

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 335

12 March 1945

Target: Railway Center at Betzdorf, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 15 minutes

Bomb Load: 21 x 100 lb H.E. M30, 6 x 250 lb M57 Incendiary,  
& 4 x 500 lb M17 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 24,000, 23,700, & 25,300 ft

Ammo Fired: 1,240 rounds

**T**hirty-nine aircraft were dispatched to attack:

First	Betzdorf, Germany — railway center (visual)
Second	Betzdorf, Germany — railway center (GEE-H)
Third	Frankfurt, Germany — marshalling yard (visual)
Fourth	Frankfurt, Germany — marshalling yard (H2X)

The 303rd BG(H) attacked the second priority target with 844 100-lb. H.E. M30, 232 250-lb. M57 incendiary, and 76 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs and 10 units of leaflets. Bombing was by GEE-H equipment through a solid undercast with unobserved results. All Gee-H navigators reported good bomb runs — bombs were believed to have hit the aiming point areas.

Crews reported seeing only a few of the 144 supporting P-51s, no enemy aircraft or flak was seen, and there was no battle damage or casualties.



## **HARRY D. GOBRECHT CREW - 358th BS**

**B-17G #42-97557 Mercy's Madhouse (358th BS) VK-X**

**(crew assigned 358BS: 12 Nov 1944 - photo: 01 Dec 1944)**

(Back L-R) 1Lt Harry D. Gobrecht (P), 1Lt Joe M. Eby (CP), 2Lt Walter H. McDonald (N),  
S/Sgt William H. McGrory, Jr. (BTG) - (Front L-R) Sgt Phillip R. Buske (TG), T/Sgt Edgar H. Quick (R),  
Sgt Thomas G. Mays (WG), T/Sgt Lenville H. Benefield, Sgt Robert J. Miller (TOG)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Healy-Bagstad  
038 - PFF

Krohn  
248

Ayers  
125 - PFF

Miller  
883

Richardson  
958

Thomas  
311

Flanigan  
220

Cassels  
011

Grob  
597

Chuba  
977

Demian  
763

Turinsky  
411

Denison  
937



### **WILLIAM A. DENISON CREW - 427th BS**

**(crew assigned 427BS: 13 February 1945 - photo: 01 March 1945)**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Charles H. Haynes (CP), 1Lt William A. Denison (P), F/O John E. Zabelicky (N),  
Sgt William H. Mack (TOG), Sgt Harold A. McComb (WG)  
(Front L-R) Sgt Clair E. Eckert (E), Cpl Walter D. O'Hearn (TG),  
Sgt Roy Conyer, Jr. (BTG), Cpl William P. Kiggins (R)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

		<u>Goering-Walter</u> 238 - PFF			
		<u>Milman</u> 999		<u>Cunningham</u> 462	
			<u>Leach</u> 949		
		<u>Greenbaum</u> 191		<u>Bohle</u> 554	
	<u>McLeod</u> 160				<u>Garrett</u> 096
<u>Taub</u> 318		<u>Nester</u> 523		<u>Murray</u> 427	<u>Woodard</u> 006
				<u>Gobrecht</u> 590	



**LtCol Harry D. Gobrecht's Leather A-2 Bomber Jacket**  
*B-17G #43-37590 Neva - The Silver Lady 358BS VK-Q*  
 36 Combat Missions — Painted in 1990 by Barbara Gobrecht

### 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 WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer	PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer Y - Y-Operators (YRO,YO) RCM - Radio Cntr Measures SJ - Spot Jammer  <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 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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# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

## Kerwin-Mauger 537 - PFF

Towne  
206

Rogers  
878

Bixby  
645

Moore  
767

Bashor  
609

Harding  
127

Call  
734

Henning  
875

Beasley  
309

Peterson  
050

O'Donnell  
608

Tarvid  
891



### **OLIVER LEE BASHOR CREW - 359th BS**

**B-17G #43-38289 Sweet La Rhonda BN-J**

(crew assigned 359BS: 28 Feb 1945)

