

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 212

25 July 1944

Target: "Operation Cobra" German Troop Centers
and Concentrations west of St. Lo, France

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 4 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 38 x 100 lb M1A1 Fragmentation bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 14,000 & 13,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

A second tactical air strike to support the US 1st Army was flown by 37 303rd BG(H) B-17s forming the 41 CBW-A. No aircraft returned early.

In the target area there were 7/10 to 8/10 altostratus and altocumulus clouds with a 15,000 ft. base. Visibility was restricted to eight to ten miles in haze and smoke. The lead and low Groups dropped a total of 1,046 100-lb. M1A1 fragmentation bombs on their assigned targets. Photographs indicated poor results. The high Group did not bomb because it could not positively identify the target and because it was cut off by other Groups on the bomb run. No enemy aircraft were seen and anti-aircraft was only observed. Friendly fighter support was good. There were no casualties.

The 8th Air Force tried to enforce strict procedures to avoid short bombing on US troops, as on July 24, but it happened again, with an even greater loss of life. A B-24 lead bombardier failed to synchronize his bomb sight when making a visual release and 470 100-lb. bombs hit the US lines. Eleven other B-24s dropped 352 260-lb. fragmentation bombs in the same general area as the first bombing mistake. This bombardier failed to properly identify the target when he mistook gun flashes for the red artillery smoke markers. Another instance occurred when a command pilot, under the impression that bombing was by Wings rather than Groups, ordered bombs released when the bombardier was still attempting to locate the target. A total of 102 army personnel were killed, including Lt. Gen. Leslie J. **McNair**, and 380 were wounded. T/5 John K. **Lester**, a Jeep driver for the 29th Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Division, later wrote:

On July 25, 1944, the 4th Division spearheaded the St. Lo breakthrough. The 8th Infantry Regiment, supported by the 29th Field Artillery, was the attacking force. Well over 2000 heavy bombers flew over to bomb 1000 yards ahead of the infantry. I was at an observation post and could observe much of the activity. I hadn't seen as many planes since "D-Day." The first waves of bombers were on target but, the heavy cloud of smoke started drifting back over the infantry and, then the bombers started dropping their bombs on our own troops. Many of our infantry were killed, wounded, and stunned by this terrible error but, the attack went on as planned. I don't know how they did it under those conditions.... Some of the bombs that were dropped short, landed close to our observation post. I believe Lt. General Leslie J. McNair was killed by one such bomb not too far from my location. If I remember right, he was standing by a knocked out German tank about 100 yards from me. I saw at least four of our B-24 bombers fall out of the sky. Two of them were breaking apart as they fell. What an awesome sight. The Germans had put up plenty of anti-aircraft fire.

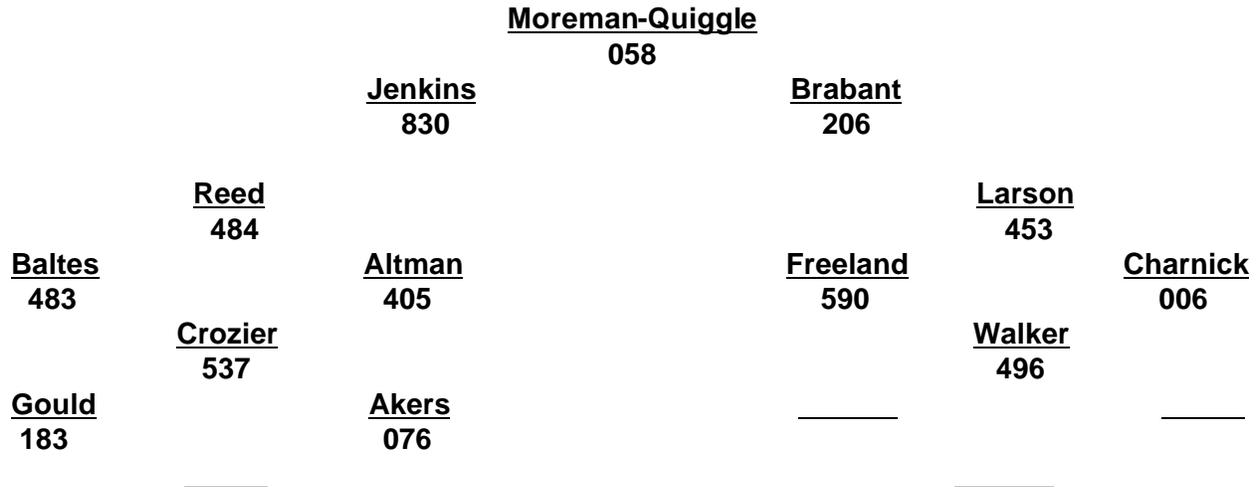
Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Beiser-Schulstad</u> 311			
		<u>Clark</u> 423		<u>Fletcher</u> 9875	
	<u>Means</u> 595			<u>Lee</u> 086	
<u>Griggs</u> 099		<u>Dubose</u> 885		<u>Kirkland</u> 739	<u>Smith</u> 949
	<u>Flowers</u> 597			<u>Gallagher</u> 027	
<u>Cook</u> 666		<u>Hamilton</u> 411	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Schuknecht-Brown</u> 629			
		<u>Baehr</u> 841		<u>Nafius</u> 055	
	<u>Fontana</u> 340			<u>Vermeer</u> 972	
<u>Vitale</u> 853		<u>Foley</u> 546		<u>McConnell</u> 680	<u>Smithy</u> 298
	<u>Hahn</u> 861			<u>Hallum</u> 124	
<u>Crawford</u> 930		<u>Hobbs</u> 196	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

