

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 311

3 February 1945

Target: Military Objectives at Berlin, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

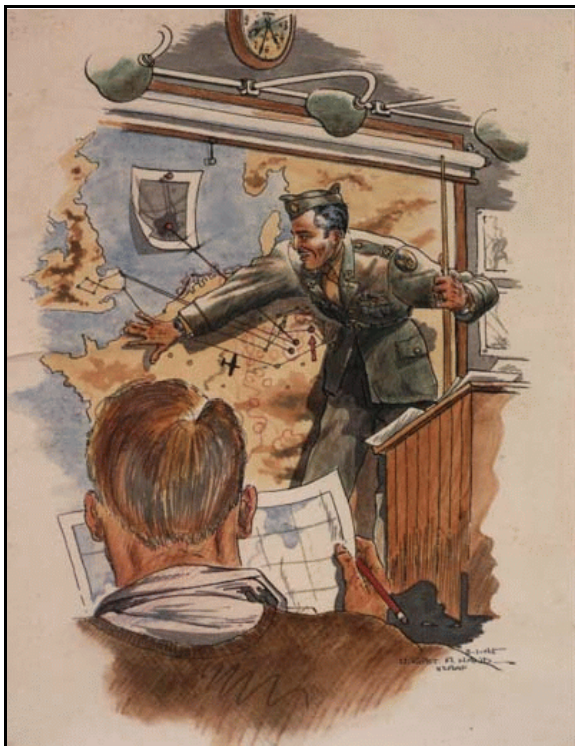
Length of Mission: 8 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 24,200, 23,000 & 25,100 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,755 rounds

Former Deputy Commanding Officer and acting CO of the 303rd BG(H), Lt. Col. Lewis E. **Lyle**, led the 8th Air Force on the 303rd BG(H)'s 11th mission to Berlin. It proved to be the most destructive bombing that Berlin received, with 937 8th Air Force B-17s dropping 2,266 tons of high explosives to the already devastated German capital. One aircraft returned early, #44-8647 (*No Name*) 360BS (Lt. **App**), had engine trouble.



The Briefing - Sketch of Molesworth by Bob Hand

The 303rd BG(H) found 4/10 low clouds with tops at 8,000 feet and dense, non-persistent contrails at the bombing altitude over Berlin. The Group dropped 370 500-lb. H.E. M43 bombs and 10 units of leaflets. Bombing, from 24,200, 23,000 and 25,100 feet was visual.

About three-fourths of the lead Squadron bombs hit in the fully built-up central city area with the balance hitting in the compact residential area. Several bursts could be seen in the gas, water and electricity plants. The low Squadron bursts could not be seen because of smoke. The high Squadron hits also were mostly obscured, although some hits were observed in the central city built-up area. Overall results were described as good. Berlin broadcasts declared that the bombers and fighters formed a sky train stretching 300 miles from Berlin to the Dutch frontier.

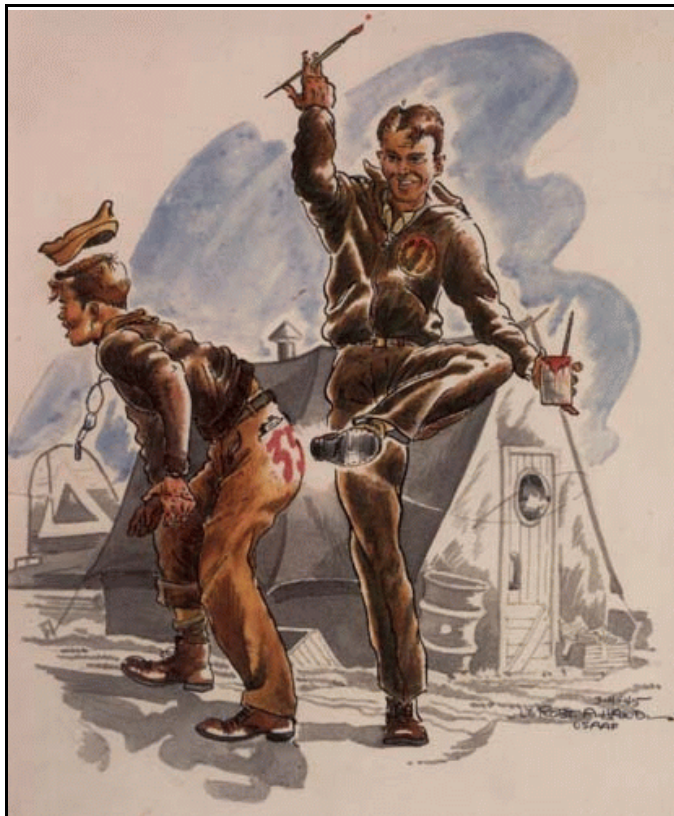
Again, no enemy aircraft were sighted — the last fighter spotted was on 26 November 1944. The 1st AD force of 262 P-51s provided good support. Flak was moderate, but very accurate, at the target. Fourteen B-17s sustained major battle damage and another fourteen, minor damage.

