

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 211

24 July 1944

Target: "Operation Cobra" Supporting US 1st Army
St. Lo, France

Crews Dispatched: 38

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 38 x 100 lb G.P. M30 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 15,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Thirty-eight 303rd BG(H) aircraft took off to support the US First Army ground troops in the St. Lo, France, area. One B-17 returned early: #42-32027 *Betty Jane*, 427BS (**Gallagher**), pilot's throttle disconnected.

A recall signal was sent out by the 1st Bomb Division, but it was not received until after the lead and low Groups had dropped 948 100-lb. G.P. M30 bombs on their assigned target from 15,000 feet. Results were poor due to 8/10 cloud cover. The high Group heard the recall signal and did not bomb.

No enemy aircraft were seen. The lead Group reported meager and accurate flak in the target area that caused one Fortress major and one, minor damage. The low and high Groups observed anti-aircraft fire only.

Other 8th Air Force Groups had mixed results. The 2nd Division arrived first, found 10/10 clouds, and returned without bombing. The 3rd Division was the next to arrive and thirty-five 388BG aircraft managed to drop their bombs – after making three bomb runs looking for a hole in the clouds. All other 3rd Division Groups failed to bomb. The 1st Division was the last to arrive and found broken clouds. Only 317 aircraft were able to bomb. Other 1st Division Groups received a recall signal and retained their bombs.



Republic P-47 Thunderbolt

There were two bombing disasters that marred the 8th Air Force attempt to assist the ground troops. A 2nd Division B-24 bombardier was startled when a packet of chaff struck his nose turret and accidentally released bombs that hit the Chippelle airfield of the 404th Fighter Group. Four men were killed, 14 were wounded and 2 P-47s were destroyed. In the other tragedy, a B-24 lead bombardier had bomb release difficulties. While attempting to remedy the problem, he accidentally salvaged part

of his bomb load. Twelve other B-24s followed his lead. The bombs hit in the midst of US troops, killing 16 and wounding 60. It was a devastating day for tactical air support.

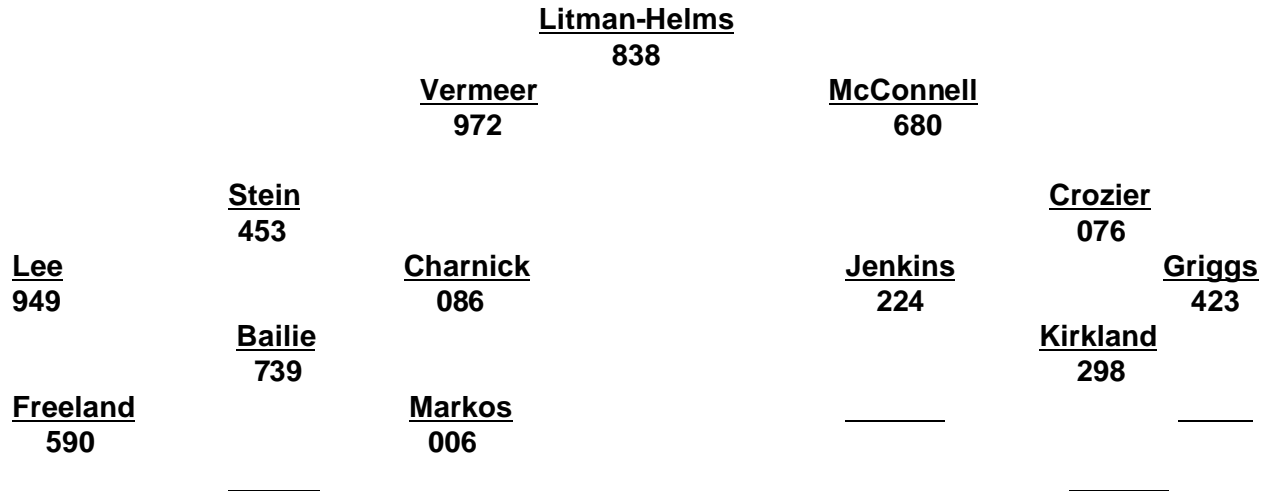
Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Casello-Wilson</u> 629			
		<u>Baehr</u> 841		<u>Yarnall</u> 546	
	<u>Hahn</u> 340			<u>Moser</u> 484	
<u>Hobbs</u> 853		<u>Crawford</u> 930		<u>Brabant</u> 177	<u>Gould</u> 830
	<u>Fontana</u> 196			_____	
<u>Vitale</u> 329		<u>Foley</u> 124		_____	_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Mitchell-Flesh</u> 311			
		<u>Clark</u> 7875		<u>Fletcher</u> 060	
	<u>Keating</u> 595			<u>Reed</u> 058	
<u>Newton</u> 099		<u>Hamilton</u> 9875		<u>Altman</u> 405	<u>Baltes</u> 496
	<u>Flowers</u> 597			<u>Gallagher</u> 027	
<u>Bliss</u> 666		<u>Brown</u> 411		_____	_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 RESULTS OF MISSION 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 cuntry 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 #43-37590 *Neva -The Silver Lady*

