

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 342

21 March 1945

Target: Airfields at Hopsten & Hesepe, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 36 x 100 lb M41 Fragmentation bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 22,000, 21,000, & 23,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 0 rounds

**T**he Hopsten airfield was the first priority assigned target in Germany (visual), any airfield assigned to any other force was the second priority (visual), and the Osnabruck marshalling yard was the third priority (visual) and the fourth (H2X).

The target area was covered with 7/10 to 10/10 high clouds with bases at 26,000 feet and 2/10 high clouds at 21,000 to 22,000 feet, but there were no contrails at altitude. The Group bombed two airfields visually. Twenty-six aircraft of the lead and high Squadrons dropped 957 100-lb. M41 fragmentation bombs on the No. 1 target, Hopsten airfield. Good results were reported with fires, smoke, and explosions in the target area. Due to the cloud cover over the first priority target, the low Squadron attacked the Hesepe Jet Fighter Airfield, using the dispersal area as their aiming point. Good results were obtained with hits on the aiming point. Four-hundred-ninety-four fragmentation bombs were dropped.

There was no enemy air opposition. Although few of the 97 assigned 1st AD P-51s were seen, it was evident that they were in the area and were available if needed. The lead Squadron encountered meager and very accurate flak at Hopsten, but other Squadrons met no flak. The lead Squadron had five aircraft with major and eight with minor battle damage and two wounded crewmen. All aircraft returned safely to Molesworth.



*Molesworth Airfield - photo taken in 1974*

## **OVER 300 HOLES IN MY AIRCRAFT !**

**Unusual Experience of Lt. Rex Chambers**

An most interesting mission I was on to a Jet Airdrome in northern Germany was on 21 March 1945. We were utilizing fragmentation bombs. At bombs away I turned to the right and back just as a red glow erupted between number 3 and number 4 engines, with two distinct and sharply different blasts.

We immediately began losing altitude, with both engines feathered and our bomb bay doors still open, as they would not close. We had some cloud cover at about 10,000 feet across Germany, and near the coast. We were accompanied by a single P-51 aircraft. We were getting some ground fire as we headed home.

Upon landing I noticed that in addition to the larger holes in the engines and wing, that the bomb bay doors looked like sieves, with holes about 1/4 by 1/4 inches, with some being as large as 1/4 by 1 and 1/4 inches in length. I stopped counting when the number exceeded 300 plus.

I was told at our debriefing after the mission that two of the fragment bombs had collided upon their release from the bomb bay. With such heat that they generated, I could clearly understand why the fragments of the bombs knocked out our engines and fouled up the bomb bay doors so they couldn't be closed. We were a very fortunate crew to live and tell about this mission.



*Bomb Damage to the Hopsten, Germany Airfield*

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

Stouse-Hamm  
125 - PFF

Schroll  
563

Shields  
256 - PFF

Juns  
523

Scott  
870

Fowler  
517

Statton  
842

Breslin  
318

Mauger  
451

S. Smith  
516

Austin  
532

Lacker  
672

Rapp  
860



B-17G #44-8125 (No Name) PFF 360BS (PU-Y)  
41st CBW-B (360BS) - Pilot Capt H.L. Stouse / CoPilot 2Lt B.J. Hamm

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

<u>Ashwell-Ayers</u> 537 - PFF				
	<u>Walder</u> 281		<u>Miller</u> 621	
		<u>Richter</u> 885		
	<u>Chuba</u> 977		<u>Kahler</u> 958	
	<u>Flanigan</u> 763			<u>Grob</u> 597
<u>Denison</u> 544		<u>G. Smith</u> 546	<u>Demian</u> 647	<u>Tarvid</u> 891
	_____			<u>Thomas</u> 937

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

<u>Fielder-Nye</u> 238 - PFF				
	<u>Cunningham</u> 462		<u>Milman</u> 999	
		<u>Nester</u> 554		
	<u>Greene</u> 590		<u>Greenbaum</u> 191	
	<u>Garrett</u> 096			<u>Leach</u> 949
<u>Perkins</u> 006		<u>Bohle</u> 050	<u>Woodard</u> 206	<u>Haynes</u> 878
	_____			<u>Poole</u> 645

