

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 229

15 August 1944

Airfield near Wiesbaden, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Crews Lost: 9 A/C, 23 KIA, 48 POW, 10 EVD

Crewmembers Lost or Wounded: 1 KIA, 2 WIA

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 46 minutes

Bomb Load: 4 x 1,000 lb G.P. M43

& 4 x 500 lb M17 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 25,600, 25,500 & 24,900 ft

Ammo Fired: 50,050 rounds

**T**hirty-nine 303rd BG(H) B-17s took off, flying as the 41st "B" CBW formation. Thirty-seven aircraft dropped a total of 147 1,000-lb. M43 and 146 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs on the primary target. Hits were made on one hangar with a near miss on another. The airfield landing ground sustained numerous hits, the entire area was blanketed by incendiary bombs. Three hits were made on a railroad line. Bombing was from 25,600, 25,500, and 24,900 ft.

Moderate to intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered at the target, chiefly from Frankfurt. It was also observed from several other areas. Chaff had very little beneficial effect. Eleven aircraft returned with flak battle damage and three wounded airmen. From 25 to 40 enemy aircraft were reported. Claims were:

<b>Gunner Claims:</b>	<b>Destroyed 6, Probable 3, Damaged 0, Total 9</b>		
<b>Confirmed Claims:</b>	<b>information not available</b>		
T/Sgt Robert <b>Passenant</b> (944)	ME-109	Destroyed	Unknown
Sgt Robert <b>Kidd</b> (027)	ME-210	Destroyed	Unknown
Sgt Charles <b>Johnson</b> (875)	FW-190	Destroyed	Unknown
S/Sgt Andrew <b>Younger</b> (329)	FW-190	Destroyed	Unknown
S/Sgt Donald P. <b>Morin</b> (597)	FW-190	Destroyed	Unknown
1Lt James P. <b>Morrison</b> (065)	FW-190	Probable	Unknown
T/Sgt Willis E. <b>Varvil</b> (065)	FW-190	Destroyed	Unknown
T/Sgt Pete M. <b>Kalasky</b> (986)	FW-190	Probable	Unknown
Sgt Richard G. <b>Stevens</b> and S/Sgt John J. <b>Kuwik</b> (483)	FW-190	Probable	Unknown

At 1148 hours, about 45 miles from the target on the return journey, the formation was attacked by 20 to 25 German aircraft. Up to this time friendly fighter support had been good, but the fighters had left the bombers and were not in sight. The very intense and fast developing attack was centered on the low 358BS formation of 13 aircraft. The enemy aircraft, from high and rear of the low Group, attacked from out of the sun, giving no advance warning of their presence. Nine low Group aircraft were downed – seven from the 358BS and two from the 427BS. One of the four low Group surviving aircraft, #42-37875 *Flying Bison*, 427BS, piloted by 2Lt. Robert W. **Davis**, and in the No. 4 position in the high element of the low Group, reported:

Immediately after being warned by Tail Gunner Sgt. W.J. **Foley**, Lt. **Davis** began

violent evasive action. Two FW-190s engaged them, making one pass before disappearing. *Flying Bison* sustained numerous hits, causing Lt. **Davis** to lose altitude from 22,000 to 17,500 ft. and become separated from the rest of the formation. Fighting to get the aircraft back on an even keel, Lt. **Davis** began to take stock of his aircraft and crew. The Engineer, Sgt. R.D. **Hughes**, had been instantly killed by a 20mm cannon shell while flying in the waist gunner position. Radio Operator Sgt. E.R. **Gorman** was wounded in his right ankle and Tail Gunner Sgt. **Foley** in the leg and foot. The Navigator, Lt. G.L. **Lange**, and Bombardier, F/O F.W. **Bryan**, were sent back to the waist to administer first aid. Aircraft damage was very severe. The amplifiers and turbos were shot out, rudder controls were useless, the fuselage looked like a sieve, and the No. 4 engine was not functioning properly. The No. 4 propeller then ran away and was feathered. The engine was restarted, but began spurting oil and dropping pressure. It was again feathered for the remainder of the mission. To maintain the 17,500 ft. altitude, airspeed was dropped to 140 mph. The wounded were made as comfortable as possible. Friendly fighters were attracted by firing flares and provided escort for the return journey. Upon reaching the English Channel, Lt. **Davis**, struggling to maintain altitude, saw that they could reach England. He put the B-17 in a shallow dive that increased air speed to 185 mph while crossing the Channel at 15,500 ft. Upon reaching Molesworth, he notified the tower of his injured crewmen. The tower had Lt. **Davis** make two runway passes. With no rudders he made a long approach to a perfect landing. When the wheels touched the ground, he noticed that the left wheel tire was flat. Only with extremely keen judgment and control did he prevent further disaster. The aircraft was damaged to such an extent that no attempt was made at repairs. Parts were salvaged. Sgts. **Foley** and **Gorman** were hospitalized.