P Freeland, Troit D., 2Lt
CP Prudhoe, Louis J., 2Lt
NAV Kosta, Alexander, 2Lt
BOM Nugent, Robert F., 2Lt
ENG Abernathy, Wylie C., S/Sgt
WG Moran, George J., Sgt
RO Wilson, Clarence K., S/Sgt
TG Dyszel, Bernard J., Sgt
BT Cerzosimo, Bernard P., Sgt

B-17G #42-97949 (No Name)

P Lee, Gareth G., 1Lt
CP Bowman, William E., F/O
NAV Sweig, Morris, 2Lt
BOM Townsend, Charles D., 2Lt
ENG Leimgruebler, Victor H., S/Sgt
WG Olive, Martin, Sgt
RO Adkinson, James E., S/Sgt
TG Newman, Gerald D., Sgt
BT Grundon, Joseph D., Sgt

B-17G #42-102453 *Princess Pat*

P Stein, Lawrence J., 1Lt
CP Riseden, Jack W., 2Lt
NAV Larkworthy, Bernard J., 2Lt
BOM Wolf, Lawrence M., 2Lt
ENG Card, Harry R, S/Sgt
WG Grissom, Manley E., Sgt
RO Meyer, Fred R., S/Sgt
BT Truesdell, William P., Sgt
TG Williams, Clarence J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97972 (No Name)

P Vermeer, Bernard E., 1Lt
CP Byrnes, James H., 2Lt
NAV Connor, John P., 2Lt
TOG Splawn, Elzie B., Sgt
ENG Varvil, Willis E., S/Sgt
BT Schley, John G., S/Sgt
RO Moon, Charles E., S/Sgt
TG Kennedy, Robert F., S/Sgt
RWG Ferris, James H., Sgt

B-17G #42-102680 (No Name)

P McConnell, John, 2Lt
CP Gradle, Raymond B., 2Lt
NAV Atwood, Thomas M., 2Lt
BOM Lyle, Lewis E., LtCol
ENG Johnson, Jack M., S/Sgt
WG Schneider, Lawrence J., Sgt
RO Rego, Charles J., S/Sgt
TG Krebs, Henry R., Sgt
BT Messerich, Jerome R., Sgt

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

P Bailie, Homer P., 1Lt
CP Whittall, Ernest A., 2Lt
NAV Barkin, Herbert L., 1Lt
BOM Carloss, Earl W., 2Lt
ENG Ham, William J., S/Sgt
WG Byerly, William C., S/Sgt
RO Jennings, Archie R., S/Sgt
BT Oss, Frank E., Sgt
TG Naylor, Richard G., S/Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-6006 (No Name)

P	Markos, Costa, F/O
CP	Hinton, William E., 2Lt
NAV	Ney, Russell L., 2Lt
TOG	Stidham, Robert L., S/Sgt
ENG	Johnson, Walter K., T/Sgt
WG	Ciglar, Joseph, Sgt
RO	Berrier, Edwin H., S/Sgt
TG	Hiland, Robert L., S/Sgt
BT	Rowe, Thomas M., Sgt

B-17G #42-97298 The Floose

P	Kirkland, Robert A., F/O
CP	Paullin, James R., 2Lt
NAV	Hunt, John W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Simons, Robert A., 2Lt
ENG	Johnson, James P., S/Sgt
BT	Biestek, Stanley H., Sgt
RO	Thomas, Henry T., S/Sgt
WG	Woodward, Thomas J., Sgt
TG	Butler, Stanley H., Sgt