(Back L-R) Cpl Paul E. Reed (E), Cpl Norman S. Greene (BT), 2Lt Ira B. Baker (CP),  
Harry Adams (B) - (Front L-R) Cpl Robert J. Theisen (TG), Cpl Robert S. Hansen (WG),  
2Lt Oliver Lee Bashor (P), Cpl Victor N. Shook (R)

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-39160 *G for George***

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P McLeod, William S., 1Lt  
 CP Elkins, Richard A., 2Lt  
 NAV Hopkins, William B., 2Lt  
 TOG Rafferty, William A., Sgt  
 ENG DeWillers, Edgar, S/Sgt  
 RO Guenin, Wayne E., T/Sgt  
 BT Nichols, William A., Jr., Sgt  
 TG James, Frank M., Sgt

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

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P Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt  
 CP Smith, Orville H., F/O  
 NAV Milligan, William J., 2Lt  
 TOG Quig, Francis X., Sgt  
 ENG Sprinkles, Leburn D., Sgt  
 WG Boone, Kenneth E., Sgt  
 RO Ennis, Charles S., Sgt  
 BT Carter, William J., Sgt  
 TG Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

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

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P Garrett, Charles E., 2Lt  
 CP Castillo, Joseph L., F/O  
 NAV Cooper, Saul A., F/O  
 TOG Prudhoe, Charles E., T/Sgt  
 ENG Hohstadt, Hollis H., Sgt  
 TG Van Cleave, Joseph A., Sgt  
 RO Henson, Jessey B., Sgt  
 BT Walczak, John, Sgt

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

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P Nester, Harry E., 2Lt  
 CP Craig, Fred, 2Lt  
 NAV Smith, Harold S., F/O  
 TOG Jones, James P., Sgt  
 ENG Kappadaki, Kermit P., Sgt  
 RO Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt  
 BT Bovey, Charles D., Sgt  
 TG Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

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

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P Bohle, Loren W., 2Lt  
 CP Gordon, Joseph, 2Lt  
 NAV Gerhardstein, Eugene M., F/O  
 TOG Sproule, Wayne O., Sgt  
 ENG Bigelow, Robert F., Sgt  
 RO Genter, Norman, Sgt  
 BT Aldous, George C., Sgt  
 TG Smith, Jack C., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38999 *Emma***

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P Milman, Jerome, 2Lt  
 CP Geile, Thomas A., 2Lt  
 NAV Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt  
 BOM Mott, Charles A., 2Lt  
 ENG Eygabroad, Robert J., Sgt  
 RO Noble, Neal W., S/Sgt  
 BT Fox, Raymond H., Jr., Sgt  
 TG Johnson, Jack W., Sgt

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

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P Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt  
 CP Olson, John L., 2Lt  
 NAV McCorkle, Robert F., 2Lt  
 BOM Jones, George W., 2Lt  
 ENG Bridgeman, James H., Sgt  
 RO Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt  
 BT Anderson, Junior W., Sgt  
 TG Sulley, Oda F., Jr., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38191 *Shasta***

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P Greenbaum, Richard D., 1Lt  
 CP Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt  
 NAV Nicastro, John J., F/O  
 TOG Brown, James L., T/Sgt  
 ENG Bruce, Leonard F., T/Sgt  
 TG Hawes, Kenneth D., Sgt  
 RO Dalton, Denver, Sgt  
 BT Dooley, Patrick, Sgt  
 WG Frazier, Victor L., S/Sgt  
 PAS Conrad, Joseph, T/Sgt (303rd)

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

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

P	Taub, Francis R., 2Lt
CP	Cooper, John T., 2Lt
NAV	Johnson, Charles P., 2Lt
TOG	Dugan, Michael A., Sgt
ENG	Chrisman, Warren F., Sgt
RO	Maluchnik, Chester S., S/Sgt
BT	Hollowell, James L., Sgt
TG	Spencer, James P., Sgt
WG	McWilliams, Elmer D., Sgt
SJ	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt (360th)