**ORIGINAL HARRY S. COOK CREW - 427th BS**

**(crew assigned 427BS: 22 June 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Werner G. Warmuth (B), 2Lt Ralph E. Page (N), 2Lt Frederick H. Mason (CP),  
1Lt Harry S. Cook (P) - (Front L-R) Sgt William W. Duggan (WG), S/Sgt Forrest W. Howell (R),  
Sgt Robert F. Eaglehouse (BT), Sgt Clifford J. Fisher (WG),  
S/Sgt Joseph L. Slight (E), Sgt John L. Smalley (TG)

#42-102432 *Tiny Angel*, 427BS, piloted by 1Lt. Harry S. **Cook**, exploded and crashed near Malberg. Most of the crew parachuted. Lt. **Cook**, S/Sgt. Joseph L. **Slight**, and S/Sgt. Jess **Joyce** were killed. S/Sgt. **Slight** and S/Sgt. **Joyce** are buried in Lorraine American Cemetery near Moselle, France. 2Lt. Frederick H. **Mason**, 2Lt. Ralph E. **Page**, 2Lt. Werner G. **Warmuth**, S/Sgt. Forrest W. **Howell** were captured and became POWs. Sgt. John L. **Smalley's** leg was shot off. He was captured and then was repatriated.

S/Sgt. James D. **Cox**, togglier in #43-37930 (*No Name*), 360BS, was hospitalized for lacerations to the face and glass in his eyes. Incomplete reports by the returning crewmen made it difficult to determine the condition and circumstances of the lost aircraft. Some were reported as exploding in the air and others were seen going down in flames. Reports of parachutes were also confusing and inaccurate.



**ORIGINAL HENRY C. CLARK CREW - 427th BS**

**(crew assigned 427BS: 04 July 1944 - photo: June 1944)**

(Back L-R) S/Sgt Harold P. Scott (E), S/Sgt Frederick Roswal (R), Sgt Cyrus S. Cruttenden (WG),  
Sgt Charles A. Sikora, Jr. (BT), Sgt Robert L. Schlotterbeck (WG), Sgt Edwin W. Bjorn (TG)  
(Front L-R) 1Lt Henry C. Clark (P), 2Lt Gilbert P. Vesey (CP), 2Lt Ralph J. Davies (N), F/O Earl E. Brosius (B)

#42-31423 *Jigger Rooche*, 427BS, piloted by 1Lt. Henry C. **Clark**, was shot down 8 km northeast of Bitburg at Bickenforf and exploded. Lt. **Clark**, 2Lt. Gilbert P. **Vesey**, 2Lt. Ralph J. **Davies**, F/O Earl E. **Brosius**, S/Sgt. Harold P. **Scott** and S/Sgt. Frederick **Roswal** were killed. Lt. **Clark**, Lt. **Vesey**, Lt. **Davies** and F/O **Brosius** are buried in Lorraine American Cemetery near Moselle, France. Sgt. Charles A. **Sikora**, Jr., Sgt. Cyrus S. **Cruttenden** and Sgt. Edwin W. **Bjorn** were captured and taken prisoner.



**ORIGINAL LAWRENCE J. STEIN CREW - 358th BS**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 13 June 1944 - photo: crew training in Sioux City, IA)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Lawrence J. Stein (P), 2Lt Jack W. Riseden (CP), 2Lt Bernard J. Larkworthy (N),  
2Lt Earl W. Carlross (B) - (Front L-R) S/Sgt Clarence J. Williams (TG),  
T/Sgt Fred R. Meyer (R), S/Sgt Arlie E. Winn (WG), T/Sgt Harry R. Card (E),  
S/Sgt William P. Truesdell (BT), S/Sgt Manley E. Grissom (WG)



*Fearless Fosdick Nose Art*

The lead aircraft, #43-37838 *Fearless Fosdick*, 358BS, piloted by Capt. Arnold S. **Litman** and Lawrence J. **Stein**, was observed going down in flames. No parachutes were seen. It crash landed near Wittlich, Germany. A 20mm shell exploded in Bombardier 2Lt. Lawrence M. **Wolf's** back. He immediately lost consciousness and died within 10 minutes. 1Lt. Wayne E. **Krouskup**, navigator, tended him until he died. The Germans removed his body from the

B-17 after the landing. Lt. L.M. **Wolf** is buried in Restland Memorial Park, Dallas, TX. Capt. **Litman**, 1Lt. Lawrence J. **Stein**, 1Lt. **Krouskup**, T/Sgt. Harry R. **Card**, T/Sgt. Fred R. **Meyer**, S/Sgt. Manley E. **Grissom** and S/Sgt. Clarence J. **Williams** were all managed to evade the enemy. S/Sgt. William P. **Truesdell** was captured and escaped two times. He returned to London 5 Sep 1944.

The right wing of #44-6086 *My Blonde Baby*, 358BS, piloted by 2Lt. Oliver B. **Larson**, exploded and came off. The aircraft crashed at Seffern, Germany. 2Lt. John J. **Draves** was killed. Lt. **Larson**, 2Lt. George B. **Kersting**, S/Sgt. Robert E. **O'Connor**, S/Sgt. Donald F. **Mullaney**, Sgt. Charles R. **Sweeney**, Sgt. Huber D. **Holland** and Sgt.