Lt. Preston W. **McKeon**, co-pilot on Lt. Donald C. **Aagesen**'s crew, 427BS, received some flak injuries on his arm and leg. There were no other casualties and all B-17s made a safe return to Molesworth.

THOUGHTS IN FLIGHT — ON MY 35th and FINAL MISSION

excerpt from the book "LAST RAID," by Robert A. Hand

"Well goddamn it, Robert," I thought to myself, "This is what you yearned for so badly, isn't it? Life in the Army Air Force with all its thrills . . . dusting off the clouds in a great airplane . . . flying combat as a crew member of a "Big Ass Bird" . . . getting your jollies as a Bombardier with your very own \$10,000 Norden "Bomb-Aimer-And-Dropper" and sitting up front with the most exciting, panoramic view in the airplane.



Sketch done at Molesworth in 1945 by Bob Hand

And how about those endless hours strapped up in heavy flying gear, under a flak suit, Mae West life preserver and chute harness, pulling your breath through five yards of hose, wondering where the next wall of flak will appear. Or enduring the endless throb of engine sound . . . not daring to give in to fatigue . . . or even hunger . . . or the anticipation and dread of injury at altitude, hours away from medical attention . . . or bailing out into that fifty-below-zero gale outside.

Or the horror of watching a formation buddy in a nearby B-17, throw smoke, drop from the squadron and only being able to count six chutes before he disintegrates into a giant smear of debris. Or the hair-raising episodes of close-formation flying when you're on the bomb run, seconds before release and you look directly up into another B-17's open and loaded bomb bay

doors and you know he is about to drop his bombs too.

Or how about the nightmare turned real of holding an injured crew member's head in your hands while he froths at the mouth, babbling incoherently and bleeding profusely from a head wound. Or listening to the heavy breathing on the intercom of a shaken comrade as he asks his God for mercy. Or visions of torture and starvation in an enemy prison camp . . .

But then you gaze downward at the frozen trenches of Holland five miles below and you thank your lucky stars that you're up here relatively comfortable in a quarter-million-dollar airplane with nine other guys protecting your back side and with any luck you'll be back at the base in four or five hours for a shower, something decent to drink and eat and maybe a couple of letters from home.

And you realize that a simple twist of fate . . . being born a second earlier or later . . . or to different parents, another country or world . . . and you might have wound up a footsoldier, lying half-frozen in a lousy foxhole, waiting for an enemy shell to put you out of your misery . . . or worse. Is this the war to end all wars?

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

	<u>Healy-Hullar</u> 038 - PFF	
<u>Ashwell</u> 081		<u>Aagesen</u> 545 - PFF
	<u>Wertz</u> 977	
<u>Richter</u> 885		<u>Bean</u> 060
<u>Petersen</u> 621		<u>Middlemas</u> 672
<u>Demian</u> 860	<u>Flanders</u> 411	<u>Schultz</u> 318
		<u>Ayers</u> 011
		<u>Moody</u> 451



Berlin from 25,000 feet - 3 February 1945

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Haynes-Embrey
564 - PFF

Fravel Knutzen
127 619

Knudson
609

Mauger O'Donnell
767 050

Bailey Fink
608 517

Tarvid Richeson Statton Armfield
206 289 523 544

Harding
944

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Miller-Walter
8590 - PFF

Milman Dorsett
999 316

Poole
238

Greenbaum Gmernicki
191 427

Walker App
065 647

Erickson Greene St. Julien Arwood
096 462 563 532

Gobrecht
7590

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS			
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	RESULTS OF MISSION	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 #43-38191 *Shasta*

