

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 245

21 September 1944

Target: Marshalling Yard at Mainz, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 30

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 8 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 500 lb G.P. M43 & 6 x 500 lb M17 Cluster bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 25,500, 26,600 & 27,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 7,220 rounds

**B**rigadier General Robert F. **Travis**, flying on a mission to complete his operational tour, led the 41st CBW-A to bomb Mainz as the primary visual or PFF target. The last resort target was the Schneider Boot and Shoe Factory 2 1/2 miles west of Frankfurt, Germany. Two aircraft returned early: #42-39885 *Sweet Rose O'Grady*, 427BS (Lt. **Virag**, 359BS), due to high oil temperature; #44-9038 (*No Name*), 427BS (Lt. **Johnson**, 358BS), due to a weak amplifier tube and loose circuit wire.



Leaflet Dropped from B-17s

Translation:

Adolf Hitler declared war on the United States  
on December 11, 1941

The American Air Force replies: **ATTACK**  
... Together with the RAF by day and night  
... on strategic targets of war  
in all parts of the Reich

THIS LEAFLET WAS THROWN FROM AMERICAN BOMBERS

Twenty-five 303rd BG(H) aircraft dropped 148 500-lb. G.P. M43 and 148 500-lb. M17A1 cluster bombs visually on the primary target. Aircraft #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts*, 359BS (Lt. **Brabant**), failed to bomb due to a bomb rack failure. Two aircraft dropped leaflets. Photos showed the low Group bombing southwest of the MPI with no hits on the marshalling yard. Results of the lead and high Groups were unobserved. Weather at the target was 4/10 to 5/10 low clouds with bases at 7,000 ft. and tops at 18,000 to 20,000 ft., 5/10 middle clouds with bases at 16,000 ft. and tops at 18,000 ft., and no high clouds.

Anti-aircraft fire was encountered northwest of Trier—meager to moderate and fairly accurate. Flak in the target area was moderate and inaccurate with a few accurate bursts. There was no enemy aircraft opposition and 34 P-51s provided fair support. Poor support was provided on the route in with no P-51s seen until after the target. Seventeen aircraft sustained battle damage, 12 minor and 15 major. Returning aircraft had no casualties. B-17 #44-6309, *Duchess' Granddaughter*, 359BS (**Lorentz**), landed at Boreham, an old 9th Air Force Field.



**(no name) #44-8137 (359BS) PFF BN-Z**

**1st BD Lead (359BS) - Pilot Capt W.E. Eisenhart / CoPilot B/Gen R.F. Travis**  
 (Back L-R) 2Lt Duane G. Ward (TG-O), 1Lt Ralph L. Smith (B), 1Lt George H. Counts (N),  
 B/Gen Robert F. Travis (CP), Capt William E. Eisenhart (P), 2Lt Thomas N. Kelly (N)  
 (Front L-R) 1Lt MacChesney Desmond (N), S/Sgt Leon C. Gauthier (E),  
 Sgt James P. Angeloff (WG), S/Sgt Paul A. Tognetti (R)

Captain William E. **Eisenhart**, 359BS Operations Officer who flew with B/Gen. **Travis**, became somewhat of a folk hero after the mission. Several months previous the 359BS had instituted a policy that pilots should not leave the cockpit area during a mission to urinate in the bomb bay. Pilots were advised to crack their cockpit side window, get up on their haunches and let the slipstream carry their urine outside. This effective technique was done on a strict condition that the pilot would personally clean the window area immediately after landing. During the 21 September mission Captain **Eisenhart** used this method to relieve himself, only to discover that General **Travis** was smoking and had cracked his window, which created a cross draft. Some of the urine swirled in the cockpit and hit the General full in his face. Upon landing General **Travis** chewed out Captain **Eisenhart** for a full half hour, threatened him with a court martial, ordered him to immediately take down the bulletin board notice letter on the suggested urination method, advised him that he was going to award the DFC to 1st Lts. **Smith** and **Counts**, but was “damned if he would award a DFC” to him. Later Captain **Eisenhart** was known as the only Captain who had urinated in the face of a General and got away with it. Such is how folk heroes are born.