*B-17G #42-6086 My Blonde Baby 358BS (VK-L)*

Norbert M. **Philson** were all captured and became prisoners. 2Lt. John M. **Gard** evaded the enemy and then was captured and taken prisoner.



**ORIGINAL ALFRED I. SMITH CREW - 358th BS**

**B-17G #42-102945 Sweet Pea (358BS) VK-M**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 14 July 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Robert G. King (CP), 2Lt Stanley A. Kemp (B),

2Lt Alfred I. Smith (P), 2Lt Emerson Jones, Jr. (B)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt Richard A. Swanson (R), Sgt Jack D. Fischer (BT), S/Sgt Martin M. Harbarger (E),

Sgt Sam S. Bruno (TG), Sgt Harvey A. Fulp (WG), Sgt Edward Beres (WG)

The crew bailed out of #44-6291 (*No Name*), 358BS, piloted by 2Lt. Alfred I. **Smith**. The aircraft crashed at Orsfield. 2Lt. Robert G. **King**, was captured and taken prisoner, but died on 20 August 1944. Sgt. Edward **Beres** and Sgt. Sam S. **Bruno** were killed. The three are buried in Luxembourg American Cemetery at Luxembourg City. Lt. **Smith**, 2Lt. Emerson **Jones**, Jr., 2Lt. Stanley A. **Kemp**, S/Sgt. Martin M. **Harbarger**, S/Sgt. Richard A. **Swanson** and Sgt. Jack D. **Fischer** were captured and taken prisoner.

#42-102680 (*No Name*), 358BS, piloted by 2Lt. John L. **Cathey**, exploded and some of the crew were spotted bailing out one km northwest of Rommersheim. Lt. **Cathey** reported that they were hit by an ME-109 fighter which set the No. 3 engine and gas tank on fire. Sgt. Arie **Moerman** was killed when he was hit by a 20mm shell. Lt. **Cathey**, 2Lt. Chad W. **Stephens**, 2Lt. Charles S. **Jackson**, 2Lt. Richard T. **Blomberg**, Jr., Sgt. Howard B. **Reichling** and Sgt. Nicholas R. **Raspa** were all captured and taken prisoner. Sgt. Lamar H. **Whittier** and Sgt. Bert C. **Nelson** managed to evade capture.

#42-31224 *Hell in the Heavens*, 358BS, piloted by 2Lt. Samuel C. **Smithy**, was hit from the rear by FW-190s. The pilot tried to fly evasive action, gave the bailout order, and put the B-17 on automatic pilot. when fire was seen on the left wing, he bailed out. The co-pilot, Lt. Ernest P. **Boat**, flew the aircraft for another ten minutes before bailing out himself. The Fortress crashed and explode in the Koblenz, Germany, area near Adenau/Eifel. The crewmen in the rear of the aircraft, Sgt. Archie E. **Snoddy**, Sgt. Roman S. **Politylo**, Sgt.



**ORIGINAL SAMUEL C. SMITHY CREW - 358th BS**  
**B-17G Sweet Pea #42-102945 (VK-M)**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 15 July 1944 - photo: 31 July 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Samuel C. Smithy (P), 2Lt E. Paul Boat (CP), 2Lt Lansing L. Joralemon (N), 2Lt Robert J. Klein (B)  
 (Front L-R) Sgt Juan A. Baso-Fontaneil (WG), Sgt Roman S. Politylo (WG), S/Sgt Raymond E. Fisher (E),  
 Sgt Leonard B. Feldman (WG), Sgt Archie E. Snoddy (R), Sgt Walter J. Bieranoski (TG)

Juan A. **Bazo-Fontaneil** and Sgt. Walter J. **Bieranoski**, were killed. Lt. **Smithy**, Lt. **Boat**, 2Lt. Lansing L. **Joralemon**, 2Lt. Robert J. **Klein**, and S/Sgt. Raymond E. **Fisher** became POWs after successful parachute jumps.

Four of the engines of #42-97085 (*No Name*), 358BS, piloted by 1Lt. Roman P. **Charnick**, were on fire and two parachutes were observed. The aircraft pulled straight up and exploded — scrap landed as far as 14 km northeast of Bitburg near Wittlich. Lt. **Charnick** and Sgt. Fred O. **Byrd** were killed. 2Lt. Leland H. **Satre**, 2Lt. Solomon **Goldfield**, S/Sgt. Paul P. **Carrissimo**, S/Sgt. Robert H. **Neidringhaus**, Sgt. Francis G. **Herod** and Sgt. Arthur W. **Schulz** were all captured and became prisoners. 2Lt. Lowell L. **Rickey** was able to evade the enemy and avoid capture.