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 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 #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 #44-6006 (No Name)

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 #44-6086 *My Blonde Baby*

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 #42-97949 (No Name)

P Smith, Alfred I., 2Lt
 CP Helms, John R., 2Lt
 NAV Jones, Emerson, 2Lt
 BOM Kemp, Stanley A., 2Lt
 ENG Harbarger, Martin M., S/Sgt
 WG Beres, Edward, Sgt
 RO Swanson, Richard A., Sgt
 TG Bruno, Sam S., Sgt
 BT Fischer, Jack D., Sgt

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

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 #42-102453 *Princess Pat*

P Larson, Oliver B., 2Lt
 CP Kersting, George B., 2Lt
 NAV Gard, John M., 2Lt
 BOM Morrison, James P., 1Lt
 ENG O'Connor, Robert E., S/Sgt
 BT Sweeney, Charles R., Sgt
 RO Mullaney, Donald F., S/Sgt
 WG Holland, Huber D., Sgt
 TG Philson, Norbert M., Sgt



2Lt. Oliver B. **Larson**, landing in #42-102453 *Princess Pat*, 358BS, came in too high and failed to go around for a better landing approach. The aircraft's wheels hit in soft ground at the runway's end and nosed over. There were no injuries, but the damaged B-17 required a major overhaul.

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Vermeer, Bernard E., 1Lt
CP Byrnes, James H., 2Lt
NAV Connor, John P., 2Lt
TOG Doan, Curtis E., 2Lt
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
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97298 *The Floose*

P Smithy, Samuel C., 2Lt
CP Whittall, Ernest A., 2Lt
NAV Joralemon, Lansing L., 2Lt
BOM Klein, Robert J., 2Lt
ENG Fisher, Raymond E. S/Sgt
WG Bazo-Fontaneil, Juan A., Sgt
RO Snoddy, Archie E., Sgt
TG Bieranoski, Walter J., Sgt
BT Politylo, Roman S., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P McConnell, John, 2Lt
CP Hinton, William B., 2Lt
NAV Atwood, Thomas M., 2Lt
BOM Bennett, Robert W., 2Lt
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
(Abortive Sortie)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Baltes, George E., 2Lt
CP	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 #42-102496 *Special Delivery*

P	Walker, Lewis M., 1Lt
CP	Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt
NAV	Keran, William C., 2Lt
BOM	Beers, Donald B., 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 #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*

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 #42-31830 *Marie*

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 #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

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

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P Akers, Robert O., 2Lt
CP Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV Montone, Neil A., 2Lt
BOM Cappucci, Joseph R., Sgt
ENG Shanker, Herbert, S/Sgt
RO Meyer, Gerald E., S/Sgt
BT Saam, Donal W., Sgt
TG Vogel, Cletus H., Sgt
WG Meyer, Fulton R., Sgt

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

P Moreman, Robert, 1Lt
CP Quiggle, Robert D., 2Lt
NAV Ehrke, Warren D., 1Lt
BOM Hoover, William L., 1Lt
ENG Genovese, Ilic V., T/Sgt
RO Barnts, Warren E., T/Sgt
BT Leonard, Joseph L., S/Sgt
TG Smith, Richard L., S/Sgt
WG Alexander, Ray, S/Sgt
PHO Frederick, Lee W., S/Sgt

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

P Reed, John W., 1Lt
CP Whitlock, Garland M., 2Lt
NAV Reid, George E., 2Lt
BOM Day, Dean K., 1Lt
ENG Colley, Smith K., T/Sgt
RO Hansen, Robert W., T/Sgt
BT Wernet, Charles E., Sgt
TG Franceschini, James V., S/Sgt
WG Kowalk, Francis M., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31183 *Bad Penny*

