

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 294

31 December 1944

Target: Railroad Marshalling Yard at Neuss, Germany

Crew Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 55 minutes

Bomb Load: 18 x 250 lb H.E. M57 & 2 x 500 lb M17 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitudes: 26,700, 25,600 & 28,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 3,975 rounds

The 359BS provided the high flights for each squadron formation. Two 303BG aircraft were loaned to other bomb groups. Two aircraft returned early: #43-38764 (*No Name*), 358BS (Lt. **Bailey**), had mechanical problems.

Also returning early was #42-102569 *Miss Lace*, 427BS (Lt. W.H. **Petersen**). The aircraft had a runaway propeller that couldn't be feathered and caused severe vibrations. Four members of the crew bailed out near the Scholdt Estuary: S/Sgt W.L. **Ralph** (BTG),

S/Sgt. C.W. **Whitely, Jr.** (RO), Sgt. L.H. **Tanner** (WG) and T/Sgt. L. **Coleman** (TG), who was hospitalized in the Netherlands with a broken leg.



WILLIAM H. PETERSEN CREW - 427th BS
(crew assigned 427BS: 23 Oct 1944)

(Back L-R) 2Lt William A. Bason (N), 2Lt William H. Petersen (P),
2Lt Anthony N. Candido (CP) - (Front L-R) Sgt Joseph A. Czerwonka (BTG),
Sgt Loyd Coleman (TG), Sgt Loyd H. Tanner (WG), S/Sgt J. Price (TOG),
Sgt Cull W. Whitely, Jr. (R), Sgt Anthony A. Zarrella (E)

Thirty-nine aircraft were dispatched to bomb the marshalling yard at Neuss, Germany, either visually or by GEE-H. The secondary target was the marshalling yard at Dusseldorf (visual or PFF), and last resort was the airfield at Bonn/ Hangelar, Germany.

Thirty-seven aircraft bombed the primary with 632 250-lb. H.E. M57 and 62 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs from 26,700, 25,600 and 28,000 feet.

One aircraft dropped 10 units of leaflets on the primary target. Bombing was by GEE-H and results were unobserved. In that target area there were 7/10 low clouds with tops at 10,000 to 12,000 feet and a 10/10 undercast at the target. Visual bombing was impossible.

There was no enemy fighter opposition and US support by 198 P-51s was fair. Meager to moderate and fairly accurate flak developed at the target, causing five major and eight minor instances of battle damage. One man was wounded. All aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.

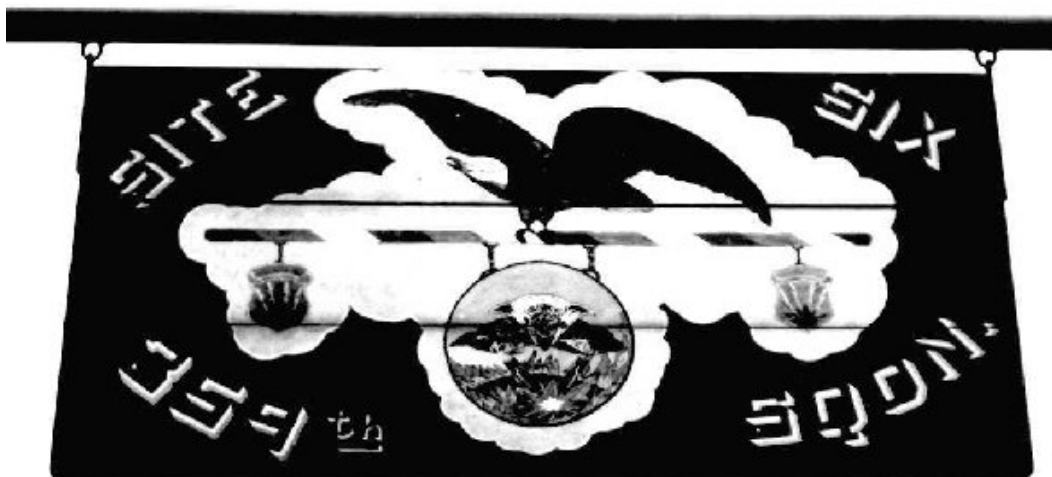


WILLIAM S. McLEOD CREW - 358th BS

(crew assigned 358BS: 11 Dec 1944 - photo: 15 Dec 1944)