Coming off the target, #42-31183, *Bad Penny*, 359BS, piloted by 2Lt. Arthur L. **Goss**, was the first 303rd BG(H) B-17 to be attacked by enemy fighters. *Bad Penny* exploded in mid-air. One burning wing crashed into Seinsfeld and set some farmhouses and barns on fire. 2Lt. Lester E. **Reuss** landed near Preist, Germany. He was caught in a tree by his chute and tried to unbuckle himself. Two unarmed German soldiers tried to help. A local Nazi party man arrived and shot Lt. **Reuss**. Two other civilians then beat him to death with a club and hammer. These three men were found guilty of murder at a war crimes trial and hanged on 29 June 1945. A "Landwacht" (Home Guard) man who watched the murder, was also sentenced to death, but his sentence was changed to life at hard labor. Sgt. Patsy **Rocco** bailed out safely, was captured and jailed at the Indenheim police post. The next day, while being transported to Bitburg, the escorting



**ORIGINAL ARTHUR L. GOSS CREW - 358th BS**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 25 July 1944 - photo: July 1944)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Malcolm M. Fouts (B), 2Lt Lester E. Reuss (N), 2Lt Harry J. Cook, Jr. (CP), 2Lt Arthur L. Goss (P)  
 (Front L-R) Sgt Roy M. Stevens (WG), Sgt James A. Earon (BT), Sgt Patsy Rocco (R),  
 Sgt Floyd Sprague (E), Sgt Norman A. Bunney (TG), Cpl Luther M. Mettauer (WG)

policeman shot and killed Sgt. **Rocco** for an uncertain reason. Witnesses claimed he was trying to escape. A war crimes trial in August, 1945, resulted in the policeman being sentenced to a life imprisonment, which was later reduced to two years. Lt. **Reuss** and Sgt. **Rocco** are buried in Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg City. Lt. **Goss**, 2Lt. Harry J. **Cook**, Jr., 2Lt. Malcolm M. **Fouts**, Sgt. Floyd A. **Sprague**, Sgt. James A. **Earon**, Sgt. Roy M. **Stevens** and Sgt. Norman A. **Bunney** were all captured and became POWs.

Only two of the nine 358BS aircraft in the low Group returned to Molesworth. Both were in the No. 3 low flight: #43-38065 *Princess Pat 2* (1Lt. **Vermeer**) and #42-97972 (*No Name*) (2Lt. **McCutcheon**). Two of the four 427BS aircraft in the #2 high flight escaped being destroyed in the enemy fighter attack: #43-37597 *Earthquake McGoon* (1Lt. **Drewry**) and #42-37875, *Flying Bison* (2Lt. **Davis**).

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

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



## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Cole-Eldridge</u> 994 - PFF		
		<u>Mowrey</u> 944	<u>Hahn</u> 986	
	<u>Baltes</u> 076		<u>Brown</u> 411	
<u>Hillary</u> 050		<u>Virag</u> 206	<u>Cureton</u> 885	<u>Dubose</u> 027
	<u>Walker</u> 496		<u>Akers</u> 309	
<u>Mainwaring</u> 830		<u>Underdown</u> 483		
	_____		_____	



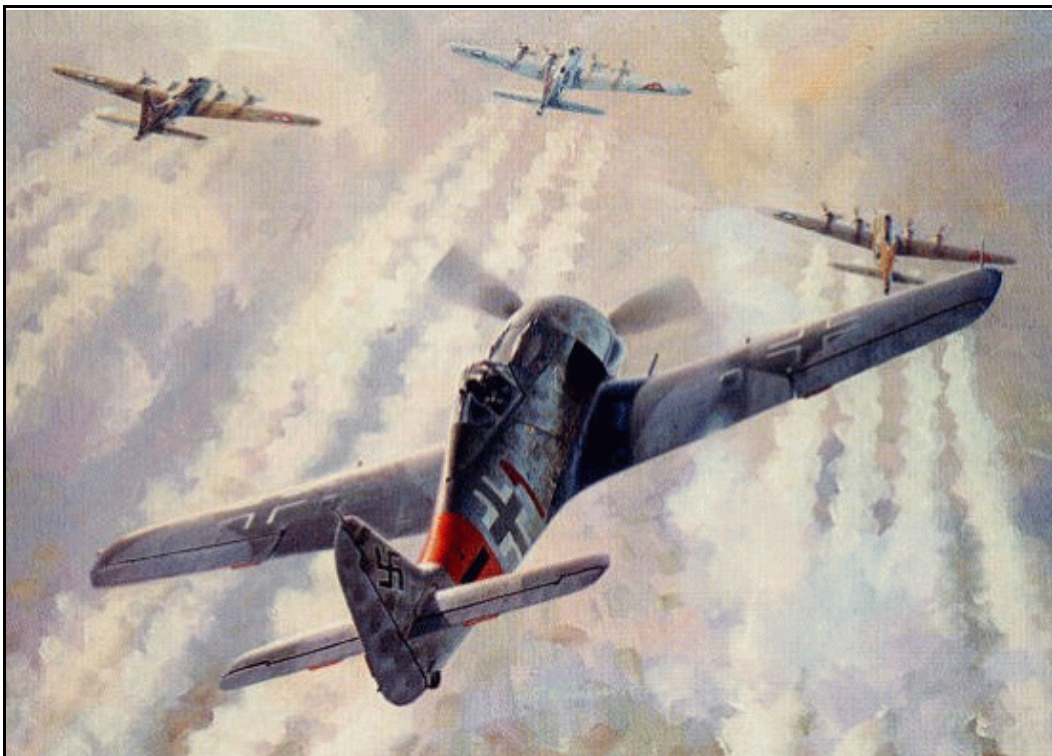
***Fortresses Under Fire by Keith Ferris (1975)***

