

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 213

28 July 1944

Target: Leuna Synthetic Oil Plant, Merseburg, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 37

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,200, 25,200 & 24,200 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

Thirty-seven 303rd BG(H) aircraft, plus two 305BG PFF B-17s, departed Molesworth to bomb the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, Germany. Aircraft of the 303rd BG(H) flew as the 41st CBW-A which was led by Lt. Col. William R. **Calhoun**. No aircraft returned early.

Thirty-seven aircraft dropped 370 500-lb. M43 bombs. PFF bombing was utilized and results could not be observed. In the target area, there were 8/10 to 9/10 altostratus clouds with tops at 16,000 ft., with 3/10 to 4/10 tops of swelling cumulus extending to 20,000 ft. with occasional tops at 23,000 ft.

No enemy aircraft was spotted. Moderate to intense and fairly accurate flak was encountered in the target area, and meager and fairly accurate fire at Zeitz. Two aircraft sustained major and eight, minor battle damage.



SELWYN D. FLOWERS CREW - 427th BS

(crew assigned 427BS: 30 June 1944 - photo: June 1944)

(Back L-R) S/Sgt Joseph P. Kiely (E), Sgt Robert H. Hitchcock (R), Sgt Lewis J. McCormick (BT),

Sgt Charles E. Howell (WG), Sgt Paul H. Schulz (TG), S/Sgt Charles P. Kopriva (R)

(Front L-R) 2Lt Selwyn D. Flowers (P), F/O John R. Harris (CP),

2Lt William E. Olson (B), 2Lt John P. Emmet (N)

JULY 28, 1944, MERSEBURG, GERMANY
from the book "25 Milk Runs" by Richard R. "Dick" Johnson

Today's mission would take us keep into Germany to the Luena Oil Works at Merseburg, the most heavily defended city in Germany, where strong enemy resistance is always encountered. My second new crew was going with me in the B-17 named "*Betty Jane*" that I had flown several times before, including the glide bomb attack on Cologne.

This morning the 303rd Bomb Group put up 37 aircraft, taking off between the hours of 0550 and 0619 to make assembly over the Harrington buncher at 9,000 feet. Each B-17 was carrying ten, five hundred pound bombs.

During assembly my aircraft was approached by another B-17 which caused me to fly a 360 degree turn to stay out of his way. By the time I returned to the assembly area, the 303rd Group was too far ahead for me to catch up, so I latched onto the 379th out of Kimbolton which I knew was going to the same target. Many pilots aborted when they couldn't find their group and I didn't want this stigma attached to me. Had I not known the destination of the 379th, I would have had no choice but to abort. I could have climbed steeply, or dived to get away from the intruding B-17, but being heavily loaded, this would put undue stress on the wings and tail, so I chose to circle.

My new co-pilot for the day was J.A. Drewry with all his crew, except his co-pilot who was flying with yet another experienced pilot.

During this mission the 303rd saw no enemy fighters, but the 379th that I was flying with encountered a few. Our top turret gunner, Sgt. E.H. Koch fired at an FW-190 that seemed to be trying to drag a bomb on a long wire through our formation. That bomb didn't explode and Koch didn't seem to hit the FW-190 who was about three thousand feet above us flying in the same direction. The fighters were not pressing any attacks for some reason not clear to me unless they were waiting to see the big explosion that never came. There were no P-51s in the immediate area, so we should have been attacked. We encountered flak at seven different locations on this mission, but the "*Betty Jane*" only suffered two minor flak wounds on this trip.

We had been discharging chaff to foil the German radar and it seemed to do some good. The target was overcast, so the German gunners could not sight visually, nor could we bomb visually. Most of the heavy concentration of flak seemed to always be behind us.

Evidently we didn't do such a good job on the synthetic oil plant, as we later learned that we would go back to the same target tomorrow.

Our flight time was eight hours and ten minutes, with four hours and twenty minutes over enemy territory.