(Back L-R) 1Lt William S. McLeod, Jr. (P), 2Lt Richard A. Elkins, Jr. (CP), 2Lt William B. Hopkins (N),
F/O Robert E. O'Donnell (B) - (Front L-R) T/Sgt Edgar DeWillers (E), T/Sgt Wayne E. Guenin (R),
Sgt William A. Nichols, Jr. (BT), Sgt William A. Rafferty (WG), Sgt Frank James (TG)

F/O Robert E. **O'Donnell**, bombardier in #44-6316, 358BS, stayed at his bombsight although his eyes were painfully wounded with plexiglass fragments. He was moved to the radio room following the bomb run. His pilot, 2Lt. William S. **McLeod**, Jr., recommended him for an award in addition to the Purple Heart.



359th BS Headquarters Sign

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

		<u>Fontana-Stouse</u> 125 - PFF		
	<u>Schuchard</u> 546		<u>Duffield</u> 318	
		<u>McCutchan</u> 861		
	<u>Norris</u> 523		<u>Middlemas</u> 516	
<u>Lovell</u> 860	<u>Kallet</u> 451		<u>Holmes</u> 258	
	<u>App</u> 647	<u>Bailey</u> 764	<u>Arwood</u> 532	<u>Stocks</u> 682



B-17G #43-38608 Lucille 359BS (BN-E) Ground Crew
(Lucille was named for the wife of Pilot 2Lt John S. Proffitt)
 (L-R) George Evans, unknown, Joseph V. Mazzone,
 True Ferguson, unknown, Joseph B. Strange

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Callahan-Eisenhart</u> 495 - PFF		
		<u>Roberts</u> 166		<u>Smith</u> 875
			<u>Petersen</u> 569	
		<u>McGinnis</u> 099		<u>Turinsky</u> 885
	<u>Hewitt</u> 311			<u>Gates</u> 502
<u>Richter</u> 411		<u>Barrat</u> 248		<u>Proffitt</u> 608
				<u>Tasker</u> 645
				<u>Wertz</u> 734

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

<u>Miller-Thompson</u> 137 - PFF				
<u>Woodson</u> 530		<u>Snider</u> 945		
<u>Goodberlet</u> 554				
<u>McLeod</u> 316		<u>Greenbaum</u> 191		
<u>Grisham</u> 065		<u>Knudson</u> 289		
<u>Gmernicki</u> 427	<u>Poole</u> 949	<u>Rogers</u> 878	<u>Harding</u> 944	
		<u>Garrett</u> 590		

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

REF TO ABBREVIATIONS			
<u>CREW POSITIONS</u>			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Togglier	PAS - Passenger	POW - Prisoner of war
P - Pilot	BT - Ball Turret Operator	PHO - Photographer	DOW - Died of wounds
CP - Co-Pilot	TT - Top Turret Operator	Y - Y-Operators (YRO,YO)	EVD - Evaded the enemy
NAV - Navigator	TG - Tail Gunner	RCM - Radio Cntr Measures	REP - Repatriated
ANV - Ass't. Navigator	WG - Waist Gunner	SJ - Spot Jammer	RES - Rescued
MNV - Mickey Navigator	LWG - Left Waist Gunner		ESC - Escaped
ENG - Engineer	RWG - Right Waist Gunner	<u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u>	BO - Bailed out
BOM - Bombardier	GUN - Gunner	KIA - Killed in action	DCH - Ditched
RO - Radio Operator	VI - Voice Interpreter	WIA - Wounded in action	CR-L - Crashed on land
	OBS - Observer	MIA - Missing in action	CR-S - Crashed at sea

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38530 (No Name)

P	Woodson, William H., 2Lt
CP	Lanigan, Harold A., F/O
NAV	Finn, Russell C., F/O
TOG	Cox, Lyle M., S/Sgt
ENG	Brown, Richard A., Sgt
WG	Riley, Lloyd S., Sgt
RO	Gramiak, Victor J., Sgt
BT	Burnette, R.L., Sgt
TG	Farrell, Peter J., Sgt