P Gould, Graham C., 2Lt
CP Lasker, Yale, 2Lt
NAV Leigh, Thomas W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM Reynolds, Ralph J., 2Lt
ENG Mogck, Leonard, S/Sgt
RO Anderson, Augustus C., S/Sgt
BT Thompson, Val E., S/Sgt
TG Gloria, Tony N., Sgt
WG Bandy, Peter C., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV Hardwick, Jack C., 2Lt
BOM Benford, Jack H., 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
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P Hahn, James T., 1Lt
CP Fulks, James O., 2Lt
NAV Dunn, Robert L., 1Lt
BOM Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt
ENG Kalasky, Pete M., S/Sgt
RO Conkling, John R., S/Sgt
BT Darbowski, Andrew, Sgt
TG Howald, Hans, S/Sgt
WG Lusk, Robert F., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-107196 *Tempress*

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
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Crawford, William C., 1Lt
CP Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt
NAV Nurock, Leon, F/O
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
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Vitale, Hector F., 2Lt
CP Boyle, Leo J., F/O
NAV Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt
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
(Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

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	Karp, Harold, S/Sgt
TG	De Bartolo, Albert L., S/Sgt
WG	Gordley, Damon, Sgt

(Abortive Sortive)

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

P	Hallum, Bertrand, Jr., 2Lt
CP	Romstad, Alfred N., 2Lt
NAV	Olson, Charles F., 2Lt
BOM	Fetzko, John, Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Young, Horace B., S/Sgt
RO	Botkin, Jack S., S/Sgt
BT	Ax, Heinz R., Sgt
TG	Ross, Milt I., Sgt
WG	Stroud, George E., Jr., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-31055 *Aloha*

P	Nafius, Verner H., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Richard L., 2Lt
NAV	George, Sidney L., 2Lt
BOM	Cummins, James E., 2Lt
ENG	Ellis, Richard R., S/Sgt
RO	Birkenholz, Irving, S/Sgt
BT	McGinley, James E., Sgt
TG	Jinkens, Billy B., Sgt
WG	Rydquist, Roy K., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Schuknecht, Frederick R., Capt
CP	Brown, Leonard M., 1Lt
NAV	Vell, Ona L., 1Lt
BOM	Zwayer, James P., 1Lt
ENG	Jamison, Charles A., T/Sgt
RO	Libert, Irving, T/Sgt
BT	La Franchi, Albert S., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Francis D., S/Sgt
WG	Enget, Obert L., S/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Gallagher, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Bitel, Peter, 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Edward G., 2Lt
BOM	Parker, Joseph B., 2Lt
TT	Garrett, Joe W., S/Sgt
BT	Czerwonka, Joseph A., Sgt
RO	Islava, Joseph O., Sgt
TG	Jacques, Warren, S/Sgt
WG	Joyce, Jess, S/Sgt

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

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

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

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

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

P	Clark, Henry C., 2Lt
CP	Vesy, 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

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
OBS	Morrow, T.B., Col

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

P	Means, Wilford T., 2Lt
CP	Luther, Joseph P., 2Lt
NAV	Sumbur, Simon, 2Lt
BOM	Keese, Thomas R., 2Lt
TT	Payne, Joseph E., S/Sgt
BT	Miller, Robert L., Sgt
RO	May, J.H., S/Sgt
TG	Turner, James W., Sgt
WG	Sileo, J.J., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 2Lt
CP Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV Sandhagen, Paul R., 2Lt
TT Jones, Jesse T., Jr., S/Sgt
BT Kidd, Robert E., Sgt
RO Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG Watson, Byron W., Sgt
WG Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt
WG Henry, Donivan D., Sgt

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

P Cook, Harry S., 2Lt
CP Mason, Frederick H., 2Lt
NAV Page, Ralph E., 2Lt
BOM Warmuth, Werner G., 2Lt
TT Slight, Joseph L., S/Sgt
BT Eaglehouse, Robert F., Sgt
RO Howell, Forrest W., S/Sgt
TG Smalley, John L., Sgt
WG Duggan, William W., Sgt

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

P Hamilton, Max B., 2Lt
CP Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
NAV Dombrowski, Alexander, 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

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

P Beiser, Theodore R., 1Lt
CP Schulstad, Louis M., Maj
NAV Shupe, John W., 1Lt
NAV Pandy, Bert J., 2Lt
BOM McCormick, James E., Capt
TT Buchanan, Lonnie J., T/Sgt
BT Latta, Charles W., S/Sgt
RO Gorchesky, Benny J., T/Sgt
WG Haines, James W., S/Sgt
TG Mowatt, Frank G., 2Lt