

## 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 135

13 April 1944

Target: Kuge/Fischer Ball Bearing Works, Schweinfurt, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: Lt. Viets - 9 POW, 1 EVD

Crew Members Lost or Wounded: 3 crewmen wounded

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 19,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 8,300 rounds

**S**chweinfurt, Germany was the target for today. There were no early returns. At the target there was 6/10 to 8/10 cloud cover which contributed to making a short bomb run. Contrails above 20,000 feet aided enemy fighters—enemy pilots dove down at the formation after flying in the contrails of other fighters. Aircraft dropped 45 tons of 90 1,000-lb. G.P. bombs along with 50 bundles of USG 39 "Nickels" on the primary target from 19,000 feet. Bomb results were unobserved but 1 BD results were good.

Moderate to intense and accurate flak was experienced at the target. Chaff did not appear to be effective. Fifteen aircraft sustained flak battle damage and one, friendly battle damage. Crews reported 15 to 20 enemy fighters. Direct head-on attacks predominated. Ten crewmen were missing and three men were wounded, two from flak fragments and one from 20mm enemy aircraft cannon shell fragments. Friendly fighter support was good and exceptionally good after the target. Three aircraft sustained fighter battle damage.

Formation Commander Capt. Louis M. **Schulstad** reported, "The German fighters really swarmed over us today and it was one of the toughest battles we have had for some time. Our own fighter escort did a swell job, but they had too many Germans to take care of at one time. We bombed visually, but didn't see the results because of cloud cover that came over the target just as we passed over."

S/Sgt. Vernon W. **Stone**, tail gunner on the Fortress *Sweet Rose O'Grady*, got a good look at the bombing and said, "Our bombs seemed to be pretty well concentrated in the factory area, but the incendiary bombs from the Group behind us were starting fires all over the town." S/Sgt. Edward J. **Vallee**, waist gunner, claimed one-half of a fighter. "There were about 100 fighters around us and one came in and peeled off behind our tail. The tail gunner and I let him have it and he went down in flames," S/Sgt. **Vallee** said.

Sgt. Sam **Faraone**, ball turret gunner on *Idaliza*, was glad to have the fighter escort. "One FW-190 cut across in front of us and shot out our nose," Sgt. **Faraone** said. "Then the P-47s jumped him and shot him down in less time than it takes to tell it. They were really on the ball."

Out of 626 aircraft dispatched, 38 were missing, 4 crew members were killed, 46 were wounded and 381 crewmen were missing.



### JOHN B. VIETS CREW - 358th BS

B-17G #42-97509 Old Hickory 358BS (VK-A)

(crew assigned 358BS: 22 Feb 1944 - photo: Feb 1944)

(Back L-R) F/O David C. Heibert (N-POW), 2Lt John C. Bennett (CP-POW),

2Lt John B. Viets (P-POW-WIA), 2Lt Burton Rodgers (B-POW)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Ambrose J. Holland (BT-POW), S/Sgt Donald J. Rademacher, Jr. (LWG-POW),

S/Sgt Franklin F. York (R-POW-WIA), S/Sgt Frank E. Robinson (E-POW-WIA),

S/Sgt Raymond N. Dean (TG), S/Sgt Michael Madarchik (RWG-POW)

Aircraft #42-97617 (*No Name*) 359BS-D, piloted by 2Lt. John B. **Viets**, experienced fighter attacks and peeled out of formation about one-half hour before reaching the target. It was flying in the No. 7 Tail-end-Charlie position in the high 358BS formation. It seemed to receive direct hits by 20mm shells on the pilot's side. The dinghy on the left side of the B-17G was seen to fall away. One engine was smoking. It was heard to call for fighter support and to fire flares. The Fortress crashed at Mattendorf 16 kilometers west of Bitburg, Germany. Lt. **Viets**, 2Lt. John C. **Bennett**, F/O David C. **Heibert**, 2Lt. Burton **Rodgers**, S/Sgt. Frank E. **Robinson**, S/Sgt. Franklin F. **York**, S/Sgt. Ambrose J. **Holland**, S/Sgt. Don J. **Rademacher** and S/Sgt. Michael **Madarchik** were all captured and taken prisoner. Lt. **Viets**, S/Sgt. **Robinson** and S/Sgt. **York** were hospitalized from wounds. S/Sgt. William R. **Ferrell** managed to evade the enemy.