B-17G #44-6086 My Blonde Baby

P	Charnick, Roman P., 2Lt
CP	Satre, Leland H., 2Lt
NAV	Goldfield, Solomon, 2Lt
BOM	Garcia, Robert L., S/Sgt
ENG	Carrissimo, Paul P., S/Sgt
WG	Munn, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Neidringhaus, Robert H., S/Sgt
TG	Schulz, Arthur W., Sgt
BT	Byrd, Fred O., Sgt

B-17G #43-37838 Fearless Fosdick

P	Litman, Arnold S., 1Lt
CP	Helms, John R., 2Lt
NAV	Contos, Spiros P., 1Lt
BOM	Ledbetter, Lamar E., 1Lt
ENG	Smith, George A., T/Sgt
WG	Castillo, Buenaventura L., S/Sgt
RO	Ebbinghausen, Francis H., T/Sgt
BT	Gibbs, Paul M., S/Sgt
TG	Fox, Howard E., S/Sgt
PHO	Skinner, Donald E., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-102496 Special Delivery

P	Baltes, George E., 2Lt
P	Marble, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV	Macaulay, Edward H., 2Lt
BOM	Glover, Fred E., 2Lt
ENG	Stenger, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Giltenboth, Charles L., S/Sgt
BT	Kanz, Milton C., Sgt
TG	Posluszny, Branislaw B., Sgt
WG	Godsey, Austin C., Sgt

B-17G #44-6076 Liberty Run

P	Crozier, Harry J., 1Lt
CP	Mowrey, Paul M., 2Lt
NAV	Kennedy, Clyde R., 2Lt
TOG	McCoy, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Passenant, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, Robert B., S/Sgt
BT	Jara, Felix M., Sgt
TG	Stumpff, George W., Sgt
WG	Butcher, Robert C., Sgt

B-17G #42-31177 Lonesome Polecat

P	Brabant, Patrick H., 2Lt
CP	Judy, Ira J., 2Lt
NAV	Heatherly, Phillip P., 1Lt
TOG	Wolfe, Ralph E., S/Sgt
ENG	Hodge, Dona A., S/Sgt
RO	Rose, William A., Sgt
BT	Marquez, Robert P., Sgt
TG	Millek, John P., Sgt
WG	Valentine, Robert J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31405 Wallaroo MK II

P	Altman, Maurice V., 2Lt
CP	Zimmerman, Paul E., F/O
NAV	Donovan, James R., 2Lt
BOM	Torley, Donald W., 2Lt
ENG	O'Leary, Dan R., S/Sgt
RO	Whisman, Chester C., S/Sgt
BT	Gray, William W., S/Sgt
TG	Mulstein, John E., Sgt
WG	Munn, Edwin C., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-31830 Marie

P	Gould, Graham C., 2Lt
CP	Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt
NAV	Leigh, Thomas W., 2Lt
BOM	Reynolds, Ralph J., 2Lt
ENG	Sublett, James W., Sgt
RO	Lunday, Albert J., S/Sgt
BT	Hundley, ,Walter L., Sgt
TG	Reckert, Arthur C., Sgt
WG	Mathis, Henry C., Sgt

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

P	Jenkins, Harry F., 2Lt
CP	Blanchard, Samuel B., 2Lt
NAV	Nute, Gordon B., 2Lt
BOM	Protzman, John W., 2Lt
ENG	Gillespie, Norton A., S/Sgt
RO	Loosemore, Wesley G., S/Sgt
BT	Fydrychowski, John J., Sgt
TG	Cregan, John M., Sgt
WG	Allen, Charles G., Sgt

B-17G #42-102484 Heller's Angel

P	Moser, Clinton A., 1Lt
CP	Beeman, Richard, 2Lt
NAV	O'Neill, Owen H., 1Lt
BOM	Beers, Donald B., 2Lt
ENG	Duffey, Willis A., S/Sgt
RO	Zionkoski, John T., T/Sgt
BT	Parrish, Vernon, Sgt
TG	Seelock, Joseph J., Sgt
WG	Mays, Pearl E., T/Sgt

