We left the plane right where it stopped on the edge of the runway and "walked home." This was a happy day for me, because I had taken my crew "across the top" on twenty-eight missions without one of them getting a scratch and without once turning back for any reason. We had been on two of the three roughest missions the 8th Air Force ever made, and our crew was the first crew in our group to ever finish a tour of combat without anyone receiving the Purple Heart.



VERN L. MONCUR CREW - 359th BS

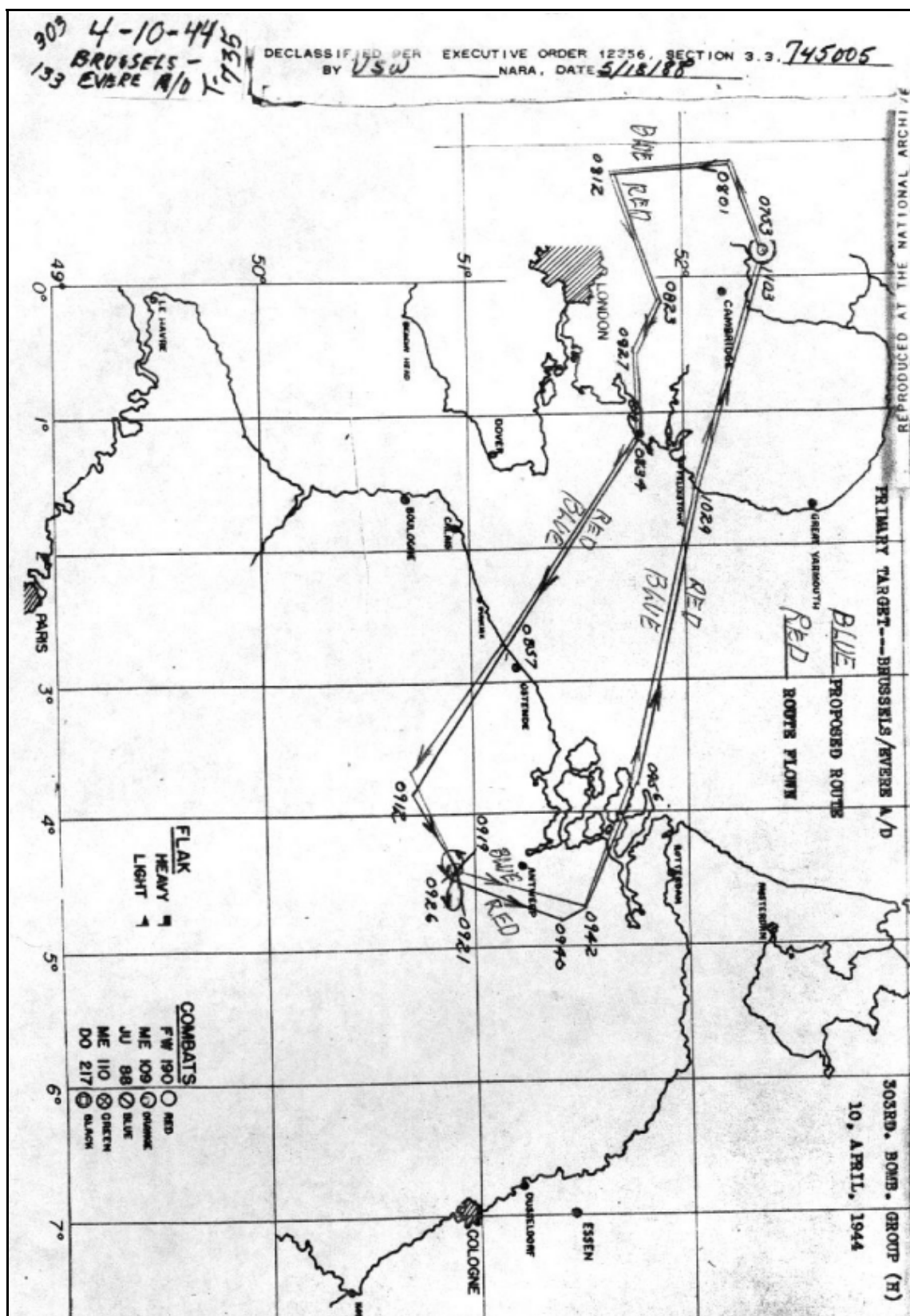
Original B-17G Thunderbird Crew - #42-38050 359BS BN-U

