

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 236

5 September 1944

Target: I.G. Farben Plant at Ludwigshafen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 8 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 1,000 lb G.P. M44 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 26,000, 25,400 & 24,500 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,439 rounds

A second attack on the I.G. Farben plant at Ludwigshafen was made by the 1st Bomb Division. Fortress #42-97329 *Flak Hack*, 360BS (Lt. **Bennett**), turned back early due to a cracked cylinder amplifier and a runaway supercharger.

Thirty-six 303rd BG(H) B-17s dropped 214 1,000-lb. G.P. M44 bombs and eight sky markers on the target from 26,000, 25,400 and 24,500 ft. There were solid, low clouds with tops at 15,000 ft. right up to the edge of the target. Weather then broke fairly clear, but the persistent contrails up to 23,000 ft. necessitated PFF bombing. Results were unobserved, but were believed good. B-17 #42-97949 (*No Name*), 358BS (Lt. **Whitlock**, 359BS), dropped six 1,000 lb. G.P. bombs on Nockenheim, Germany, as a target of opportunity. B-17 #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*, 359BS (Lt. **Frazier**) did not bomb because the electric bomb release failed and the mechanical release was improperly used. Bombs were returned to Molesworth.



Battle Damage to B-17G #42-31483 Bonnie B 359BS (BN-P)

Fighter support by 235 P-51s was good. Only a few German fighters were seen and there were no attacks. Moderate to intense and fairly accurate flak was encountered at the target and several other locations. Seven B-17s suffered major and thirteen, minor battle damage. One crewman was slightly wounded. Chaff was believed to have had some beneficial effect.

Lt. **Parker**, pilot of #42-31483 *Bonnie B*, 359BS, lost a propeller and, with two engines out, landed at emergency landing strip A62 near Paris. There were no injuries and the crew returned to Molesworth. All other aircraft returned safely to Base.

The Bonnie B

By John Surrell, Tail Gunner

The Bonnie B (A/C# 42-31483) began her career on January 1, 1944 with the 303rd Bomb Group, 359th Bomb Squadron. She wasn't one of those silver, fancy jobs. Rather, she was olive drab, a real workhorse. But one thing you had to say about her; if she took you out, she brought you back.

The Bonnie B acquired her name from a pilot named Bech who had a six month old daughter named Bonnie. The name must have brought good luck because she flew 93 missions and aborted only seven times.

Between May 29, 1944 and August 4, 1944 the Arnold crew flew a total of 33 missions. Twenty seven of these missions were in the Bonnie B, twice coming home on three engines. The crew owed a debt of thanks to the masterful hands of her crew chief, Master Sergeant William Zachar. She would come back from a mission with an engine feathered and numerous flak holes in her wings and fuselage. Crew Chief Zachar would have her ready to fly the next day. His crew probably worked all night to fix the engines and patch the flak holes, but she would be ready to go by mission time.

Crew Chief Zachar was a man of many talents. Besides being a top-notch airplane mechanic, he also did dry cleaning on the side, as Lick, the waist gunner, and I were to find out. The sergeant told us when we returned from leave in London to bring our official duty uniforms for cleaning. Bill took a five gallon can and filled it with 100 octane aviation fuel and proceeded to rinse our uniforms up and down with gasoline. Much to our surprise they came out spotless. Needless to say, we did not light any matches around them for a week!

Bonnie B's last mission was on September 5, 1944 to Ludwigshafen, Germany. She lost a propeller and with two engines out, landed at an emergency strip, A62, near Paris. On September 9, 1944 she was salvaged for parts. What a sad way to end her career!