## 2Lt. Thomas F. Dello Buono Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross



**2Lt Thomas F. Dello Buono**

2Lt. Thomas F. Dello Buono became the third 303rd BG(H) bombardier to receive a high award for heroism. His B-17, #42-97546 *Idaliza*, 360BS-E, piloted by 2Lt. Nelson B. O'Beirne, and flying in the No. 2 position of the lead element of the Lead Squadron, was attacked by a swarm of German fighters. A 20mm cannon shell tore through the plexiglass nose of the bomber and exploded against the flak vest that Lt. Dello Buono was wearing.

The armored vest kept most of the pieces of the projectile from penetrating, but one piece, about one-half inch in diameter, tore through and lodged in his chest, near the heart. In addition, the explosion blew the first joint off his left thumb and fragments of flying plexiglass lodged in his shoulder. He was knocked the full length of the nose compartment—about twelve feet—and was momentarily stunned. Regaining consciousness, he crawled back to his nose gun and continued to fire at the attacking fighters, ignoring his terrible pain and refusing morphine. Forty minutes later, the formation reached the target and Lt. Dello Buono carried out his duties as bombardier, releasing his bombs with the rest of the Squadron, squarely in the Group pattern.

For his devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism, Lt. Dello Buono was awarded the nation's second highest award for heroism, the Distinguished Service Cross. Dello Buono retired as a USAF Colonel in 1965 after a distinguished post-war USAF career in the Strategic Air Command. He died in February 1999 in Glendale, Arizona.



### **NELSON B. O'BEIRNE CREW - 360th BS**

**(crew assigned 360BS: 14 Mar 1944 - photo: March 1944)**

(Back L-R) Capt Nelson B. O'Beirne (P), 1Lt Richard B. Duffield (CP),

1Lt Gene K. Shipp (N), 2Lt Thomas J. Dello Buono (B)

(Front L-R) Sgt Allo L. Studt (TG), T/Sgt Marvin R. Blumberg (R), S/Sgt Sam S. Faraone (BTG), S/Sgt Francis C. Cammack (LWG), S/Sgt Winford E. Rogers (RWG), T/Sgt Miles A. Henselman (E)



**B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza* 360BS (PU-E)**  
after the nose section was blown out on 13 April 1944