P	Greenbaum, Richard D., 2Lt
CP	Sims, Allen R., 2Lt
NAV	Nicastro, John J., F/O
TOG	Smith, Donald P., S/Sgt
ENG	McGreevy, James, T/Sgt
TG	Hawes, Kenneth D., Sgt
RO	Dalton, Denver, Sgt
BT	Dooley, Patrick, Sgt
WG	Frazier, Victor L., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-39096 *Sky Demon*

P	Erickson, Robert E., 2Lt
CP	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
NAV	Guerrieri, Joe C., F/O
TOG	Quig, Francis X., Sgt
ENG	Sprinkles, Lebow D., Sgt
WG	Boone, Kenneth E., Sgt
RO	Ennis, Charles S., Sgt
BT	Carter, William J., Sgt
TG	Schultz, Frederick W., S/Sgt

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

P	Gmernicki, Richard H., 1Lt
CP	Judd, Chester G., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, William M., 2Lt
TOG	Denning, Glenn J., S/Sgt
ENG	McClymont, John W., S/Sgt
WG	Scott, William R., Sgt
RO	Calenberg, Raymond N., Sgt
BT	Greenberg, Bernard, Sgt
TG	Mogusar, John F., Sgt

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

P	Poole, Lawrence E., 2Lt
CP	Cannon, Harley E., 2Lt
NAV	Leonhirth, Junius, F/O
BOM	Mott, Charles A., 2Lt
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

B-17G #43-38999 *Emma*

P	Milman, Jerome, 2Lt
CP	Geile, Thomas A., 2Lt
NAV	Wilhelm, Frederick H., 2Lt
BOM	McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Eygabroad, Robert J., Sgt
WG	Ready, William C., Sgt
RO	Noble, Neal W., Sgt
BT	Fox, Raymond H., Jr., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Jack W., Sgt

B-17G #43-38462 *Teddy's Rough Riders*

P	Greene, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Parson, Jerome G., 2Lt
NAV	Milligan, William J., 2Lt
BOM	Oettinger, George F., 2Lt
ENG	Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt
WG	Williams, Ira J., Sgt
RO	Thompson, Joe C., Sgt
BT	Covert, John L., Sgt
TG	Jobe, Milton L., Sgt

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Walker, Barton F., 2Lt
CP	Smith, Orville H., F/O
NAV	Das, Mitchell C., 2Lt
TOG	Magyar, Frank, Sgt
ENG	Wilhelm, Raymond G., Sgt
BT	Diaczynski, Andrew J., Sgt
RO	Jasut, Stanley, Sgt
WG	Atkinson, Gerald V., Sgt
TG	Massey, Ray N., Sgt

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

P	Gobrecht, Harry D., 1Lt
CP	Eby, Joe M., 2Lt
NAV	McDonald, Walter H., 2Lt
TOG	Miller, Robert J., S/Sgt
ENG	Benefield, Lenville H., S/Sgt
WG	Mays, Thomas G., Sgt
RO	Quick, Edgar H., S/Sgt
BT	McGrory, William P., S/Sgt
TG	Buske, Phillip R., Sgt

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

P	Dorsett, John D., 1Lt
CP	Castillo, Joseph L.A., F/O
NAV	Mylonas, Peter E., F/O
TOG	Johnson, Vernon W., Sgt
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 #44-8590 (*No Name*) - PFF

P	Miller, Campbell, Capt
CP	Walter, Donald R., 2Lt
NAV	Weber, George F., 1Lt
MN	Buckner, James C., 2Lt
BOM	Green, George A., 1Lt
ENG	Nelson, James E., T/Sgt
WG	Bartreau, Edward L., S/Sgt
RO	Tuescher, Ernest, T/Sgt
TG	Dickinson, Morris L., 2Lt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Harding, Lawrence T., 2Lt
CP	Force, James G., 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 #42-107206 *Old Black Magic*

P	Tarvid, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Hudson, Glenn V., 2Lt
TOG	Connor, Joseph C., T/Sgt
ENG	Jenkins, Maurice L., Sgt
RO	Root, Carmen W., Sgt
BT	Muchmore, Gale F., Sgt
TG	Dimick, Richard D., Sgt
WG	Carlson, Dale H., Sgt