Shortly after returning to the States in October, 1944 I was married and my daughter was born in August, 1945. Yes, I named her Bonnie after our bomber.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Fletcher-Sheets</u> 137 - PFF		
		<u>Ackerman</u> 666		<u>Bliss</u> 557 - PFF
	<u>Brown</u> 323			<u>Kuykendall</u> 860
<u>Eisenwinter</u> 875		<u>Dubose</u> 248	<u>Bennett</u> 329	<u>Railing</u> 893
	<u>Healy</u> 057			<u>Newton</u> 569
<u>O'Leary</u> 197		<u>Drewry</u> 885	_____	_____
	_____			_____

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Edwards-Mainwaring

484

Frazier
7206

Quiggle
177

Brabant
944

Shields
930

Akers
830

Parker
483

Mehlhoff
196

Butler
187

Whitlock
949

Underdown
496

Lorentz
076

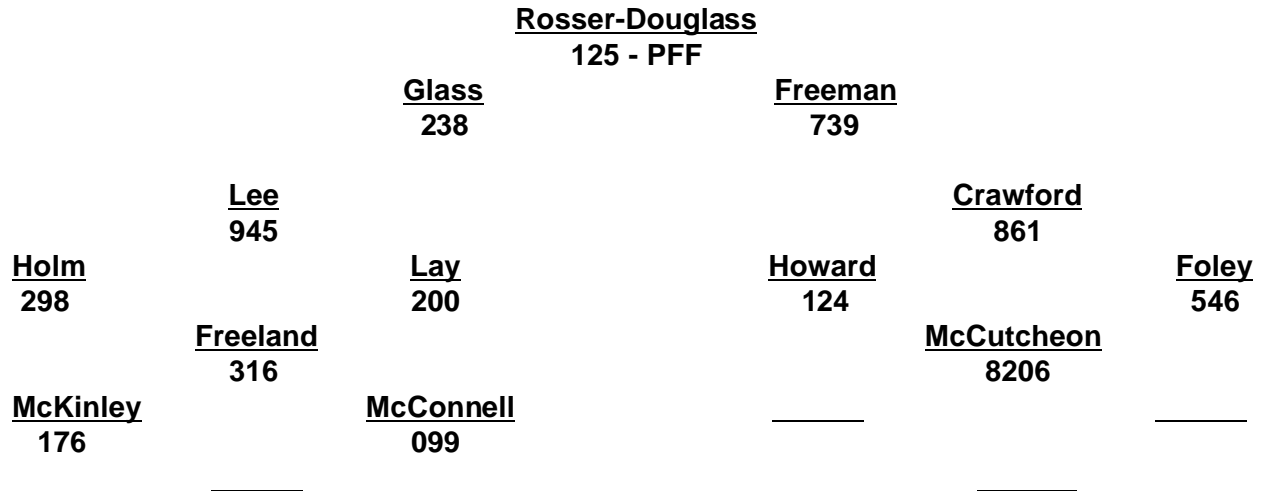
McDavid
289



Heller's Angel #42-102484 (359BS) BN-K

41st CBW-A 303BG High - Pilot Capt K.C. Edwards / CoPilot 2Lt C.O. Mainwaring

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 #42-107099 *Old 99*

P	McConnell, John, 1Lt
CP	Thomas, Charles E., 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 P., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-6316 (*No Name*)

P	Freeland, Troit D., 1Lt
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	Dyszal, Bernard J., Sgt
BT	Cerzosimo, Bernard P., Sgt

B-17G #42-102945 *Sweet Pea*

P	Lee, Gareth G., 1Lt
CP	Bowman, William E., F/O
NAV	Poehlman, Robert L., 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 #43-38176 *Bouncing Betty II*

P	McKinley, Ralph C., 2Lt
CP	Harwick, James A., 2Lt
NAV	Long, Donald C., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Green, George A., 2Lt
ENG	Jones, Burlen, Sgt
WG	Devaney, Thomas J., Sgt
RO	Moll, Richard S., Sgt
BT	Clark, Woodrow E., Sgt
TG	Soule, Evan R., Sgt

B-17G #43-38200 (*No Name*)

P	Lay, William P., 2Lt
CP	Grenier, David A., 2Lt
NAV	Lasker, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Bohannon, Jackson R., 2Lt
ENG	Miller, Ray A., Sgt
WG	Hasper, Donald T., Sgt
RO	LaPerch, William J., Sgt
TG	Gillespie, Henry F., Sgt
BT	Kedzierski, Edward P., Sgt