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

P	Garrett, Charles E., 2Lt
CP	Castillo, Joseph L.A., F/O
NAV	Magner, John H., Jr., F/O
BOM	Reed, Andrew T., 2Lt
ENG	Hohstadt, Hollis H., Sgt
WG	Prudhoe, Charles E., Sgt
RO	Henson, Jessey B., Sgt
BT	Walczak, John, Sgt
TG	Van Cleave, Joseph A., Sgt

B-17G #43-38554 *Bouncing Betty III*

P	Goodberlet, Clarence J., 2Lt
CP	Magid, Malcolm J., 2Lt
NAV	Mylonas, Peter E., F/O
BOM	Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Cotter, William J., Sgt
WG	Middleton, James C., Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., Sgt
BT	Walling, James M., Sgt
TG	Schultz, Frederick W., Sgt

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

P	McLeod, William S., 2Lt
CP	Elkins, Richard A., 2Lt
NAV	Hopkins, William B., 2Lt
BOM	O'Donnell, Robert E., F/O
ENG	DeWillers, Edgar, Sgt
WG	Reece, Robert H., T/Sgt
RO	Guenin, Wayne E., T/Sgt
BT	Nichols, William A., Jr., Sgt
TG	James, Frank M., Sgt

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

P	Snider, Harley D., 2Lt
CP	Kunkel, Joe T., 2Lt
NAV	Fearn, Charles A., 2Lt
BOM	Conder, Bill F., 2Lt
ENG	Gustafson, Orall R., T/Sgt
BT	Kudder, Edward P., Sgt
RO	Ludington, Robert S., T/Sgt
WG	Wade, Murray W., S/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Morrin T., S/Sgt

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

P	Poole, Lawrence E., 2Lt
CP	Cannon, Harley E., 2Lt
NAV	Boland, Anthony J., 2Lt
TOG	Smith, Donald P., Sgt
ENG	Pullen, Rayford E., Sgt
WG	Kinsland, Harry D., Sgt
RO	Hoke, Marvin L., Sgt
BT	Morrill, Charles K., Sgt
TG	Kindred, Beryl E., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Grisham, Rufus W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Cox, William H., 2Lt
NAV	Kaufman, Seymour, 2Lt
TOG	Rowe, Thomas M., S/Sgt
ENG	Scheuermann, Edwin P., T/Sgt
BT	Loessin, Gerhard W., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Post, Harry R., T/Sgt
WG	Buie, Ben M., S/Sgt
TG	Willis, Arnold, Sgt

B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Greenbaum, Richard D., 2Lt
CP	Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Nicastro, John J., F/O
BOM	McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Bruce, Leonard F., Sgt
TG	Hawes, Kenneth D., Sgt
RO	Dalton, Denver, Sgt
BT	Dooley, Patrick, Sgt
WG	Armstrong, Henry L., Sgt
PAS	Taylor, Walter H., Sgt

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

P	Miller, Campbell, 1Lt
CP	Thompson, John A., 2Lt
NAV	Weber, George F., 1Lt
NAV	Buckner, James C., 2Lt
BOM	Green, George A., 1Lt
ENG	Eckert, Raymond C., T/Sgt
RO	Tuescher, Ernest, T/Sgt
TG	Hower, Frederick C., 2Lt
WG	Frazier, Victor L., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-8427 *Henn's Revenge*

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 1Lt
CP	Judd, Chester G., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, William M., 2Lt
BOM	Guerrieri, Joseph C., F/O
WG	McClymont, John W., S/Sgt
ENG	Griffith, Elwood A., T/Sgt
RO	Calenberg, Raymond N., Sgt
BT	Greenberg, Bernard, Sgt
TG	Henn, Thomas A., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-38878 (No Name)

P	Rogers, Clem W., 2Lt
CP	Powlus, Vernon F., F/O
NAV	Simon, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Kraft, Arthur C., 2Lt
ENG	Reese, Bobbie B., Sgt
RO	Wysocki, John F., Sgt
BT	Simpson, James A., S/Sgt
TG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt
WG	Westfall, Byron D., Sgt