### **B-17G #44-8238 (No Name) - PFF**

P	Goering, Werner G., 1Lt
CP	Walter, Donald R., 1Lt
NAV	Kaiser, James M., Capt
MN	Bannowsky, Lonvell A., 2Lt
GHN	Chambers, Rex, 2Lt
BOM	Ford, Wilson, 1Lt
ENG	Schroeder, Karl T., S/Sgt
WG	Meade, Joseph J., S/Sgt
RO	Kasik, Robert F., S/Sgt
TG	Hopkins, Harry F., 1Lt

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

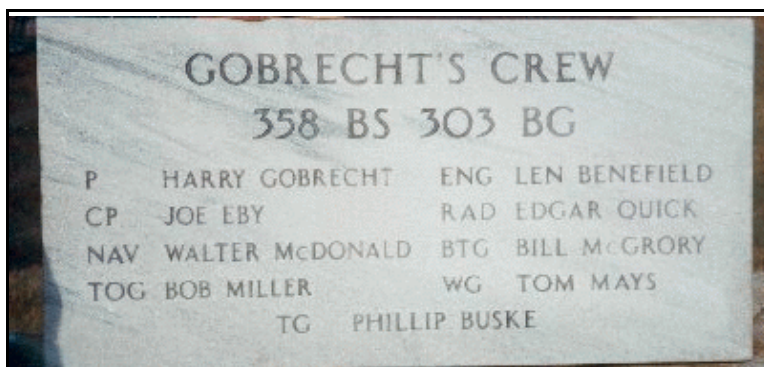
P	Murray, Robert I., 2Lt
CP	Boardman, Robert, F/O
NAV	Wyman, Asa H., F/O
TOG	Hammarlund, Carl O., Sgt
ENG	Brunale, Vito J., Sgt
RO	Bates, Theodore A., Sgt
BT	Rodock, Nicholas, Sgt
TG	Rennie, Robert P., Sgt
PAS	Scott, William R., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6006 (No Name)**

P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Leonhirth, Junius, F/O
TOG	Jackson, Thomas W., Sgt
ENG	Walley, Glen B., Sgt
BT	Sloan, Walter E., Sgt
RO	Foreman, Dennis E., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Robert H., Sgt
WG	Mills, Joe J., Sgt

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

P	Gobrecht, Harry D., 1Lt
CP	Magid, Malcolm J., 2Lt
NAV	Kuester, Edward F., 2Lt
TOG	Miller, Robert J., S/Sgt
ENG	McGreevy, James, T/Sgt
BT	Mays, Thomas G., Sgt
RO	Jasut, Stanley, S/Sgt
TG	Reece, Robert H., T/Sgt



*Memorial to the Gobrecht Crew at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Pooler, Georgia.*

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-38875 *Redwing***

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P	Henning, Clyde H., 2Lt
CP	Bauer, Donald R., F/O
NAV	Albertson, Edward, F/O
TOG	Jones, John V., Sgt
ENG	Grant, Gilbert D., Sgt
RO	Ferche, Joseph P., Sgt
BT	Harper, Richard F., Sgt
TG	Barnett, Raymond L., Sgt
WG	Hansen, Robert S., Sgt

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

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P	Moore, Thomas L., 2Lt
CP	Barnett, James M., 2Lt
NAV	Johnson, Herbert G., 2Lt
TOG	Weise, William A., Jr.
ENG	Ogurchak, Joseph T., Sgt
RO	Brookstra, William A., Sgt
BT	Kohan, Frederick, Sgt
TG	Pesta, Clarence A., Sgt
WG	Jeandrevin, Robert R., Sgt

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

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P	Bashor, Oliver L., 2Lt
CP	Baker, Ira B., 2Lt
NAV	Fish, Louis, 2Lt
TOG	Boucher, Henry G., S/Sgt
ENG	Reed, Paul E., Sgt
RO	Shook, Victor N., Sgt
BT	Greene, Norman S., Sgt
TG	Theisen, Robert J., Sgt
WG	Carl, Lewis E., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8734 *Hell's Cargo***

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P	Call, Fred E., 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Mieslich, Morris, F/O
TOG	Bates, Roger K., S/Sgt
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, Sgt
TG	Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt

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

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P	Harding, Lawrence T., 1Lt
CP	Force, Jams G., 2Lt
NAV	Webber, Gale M., 2Lt
TOG	Wilson, Johnnie R., T/Sgt
ENG	O'Brien, William J., S/Sgt
RO	Cornelius, Russell B., S/Sgt
BT	Lammers, Roger G., Sgt
TG	Johnson, Robert O., Sgt
WG	Holden, Robert R., Sgt

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

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P	Rogers, Clem W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Powlus, Vernon F., 2Lt
NAV	Simon, Albert, 2Lt
BOM	Johnson, Herbert E., 1Lt
ENG	Reese, Bobbie B., S/Sgt
RO	Wysocki, John F., S/Sgt
BT	Meichtry, Leo R., S/Sgt
TG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt
WG	Westfall, Byron D., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-37537 *Queen of Hearts* - PFF**

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P	Kerwin, Charles E., Maj
CP	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Daryl, 2Lt
MN	Harrouff, Kelly F., 2Lt
GHN	Gadbois, Norman C., 2Lt
BOM	Donovan, Thomas A., 2Lt
ENG	Candito, Christopher A., T/Sgt
RO	Lovelock, Edward N., T/Sgt
TG	Heitman, David E., 2Lt

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

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P	Towne, Harvey E., 2Lt
CP	Ligaard, Warren K., 2Lt
NAV	West, Alonzo, III. 2Lt
TOG	Taylor, Wallace K., Sgt
ENG	Dritz, Arthur, Sgt
RO	Fiore, Thomas, Sgt
BT	Syler, Allen B., Sgt
TG	McGurdy, Lewis M., Sgt



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

### **B-17G #43-38891 *Blues in the Night***

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

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

P Bixby, Kenneth E., 1Lt  
 CP Burgess, William T., 2Lt  
 NAV McCollum, Claudias M., 2Lt (360th)  
 BOM Moss, Henry G., 2Lt  
 ENG Robichaux, John B., T/Sgt  
 RO Krumwiede, Leland J., S/Sgt  
 BT Schilling, Lawrence E., Sgt  
 TG Lainson, Colin C., T/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38608 *Lucille***

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

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

P Beasley, William M., 2Lt  
 CP Hall, Merwin G., 2Lt  
 NAV Welsh, Harry A., 2Lt  
 TOG Harrigfeld, Thomas E., Sgt  
 ENG Gornto, Jacob R., Sgt  
 RO Terrill, Jack W., Sgt  
 TG Gracida, Henry J., Jr., Sgt  
 BT Thomas, David W., Sgt

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

P Peterson, Robert C., 2Lt  
 CP Kirkpatrick, Roy A., 2Lt  
 NAV Mollman, Charles A., 2Lt  
 TOG Wilson, Robert P., Sgt  
 ENG Reed, Denver E., Sgt  
 RO Strigle, Paul C., Sgt  
 BT Hunsucker, John E., S/Sgt  
 TG Borsody, William L., Sgt



## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Grob, Emil E., Jr., 2Lt  
 CP Vanderhei, Vivian S., 2Lt  
 NAV Slauson, Leon H., 2Lt  
 TOG Allen, Herrold H., Sgt  
 TT Loy, Vernon C., Sgt  
 BT Apel, Charles W., Sgt  
 RO Mullen, John P., Sgt  
 TG Nutting, Rufus R., Sgt  
 WG Coleman, Loyd, Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38763 *(No Name)***

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

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

P Ayers, Roger D, 2Lt  
 CP Danna, Joseph, 2Lt  
 NAV Tanner, Merlin A., 2Lt  
 MN O'Donnell, Robert E., 2Lt, (360th)  
 BOM Marshall, Alexander F., 1Lt  
 TT Rys, Valentine J., Sgt  
 BT Bailey, George E., Sgt  
 RO Morris, Allen L., Sgt  
 TG Turkovich, Charles J., Sgt