Flak jacket worn by 2Lt **Thomas J. Dello Buono** on 13 April 1944

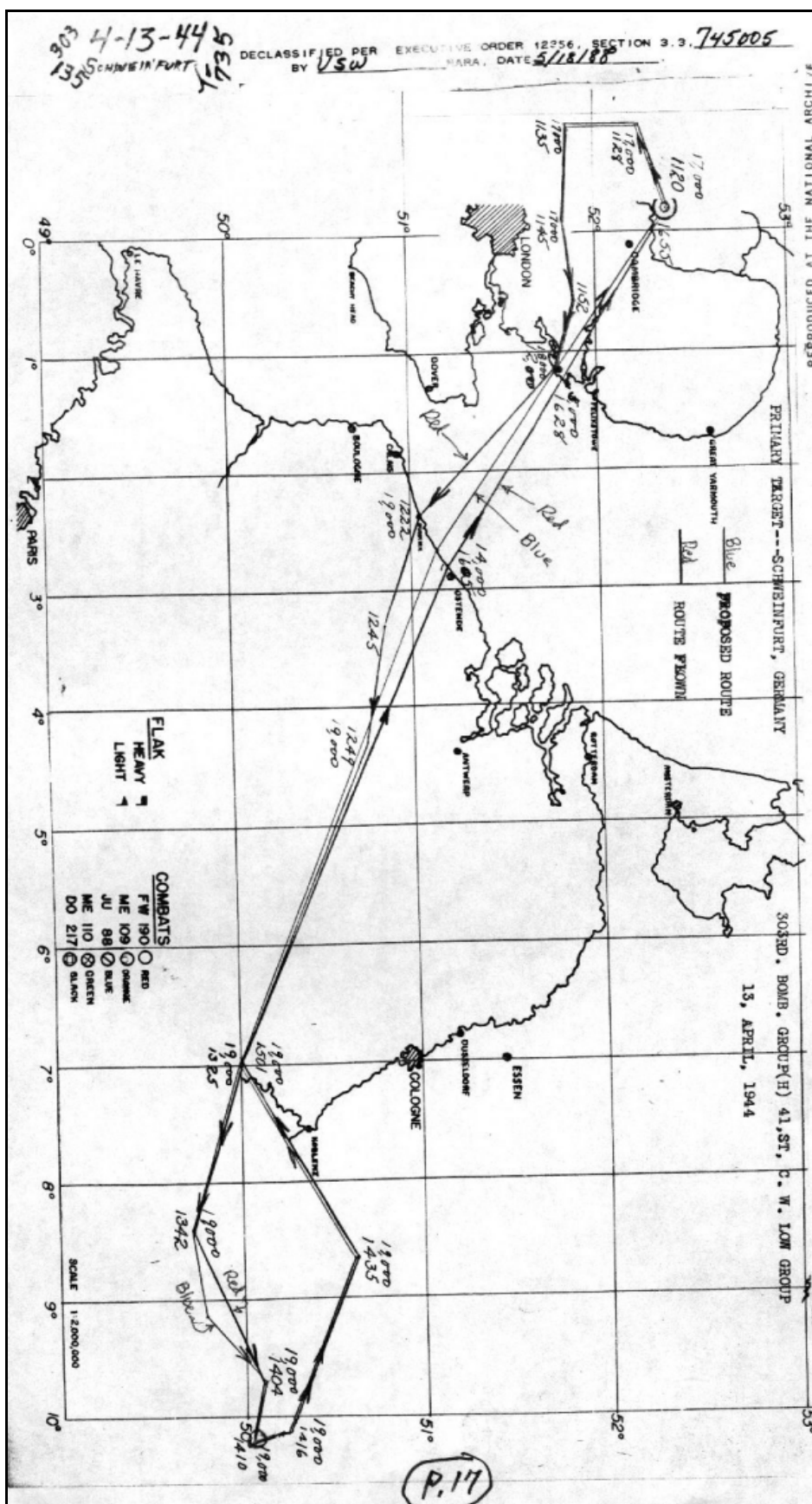
## Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged

<b>Gunner Claims:</b>	Destroyed 3, Probable 3, Damaged 2, Total 8		
<b>Confirmed Claims:</b>	Destroyed 4, Probable 1, Damaged 1, Total 6, No Claim 2		
		<u>Claim:</u>	<u>Confirmed:</u>
Sgt. Ollie G. Crenshaw (037)	FW-190	Damaged	Damaged
Sgt. Bernard J. Hendin (037)	FW-190	Probable	Destroyed
Sgt. Roy A. Sable (028)	FW-190	Damaged	No Claim
Sgt. Lee R. Brim (224)	FW-190	Destroyed	Destroyed
Sgt. Herman L. Hodge (224)	FW-190	Destroyed	Destroyed
S/Sgt. James B. Cox (622)	ME-109	Destroyed	Destroyed
1Lt. Charles M. Pace (552)	FW-190	Probable	No Claim
1Lt. Fred T. Clark (260)	FW-190	Probable	Probable