75' x 25' oil mural at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, Washington, DC. Depicts the 70th mission of Thunderbird on 15 August 1944 to Wiesbaden, Germany. Thunderbird B-17G #42-38050 (359BS) BN-U [2Lt Jack R. Hillary Crew] Bonnie-B B-17G #42-31483 (359BS) BN-P [2Lt Sidney L. Underdown Crew] Special Delivery B-17G #42-102496 (359BS) BN-M [2Lt Lewis M. Walker Crew] Marie B-17G #42-31389 (359BS) BN-N [2Lt Charles L. Mainwaring Crew]



## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Wilson-Francis</u> 629		
		<u>Juns</u> 861	<u>Kuykendall</u> 893	
	<u>Nafius</u> 340		<u>Bliss</u> 666	
<u>Hobbs</u> 841		<u>Vitale</u> 329	<u>Eisenwinter</u> 9875	<u>Duncan</u> 060
	<u>Baehr</u> 187		<u>Hallum</u> 124	
<u>Crawford</u> 930		<u>Atwell</u> 196	_____	_____
	_____		_____	

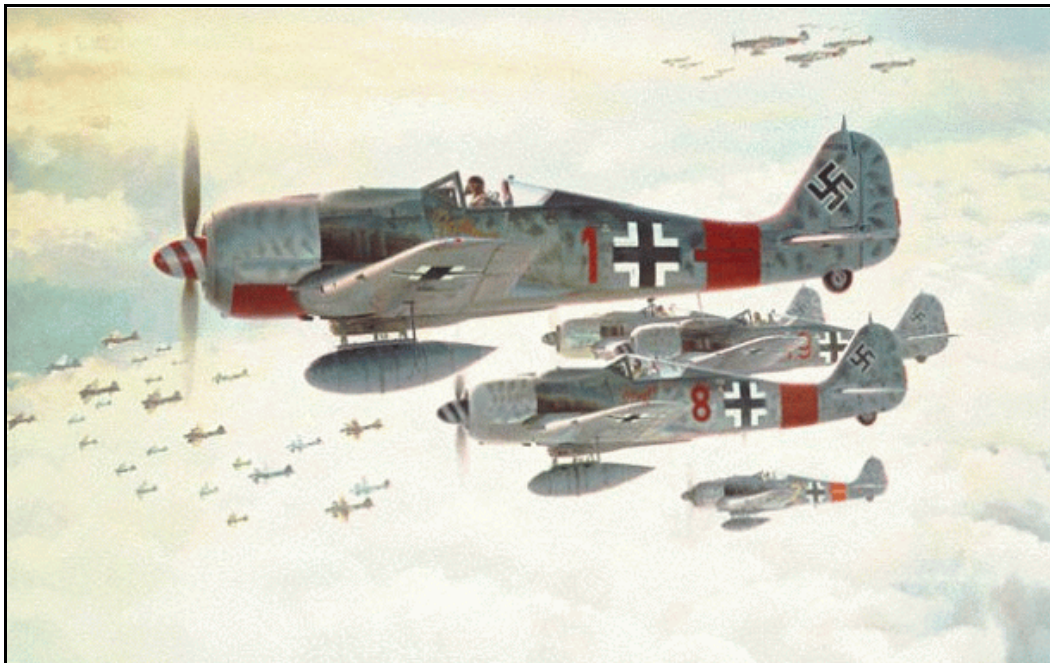


***Rauhbautz, Marie, Special Delivery, Bonnie B by Keith Ferris***

Reverse view of the Mural Fortresses Under Fire on 15 August 1944 mission. FW-190 attacking the three lowest level B-17s of the 359th BS lead Squadron formation. Rauhbautz VII FW-190 [Luftwaffe Pilot Lt Klaus Bretschneider] - Marie B-17G #42-31389 (359BS) BN-N [2Lt Charles L. Mainwaring Crew] - Special Delivery B-17G #42-102496 (359BS) BN-M [1Lt Lewis M. Walker Crew] - Bonnie B B-17G #42-31483 (359BS) BN-P [2Lt Sidney L. Underdown Crew]

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

		<u>Litman-Stein</u> 838		
		<u>Goss</u> 183	<u>Charnick</u> 085	
	<u>Vermeer</u> 065		<u>Cook</u> 432	
<u>Smithy</u> 224		<u>McCutcheon</u> 972	<u>Clark</u> 423	<u>Drewry</u> 597
	<u>Larson</u> 086		<u>Davis</u> 7875	
<u>Smith</u> 291		<u>Cathey</u> 680		
	_____		_____	



***Real Trouble by Keith Ferris***

FW-190 Luftwaffe Pilots: Klaus Bretschneider, Matches Erberdt and Ernst Schroeder. Flying past the 384th BG(H) formation on their way to attack the 303rd BG(H) formation on 15 August 1944.