### 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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## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Greene, Robert E., 1Lt  
 CP Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt  
 NAV Milligan, William J., 2Lt  
 TOG Williams, Ira J., Sgt  
 ENG Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt  
 RO Thompson, Joe C., Sgt  
 BT Covert, John L., Sgt  
 TG Jobe, Milton L., Sgt

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

P Nester, Harry E., 2Lt  
 CP Craig, Fred, 2Lt  
 NAV Rainey, John L., 2Lt  
 BOM Swift, Jonathan S., 2Lt  
 ENG Kappardaki, Kermit P., Sgt  
 RO Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt  
 BT Bovey, Charles D., Sgt  
 TG Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

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

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

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

P Leach, Joseph V., 2Lt  
 CP Smith, Orville H., 2Lt  
 NAV Wyman, Asa H., F/O  
 TOG Psota, John W., Sgt  
 ENG Bridgeman, James H., Sgt  
 RO Wilburn, Robert R., Sgt  
 BT Anderson, Junior W., Sgt  
 TG Sulley, Oda F., Jr., Sgt

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

P Poole, Lawrence E., 1Lt  
 CP Cannon, Harley E., 2Lt  
 NAV Smith, Harold S., F/O  
 TOG Smith, Donald P., S/Sgt  
 ENG Pullen, Rayford E., Sgt  
 RO Hoke, Marvin L., Sgt  
 BT Sexton, Norman R., Sgt  
 TG Kindred, Beryl E., Sgt

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

P Garrett, Charles E., 2Lt  
 CP Castillo, Joseph L., F/O  
 NAV Welch, Harry A., 2Lt  
 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 #42-38050 *Thunderbird***

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 #44-8238 (No Name) - PFF**

P Fielder, George H., Capt  
 CP Nye, Robert M., Maj  
 NAV Weber, George F., 1Lt  
 PFF Bannowsky, Lonvell A., 2Lt  
 GHN Heiser, Kenneth, 2Lt  
 BOM Gorham, Raymond H., 1Lt  
 ENG Cavagnaro, James E., T/Sgt  
 WG Johnson, Vernon W., T/Sgt  
 RO Buie, Neil C., T/Sgt  
 TG Hopkins, Harry F., 1Lt

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

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

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P	Greenbaum, Richard D., 1Lt
CP	Balkcom, Robert E., 2Lt
NAV	Cooper, Saul A., F/O
TOG	Brown, James L., T/Sgt
ENG	Bruce, Leonard F., T/Sgt
WG	Roberts, Thomas M., Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Diaczynski, Andrew J., Sgt
TG	Massey, Ray N., Sgt

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

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P	Perkins, Morton C., 2Lt
CP	Kamstra, Walter W., 2Lt
NAV	Wallace, Robert J., 2Lt
TOG	Allen, Arlan R., Sgt
ENG	Carlson, Charles F., S/Sgt
RO	Little, Gerald G., Sgt
BT	McDonald, John T., Sgt
TG	Beckwith, Walter D., Sgt
WG	Partsch, Warren L., Sgt

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

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P	Woodard, John M., 2Lt
CP	Laubhan, Bob, 2Lt
NAV	Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt
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
RCM	Palm, Kenneth A., Sgt (359th)

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

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P	Cunningham, Neil E., 2Lt
CP	Thornton, Everett H., 2Lt
NAV	Das, Mitchell C., 2Lt
TOG	Quig, Francis X., Sgt
ENG	Sprinkles, Leburn D., Sgt
WG	Boone, Kenneth E., Sgt
RO	Ennis, Charles S., S/Sgt
BT	Carter, William J., Sgt
TG	Crigger, Richard S., Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Haynes, Eugene, 2Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Barger, Donald T., 2Lt
TOG	Bailey, John R., S/Sgt
ENG	Vowels, Donovan K., S/Sgt
RO	Minnix, Glenn A., S/Sgt
BT	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt
TG	Schoonover, Howard D., S/Sgt
WG	Davis, Carl J., Sgt

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

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P	Tarvid, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
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
WG	Cassino, Julian R., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #43-38870 (No Name)**