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

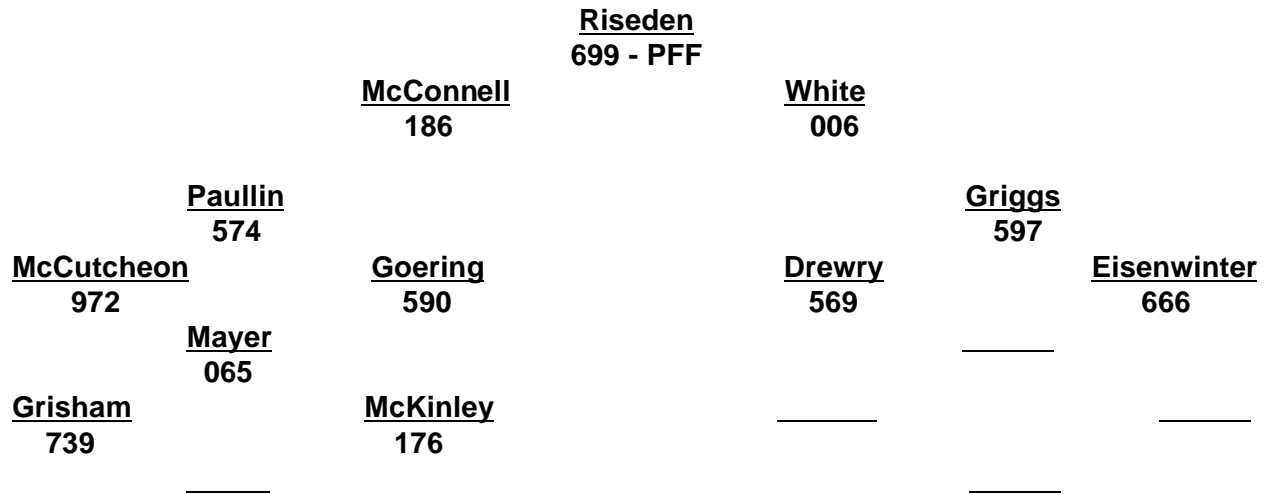
<u>Travis-Eisenhart</u>				
137 - PFF				
		<u>Mickle</u> 944		<u>Johnson</u> 038
	<u>Brabant</u> 537			<u>Davis</u> 197
<u>Frazier</u> 050		<u>Miller</u> 206	<u>Dubose</u> 248	<u>Gano</u> 875
	<u>Akers</u> 484			_____
<u>Lorentz</u> 309		<u>Virag</u> 885	_____	_____
	_____			_____

Two (2) aircraft aborted this mission:  
 Lt. Virag in 885  
 Lt. Johnson in 038

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<u>Wilson-Kuykendall</u>				
318				
		<u>Shields</u> 893		<u>Howard</u> 329
	_____			<u>Baehr</u> 805
_____		_____	<u>Connelly</u> 930	<u>Foley</u> 187
	_____			_____
_____		_____	_____	_____
	_____			_____

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C



### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CREW POSITIONS</b> 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  <b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b> 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 #44-6006 (No Name)**

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P	White, Franklin F., 1Lt
CP	Petersen, John N., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, F/O
BOM	Ross, Robert M., 2Lt
ENG	Adams, William J., S/Sgt
WG	Hein, Monroe C., S/Sgt
RO	Vesely, Henry L., S/Sgt
BT	Gilman, Frederick S., S/Sgt
TG	Campbell, James R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97699 (No Name) - PFF**

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P	Riseden, Jack W., 1Lt
CP	Byrnes, James E., 2Lt
NAV	Hunt, Jackson H., 2Lt
NAV	Beyeler, Earl R., 2Lt
BOM	Morris, Warren B., 1Lt
ENG	Kishbaugh, Warren L., T/Sgt
WG	Munn, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Archie R., T/Sgt
TG	Phillips, Clifton N., 2Lt

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

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P	Mayer, Walter J., 1Lt
CP	Gradle, Raymond B., 2Lt
NAV	Simons, Robert A., 2Lt
BOM	Rogers, Oron J., 2Lt
ENG	Hicks, Douglas E., S/Sgt
WG	Withers, Frederick J., Sgt
RO	Tuescher, Ernest, S/Sgt
TG	Casey, Lawrence, S/Sgt
WG	Gendron, Ernest J., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38176 Bouncing Betty II**

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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 #43-38186 (No Name)**

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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 #44-8038 (No Name) - PFF**