**Bow-Ur-Neck Stevens #42-97260 (360BS) PU-Q**  
**41st CBW Low (360BS) - Pilot 1Lt J.A. Long / CoPilot Capt L.M. Schulstad**  
 (Back L-R) 1Lt John A. Long (P), 1Lt Fred T. Clark (B), 2Lt Earnest N. Evans (TG-O),  
 1Lt George M. Carroll (N), Capt Louis M. "Mel" Schulstad, Jr. (CP)  
 (Front L-R) S/Sgt Mace Henson (RWG), S/Sgt Anthony Orlando (TG), S/Sgt Frank C. Logan (BT),  
 T/Sgt Ralph T. Jennings (R), T/Sgt Clarence G. Wilson (E), S/Sgt Albert J. Ledley (LWG)

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BY USW NARA, DATE 5/18/88



## Route Map

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Schulstad-Long</u> 260				
<u>O'Beirne</u> 546		<u>Johnston</u> 254		
<u>Holdcroft</u> 552				
<u>Eisele</u> 048		<u>Stevens</u> 590		
<u>Flesh</u> 096		<u>Taylor</u> 622		
<u>Jones</u> 423	<u>Combs</u> 158		<u>Seddon</u> 893	<u>Hall</u> 028
<u>Sullivan</u> 885		<u>Moreau</u> 002		
<u>Estes</u> 051	<u>Melton</u> 027		<u>Larson</u> 224	<u>Hofmann</u> 037
<u>Shope</u> 060		<u>Viets</u> 617		
<u>Marsh</u> Spare - 183			<u>Williams</u> Spare - 204	

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u>	TOG - Toggler	VI - Voice Interpreter	DOW - Died of wounds
CMP - Command Pilot	BT - Ball Turret Operator	OBS - Observer	EVD - Evaded the enemy
P - Pilot	TT - Top Turret Operator	PAS - Passenger	INT - Interned in neu cntry
CP - Co-Pilot	TG - Tail Gunner	PHO - Photographer	REP - Repatriated
NAV - Navigator	NG - Nose Gunner		RES - Rescued
ANV - Ass't. Navigator	RG - Radio Gunner	<u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u>	ESC - Escaped
MNV - Mickey Navigator	WG - Waist Gunner	KIA - Killed in action	BO - Bailed out
ENG - Engineer	LWG - Left Waist Gunner	WIA - Wounded in action	DCH - Ditched
BOM - Bombardier	RWG - Right Waist Gunner	MIA - Missing in action	CR-L - Crashed on land
RO - Radio Operator	GUN - Gunner	POW - Prisoner of war	CR-S - Crashed at sea

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97617 (No Name) CR-L**

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

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

P	Larson, Roy A., 2Lt
CP	Duncan, Ronald E., 2Lt
NAV	Brown, James F., 2Lt
BOM	Schmid, Ralph D., 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	Thayer, Duane P., 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	Rossman, 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-17G #42-32037 (No Name)**

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

### **B-17G #42-107028 (No Name)**

P	Hall, Charles M., 2Lt
CP	Stewart, Paul C., 2Lt
NAV	Moller, Robert C., 2Lt
BOM	Manze, Dario J., F/O
ENG	Coe, Thomas E., Jr., S/Sgt
RWG	Cast, James L., Sgt
RO	Jones, Drackart L., Sgt
TG	Cadlolo, Raymond E., Sgt
BT	Jasinski, Joseph T., Sgt
LWG	Sable, Roy A., Sgt

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

P	Seddon, John R., 2Lt
CP	Burks, Charles D., 2Lt
NAV	Meldrich, Walter A., 2Lt
BOM	Allred, Parlan R., Sgt
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 #42-97622 Paper Dollie**