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P	Scott, John, 2Lt
CP	Weinandt, Bernard M., 2Lt
NAV	Bergvall, Otis A., 2Lt
TOG	Morris, Robert W., Sgt
ENG	Hart, Leroy M., Sgt
RO	Gentry, John M., Sgt
BT	Wright, Donald M., Sgt
TG	Woolpert, John C., Sgt
WG	Kaber, Harvey N., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38842 (No Name)**

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P	Statton, Roy F., 1Lt
CP	Chalmers, John D., 2Lt
NAV	Donahue, Thomas R., 2Lt
TOG	Woods, Heiber J., S/Sgt
ENG	Rhodes, William H., Sgt
RO	Knowles, Charles D., Sgt
BT	McNeel, Morgan L., S/Sgt
TG	Maxson, Gordon H., Sgt
TRO	Brenner, Seymour, S/Sgt

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

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P	Breslin, Jack D., 2Lt
CP	Bischofs, Hans, 2Lt
NAV	Lenox, John, Jr., F/O
TOG	Perry, Gordon W., Sgt
ENG	Moore, Harley E., Sgt
RO	Daugherty, John S., Jr., Sgt
BT	Mason, Millard E., Sgt
TG	Barlow, Grover C., Sgt
VI	Elliott, Richard D., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #44-8256 Yankee Girl - PFF**

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P	Shields, Emerson H., 2Lt
CP	Hamm, John, 2Lt
NAV	Young, Charles C., Jr., 2Lt
MN	Foltz, Leon P., 2Lt (358th)
GHN	Chambers, Rex, 2Lt (358th)
BOM	Weise, Gerald W., 2Lt
ENG	Brian, Carville J., S/Sgt
RO	Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Hebert, Nolan, Sgt
TG	Hansen, Calvin K., Sgt

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

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P	Fowler, Robert R., 2Lt
CP	Boyles, Kenneth L., 2Lt
NAV	Sarkis, George A., F/O
TOG	Bice, Lowell E., Sgt
ENG	Bryson, Emil M., S/Sgt
RO	Ahland, Walter F., Sgt
BT	Henager, Rudolph M., Sgt
TG	King, Marvin O., Sgt
VI	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt

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

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P	Lacker, Howard C., 2Lt
CP	Hardy, James H., F/O
NAV	O'Neil, James B., 2Lt
TOG	Mooneyham, Clarence, Jr., Sgt
ENG	Bratcher, Francis E., Sgt
RO	Foster, Lane, Sgt
BT	Reynolds, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Garbarino, Louis V., Jr., Sgt
WG	Faulkner, Leroy, Sgt

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

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P	Mauger, Warren, 2Lt (359th)
CP	Bristol, Clarence D., 2Lt
NAV	Lofquist, Gordon B., 2Lt
TOG	King, Raymond H., S/Sgt
ENG	Hammel, Norman D., Sgt
RO	Polo, Matthew N., S/Sgt
BT	Farnham, Gordon W., Sgt
TG	Rumberger, Frank C., Sgt
WG	Meincke, Donald, Sgt

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

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P	Stouse, Harold L., Capt
CP	Hamm, Burwell J., 2Lt
NAV	Davis, Darius R., Capt
MN	Gibson, Cater M., 1Lt
GHN	Orenstein, Harold A., 1Lt
BOM	Zwayer, James P., Capt
ENG	Bostick, George F., T/Sgt
RO	Cole, Robert L., T/Sgt
TG	Johnson, Ralph L., 2Lt
WG	Nabors, Hrschell F., S/Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists - Cont'd.