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

P	Holm, Maurice M., 2Lt
CP	Fletcher, Harold D., F/O
NAV	Howard, Paul A., 2Lt
BOM	Davis, Edward A., 2Lt
ENG	Compton, M.C., Sgt
WG	Huck, Robert L., Sgt
RO	Dale, John A., Sgt
BT	Ebert, Preston P., Sgt
TG	Copeland, George E., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-8125 *Sparky* - PFF

P	Rosser, Samuel E., 1Lt
CP	Douglass, Earl B., 2Lt
NAV	Hunt, Jackson H., 2Lt
NAV	Garrett, Robert M., 2Lt
BOM	Ledbetter, Lamar E., 1Lt
ENG	O'Leary, James M., T/Sgt
RO	Rowe, Ollice Z., T/Sgt
TG	Pressentin, Robert H., S/Sgt
WG	Foster, William D., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38238 (*No Name*)

P	Glass, Leroy E., 2Lt
P	Conley, George L., 2Lt
NAV	Haider, Joseph C., 2Lt
BOM	Boland, Anthony J., 2Lt
ENG	Eide, Richard W., S/Sgt
BT	Trumbull, Vernon L., Sgt
RO	Brady, James M., Sgt
WG	Hodges, Grady H., Sgt
TG	Davis, Mark M., Sgt

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

P	Freeman, Clyde E., 2Lt
CP	Canning, Glenn R., 2Lt
NAV	Goldstein, Sheldon, 2Lt
BOM	Birkenseer, Donald L., 2Lt
ENG	Fleck, Peter J., Sgt
TG	Caporusso, Frank J., Sgt
RO	VanLier, Donald E., Sgt
WG	Martin, Robert G., Sgt
BT	Chesney, Alan D., Sgt

B-17G #43-38206 *Silver Fox*

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	Fouk, Donald H., Sgt
RO	Alexander, John C., S/Sgt
BT	Aberdeen, James E., Cpl
TG	Kinsman, George R., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-31830 *Marie*

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 #42-31177 *Lonesome Polecat*

P	Quiggle, Robert D., 2Lt
CP	Bergeron, Arthur A., 2Lt
NAV	Heatherly, Phillip P., 1Lt
BOM	Cooney, Thomas E., 2Lt
ENG	Fragasso, Glenn, S/Sgt
RO	Lawson, Lucien P., S/Sgt
BT	Tisdale Elmo O., Cpl
TG	Shrader, James F., Sgt
WG	Heffran, James J., Cpl

B-17G #43-38289 *Sweet LaRhonda*

P	McDavid, Philip H., 2Lt
CP	Beeman, Richard, 2Lt
NAV	King, Robert L., 2Lt
BOM	Torley, Donald W., 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 #44-6076 *Liberty Run*

P	Lorentz, Arthur, 2Lt
CP	Scott, Robert H., 2Lt
NAV	Smith, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Hewitt, LeRoy A., 2Lt
ENG	Kreager, Jon B., Sgt
RO	Ringen, Walter E., Sgt
BT	Ingalls, Earl F., Cpl
TG	Greenwald, Paul L., Sgt
WG	Gonser, Dwight W., Cpl

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

P	Whitlock, Garland M., 1Lt
CP	Zimmerman, Paul E., F/O
NAV	Durkin, James A., 2Lt
BOM	Scheibman, Herman B., 2Lt
ENG	Popovich, William G., S/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 #42-97944 *Daddy's Delight*

P	Brabant, Patrick H., 1Lt
CP	Judy, Ira J., 2Lt
NAV	Nielsen, Carl V., 1Lt
BOM	Beers, Donald B., 2Lt
ENG	Hodge, Dana A., T/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Seymour T., Sgt
BT	Marquez, Robert P., S/Sgt
TG	Millek, John P., S/Sgt
WG	Valentine, Robert J., S/Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Parker, John W., 2Lt
CP	Bach, Harold J., 2Lt
NAV	Wodinsky, Abraham, 2Lt
TOG	Arendt, John L., S/Sgt
ENG	Stephenson, Thomas O., T/Sgt
RO	Carman, Nolan, W., Sgt
BT	Welch, John R., S/Sgt
TG	Turkington, Calvin G., S/Sgt
WG	Schlottman, Jerome D., T/Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