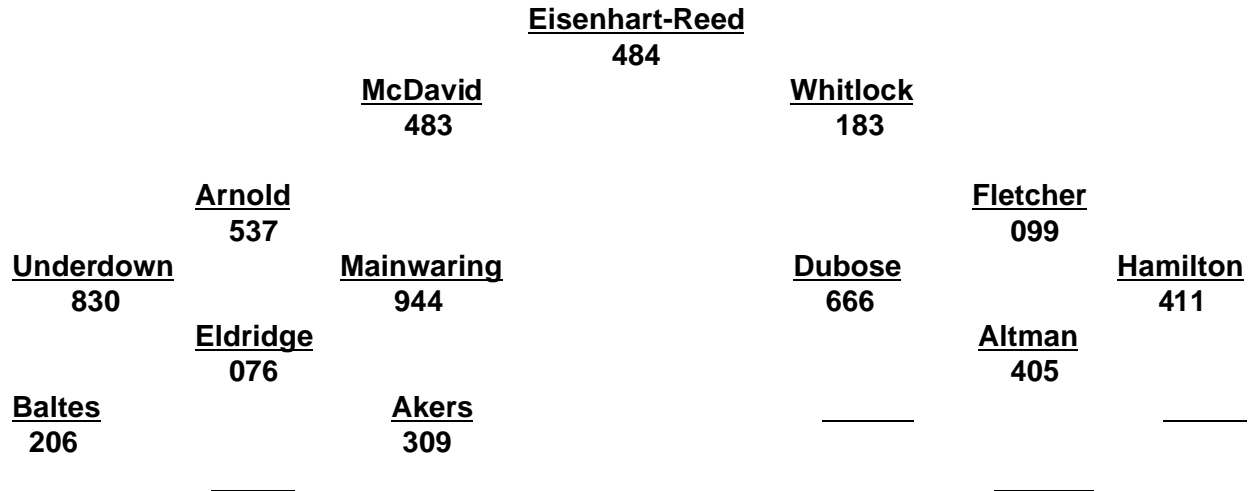
Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Calhoun-C. Johnson</u> 592 - PFF			
		<u>Kirkland</u> 739		<u>Wilson</u> 699 - PFF	
	<u>Stein</u> 086			<u>Flowers</u> 597	
<u>Charnick</u> 006		<u>McConnell</u> 680		<u>Clark</u> 423	<u>Brown</u> 885
	<u>Vermeer</u> 972			<u>Larson</u> 085	
<u>Lee</u> 949		<u>Freeland</u> 590	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Schuknecht-Wilson</u> 629			
		<u>Michaelis</u> 546		<u>Bennett</u> 841	
	<u>Tellinghuisen</u> 340			<u>Cook</u> 595	
<u>Vitale</u> 861		<u>Hallum</u> 930		<u>R. Johnson</u> 027	<u>McCall</u> 569
	<u>Fontana</u> 893			<u>Yarnall</u> 124	
<u>Nafius</u> 853		<u>Baehr</u> 196	_____		_____
	_____			_____	

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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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 #42-31739 *Pugnacious Peter*

P Kirkland, Robert A., 2Lt
 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 #44-6006 (No Name)

P Charnick, Roman P., 2Lt
 CP Satre, Leland H., 2Lt
 NAV Goldfield, Solomon, 2Lt
 BOM Barkin, Herbert L., 1Lt
 ENG Carrissimo, Paul P., S/Sgt
 WG Herod, Francis G., Sgt
 RO Neidringhaus, Robert H., S/Sgt
 TG Schulz, Arthur W., Sgt
 BT Byrd, Fred O., Sgt

B-17G #42-97085 (No Name)

P Larson, Oliver B., 2Lt
 CP Kersting, George B., 2Lt
 NAV Gard, John M., 2Lt
 BOM Draves, John J., 2Lt
 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

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

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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	Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt

B-17G #44-6086 *My Blonde Baby*

P	Stein, Lawrence J., 1Lt
CP	Riseden, Jack W., 2Lt
NAV	Larkworthy, Bernard J., 2Lt
BOM	Carloss, Earl W., 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 #42-97699 - PFF (305BG)

P	Wilson, Quentin, 1Lt
CP	Shwery, A.J., 2Lt
NAV	Milchionni, R.F., 2Lt
NAV	Sarto, J.M., 1Lt
BOM	Peters, J.J., 1Lt
ENG	Lien, O.M., S/Sgt
AE	Markoff, Sam, Sgt
RO	Souita, J.E., S/Sgt
WG	Ciejka, W.C., Sgt

B-17G #42-97592 - PFF (305BG)

P	Calhoun, William R., Jr., Col
CP	Johnson, Charles E., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., Capt
NAV	Prince, Alan M., 1Lt
BOM	Prussman, Henry G., 1Lt
ENG	Alston, Madison I., T/Sgt
AE	Yonge, Walter C., S/Sgt
RO	Conlan, Thomas J., T/Sgt
ARO	Hollritt, Alfred K., S/Sgt
GUN	Desmond, MacChesney, 1Lt
PAS	Gable, Richard E., 2Lt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P Baltés, 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 #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

B-17G #44-6309 *Duchess' Granddaughter*

P Akers, Robert O., 2Lt
CP Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV Montone, Neil A., 2Lt
TOG Meier, Wayne E., T/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 #42-31483 *Bonnie B*

P McDavid, Philip H., 2Lt
CP Beeman, Richard, 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

B-17G #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*

P Arnold, William J., 1Lt
CP Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt
NAV Claster, Stanley M., 2Lt
BOM Callahan, Ellsworth D., 2Lt
ENG Williams, Robert M., S/Sgt
RO Moreira, Joseph A., S/Sgt
BT McClure, James D., Sgt
TG Surrell, John M., Sgt
WG Lichtenwalter, Ralph W., Sgt