P	Taylor, James B., 1Lt
CP	Putiri, John C., 2Lt
NAV	Mikulich, Louis F., 2Lt
BOM	Wilson, Claud, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Douglas L., S/Sgt
TG	Cox, James B., S/Sgt
RO	Dulin, Woodroe G., S/Sgt
BT	Czeczotka, Theodore R., Sgt
RWG	Schweinebraten, Leslie H., Sgt
LWG	Loveland, William H., 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	Deerfield, Eddie, T/Sgt
BT	Reid, Harold C., 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	Friedman, Szymon A., S/Sgt
BT	Longoria, Efrain, Sgt
TG	Vallee, Edward J., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza***

P	O'Beirne, Nelson B., 2Lt
CP	Duffield, Richard B., 2Lt
NAV	Shipp, Gene K., 2Lt
BOM	Dello Buono, Thomas J., 2Lt    WIA
ENG	Henselman, Miles A., S/Sgt
RO	Blumberg, Marvin R., S/Sgt
BT	Faraone, Sam S., Sgt
TG	Studt, Allo L., Sgt
RWG	Rogers, Winford E., Sgt
LWG	Cammack, Francis C., Sgt

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

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

(Spare)

### **B-17G #42-97552 *The Road Back***

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., S/Sgt
BT	Kern, Lloyd F., Sgt
TG	Krumholz, Robert A., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97254 *Iza Vailable Too***

P	Johnston, Donald M., 2Lt
CP	Heussler, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV	Schultz, Milo R., 2Lt
BOM	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt
ENG	Barnum, Abraham E., M/Sgt
RO	Treece, Charles E., S/Sgt
BT	Pesetsky, Paul W., Sgt
TG	Nestok, Frank, Sgt
RWG	Smith, Herbert L., Sgt
LWG	Turner, Kenzie H., Sgt

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

P	Long, John A., 1Lt
CP	Schulstad, Louis M., Capt
NAV	Carroll, George M., 1Lt
BOM	Clark, Fred T., 1Lt
ENG	Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt
RWG	Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt
TG	Evans, Earnest N., 2Lt
BT	Logan, Frank C., S/Sgt
OBS	Orlando, Anthony, S/Sgt

## 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	Biedanski, Edmund 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	Dimowitz, Morris, Sgt

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

P	Melton, James H., 1Lt
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 #42-97096 *(No Name)***

P	Flesh, William R., 1Lt
CP	Oranges, Chester N., 2Lt
NAV	Kurnik, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Kennedy, William J., 2Lt
TT	Souder, Lee F., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., 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 #42-38051 *My Yorkshire Dream***

P	Estes, Shirley W., Lt
CP	Byers, Ballard T., Lt
NAV	Shemwell, John T., 2Lt
BOM	Minter, Thomas W., Lt
TT	Price, Jack J., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., S/Sgt
RO	Wagner, Wayne, S/Sgt
TG	Ross, Samuel C., S/Sgt
RWG	Silrum, Orvis K., Sgt
LWG	Ford, Thomas P., Sgt

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

P	Shope, George W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Savage, Gilbert T., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Meagher, Robert W., 2Lt
BOM	Wright, Edgar A., S/Sgt
TT	Relyea, Ralph R., T/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, T/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	O'Neil, Austin J., Sgt
RWG	Hadley, Owen W., S/Sgt

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

P	Sullivan, Francis X., 1Lt
CP	Brangwin, Kenneth R., 2Lt
NAV	Landry, Robert J., 2Lt
BOM	Bawol, Walter S., 2Lt
TTG	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
RWG	Keely, Eugene F., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3158 *Max***

P	Combs, Americus V., III, 2Lt
CP	Fogerson, Joseph E., F/O
NAV	Schweitzer, Jerome D., 2Lt
BOM	Handley, Donald J., 2Lt
TT	Klunk, James A., T/Sgt
BT	Almanzor, Berton F., S/Sgt
RO	Moberg, Chester H., T/Sgt
TG	Bell, Alton R., S/Sgt
RWG	Kyle, Clarence C.E., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Robert J., S/Sgt