B-17G #43-38289 Sweet LaRhonda

P	Knudson, Darwin D., 2Lt
CP	Heitman, David E., 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Daryl W., 2Lt
TOG	Wilson, Johnnie R., Sgt
ENG	Robichaux, John B., T/Sgt
RO	Jones, Walter N., Jr., Sgt
BT	Kapczynski, Paul B., Sgt
TG	McDonald, Billy L., Sgt
WG	Palm, Kenneth A., Sgt

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

P	Harding, Lawrence T., 2Lt
CP	Olson, John A., 2Lt
NAV	Garvey, Richard J., 2Lt
TOG	Otto, Kenneth, Jr., Sgt
ENG	O'Brien, William J., Sgt
RO	Cornelius, Russell B., Sgt
BT	Lammers, Roger G., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Robert O., Sgt
WG	Holden, Robert R., Sgt

B-17G #43-38682 (No Name)

P	Stocks, Jack E., 2Lt
CP	Marsh, John F., 2Lt
NAV	Anstrom, Ronald A., 2Lt
BOM	Steineman, James T., 2Lt
ENG	Copp, Edmond D., Sgt
RO	Fiore, John, Sgt
BT	Hamilton, John W., Sgt
TG	Daniel, Nauphlet F., Sgt
WG	Curl, Lewis E., Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 Lucille

P	Proffitt, John S., 1Lt
CP	Ogborn, Maurice E., 2Lt
NAV	Finke, John C., 2Lt
TOG	Dittman, Robert J., S/Sgt
ENG	Young, James W., Sgt
RO	Norris, Cornie, Jr., Sgt
BT	Bechtold, Robert E., Sgt
TG	O'Neal, Howard F., Sgt
WG	Rose, G.L., Sgt

B-17G #44-6502 (No Name)

P	Gates, Cecil J., 2Lt
CP	Zapora, Theodore T., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, Clayton C., 2Lt
TOG	Goudy, William F., S/Sgt
ENG	Wysocki, Walter, Sgt
RO	Maurer, Charles E., Sgt
BT	Duerr, Richard B., Sgt
TG	Schrader, Chrissie D., Sgt
WG	Wallis, Elton E., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-38258 *Forget Me Not Olly*

P	Holmes, Alfred M., 2Lt
CP	Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
NAV	Albertson, Edward, F/O
BOM	Donovan, Thomas A., 2Lt
ENG	Sprague, Wendell P., Jr., Sgt
RO	Prehatny, Joseph R., S/Sgt
BT	Vowels, Donovan E., S/Sgt
TG	Bartkowski, Edward L., Sgt
WG	Hrych, Robert C., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38645 *(No Name)*

P	Tasker, Richard E., 2Lt
CP	Francis, Angelito, 2Lt
NAV	Meadows, Clyde, F/O
BOM	McDonnell, John J., 2Lt
ENG	Toon, William D., Sgt
RO	Minnix, Glenn A., Sgt
BT	Freese, Paul D., S/Sgt
TG	Driver, Arthur H., Sgt
WG	Van Ornum, Charles S., Sgt

B-17G #43-38764 *(No Name)*

P	Bailey, Jack W., 2Lt
CP	Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt
NAV	Swenson, Glen R., 2Lt
BOM	Johnson, David E., 2Lt
ENG	Muller, Carl A., Sgt
RO	Darden, Elwyn J., Sgt
BT	Geng, Donald F., Sgt
TG	Eckert, Merle W., Sgt
WG	McGuire, William E., Sgt

(Abortive)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza*

P	Schuchard, Virgil R., 2Lt
CP	Armfield, John M., 2Lt
NAV	Stewart, James L., 2Lt
BOM	Mishtal, Theodore W., 2Lt
ENG	Lemon, James M., Jr., Sgt
RO	Haynes, Donald L., Sgt
BT	Elliott, Richard D., Sgt
TG	Davis, Jesse W., Sgt
WG	Goggin, Edward F., Sgt