(crew assigned 359BS: 14 Nov 1943)

(Back L-R) 1Lt Vern L. Moncur (P), 2Lt James Brooks (N),

2Lt Billy A. Cunningham (CP), 2Lt David K.S. Chang (B)

(Front L-R) T/Sgt Robert L. Rosier (E), T/Sgt James S. Andrus (R), S/Sgt Thomas J. Dickman (WG),
S/Sgt Walter E. Hein (BT), S/Sgt Richard K. Baer (TG), S/Sgt Leonard L. Wike (WG)



Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Cole-Quinn</u> 058			
<u>Savage</u> 552		<u>Moser</u> 213	
<u>Moncur</u> 050			
<u>Stevens</u> 590		<u>Edwards</u> 386	
<u>Litman</u> 583		<u>Flesh</u> 875	
<u>Viets</u> 669	<u>Larson</u> 002	<u>Jones</u> 423	<u>Headlee</u> 885
<u>Gorman</u> 622		<u>Harrison</u> 060	
<u>Snyder</u> 037	<u>Maxey</u> 739	<u>Wood</u> 200	<u>Melton</u> 027
<u>Ferguson</u> 224		<u>Hanselman</u> 830	
		<u>McManus</u> 807	
		<u>Eisele</u> Spare - 048	

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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358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*

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

B-17G #42-31583 *Clover Leaf*

P	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP	Putiri, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Mikulich, Louis F., 2Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., S/Sgt
TG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
RO	Ebbighausen, Francis R., T/Sgt
BT	Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt
RWG	Lawson, Tracy W., S/Sgt
LWG	Miller, Victor R., S/Sgt

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

P	Gorman, Quentin J., 1Lt
CP	Moreau, Joseph A., 2Lt
NAV	Binder, Carroll, Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Israelson, Elmer P., 2Lt
ENG	Rossman, Carl H., Sgt
BT	Ross, Ben A., Sgt
RO	Lowe, Gareth W., Sgt
LWG	Tomasini, Michael, Sgt
TG	Fox, Howard E., Sgt
RWG	Tate, Royce C., Sgt

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

P	Viets, John B., 2Lt
CP	Bennett, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Heibert, David C., F/O
BOM	Rodgers, Burton, 2Lt
ENG	Robinson, Frank E., S/Sgt
LWG	Madarchik, Michael, Sgt
RO	York, Franklin F., S/Sgt
RWG	Rademacher, Don J., Sgt
TG	Ferrell, William R., Sgt
BT	Holland, Ambrose J., Sgt

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

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 #42-32037 *(No Name)*

P	Snyder, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	McClure, Thomas R., 1Lt
NAV	Brady, Joseph E., 2Lt
BOM	Stavast, James A., 2Lt
ENG	Swift, Herbert E., S/Sgt
LWG	Kent, Amos, Sgt
RO	Frazee, Francis L., Sgt
RWG	Gamon, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Senheiser, George A., Sgt
BT	Vodicka, Leonard R., Sgt

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

P	Larson, Roy A., 2Lt
CP	Duncan, Ronald E., 2Lt
NAV	Kelly, William T., 2Lt
BOM	Larson, Albert W., 2Lt
ENG	Campbell, Thomas J., Sgt
BT	Brim, Lee R., Sgt
RO	Culp, Everett E., Sgt
LWG	Schinker, Arthur W., Sgt
TG	Loveland, William H., S/Sgt
RWG	Thayer, Duane P., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	Moncur, Vern L., 1Lt
CP	Gorecki, Victor T., 2Lt
NAV	Palmer, Gerald M., 1Lt
BOM	Chang, David K.S., 2Lt
ENG	Rosier, Robert L., S/Sgt
RO	Andrus, James S., S/Sgt
BT	Jaehne, Charles R., S/Sgt
TG	Baer, Richard K., S/Sgt
RWG	Dickman, Thomas J., S/Sgt
LWG	Wike, Leonard L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-39807 *Nero*

P	McManus, Henry, 2Lt
CP	Rice, Charles M., 2Lt
NAV	Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM	Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG	Row, Robert A., T/Sgt
RO	Colburn, Robert P., 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-17G #42-97552 *The Road Back*