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97085 (No Name) CR-L**

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

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

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

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

P	Goss, Arthur L., 2Lt	POW
CP	Cook, Harry J., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Reuss, Lester E., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Fouts, Malcolm M., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Sprague, Floyd A., Sgt	POW
WG	Stevens, Roy M., Sgt	POW
RO	Rocco, Patsy, Sgt	POW/KIA
TG	Bunney, Norman A., Sgt	POW
BT	Earon, James A., Sgt	POW

### **B-17G #43-38065 Princess Pat 2**

P	Vermeer, Bernard E., 1Lt	
CP	Byrnes, James H., 2Lt	
NAV	Metko, Earl D., 2Lt	
BOM	Morrison, James P., 1Lt	
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 #42-31224 Hell in the Heavens CR-L**

P	Smithy, Samuel C., 1Lt	POW
CP	Boat, Ernest P., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Joralemon, Lansing L., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Klein, Robert J., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Fisher, Raymond E. S/Sgt	POW
WG	Bazo-Fontaneil, Juan A., Sgt	KIA
RO	Snoddy, Archie E., Sgt	KIA
TG	Bieranoski, Walter J., Sgt	KIA
BT	Politylo, Roman S., Sgt	KIA

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

P	McCutcheon, George E., 2Lt	
CP	McGilvray, Richard L., 2Lt	
NAV	Starr, Ben, 2Lt	
BOM	Kiesel, Frederic T., 2Lt	
ENG	Burcham, Johnnie O., S/Sgt	
WG	Foulk, Donald H., Sgt	
RO	Alexander, John C., S/Sgt	
BT	Aberdeen, James E., Cpl	
TG	Kinsman, George R., Sgt	

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #42-102680 (No Name) CR-L**

P	Cathey, John L., 2Lt	POW
CP	Stephens, Chad W., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Jackson, Charles S., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Blomberg, Richard T., 2Lt	POW
ENG	Reichling, Howard B., Sgt	POW
WG	Raspa, Nicholas R., Sgt	POW
RO	Whittier, Lamar H., Sgt	EVD
TG	Moerman, Arie, Sgt	KIA
BT	Nelson, Bert C., Sgt	EVD

### **B-17G #43-37838 *Fearless Fosdick***

P	Litman, Arnold S., Capt	EVD
CP	Stein, Lawrence J., 1Lt	EVD
NAV	Krouskup, Wayne E., 1Lt	EVD
BOM	Wolf, Lawrence M., 2Lt	KIA
ENG	Card, Harry R, S/Sgt	EVD
WG	Grissom, Manley E., Sgt	EVD
RO	Meyer, Fred R., S/Sgt	EVD
BT	Truesdell, William P., Sgt	EVD
TG	Williams, Clarence J., Sgt	EVD

### **B-17G #44-6291 (No Name) CR-L**

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

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Virag, Andy R., 2Lt
CP	Beck, Edward R., 2Lt
NAV	Harrison, Hertzell, 2Lt
BOM	Rhyne, John C., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Jeter, James E., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Vrabel, Cyril A., S/Sgt
BT	Gurka, Stanley, Jr., Sgt
TG	Bowman, John H., Sgt
WG	Schalk, Raymond M., Sgt

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

P	Baltes, George E., 1Lt
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 #42-31830 *Marie***

P	Mainwaring, Charles O., 2Lt
CP	Bach, Harold J., 2Lt
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

### **B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

P	Hillary, Jack R., 2Lt
CP	Robertson, William III, 2Lt
NAV	Rice, John E., 2Lt
BOM	DeFilippis, Rocco, 2Lt
ENG	Paul, George E., S/Sgt
RO	Girman, Eugene E., S/Sgt
BT	Bishop, Neldon R., Sgt
TG	Watson, James R., Pvt
WG	Pordham, Jack F., T/Sgt

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

P	Akers, Robert O., 1Lt
CP	Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt
NAV	Montone, Neil A., 2Lt
TOG	Cappucci, Joseph R., S/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 #42-102496 *Special Delivery***

P	Walker, Lewis M., 1Lt
CP	Doyle, Joseph J., 2Lt
NAV	Wodinsky, Abraham, 2Lt
BOM	Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
ENG	Sublett, James W., S/Sgt
RO	Lunday, Albert J., S/Sgt
BT	Hundley, Walter L., Sgt
TG	Reckert, Arthur C., Sgt
WG	Mathis, Henry C., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Mowrey, Paul M., 2Lt
CP	Quiggle, Robert D., 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 #42-31483 *Bonnie B***

P	Underdown, Sidney L., 2Lt
CP	Knolle, William C., 2Lt
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 #42-97994 - PFF**

P	Cole, Richard H., LtCol
CP	Eldridge, Truman K., 1Lt
NAV	Lunde, Frithjof M., Capt
NAV	Carey, William D., 1Lt
BOM	Hoover, William L., 1Lt
NAV	Estes, Kith E., 1Lt
ENG	Stenger, John J., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Rowlett, Samuel A., T/Sgt
BT	Strong, Ralph T., S/Sgt
TG	Sheehan, Daniel J., 2Lt
WG	Wesley, LaFon, S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-107196 *Temptress***