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

P Eldridge, Truman K., 2Lt
CP Sheehan, Daniel J., Jr., 2Lt
NAV Durkin, James A., 2Lt
BOM Campbell, Sanders H., 2Lt
ENG Barnes, Frederick E., S/Sgt
RO Rowlett, Samuel A., S/Sgt
BT Strong, Ralph T., Cpl
TG Panos, Andrew T., Cpl
WG Wesley, LaFon, Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Whitlock, Garland M., 2Lt
CP	Ward, Duane G., 2Lt
NAV	Kelly, Thomas N., 2Lt
BOM	Scheibman, Herman B., 2Lt
ENG	Popovich, William G., Sgt
RO	Pomicter, Stanley, Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Boyle, Francis L., Jr., Sgt
TG	Gremillion, Raymond L., S/Sgt
WG	Harwat, Edward D., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

P	Underdown, Sidney L., 2Lt
CP	Walker, Lewis M., 1Lt
NAV	Kenny, John P., 2Lt
BOM	Tyree, Joseph C., 2Lt
ENG	Kuwik, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Posada, Frank G., S/Sgt
BT	Guptill, Walter R., Sgt
TG	Stevens, Richard G., Sgt
WG	Botton, Pius L., Sgt

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

P	Eisenhart, William E., Capt
CP	Reed, John W., 1Lt
NAV	Ehrke, Warren D., 1Lt
BOM	Bowen, Richard R., Capt
ENG	See, Cecil J., T/Sgt
RO	Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
BT	Stephan, Kenneth R., S/Sgt
TG	Franceschini, James V., S/Sgt
WG	Umberger, Robert C., S/Sgt
PHO	Frederick, Lee W., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*

P	Mainwaring, Charles O., 2Lt
CP	Crozier, Harry J., 1Lt
NAV	Hammond, Raymond D., 2Lt
BOM	Stone, Leonard, 2Lt
ENG	Gauthier, Leon C., S/Sgt
RO	Tognetti, Paul A., S/Sgt
BT	Cottrell, Bert, Sgt
TG	Dittman, Robert J., Sgt
WG	Angeloff, James P., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97893 *Minnie the Moocher*

P	Fontana, Bernard C., 1Lt
CP	Cambren, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Conklin, James M., 2Lt
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 #44-6124 (*No Name*)

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 #42-107196 *Temptress*

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 #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III*

P	Vitale, Hector F., 2Lt
CP	Goff, Lloyd E., 2Lt
NAV	Hardwick, Jack C., 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

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

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

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

P	Schuknecht, Frederick R., Capt
CP	Wilson, William M., 1Lt
NAV	Blumenthal, Robert, 2Lt
BOM	Sudderth, Ralph M., 1Lt
ENG	Asplund, Carl L., T/Sgt
RO	Means, Robert D., T/Sgt
BT	Case, Donald G., S/Sgt
TG	Sauer, George N., S/Sgt
WG	Sabuda, Emil S., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-37930 (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

B-17G #42-37841 Banshee

P	Bennett, Paul K., 2Lt
CP	Cohl, Jules R., 1Lt
NAV	Lane, Elwin A., F/O
BOM	Singular, William H., 2Lt
ENG	Gonshor, Edmund A., S/Sgt
RO	Shulan, Gerald M., S/Sgt
BT	Jones, Charles E., Sgt
TG	Essig, Charles G., Sgt
WG	Marucco, Leroy N., Sgt

B-17G #42-31340 Miss Liberty

P	Tellinghuisen, Oscar A., 2Lt
CP	Atwell, Arley L., 1Lt
NAV	Roche, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Benford, Jack H., 2Lt
ENG	Manser, Charles, T/Sgt
RO	Haynie, John D., T/Sgt
BT	Watson, Judson F., S/Sgt
TG	Hudson, Ward A., S/Sgt
WG	Jacobs, John W., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-97546 Idaliza

P	Michaelis, Arthur D., 2Lt
CP	Howard, Victor L., 2Lt
NAV	Lillig, Thomas J., 2Lt
BOM	Schobert, William A., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Donald E., S/Sgt
RO	Jensen, Dale E., S/Sgt
BT	Barth, Harry W., Sgt
TG	Healy, Edward P., Sgt
WG	Hlavac, George A., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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 #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
ENG	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

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 #43-37666 *Full House*

P	Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
BOM	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

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

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., 1Lt
CP	Newman, Vernon V., 2Lt
NAV	Malone, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Henry, Donovan D., Sgt
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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 2Lt
CP Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt
NAV Rusk, Donald M., 2Lt
WG Johnson, O.D., Sgt
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

B-17G #42 32027 *Betty Jane*

P Johnson, Richard R., 2Lt
CP Drewry, James A., 2Lt
NAV Mayo, Archie W., 2Lt
BOM Burke, James D., 2Lt
TT Koch, Edward H., Sgt
BT Morin, Donald P., S/Sgt
RO Nash, Leslie G., Sgt
TG Fidell, Frederick C., Sgt
WG Dorrah, Walter R., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102569 *Miss Lace*

P McCall, Robert S., 2Lt
CP Davis, Robert W., 2Lt
NAV Martin, Walter E., Jr., F/O
BOM Bryan, Fred W., F/O
TT Hughes, Roy D., Sgt
BT Johnson, Charles H., Sgt
RO Gorman, Eugene R., Sgt
TG Foley, William J., Sgt
WG Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., Sgt