B-17G #42-97058 Scorchy II

P	Reed, John W., 1Lt
CP	McDavid, Philip H., 2Lt
NAV	King, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Pickett, Donald E., 2Lt
ENG	Hall, Thomas M., S/Sgt
RO	Sikkema, Wilfred J., Sgt
BT	Johnson, Ralph R., Sgt
TG	Linville, Warren N., Sgt
WG	Erdody, Joseph, Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-107196 *Temptress*

P Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV Nurock, Leon, F/O
BOM Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt
ENG Perry, Robert N., S/Sgt
RO King, Raymond C., S/Sgt
BT Durfee, James R., Sgt
TG Price, Kirkland T., Sgt
WG Weems, Thomas L., Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P Yarnall, Winfield L., 2Lt
CP Bertich, Louis A., 2Lt
NAV Sanford, Isaac N., 2Lt
BOM Britter, Harry B., 2Lt
ENG Fidares, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO Baker, Albert W., S/Sgt
BT Taxon, Rubin, Sgt
TG Birenbach, Melvin, Sgt
WG Di Salvo, Dominick, Sgt

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

P Hahn, James T., 1Lt
CP Fulks, James O., 2Lt
NAV Hardwick, Jack C., 2Lt
BOM Benford, Jack H., 2Lt
ENG Kalasky, Pete M., S/Sgt
RO Conkling, John R., S/Sgt
BT Darbowski, Andrew, Sgt
TG Howald, Hans, S/Sgt
WG Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee*

P Baehr, Kenneth C., 2Lt
CP King, John E., F/O
NAV Peacock, Thomas I., 2Lt
BOM Smith, William H., 2Lt
ENG Brackett, Clarence H., S/Sgt
RO Ploeger, Jesse, S/Sgt
BT Decker, Bruce O., Sgt
TG Keipper, Carl E., Sgt
WG Baldwin, Kenton F., Sgt

B-17G #42-97853 *Lucky Linda*

P Hobbs, Willard, 1Lt
CP Huckins, Earl R., 2Lt
NAV Wade, Robert E., 2Lt
BOM Smith, Herbert L., S/Sgt
ENG Cole, Bethel A., S/Sgt
RO Wiggans, Earl E., Sgt
BT Bibik, James J., Sgt
TG Glaser, Morris B., Sgt
WG Callahan, Fred, Sgt

B-17G #43-37930 (*No Name*)

P Crawford, William C., 1Lt
CP Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt
NAV Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt
BOM Pleasanton, Kenneth H., S/Sgt
ENG Le Roux, Lyle W., S/Sgt
RO Miller, William L., S/Sgt
BT Whitney, Daniel F., Sgt
TG Barder, Emmett R., Sgt
WG Patton, Nelson R., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-97329 *Flak Hack*

P Vitale, Hector F., 2Lt
CP Boyle, Leo J., F/O
NAV Kleppner, Clarence J., F/O
BOM Rice, Charles G., Jr., 2Lt
ENG Reale, Joseph C., Sgt
RO Miller, Hilary C., S/Sgt
BT Thomas, Hall R., S/Sgt
TG Younger, Andrew H., Sgt
WG Nordberg, Francis E., Sgt

B-17G #44-6124 (*No Name*)

P Foley, Norment, 2Lt
CP Rowe, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV Conklin, James M., 2Lt
BOM Littlefield, Robert I., 2Lt
ENG Snell, Edward A., S/Sgt
RO Johnson, Vernelle V., S/Sgt
BT Stewart, Charles R., Sgt
TG Donohoe, Thomas D., S/Sgt
WG Gordley, Damon, Sgt

B-17G #43-37629 (*No Name*)

P Casello, John J., Capt
CP Wilson, William M., 1Lt
NAV Carroll, George M., 1Lt
NAV Blumenthal, Robert, 2Lt
BOM Blythe, Robert W., Jr., 1Lt
ENG Jamison, Charles A., S/Sgt
RO Tibbetts, Arthur P., S/Sgt
BT LaFranchi, Albert S., S/Sgt
TG Johnson, Francis D., S/Sgt
WG Enget, Obert L., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-102411 *Miss Lace*

P Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 2Lt
CP Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt
NAV Rusk, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM Prusha, Elmer E., F/O
TT Duffek, Francis T., S/Sgt
BT Born, Robert S., Sgt
RO Bridge, Howard R., S/Sgt
TG Blim, Raymond C., Sgt
WG Fisher, Clelland F., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #43-37666 *Full House*

P Bliss, Robert P., 2Lt
CP Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV Smoleroff, Theodore L., 2Lt
BOM Hiibner, Okey L., Sgt
TT Shumar, Carl K., Sgt
BT Eakins, Charles A, Jr., Sgt
RO Herman, Benjamin, Sgt
TG Plesinger, Michael J., Sgt
WG Curry, Richard L., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Gallagher, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP Bitel, Peter, 2Lt
NAV Dombrowski, Alexander, 2Lt
TG Sullens, Tom C., S/Sgt
TT Garrett, Joe W., S/Sgt
BT Crovo, Mario J., S/Sgt
RO Islava, Joseph O., Sgt
TG Jacques, Warren, S/Sgt
WG Joyce, Jess, S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Fletcher, John E., 1Lt
CP Johnston, Lawrence M., Jr., 2Lt
NAV Spooner, Ramon L., 2Lt
ENG Haakonsen, Raymond E., 2Lt
TT Lance, Calvin L., Sgt
BT Eichenberger, Frederick J., Sgt
RO Brady, Joseph F., S/Sgt
TG Rogers, Norman F., Sgt
WG Clark, Jay R., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

B-17G #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon*

P Flowers, Selwyn D., 2Lt
CP Harris, John R., F/O
NAV Emmet, John P., 2Lt
BOM Olson, William E., 2Lt
TT Kiely, Joseph P., S/Sgt
BT McCormick, Lewis J., Sgt
RO Kopriva, Charles P., S/Sgt
TG Schulz, Paul H., Sgt
WG Howell, Charles E., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Griggs, John C., 2Lt
CP Dumont, Merrill J., 2Lt
NAV Malone, William A., 2Lt
BOM Rohner, William L., 2Lt
TT Monnig, Alvin R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Duffel, Robert L., Sgt
RO Benning, Joseph F., Jr., S/Sgt
TG Means, Henry H., Jr., Sgt
WG Bruce, Miles R., Sgt
(Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-37875 *Flying Bison*

P Clark, Henry C., 2Lt
CP Vesey, Gilbert P., 2Lt
NAV Davies, Ralph J., 2Lt
BOM Brosius, Earl E., F/O
TT Scott, Harold P., S/Sgt
BT Sikora, Charles A., Jr., Sgt
RO Roswal, Frederick, S/Sgt
TG Bjorn, Edwin W., Sgt
WG Cruttenden, Cyrus S., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby*

P Mitchell, Fred E., 1Lt
CP Flesh, William R., 1Lt
NAV Coffey, John B., 1Lt
BOM Wallen, George A., Jr., 1Lt
TT Cavagnol, Joseph J., T/Sgt
BT Landa, Hyman J., S/Sgt
RO Gorchesky, Benny J., T/Sgt
WG Byers, William R., S/Sgt
TG Carpenter, Robert R., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-39875 *Buzz Blonde*

P Hamilton, Max B., 2Lt
CP Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
NAV Parker, Joseph B., 2Lt
BOM Ziesche, Charles W., 2Lt
TT Barnes, Charlie, S/Sgt
BT Paterson, Richard E., Sgt
RO Jarvis, Robert F., S/Sgt
TG Coleman, Warren M., Sgt
WG Butler, Edward B., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-107099 *Old 99*

P Newton, John A., 2Lt
CP Mowatt, Frank G., 2Lt
NAV Lange, George L., 2Lt
ENG Muzyka, Myron M., S/Sgt
TT Turner, Leonard A., S/Sgt
BT Bricker, Albert W., Sgt
RO O'Leary, James A., S/Sgt
TG Hobgood, John F., Sgt
WG Reeves, James E., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-102595 *Little Tush*

P Keating, Donald W., 2Lt
CP Ferguson, Gilbert L., 1Lt
NAV Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
BOM Coughlin, George A., 1Lt
TT Foerster, LeRoy H.M., S/Sgt
BT Czerwonka, Joseph A., Sgt
RO Longo, Angelo L., Sgt
TG Brown, Edgar S., S/Sgt
WG Wilson, Robert J., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)