P	Atwell, Arley L., 2Lt
CP	Howard, Victor L., 2Lt
NAV	Mundell, William K., F/O
BOM	Howald, Hans, S/Sgt
ENG	Girard, Louis P., S/Sgt
RO	Dennerle, Almo W., T/Sgt
BT	Watson, Judson F., S/Sgt
TG	Northam, James B., S/Sgt
WG	Donohoe, Thomas D., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-37841 *Banshee***

P	Hobbs, Willard, 1Lt
CP	Huckins, Earl R., 2Lt
NAV	Wade, Robert E., 2Lt
BOM	Hudson, Ward A., 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 #42-97329 *Flak Hack***

P	Vitale, Hector F., 1Lt
CP	Boyle, Leo J., F/O
NAV	Woodbury, Benton R., 2Lt
BOM	Rice, Charles G., S/Sgt
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 #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago***

P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 1Lt
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 #44-6124 *(No Name)***

P	Hallum, Bertrand, Jr., 2Lt
CP	Romstad, Alfred M., 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 #42-97861 *Iza Vailable III***

P	Juns, Frank, 2Lt
CP	Beasley, Roland C., 2Lt
NAV	Harding, Warren G., 2Lt
BOM	Thomas, Edward H., 2Lt
ENG	Finnell, Calvin E., S/Sgt
RO	Wimer, Maurice H., Sgt
BT	Oberly, Eldridge C., Sgt
TG	Englis, Hiram E., Cpl
WG	Branin, James J., Cpl

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

P	Kuykendall, Roger L., 1Lt
CP	Norris, Loy R., 2Lt
NAV	Klein, Norman M., 2Lt
BOM	Rape, Sylvester H., 2Lt
ENG	Evans, Harry D., S/Sgt
BT	Boone, Everett D., Sgt
RO	Barton, Forrest E., S/Sgt
TG	Alexander, John P., Sgt
WG	Dubin, Martin M., Sgt

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

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



## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #42-97986 - PFF (384BG)**

P	Hahn, James T., 1Lt
CP	Fulks, James O., 2Lt
NAV	Saum, Lisle G., 2Lt
NAV	Sanford, Isaac N., 2Lt
BOM	Parrila, Rufe H., 1Lt
ENG	Kalasky, Pete M., T/Sgt
RO	Conkling, John R., S/Sgt
BT	Darbowski, Andrew, Sgt
TG	Babbitt, Bruce E., S/Sgt
WG	Lusk, Robert F., S/Sgt

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

P	Wilson, William M., 1Lt
CP	Francis, John R., 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
OBS	Zaphiriou, James G., Sgt

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

P	Crawford, William C., 1Lt	
CP	Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt	
NAV	Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt	
BOM	Cox, James D., S/Sgt	WIA
ENG	LeRoux, Lyle W., T/Sgt	
RO	Miller, William L., T/Sgt	
BT	Whitney, Daniel F., S/Sgt	
TG	Barder, Emmett R., S/Sgt	
WG	Patton, Nelson R., S/Sgt	



***Going home from Wiesbaden by William C. Crawford***

Lt Crawford Crew in 360th BS B-17G #42-37930 on their way home to Molesworth after bombing Wiesbaden, Germany on 15 August 1944.

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Bliss, Robert P., 1Lt
CP	Morrow, John E., 2Lt
NAV	Emmet, John P., 2Lt
BOM	Olson, William E., 2Lt
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

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

P	Eisenwinter, Philip D., 2Lt
CP	Waggoner, Richard C., 2Lt
NAV	Norman, Frederick J., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Robert C., 2Lt
TT	Warner, Vester W., Sgt
BT	Veljkov, Paul, Sgt
RO	Murphy, William A., S/Sgt
TG	Ross, Edward E., Sgt
WG	Merrill, Thomas, Sgt

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

P	Davis, Robert W., 2Lt	
CP	Sayre, Dorwin D., 2Lt	
NAV	Lange, George L., 2Lt	
BOM	Bryan, Fred W., F/O	
TT	Hughes, Roy D., Sgt	KIA
BT	Johnson, Charles H., Sgt	
RO	Gorman, Eugene R., Sgt	WIA
TG	Foley, William J., Sgt	WIA
WG	Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., Sgt	

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

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

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

P	Duncan, Thomas A., 2Lt
CP	Singleton, Daniel H., 2Lt
NAV	Morrison, Martin, F/O
BOM	Byrne, D.A., 2Lt
TT	Dietrich, Francis H., S/Sgt
BT	Ralph, William L., Sgt
RO	Murphy, William O., Sgt
TG	Chalcroft, Charles P., S/Sgt
WG	Smith, Orphus, Jr., Sgt

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

P	Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt
NAV	Rusk, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM	Rohner, William L., 2Lt
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

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

<b>B-17G #42-39885 <i>Sweet Rose O'Grady</i></b>	
P	Cureton, Peter F., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Nally, Paul E., 2Lt
NAV	Tollack, Howard V., 2Lt
BOM	Ulrich, Carl L., 2Lt
TT	Willison, Warren, S/Sgt
BT	Burford, Joseph A., Sgt
RO	Ellis, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Grove, John W., Sgt
WG	Celichowski, Ervin M., Sgt