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

P	Richeson, Marvin G., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Heller, Emerson E., 2Lt
NAV	Herrmann, Robert H., 2Lt
TOG	Benge, Charlie W., Sgt
ENG	Gray, Alexander W., S/Sgt
RO	Mahoney, Denis J., Sgt
BT	Ortega, Jesus F., Sgt
TG	Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

B-17G #43-38609 *(No Name)*

P	Knudson, Darwin D., 1Lt
CP	Heitman, David E., 2Lt
NAV	Albertson, Edward, F/O
BOM	Webber, Gale M., 2Lt
ENG	Lainson, Colin C., S/Sgt
RO	Jones, Walter N., Jr., Sgt
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., Sgt
TG	McDonald, Billy L., Sgt
WG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt

B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille*

P	Bailey, Jack W., 2Lt
CP	Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt
NAV	Jones, Clayton C., 2Lt
TOG	Fogle, Jerome W., Jr.
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

B-17G #42-38050 *Thunderbird*

P	O'Donnell, Thomas M., 2Lt
CP	Goulding, Traynum D., 2Lt
NAV	Jardarian, Zaven, 2Lt
TOG	Wilson, Johnnie R., S/Sgt
ENG	Fischer, Norbert G., Sgt
RO	Portney, Sol, S/Sgt
BT	Gaumer, Billy A., Sgt
TG	Hoffman, George F., Sgt
WG	Redhage, Louis H., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-39127 (No Name)

P	Fravel, Harold L., 2Lt
CP	Call, Fred E., 2Lt
NAV	Fisher, William H., 2Lt
BOM	Mieslich, Morris, F/O
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt
TG	Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
WG	Tanner, Henry C., Sgt

B-17G #43-38767 (No Name)

P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
CP	Burgess, William T., 2Lt
NAV	Brown, Bernard J., 2Lt
TOG	Goudy, William F., S/Sgt
ENG	Reseigh, John R., S/Sgt
RO	Grden, Matthew W., Cpl
BT	Kelley, Francis H., Cpl
TG	Walling, Glenn R., Cpl
WG	Westfall, Byron D., Sgt

B-17G #44-8564 (No Name) - PFF

P	Haynes, Charles D., 1Lt
CP	Embrey, Henry C., 1Lt
NAV	Moon, Richard Y., 2Lt
MN	Gennaro, Louis T., 2Lt
BOM	Dando, Charles A., 1Lt
ENG	Miller, Harry C., T/Sgt
RO	Zellar, Donald W., T/Sgt
TG	Sharp, Bryant M., 2Lt
WG	Gavin, William E., S/Sgt

B-17G #43-38619 (No Name)

P	Knutzen, Owen A., 1Lt
CP	Bitler, Hower E., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Christenson, LeRoy P., 2Lt
BOM	Donovan, Thomas A., 2Lt
ENG	Klym, Michael, S/Sgt
RO	Jobe, Andrew K., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Kennedy, Jack B., Sgt
TG	Hartmann, Alexander, T/Sgt
WG	Peters, Arthur R., S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-102544 *Sack Time*

P	Armfield, John M., 2Lt
CP	Marten, Dudley V., 2Lt
NAV	Stewart, James L., 2Lt
TOG	Driver, Henderson M., Jr., S/Sgt
ENG	Lemon, James M., Jr., Sgt
RO	Haynes, Donald L., Sgt
BT	Crawford, Frank J., S/Sgt
TG	Patterson, Charles A., S/Sgt
WG	Goggin, Edward F., Sgt

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

P	Arwood, Joe B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Walter E., 2Lt
NAV	Fowler, William C., 2Lt
TOG	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 #43-38563 *Jackie*

P	St. Julien, John D., 1Lt
CP	Newell, Richard M., 2Lt
NAV	Kiehlkopf, George, 2Lt
BOM	Carney, Felix A., 2Lt
ENG	Mitchell, William E., S/Sgt
RO	Flanigan, John J., Sgt
BT	Farthing, Richard M., Sgt
TG	Evans, Marlin D., S/Sgt
WG	McLellan, Raymond L., Sgt