B-17G #43-38451 *(No Name)*

P	Kallet, Sidney, 1Lt
CP	Muth, Clifford F., 2Lt
NAV	Divine, Fred H., 2Lt
BOM	Harrison, Lewis S., 2Lt
ENG	Lewis, William J., S/Sgt
RO	Clarke, Frank W., S/Sgt
BT	Macy, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Terreri, Joseph, Sgt
WG	Killelea, Raymond J., Sgt

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

P	McCutchan, Eugene R., 1Lt
CP	Marten, Dudley V., 2Lt
NAV	Conard, Willard G., 2Lt
BOM	Bays, Gordon C., 2Lt
ENG	Kress, Richard H., T/Sgt
RO	Frey, Alan E., T/Sgt
BT	Scott, Howard E., S/Sgt
TG	Wherry, Robert E., S/Sgt
WG	Pearson, George D., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-6516 *My Darling*

P	Middlemas, Arthur B., 1Lt
CP	Schultz, John W., 2Lt
NAV	Cooley, Royal D., 2Lt
BOM	Durfee, James R., S/Sgt
ENG	Marshall, Leroy H., Sgt
RO	Avenia, James J., Sgt
BT	Parrish, George K., S/Sgt
TG	Cranshaw, John A., S/Sgt
WG	Maurer, John L., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38532 *(No Name)*

P	Arwood, Joe B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV	Fowler, William C., 2Lt
BOM	Gerstel, Charles L., S/Sgt
ENG	Power, Thomas B., Sgt
RO	Curry, Paul A., T/Sgt
BT	Hulterstrum, Joseph F., Sgt
TG	Sanchez, Crespín E., Sgt
WG	Linn, James B., Sgt

B-17G #44-8647 *(No Name)*

P	App, Robert G., 1Lt
CP	Moody, William S., 2Lt
NAV	Dennis, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Price, Kirkland T., S/Sgt
ENG	Leach, Norman L., S/Sgt
RO	Matlock, Austin M., S/Sgt
BT	Brady, Gene F., Sgt
TG	Nabors, Herschell F., Sgt
WG	Polaski, Duane L., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #44-6523 (No Name)

P	Norris, Loy R., 2Lt
CP	Jones, William E., Capt
NAV	Prince, James R., 1Lt
BOM	Valdes, George J., Sgt
ENG	Brackett, Clarence H., Sgt
RO	Birkenholz, Irving, T/Sgt
BT	McNeel, Morgan L., Sgt
TG	Ciezahl, Eugene F., Sgt
WG	Marchionda, Guido P., Sgt

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

P	Duffield, Richard B., 1Lt
CP	White, Raymond E., 2Lt
NAV	Papp, Melvin E., 2Lt
BOM	Puryear, James L., 1Lt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Lillis, Joseph D., T/Sgt
BT	Gilbert, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Carter, James O., Cpl
WG	Wotanis, Leo F., Cpl

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

P	Lovell, Brook H., 2Lt
CP	Cambron, Richard H., 2Lt
NAV	Dee, Martin R., 2Lt
BOM	Dubin, Martin M., S/Sgt
ENG	Bird, Harry G., T/Sgt
RO	Christ, Donald R., T/Sgt
BT	Miller, Donald E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, David T., S/Sgt
WG	Peterson, Robert E., Sgt

B-17G #44-8125 Sparky - PFF

P	Fontana, Bernard C., Capt
CP	Stouse, Harold L., Capt
NAV	Klein, Norman M., 1Lt
MN	Charlton, Rufus S., 1Lt
GH	O'Brien, William P., 1Lt
BOM	Rape, Sylvester H., 1Lt
ENG	Perry, Robert N., T/Sgt
RO	King, Raymond C., T/Sgt
TG	House, Frederick L., 2Lt
WG	Weems, Thomas L., S/Sgt
WG	Odegaard, Duane J., S/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	McGinnis, Martin S., Capt
CP	Doscher, Frederick C., 2Lt
NAV	Natoli, Sam J., 2Lt
BOM	Simone, S.P., Sgt
TT	Lyons, Robert J., S/Sgt
BT	Beal, Donald L., Sgt
RO	Muir, Keith R., T/Sgt
TG	Stevenson, Lowell F., Sgt
WG	Hamilton, Lois R., S/Sgt