P	Frazier, Eugene C., 2Lt
CP	Campbell, Laurie H., 2Lt
NAV	Goettman, Andrew T., 2Lt
BOM	Barlow, Richard B., 2Lt
ENG	Borges, Gilbert C., Sgt
RO	Trainor, Donald W., Cpl
BT	Charron, Raymond H., Cpl
TG	McCullough, Luther, Jr., Cpl
WG	Anderson, Eston R., Cpl

(Abortive Sortie)

B-17G #42-102496 *Special Delivery*

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	Umberger, Robert C., S/Sgt

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

P	Edwards, Kenneth C., Capt
CP	Mainwaring, Charles O., 2Lt
NAV	Prince, Alan, M., 2Lt
BOM	Hoover, William L., 1Lt
ENG	Johnson, Kenneth V., T/Sgt
RO	Hanson, Robert W., T/Sgt
BT	Guzman, Abel G., S/Sgt
TG	Kowalk, Francis M., S/Sgt
WG	Abernathy, Fay S., S/Sgt
PHO	Skinner, Donald E., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Foley, Norment, 1Lt
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
TG	Stewart, Charles R., Sgt
BT	Waltmire, Harrel A., Jr., Sgt
WG	Rice, Charles G., S/Sgt

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

P	Railing, Charles F., Jr., 2Lt
CP	McCarl, Howard D., 2Lt
NAV	Leibovitz, Mayer, 2Lt
BOM	Willson, Louis H., 2Lt
ENG	Mellon, James B., Jr., Sgt
RO	Hanna, William M., Sgt
BT	Burgeson, Lawrence L., Sgt
TG	Barber, Ralph K., Sgt
WG	Cole, Lorne R., Sgt

B-17G #42-97187 *Miss Umbriago*

P	Butler, Milton C., 1Lt
CP	Lovell, Brook H., 2Lt
NAV	Holden, John E., 2Lt
BOM	Hackler, Maurice G., 2Lt
ENG	Bird, Harry G., Sgt
RO	Christ, Donald R., Sgt
BT	Miller, Donald E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, David T., Jr., Sgt
WG	Peterson, Robert E., Sgt

B-17G #42-107196 *Tempress*

P	Mehlhoff, Arthur R., 2Lt
CP	Nelson, Edgar H., 2Lt
NAV	Williams, Gaylon C., 2Lt
BOM	Newcomb, Harry F., Jr., F/O
ENG	Wagner, Donald L., S/Sgt
RO	Thye, Norman W., S/Sgt
BT	Keeran, Elwood R., Sgt
TG	Quackenbush, Benjamin V., Sgt
WG	Harms, Vernon H., Sgt

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

P	Crawford, William C., 1Lt
CP	Kidd, Warren D., 2Lt
NAV	Wade, Robert E., 2Lt
BOM	Parrilla, Rufe H., 1Lt
ENG	LeRoux, Lyle W., T/Sgt
RO	Miller, William L., T/Sgt
BT	Whitney, Daniel F., S/Sgt
TG	Proctor, Robert D., S/Sgt
WG	Patton, Nelson R., S/Sgt

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

P	Shields, Edward F., 2Lt
CP	Cooter, William M., 2Lt
NAV	Mundell, William K., F/O
BOM	Lee, Wilbur W., 2Lt
ENG	Nagel, Leeland J., S/Sgt
RO	Dennerle, Almo W., S/Sgt
BT	Horwitz, Charles, Sgt
TG	Skubal, Joseph J., Sgt
WG	Sheehan, Arthur E., Jr., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #42-97860 (No Name)

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 #44-6124 (No Name)