<b>B-17G #42-32027 <i>Betty Jane</i></b>	
P	Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
BOM	Miller, Charles F., 2Lt
TT	Buchanan, Lonnie J., T/Sgt
BT	Kidd, Robert E., Sgt
RO	Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG	Watson, Byron W., Sgt
WG	Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt

<b>B-17G #42-31423 <i>Jigger Rooche</i> CR-L</b>		
P	Clark, Henry C., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Vesey, Gilbert P., 2Lt	KIA
NAV	Davies, Ralph J., 2Lt	KIA
BOM	Brosius, Earl E., F/O	KIA
TT	Scott, Harold P., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Sikora, Charles A., Jr., Sgt	POW
RO	Roswal, Frederick, S/Sgt	KIA
TG	Bjorn, Edwin W., Sgt	POW
WG	Cruttenden, Cyrus S., Sgt	POW

<b>B-17G #42-102432 <i>Tiny Angel</i> CR-L</b>		
P	Cook, Harry S., 2Lt	KIA
CP	Mason, Frederick H., 2Lt	POW
NAV	Page, Ralph E., 2Lt	POW
BOM	Warmuth, Werner G., 2Lt	POW
TT	Slight, Joseph L., S/Sgt	KIA
BT	Eaglehouse, Robert F., Sgt	POW
RO	Howell, Forrest W., S/Sgt	POW
TG	Smalley, John L., Sgt	POW/REP
WG	Joyce, Jess, S/Sgt	KIA

### ***Professional Singer In 303rd Loses Voice, Memory After Bailing Out Of Stricken B-17***

from the Hell's Angels Newsletter, August 1999 - Eddie Deerfield, Editor

Frederick Hunter Mason was a professional musician and singer long before he became a co-pilot on the 427th Squadron's Harry Cook crew. Bailing out of heavily damaged *Tiny Angel* on the Wiesbaden, Germany mission of 15 August 1944, Mason developed amnesia and a wrenching stutter. Three of the crew died in the action; five others jumped with Mason and became prisoners of war.

Ralph Page was navigator on the original crew formed under pilot Harry Cook. He went through training and then 303rd Bomb Group combat missions with Mason and the others. He recalled that Fred was a talented bass fiddle player and singer, and entertained the crew and a whole nightclub audience one evening in Florida.

"We had the night off while training at MacDill Air Force Base in April of 1944," said Page, "and went into town to the Tampa Terrace Hotel. They had an all-girl band. Fred sat in with them for one set and sang several songs. After that, all of us were in the spotlight and really treated royally."

The B-17 that the crew was preparing to fly across to Molesworth needed a name. Mason proposed *Tiny Angel*, one of "Hell's Angels," and the crew was quick to agree.

Audrey Mason Gibson, Fred's youngest sister, says she can still remember a phone call the family received from Hunter Field in Georgia. "Fred told us that cockier and dingle,' his imaginary bird playmates as a child, would be flying over. To our great surprise, Tiny Angel flew over our home in Belleville, New Jersey on the way to Newfoundland and then to England.

"John Smalley, the tail gunner, was dropping paper cups with goodbye messages on them, but we never recovered them. It was a sight I'll never forget."

Ralph Page couldn't recall any time that Fred Mason sang for the men at Molesworth, "We were too busy flying missions." Page said that Tiny Angel was attacked by more than 25 FW-190's about ten minutes after the bomb run on Wiesbaden, and was being shot to pieces. He, Mason, and four other crew members managed to bail out. Pilot Cook, Engineer Slight and Waist Gunner Joyce died at their positions.

Ralph Page said he and Fred Mason came down near Malberg and were captured and taken to Stalag Luft 3.

"I didn't see Mason at the camp after that," said Page. "it was a big place. I was in the Center Compound and he was in the South Compound. We didn't meet again until we were back home after the war."

Fred's sister Audrey provided some insights to her brother's amnesia and stuttering at the POW camp and his eventual recovery. It came in the form of a tape recording of a dramatized radio program sponsored by the US Treasury Department in 1946, urging listeners to invest regularly in US Savings Bonds. Singer Johnny Desmond played the role of Fred Mason.

The program was part of "The Treasury Salutes" series, and was broadcast to more than 800 radio stations. The narration begins, "When you're 30 years old, don't know your name and can't talk, you're in a spot." There's a flashback to Fred (Johnny Desmond) in the 303rd "pilots' day room" singing "I'll Be Seeing You" when the crew is suddenly called out to bomb Wiesbaden.

According to the dramatization, Mason injured his head on the mission and became an amnesiac with a severe stammer. After the POW camp was liberated, Mason was returned to the US for treatment. Most of his memory had returned, but he was still afflicted by a debilitating stutter. The program concludes happily when he is compelled by a psychiatrist to perform in a Special Services Show and recovers his confidence and his singing voice.

Sister Audrey said that Fred, who passed away in 1983, used to kid about the radio show, quipping "Buy bonds and don't let this happen to you."