### **B-17G #44-6937 *El Sereano***

P Denison, William A., 2Lt  
 CP Haynes, Charles H., 2Lt  
 NAV Zabelicky, John E., F/O  
 TOG Mack, William H., Sgt  
 TT Eckert, Clair E., S/Sgt  
 BT Conyer, Roy, Jr., Sgt  
 RO Kiggins, William P., Sgt  
 TG O'Hearn, Walter D., Sgt  
 WG McComb, Harold A., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-39220 *Smilie Jack***

P Flanigan, Lloyd J., 2Lt  
 CP Wokersien, James T., F/O  
 NAV Heaney, Edward J., F/O  
 BOM Steinberg, Clifford, 2Lt  
 TT Calderon, Reuben J., S/Sgt  
 BT Safley, Delbert A., Sgt  
 RO Gourly, Charles B., Sgt  
 TG Neiswender, John J., Sgt  
 SJ Morrill, Charles K., Sgt

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

P Turinsky, George, 2Lt  
 CP Shaughnessy, William J., F/O  
 NAV Cohen, Leo, F/O  
 TOG Clarkson, Robert T., S/Sgt  
 TT Wismer, Donald E., T/Sgt  
 BT Newman, Harold E., S/Sgt  
 RO Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt  
 TG Witcher, Marvin E., S/Sgt  
 WG Anderson, Dale R., Sgt

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

P Krohn, Robert W., 2Lt  
 CP Kindig, Paul B., 2Lt  
 NAV Christen, Louis M., 2Lt  
 TOG O'Sullivan, Henry T., Sgt  
 TT Peterson, Norman D., Sgt  
 BT Minoff, John, Sgt  
 RO McKenzie, Malcolm L., Sgt  
 TG Marozas, Arthur A., Sgt  
 WG Monyok, Joseph R., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-97311 *Shoo Shoo Baby***

P Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt  
 CP Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt  
 NAV Lacey, W.L., 2Lt  
 BOM Lee, Roger C., 2Lt  
 TT Haynes, Harry W., Jr., Sgt  
 BT Contreras, Luis L., Sgt  
 RO Smith, Walter E., Sgt  
 TG Carlson, Melvin C., Sgt  
 WG Eschinger, Edward G., Sgt  
 Y Brenner, Seymour, S/Sgt

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

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

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P	Chuba, Francis B., 2Lt
CP	Rogers, Ennis L., 2Lt
NAV	Wolf, Robert J., 2Lt
TOG	Malmo, Richard C., Sgt
TT	Ayers, Francis H., Sgt
BT	Paananen, Uhlo J., Sgt
RO	Harkey, Charles I., Sgt
TG	Huckabay, Harvey H., Sgt

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

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P	Cassels, James C., 2Lt
CP	Larkin, Clayton E., 2Lt
NAV	Wagner, Charles D., 2Lt
TOG	Porter, Ellery G., Sgt
TT	Mason, Jack F., Sgt
BT	Plant, Billy C., Sgt
RO	Dragon, George O., Sgt
TG	Phillips, John E., Sgt

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

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P	Healy, Richard F., Capt
CP	Bagstad, Charles W., Maj
NAV	Dye, Carl J., Jr., 1Lt
MN	Caldwell, Walter D., 2Lt
GHN	Hitt, Kenneth S., F/O
BOM	Burket, Wallace A., 1Lt
TT	Robertson, Joseph J., T/Sgt
RO	Smith, Phillip E., T/Sgt
TG	Kipfer, James F., 2Lt
WG	Whitlow, Zane O., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38958 *Green Hill Belle***

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P	Richardson, Thomas W., 2Lt
CP	Ayling, Peter D., 2Lt
NAV	Rubins, William R., F/O
TOG	Perkins, Herschel E., Sgt
TT	Ray, Paul, S/Sgt
BT	Graves, John M., Sgt
RO	Grossman, Howard A., S/Sgt
TG	Wakefield, Richard E., Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38883 *Lady Beth***

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P	Miller, Forrest E., 2Lt
CP	Woodworth, Kenneth R., F/O
NAV	Higgins, Harold W., 2Lt
BOM	Hansen, Arnold H., F/O
TT	Conroy, Thomas R., S/Sgt
BT	Burns, Jerry E., Sgt
RO	Retzlaff, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Rogers, Robert B., Sgt