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P	Johnson, Hugh B., 2Lt
CP	Seidel, Harry S., 2Lt
NAV	Weber, George F., 2Lt
BOM	Gorham, Raymond H., 2Lt
NAV	Lifshus, Lawrence, 2Lt
ENG	Edwards, Eugene F., T/Sgt
WG	Blinbury, Joseph A., Sgt
RO	Carter, Robert D., S/Sgt
TG	Beck, Harold P., Sgt

(Abortive Sortie)

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

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

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P Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 2Lt  
CP Cox, William H., 2Lt  
NAV Hartel, Gale E., 2Lt  
BOM Celich, Nicholas J., 2Lt  
ENG Scheuermann, Edwin P., S/Sgt  
BT Loessin, Gerhard W., Jr., Sgt  
RO Post, Harry R., Sgt  
WG Buie, Ben M., Sgt  
TG Willis, Arnold, Sgt

### **B-17G #42-31574 *Ole George***

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P Paullin, James R., 2Lt  
CP Hinton, William B., 2Lt  
NAV Hunt, John W., Jr., 2Lt  
BOM Carloss, Earl W., 1Lt  
ENG Johnson, James P., S/Sgt  
BT Biestek, Stanley H., Sgt  
RO Thomas, Henry T., S/Sgt  
WG Woodward, Thomas J., Sgt  
TG Butler, Woodley O., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-37590 *Neva-The Silver Lady***

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P Goering, Werner G., 2Lt  
CP Rencher, Jack P., 2Lt  
NAV Markt, Rex H., F/O  
BOM Sachau, William D., 2Lt  
ENG Gustafson, Orall R., Sgt  
BT LaPerch, William J., Sgt  
RO Brodzinski, Chester, Sgt  
WG Houseman, Clarence W., Sgt  
TG Mahan, Weldon T., Sgt

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

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P McCutcheon, George E., 2Lt  
CP McGilvray, Richard L., 2Lt  
NAV Starr, Ben, 2Lt  
BOM Severson, Jack O., S/Sgt  
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

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Miller, William F., 2Lt  
 CP Hill, John D., Jr., 2Lt  
 NAV Conn, Arthur A., Jr., 2Lt  
 BOM Smith, Teddy A., 1Lt  
 ENG Waldron, Leo F., Cpl  
 RO Smolar, Max, Cpl  
 BT Ball, Warren G., Cpl  
 TG Hutson, Johnny C., Cpl  
 WG Zelnio, Anthony D., Cpl

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

P Akers, Robert O., 1Lt  
 CP Giddings, Leslie W., 2Lt  
 NAV Montone, Neil A., 2Lt  
 TOG Scheibman, Herman B., 2Lt  
 ENG Shanker, Herbert, T/Sgt  
 RO Meyer, Gerald E., T/Sgt  
 BT Saam, Donal W., S/Sgt  
 TG Vogel, Cletus H., S/Sgt  
 WG Meyer, Fulton R., S/Sgt

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

P Virag, Andy R., 2Lt  
 CP Beck, Edward R., 2Lt  
 NAV Durkin, James A., 2Lt  
 BOM Torley, Donald W., 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 Encinas, William, Sgt  
 (Abortive)

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

P Mickle, James D., 1Lt  
 CP Clark, Loren M., F/O  
 NAV O'Dell, Benjamin L., 2Lt  
 BOM Schulze, William A., 2Lt  
 ENG Humphrey, William B., Cpl  
 RO Eagon, Dennis G., Cpl  
 BT McKinley, A.B., Cpl  
 TG Van Zile, Raymond J., Cpl  
 WG Wentz, Robert D., Cpl

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

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

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

P Lorentz, Arthur, 1Lt  
 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 #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts***

P Brabant, Patrick H., 1Lt  
 CP Hickey, James A., 2Lt  
 NAV Taylor, Albert R., 2Lt  
 BOM Stone, Leonard, 2Lt  
 ENG Hodge, Dana A., T/Sgt  
 RO Posada, Frank G., Sgt  
 BT Marquez, Robert P., S/Sgt  
 TG Millek, John P., S/Sgt  
 WG Botton, Pius L., Sgt  
 (Abortive Sortie)