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

P	Barrat, Robert J., 2Lt
CP	Harvey, Dean, 2Lt
NAV	Hansen, Harley L., 2Lt
BOM	Karp, William T., Sgt
TT	Reiss, Raymond F., Sgt
BT	Linhart, Louis N., Sgt
RO	Lazarowicz, Matthew, Sgt
TG	Emerson, George H., Sgt
WG	Link, Herbert D., Sgt

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

P	Turinsky, George, 2Lt
CP	Shaughnessy, William J., F/O
NAV	Witchey, Francis M., F/O
BOM	Renaud, Robert K., Sgt
TT	Wismer, Donald E., Sgt
BT	Newman, Harold E., Sgt
RO	Breedlove, Edwin N., T/Sgt
TG	Witcher, Marvin E., Sgt
WG	Ray, Paul, Sgt

B-17G #43-38734 *Cheshire Cat*

P	Wertz, Robert M., 1Lt
CP	Durst, Melvin A., 2Lt
NAV	Hitt, Kenneth S., F/O
BOM	Leavell, Adelbert D., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Warne, Ralph W., Sgt
BT	Jensen, Kenneth E., Sgt
RO	Giering, Edward J., Sgt
TG	Bennett, Kenneth A., Sgt
WG	Campbell, Walter C., Sgt

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

P	Richter, George K., 2Lt
CP	McMullen, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV	Blessing, Gerald D., 2Lt
BOM	Warner, Vester W., S/Sgt
TT	Bates, Grover P., T/Sgt
BT	Smith, Donald S., Sgt
RO	Kemmerer, Alfred G., Sgt
TG	Chisholm, Robert E., Sgt
WG	Vernon, James D., Sgt

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

P	Smith, Grafton N., 1Lt
CP	Alderman, Melvin, 2Lt
NAV	Gardner, Edward W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM	Dohm, William F., F/O
TT	Hardin, Joe A., Sgt
BT	Miller, Raymond M., Sgt
RO	Howell, Melvin, Sgt
TG	Parker, George F., Sgt
WG	Dussliere, Albert L., Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

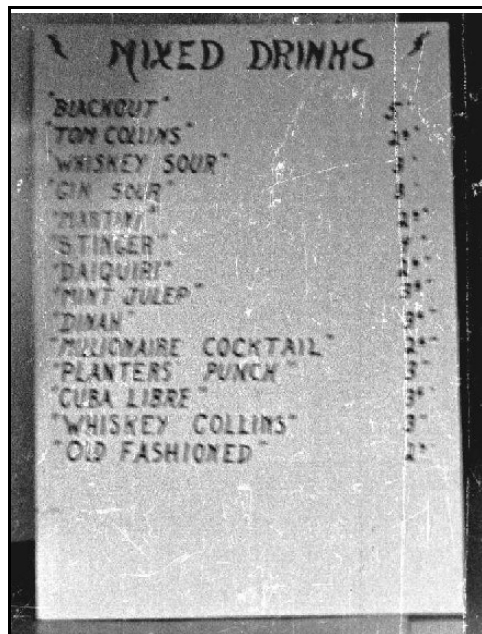
B-17G #42-102569 <i>Miss Lace</i>		
P	Petersen, William H., 2Lt	
CP	Candido, Anthony N., 2Lt	
NAV	Bason, William A., 2Lt	
BOM	Nazarian, John K., 2Lt	
TT	Zarella, Anthony A., S/Sgt	
BT	Ralph, William L., S/Sgt	BO
RO	Whitely, Cull W., Jr., S/Sgt	BO
TG	Coleman, Loyd, Sgt	BO
WG	Tanner, Loyd H., Sgt	BO
(Abortive)		

B-17G #42-97311 <i>Shoo Shoo Baby</i>		
P	Hewitt, Donald I., 2Lt	
CP	Wilson, Jack G., 2Lt	
NAV	Russo, William D., 2Lt	
BOM	Leas, Harry D., Sgt	
TT	Sabo, Stephen R., Sgt	
BT	Kohlmayer, Garth G., Sgt	
RO	Schmidt, Elmer J., Sgt	
TG	Agrifoglio, Benjamin M., Sgt	
WG	Delcher, Merlin S., S/Sgt	