P Howard, Victor L., 2Lt
CP Beasley, Roland C., 2Lt
NAV Harding, Warren G., 2Lt
BOM Thomas, Edward H., 2Lt
ENG Girard, Louis P., S/Sgt
RO Wimer, Maurice H., S/Sgt
BT Oberly, Eldridge C., Sgt
TG Englis, Hiram E., Sgt
WG Branin, James J., Sgt

B-17G #42-97329 Flak Hack

P Bennett, Paul K., 2Lt
CP Goff, Lloyd E., 2Lt
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
(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38057 (No Name)

P	Healy, Richard F., 1Lt
CP	Smith, Donald R., 2Lt
NAV	Stuart, Norman L., 2Lt
BOM	Warner, Robert A., 1Lt
TT	Robertson, Joseph J., T/Sgt
BT	Leal, Raymond T., T/Sgt
RO	Smith, Phillip E., S/Sgt
TG	Whitlow, Zane O., Sgt
WG	DeLiso, Vincent A., Sgt

B-17G #42-102569 Miss Lace

P	Newton, George C., 2Lt
CP	Raley, Stonewall J., 2Lt
NAV	Jenkins, John I., 2Lt
BOM	Lewis, Willard L., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Schneider, Joseph R., Sgt
BT	Hartog, Samuel S., Sgt
RO	Corn, Byron D., Sgt
TG	Karr, Leslie E., Sgt
WG	Simon, Lawrence E., Sgt

B-17G #43-38197 (No Name)

P	O'Leary, James W., 2Lt
CP	Reed, Louis E., 2Lt
NAV	Kacere, Michael J., 2Lt
BOM	Lyda, Robert E., 2Lt
TT	Kernodle, John T., Sgt
BT	Czerwonka, Joseph A., S/Sgt
RO	DeVaney, Bernard C., Sgt
TG	Carver, Harold R., Sgt
WG	DeCicco, Frank C., Jr., 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	Henry, Donivan D., Sgt
BT	Veljkov, Paul, Sgt
RO	Murphy, William A., S/Sgt
WG	Ross, Edward E., Sgt
TG	Ruhge, Wayne L., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-37666 Full House

P	Ackerman, Stewart S., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Barrios, Alfred R., 2Lt
NAV	Dubois, Benjamin, 2Lt
BOM	Oswald, Alois G., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Creaghan, Robert E., Sgt
BT	Highfill, Thomas W., Sgt
RO	Ribesky, John V., Jr., Sgt
TG	Wienczek, Edward J., Sgt
WG	Proper, George M., Sgt

B-17G #43-38323 (No Name)

P	Brown, Tracy D., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Van Antwerp, Robert G., 2Lt
NAV	Rusk, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM	Keese, Thomas R., 1Lt
TT	Duffek, Francis T., S/Sgt
BT	Born, Robert S., Sgt
RO	Bridge, R.R., S/Sgt
TG	Blim, Raymond C., Sgt
WG	Muzyka, Myron M., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38248 Jigger Rooche II

P Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
 NAV Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
 T Johnson, O.D., S/Sgt
 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 #42-97557 Mercy's Madhouse - PFF

P Bliss, Robert P., 1Lt
 CP Morrow, John E., 2Lt
 NAV Sumbur, Simon, 1Lt
 NAV Lifshus, Lawrence, 2Lt
 BOM Smoleroff, Theodore L., 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 #42-39885 Sweet Rose O'Grady

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 Delcher, Merlin S., Sgt
 WG Koch, Edwin H., Sgt

B-17G #44-8137 - (No Name) - PFF

P Fletcher, John E., 1Lt
 CP Sheets, Robert W., Capt
 NAV Lunde, Frithjof M., Capt
 NAV Tollack, Howard V., 2Lt
 NAV Desmond, MacChesney, 1Lt
 BOM Roode, William A.T., 1Lt
 TT Clark, Jay R., S/Sgt
 RO Bridge, R.R., T/Sgt
 WG Smith, Orphus, Jr., Sgt
 TG Johnston, Lawrence M., Jr., 2Lt
 WG Lance, Calvin L., Sgt