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

CMP Travis, Robert F., BGen  
 P Eisenhart, William E., Capt  
 NAV Counts, George H., 1Lt  
 NAV Kelly, Thomas N., 2Lt  
 NAV Desmond, MacChesney, 1Lt  
 BOM Smith, Ralph L., 1Lt  
 ENG Gauthier, Leon C., S/Sgt  
 RO Tognetti, Paul A., S/Sgt  
 TG Ward, Duane G., 2Lt  
 WG Angeloff, James P., Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97805 (No Name)**

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P	Baehr, Kenneth C., 1Lt
CP	Slingsby, Harold G., Maj
NAV	George, Sidney L., 1Lt
BOM	Smith, William H., 1Lt
ENG	Brackett, Clarence H., T/Sgt
BT	Decker, Bruce O., S/Sgt
RO	Ploeger, Jesse, T/Sgt
TG	Keipper, Carl E., S/Sgt
WG	Baldwin, Kenton F., S/Sgt

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

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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	Clippinger, Robert E., S/Sgt

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

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P	Shields, Edward F., 2Lt
CP	Cooter, William M., 2Lt
NAV	Stanghor, Bruce O., 2Lt
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

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

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P	Connelly, Ben L., 1Lt
CP	House, Frederick L., 2Lt
NAV	Levin, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Shelley, David R., 2Lt
ENG	Cole, Bethel A., T/Sgt
RO	Schneider, Dale E., S/Sgt
BT	Evans, Ralph V., Sgt
TG	Bur, Robert D., Sgt
WG	Koppes, Carl A., Sgt

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

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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., S/Sgt
TG	Englis, Hiram E., S/Sgt
WG	Branin, James J., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8318 (No Name)**

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P	Wilson, William M., 1Lt
CP	Kuykendall, Roger L., 1Lt
NAV	Klein, Norman M., 2Lt
BOM	Duros, Constantine J., 2Lt
ENG	Asplund, Carl L., T/Sgt
BT	Case, Donald G., S/Sgt
RO	Means, Robert D., T/Sgt
TG	King, John E., 2Lt
RW	Sabuda, Emil S., S/Sgt
LW	Sauer, George N., S/Sgt



## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Griggs, John C., 1Lt
CP	Ashford, George H., 2Lt
NAV	Malone, William A., 2Lt
BOM	Rohner, William L., 2Lt
TT	Monnig, Alvin R., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Duffel, Robert L., S/Sgt
RO	Benning, Joseph F., Jr., S/Sgt
WG	Means, Henry H., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Muzyka, S/Sgt

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

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P	Eisenwinter, Philip D., 1Lt
CP	Waggoner, Richard C., 2Lt
NAV	Norman, Frederick J., 2Lt
BOM	Campbell, Robert C., 2Lt
TT	Johnson, O.D., S/Sgt
BT	Veljkov, Paul, Sgt
RO	Murphy, William A., S/Sgt
TG	Sutton, Marvin A., S/Sgt
WG	Ruhge, Wayne L., S/Sgt

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

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P	Davis, Robert W., 2Lt
CP	Sayre, Dorwin D., 2Lt
NAV	Martin, Walter E., F/O
BOM	Bryan, Fred W., F/O
TT	Hiibner, Okey L., Sgt
BT	Johnson, Charles H., Sgt
RO	Pope, Lester L., Sgt
TG	Henry, Donivan D., Sgt
WG	Smirnes, E. "Nick", Jr., Sgt

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

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P	Gano, Frederick, 2Lt
CP	Flanders, Wesley J., 2Lt
NAV	Maniscalco, John B., 2Lt
BOM	Olson, William E., 2Lt
TT	Anthony, George E., Sgt
BT	Coyle, Arthur J., Sgt
RO	Meixner, Edward M., Sgt
TG	Nelson, Edward F., Sgt
WG	Burkermer, Robert F., Sgt

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

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P	Drewry, James A., 1Lt
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., S/Sgt
TG	Gude, Richard E., S/Sgt
WG	Koch, Edwin H., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38248 *Jigger Rooche II***

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P	Dubose, Carl L., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Droll, Louis P., 2Lt
NAV	Laverty, Leo E., 2Lt
BOM	Goff, Homer W., 2Lt
TT	Jones, Jesse T., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Kidd, Robert E., S/Sgt
RO	Kollmar, Donald L., S/Sgt
TG	Watson, Byron W., Sgt
WG	Balint, Daniel, Jr., Sgt