B-17G #44-6166 <i>The Red</i>		
P	Roberts, Ingersall J., 1Lt	
CP	Bluethenthal, Arthur, 2Lt	
NAV	Neubert, Marshall A., Capt	
BOM	Burket, Wallace A., 1Lt	
WG	Carlson, Harold A., Sgt	
TT	Riveland, Alf, Sgt	
RO	Renzi, Frank, Sgt	
TG	Barber, Albert P., Sgt	
BT	Campbell, Gerald R., Sgt	
Y	Konrad, G., S/Sgt	

B-17G #44-8495 (No Name) - PFF		
P	Callahan, Charles A., Capt	
CP	Eisenhart, Oliver T., 2Lt	
NAV	Dye, Carl J., Jr., 2Lt	
MN	Weinstein, Irving, 2Lt	
GN	Orenstein, Harold A., 2Lt	
BOM	Long, Lloyd I., 2Lt	
TT	Erdman, Robert A., S/Sgt	
WG	Johnson, Gene W., Sgt	
RO	Kamen, Roland K., S/Sgt	
TG	McKeon, Preston W., 2Lt	
WG	Robins, James B., Sgt	

DECEMBER 31, 1944 (NEW YEAR'S EVE)



Officer's Club Bar Menu

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER CONTAINED SEVERAL NOTABLE EVENTS

- Missions were flown under extremely adverse conditions.
- There were no 303rd BG(H) crewmen lost during the month.
- There were no 303rd BG(H) aircraft lost while crewed by 303rd BG(H) personnel.
- At no time were any 303rd BG(H) aircraft attacked by enemy aircraft, despite greatly increased activity by the Luftwaffe.
- The *Floose* became the first 8th Air Force bomber to fly 100 combat missions. A 92BG crew crash landed and lost the aircraft on its 102nd mission.
- The Battle of the Bulge began on 16 December. The 8th Air Force dispatched a record 2,046 bombers on Christmas Eve.
- The 303rd BG(H) held its annual, wonderful Christmas party for neighboring village children.

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT THE YEAR'S END

Feb 20-26: Climax in campaign against German aircraft industry, which broke German expansion program begun in 1942 and designed to quadruple single engine fighter production by 1944. In this week Forts and Libs fought through desperate Luftwaffe opposition to attack some 16 major aircraft assembly and components plants.

Feb 20: First time more than 1,000 heavy bombers dispatched.

Mar 3: First Eighth Air Force planes over Berlin — P38s of 55th Fighter group swept over city.

Mar 4: First daylight bombing attack on Berlin.

May 2: Campaign against oil was launched. Subsequently 41 different oil plants and depots were bombed during the year in 147 attacks.

June 6: On D-Day, 4,617 times during the day an Eighth Air Force aircraft took off. Beginning before dawn and lasting until after dark, the Eighth executed four separate bombing operations, not counting reconnaissance, fighter bombing and special operations. In the dark of the early hours a Fortress squadron dropped leaflets on Norman villages to warn the people of impending coastal bombardment.

June 20: One of the greatest blows of the war against oil. Twelve separate oil refineries and synthetic oil plants hit with good to excellent results on every target. Record force of 1,500 bombers dispatched for first time on single operation.

June 21: First Eighth Air Force England-to-Russia shuttle bombing, hitting an oil plant at Ruhland, southeast of Berlin, en route.

Aug 6: Longest fighter mission. Mustangs escorted Fortresses in attack on German aircraft factory near Gdynia, in Poland on the Baltic Sea, and returned to bases in England. A round trip of about 1,600 miles, more than seven hours in the cockpit for the pilots.

Nov 2: Greatest aerial victory for Eighth Air Force fighters — 134 German fighters shot out of the air. (They destroyed 25 more on the ground the same day.)

Dec 24: Over 2,000 Eighth Air Force bombers dispatched. Largest force of heavy bombers ever sent out on a single operation by any air force anywhere. With engines developing the power of more than five Boulder Dams or 46 Queen Marys, the Forts and Libs formed a column of combat wings 400 miles long carried more men than compose an entire infantry division - Madison Square Garden would have been required to brief them all.