B-17G #44-6517 *Old Cock*

P	Fink, Marvin P., 2Lt
CP	Reeves, Howard E., 2Lt
NAV	Hand, Robert A., 2Lt
TOG	Valdes, George J., S/Sgt
ENG	Holder, Jack E., Sgt
RO	Dahl, Robert F., Sgt
BT	Albright, Richard M., S/Sgt
TG	Garcia, Cyprian M., Sgt
WG	Ciezdalo, Eugene F., S/Sgt

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

P	Schultz, John W., 2Lt
CP	Austin, Charles A., 1Lt
NAV	Kokoska, Florian T., 2Lt
BOM	Morgan, Clinton J., 2Lt
ENG	Ingles, Howard L., Sgt
RO	Kummer, Burnell R., Sgt
BT	Danielsen, Stanley K., Sgt
TG	Krouse, Thomas R., Sgt
WG	Stuckey, Edward C., Sgt

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

P	Moody, William S., 2Lt
CP	Bentley, Andrew K., 2Lt
NAV	Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt
BOM	West, Albert G., F/O
ENG	Fleming, James A., Sgt
RO	Kirtner, Billy L., S/Sgt
BT	Beckman, Charles W., Sgt
TG	Moore, Bill A., Sgt
WG	Mulqueen, John J., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

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

P	Statton, Roy F., 2Lt
CP	Schroll, David A., 2Lt
NAV	Donahue, Thomas R., 2Lt
TOG	Woods, Heiber J., Sgt
ENG	Rhodes, William H., Sgt
RO	Knowles, Charles D., Sgt
BT	Gilbert, James E., S/Sgt
TG	Carter, James O., Sgt
WG	Maxson, Gordon H., Sgt

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

P	App, Robert G., 1Lt
CP	Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt
NAV	Dennis, Walter F., 2Lt
BOM	Dee, Martin R., 2Lt
ENG	Leach, Norman E., T/Sgt
RO	Matlock, Austin M., T/Sgt
BT	Brady, Gene F., S/Sgt
TG	Nabors, Herschell F., Sgt
WG	Polaski, Duane L., S/Sgt

(Abortive)

B-17G #43-38672 (No Name)

P	Middlemas, Arthur B., 1Lt
CP	Johnson, Arthur E., 2Lt
NAV	Cooley, Royal D., 2Lt
TOG	Giancola, James V., 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
VI	Brody, John J., Sgt (427th)



View of another Bomb Group from a 303rd BG Aircraft

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #43-39011 (No Name)

P	Ayers, Roger D, 2Lt
CP	Danna, Joseph, F/O
NAV	Wagner, Charles D., 2Lt
TOG	Hardin, Joe A., Sgt
TT	Rys, Valentine J., Sgt
BT	Bailey, George E., Sgt
RO	Morris, Allen L., Sgt
TG	Turkovich, Charles J., Sgt
WG	Clarkson, Robert T., Sgt

B-17G #44-6977 Better Do'er

P	Wertz, Robert M., 1Lt
CP	Durst, Melvin A., 2Lt
NAV	Rogge, Richard W., 2Lt
BOM	Stephens, Walton M., Jr., 2Lt
TT	Warne, Ralph W., Sgt
BT	Jensen, Kenneth E., Sgt
RO	Giering, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Bennett, Kenneth A., Sgt
WG	Campbell, Walter C., Sgt

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

P	Richter, George K., 2Lt
CP	McMullen, Robert A., 2Lt
NAV	Cohen, Leo, F/O
TOG	Simon, Lawrence E., S/Sgt
TT	Clark, Jay R., T/Sgt
BT	Smith, Donald S., Sgt
RO	Kemmerer, Alfred G., Sgt
TG	Chisholm, Robert E., Sgt
WG	Vernon, James D., Sgt

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

P	Demian, Julius C., F/O
CP	Weatherby, Earl R., F/O
NAV	Tractman, Bernard L., F/O
TOG	Ganson, Howard H., S/Sgt
TT	Leach, Harry L., Sgt
BT	Wilson, Alfred D., Sgt
RO	Lombardi, Donato J., Sgt
TG	Buford, Thomas A., Sgt
WG	Ross, Joseph M., Jr., Sgt