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
RWG	Rogers, Warren G., Sgt
LWG	Dean, Raymond N., Sgt

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

P	Moser, Clinton A., 2Lt.
CP	Lux, Andrew L., 2Lt
NAV	Andreasen, Rolf W., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Frank P., 2Lt
ENG	Mays, Pearl E., S/Sgt
RO	Zionkoski, John T., S/Sgt
BT	Parrish, Vernon, Sgt
TG	Seelock, Joseph J., Sgt
TT	Duffey, Willis A., Sgt
LWG	Raines, Donald E., Sgt

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

P	Edwards, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	Peterson, Edwin V., 2Lt
NAV	Sanders, Coleman, 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., S/Sgt
RO	Kennedy, Herbert W., S/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., Sgt
LWG	Champagne, Adam, S/Sgt
TG	Kowalk, Francis H., S/Sgt
RWG	Abernathy, Fay S., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97058 *Scorchy II*

P	Cole, Richard H., Maj
CP	Quinn, Thomas J., 1Lt
NAV	Carroll, George M., 1Lt
BOM	Zwayer, James P., 1Lt
ENG	Merrow, Robert K., Sgt
RO	Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
BT	Manchester, Robert E., S/Sgt
TG	Halpin, Robert H., 1Lt
RWG	Thorne, Arver E., S/Sgt
LWG	Jones, Derrell S., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 1Lt
CP	Donalson, Douglas C., 2Lt
NAV	Carey, William D., 2Lt
BOM	Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG	Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
RO	Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
RWG	Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
BT	Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
TG	Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97590 *Virgin Mary*

P	Stevens, Joseph E., 2Lt
CP	Ellsworth, Paul R., 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	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 - Returned)	



360th Photographic Section

(photo: 21 March 1944)

(L-R) M/Sgt Harry B. Good, Sgt Merle Freidt, Cpl George Phillips, Sgt Francis Andrews

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Jones, Wilbur H., 2Lt
CP	Wallace, Walstein W., 2Lt
NAV	Skarsten, Albert B., 2Lt
BOM	Kennedy, William J., 2Lt
TT	Duerr, William P., S/Sgt
BT	Calnon, Frederick N., S/Sgt
RO	Kosher, Albert J., Sgt
TG	LaFrenier, James E., S/Sgt
LWG	Thompson, Frederick A., Sgt
RWG	Fontaine, Clifford F., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31200 *Old Crow*

P	Wood, Vere A., 1Lt
CP	Knutson, Wilmer A., 2Lt
NAV	Pinnette, William S., 2Lt
BOM	Landry, Robert J., 2Lt
TT	Tevis, John E., S/Sgt
BT	Grant, Thomas V., S/Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., T/Sgt
LWG	Heathershaw, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Musashe, Michael, S/Sgt
RWG	Doyle, Edward J., S/Sgt

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

P	Flesh, William R., 1Lt
CP	O'Hare, Phil W., 2Lt
NAV	Peacock, Lawrence A., 1Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Souder, Lee F., Jr., Sgt
RO	Benevento, Andrew G., S/Sgt
BT	McMahan, Bonnar P., S/Sgt
TG	McLaughlin, Jesse W., S/Sgt
LWG	Kossin, Jack, S/Sgt
RWG	Rider, Wilbert, Sgt

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

P	Headlee, Dale C., 2Lt
CP	Fogerson, Joseph E., F/O
NAV	Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
BOM	Handley, Donald J., 2Lt
ENG	Klunk, James A., S/Sgt
BT	Almanzor, Berton F., S/Sgt
RO	Moberg, Chester H., S/Sgt
TG	Bell, Alton R., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Robert J., S/Sgt
RWG	Kyle, Clarence, 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
TT	Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., T/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	Miller, Norman L., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 *Poque Ma Hone*

P	Harrison, Emmittes S., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Bastean, Stephen B., 2Lt
NAV	Kurnik, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Biedanski, Edmund J., 2Lt
ENG	Rombach, Joseph H., T/Sgt
BT	Dye, James W., S/Sgt
RO	Volmer, Lawrence O., T/Sgt
TG	Hoff, Henry, S/Sgt
LWG	Campbell, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
RWG	Hawk, Kenneth L., S/Sgt