B-17G #43-38621 50 Ragged

P	Petersen, William H., 1Lt
CP	Candido, Anthony N., 2Lt
NAV	Bason, William A., 2Lt
TOG	Leas, Harry D., S/Sgt
TT	Zarella, Anthony A., S/Sgt
BT	Johnson, Gene W., S/Sgt
RO	Whitely, Cull W., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Coleman, Loyd, S/Sgt
WG	Tanner, Loyd H., S/Sgt

B-17G #42-102411 Miss Lace

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

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

B-17G #43-39081 (No Name)

P	Ashwell, Silas B., 1Lt
CP	Nemer, Alfred K., 1Lt
NAV	Schulz, Harry H., 2Lt
BOM	Marshall, Alexander F., 1Lt
TT	Bohrer, Floyd S., Sgt
BT	Canfield, Marion L., Sgt
RO	Volpini, Peter M., Sgt
TG	Doherty, Floyd C., Jr., Sgt
WG	Kerr, Paul L., Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 Poque Ma Hone

P	Bean, John R., 2Lt
CP	Richardson, Thomas W., 2Lt
NAV	Natoli, Sam J., 1Lt
TOG	Ladd, John M., Sgt
TT	Garrett, Joe W., T/Sgt
BT	Graves, John M., Sgt
RO	Grossman, Howard A., S/Sgt
WG	Wakefield, Richard E., Sgt
TG	Sears, William A., S/Sgt

B-17G #44-8545 (No Name) - PFF

P	Aagesen, Donald C., 2Lt	
CP	McKeon, Preston W., 2Lt	WIA
NAV	Minnis, Karl, 2Lt	
MN	Wienstein, Irving, 2Lt	
BOM	Leavell, Adelbert D., Jr., 2Lt	
TT	Ellis, Paul R., Sgt	
BT	Calderon, Reuben J., Sgt	
RO	Bledsoe, Clinton A., S/Sgt	
TG	Lindeman, Henry E., Sgt	
WG	Vuksinich, Louis F., Sgt	

B-17G #44-8038 (No Name) - PFF

P	Healy, Richard F., Capt
CP	Hullar, Robert J., Capt
NAV	Dye, Carl J., Jr., 1Lt
GH	Illgen, Frederick J., Maj
MN	Caldwell, Walter D., 2Lt
BOM	Kennedy, William J., 1Lt
TT	Robertson, Joseph J., T/Sgt
RO	Kopriva, Charles P., T/Sgt
WG	Whitlow, Zane O., S/Sgt
TG	Wilson, Jack G., 2Lt



At the Yalta Conference - Winston Churchill, President F.D. Roosevelt, Josef Stalin

YALTA CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 4 - 11, 1945

The conference at Yalta held in the Crimea on February 4-11, 1945 brought together the Big Three Allied leaders. During this conference, Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt discussed Europe's postwar reorganization. The main purpose of Yalta was the re-establishment of the nations conquered and destroyed by Germany.

Organizing the occupation of Germany was one of the top priorities. The Yalta Conference agreed to divide Germany into zones controlled by each of the three nations present. With the immense size of Stalin's army, Russia would take Berlin and control the eastern half of Germany upon its surrender. Great Britain suggested France as one of the occupiers. Initially, Stalin resisted but eventually accepted this idea. Poland was given back its independence and given its own national election in order to create a new, independent government. Yugoslavia was given its own government as well which consisted of mostly old members under a new system. In both cases, Nazi and Fascist leaders were specifically prohibited.

The Soviets reaffirmed their intention to fight Japan and in return expected to occupy areas in the East. The secret Yalta agreement was signed on February 11, 1945 by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin in which Russia agreed to declare war on Japan "in two or three months" after the surrender of Germany, in return for: (1) Preservation of the status quo in Outer Mongolia, (2) return of Southern Sakhalin and adjacent islands, internationalization of Dairen, restoration of Port Arthur as a leased naval base, joint Chinese-Russian operation of the Chinese Eastern Railroad and the South Manchurian Railroad, which provides an outlet for Dairen ("China shall maintain full sovereignty in Manchuria"); (3) Kurile Islands to be "handed over" to Russia. In this agreement, the United States and Britain also agreed to support Ukraine and White Russia as separate states in the UN. Moreover, the United States, Britain and Russia gave themselves "supreme authority" to take any steps deemed necessary to prevent future German aggression, including "dismemberment" of Germany.