### **B-17G #43-38563 *Jackie***

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P Schroll, David A., 2Lt  
CP Kacus, Alexander, F/O  
NAV Beasley, Leon O., 2Lt  
TOG Gerstel, Charles L., T/Sgt  
ENG Auer, Kenneth R., T/Sgt  
RO Godley, Walter M., T/Sgt  
BT Pilgrim, Robert W., S/Sgt  
TG Marchionda, Guido P., S/Sgt

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

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P Austin, Charles A., 1Lt  
CP Johnson, Arthur E., 2Lt  
NAV Kokoska, Florian T., 2Lt  
TOG Stuckey, Edward C., Sgt  
ENG Ingles, Howard L., Sgt  
RO Kummer, Burnell R., Sgt  
BT Danielsen, Stanley K., Sgt  
TG Krouse, Thomas R., Sgt

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

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P Smith, Samuel W., 2Lt  
CP Shanafelt, Arthur S.C., 2Lt  
NAV Knudsen, Russel A., F/O  
TOG Geyer, Walter A., Sgt  
ENG Zenick, Thomas E., Sgt  
RO Bridgman, Robert A., Sgt  
BT Kucab, Michael J., Sgt  
TG Jensen, Jens C., Sgt

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

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P Rapp, John W., 2Lt  
CP Judd, Dudley F., 2Lt  
NAV McCollum, Clodius M., 2Lt  
TOG Unger, Frank W., Sgt  
ENG Ciezadlo, Eugene F., Sgt  
RO Turner, John R., Sgt  
TG Rasmussen, Gerald G., Sgt  
WG Evans, William A., Sgt

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

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P Juns, Frank, 1Lt  
CP Lucien, Ralph A., 2Lt  
NAV Dwyer, Marion J., 2Lt  
BOM Grezzo, Anthony D., 2Lt  
ENG Fleming, James A., S/Sgt  
RO Kirtner, Billy L., T/Sgt  
BT Beckman, Charles W., Sgt  
TG Moore, Bill A., Sgt



## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17G #42-97281 *Queenie***

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P	Walder, Wilfred M., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Roche, John E., F/O
NAV	Wolansky, John, 2Lt
BOM	Short, Arthur E., F/O
TT	Engelhardt, Roy H., Sgt
BT	Doles, David, Jr., Sgt
RO	Gibbons, Francis M., Sgt
TG	Mitchell, Donald C., Sgt
WG	Monyok, Joseph R., Sgt
Y	Taylor, W.H., S/Sgt

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

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P	Flanigan, Lloyd J., 2Lt
CP	Wokersien, James T., F/O
NAV	Heaney, Edward J., F/O
TOG	McDonald, Francis E., Jr., Sgt
TT	Gilkes, Beresford B., Sgt
BT	Safley, Delbert A., Sgt
RO	Gourly, Charles B., Sgt
TG	Neiswender, John J., Sgt
SJ	Higginbotham, Frank D., Sgt

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

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P	Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt
CP	Cotton, Lewis, F/O
NAV	Bonanno, Joe, F/O
TOG	Fogarty, Richard T., Jr., Sgt
TT	Lowery, Lloyd, Sgt
BT	Broughton, William A., S/Sgt
RO	Latz, Leslie L., Sgt
TG	Hocknell, Raymond A., S/Sgt
WG	Perkins, Herschel E., Sgt

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

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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	Kiggens, William P., Sgt
TG	O'Hearn, Walter D., Sgt
WG	McComb, Harold A., Sgt

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

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P	Ashwell, Silas B., 1Lt
CP	Ayers, Roger D, 2Lt
NAV	Hoida, Donald J., 2Lt
MN	Weil, Norman, 1Lt (359th)
GHN	Gadbois, Frank P., 2Lt (359th)
BOM	Hansen, Harley L., 1Lt
TT	Rys, Valentine J., Sgt
RO	Morris, Allen L., Sgt
TG	Shaughnessy, William J., F/O
WG	Clarkson, Robert T., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #43-38621 *50 Ragged***

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P	Miller, Forrest E., 2Lt
CP	Woodworth, Kenneth R., F/O
NAV	Higgins, Harold W., 2Lt
TOG	Bulbach, Walter, Sgt
TT	Conroy, Thomas R., S/Sgt
BT	Burns, Jerry E., Sgt
RO	Retzlaff, Robert R., Sgt
TG	Rogers, Robert B., Sgt
SJ	Hendrix, Frank H., S/Sgt

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

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P	Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt
CP	Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt
NAV	Lacy, Walter 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

### **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

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

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

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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

### **B-17G #42-97546 *Idaliza***

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P Smith, Grafton N., 1Lt  
CP Alderman, Melvin, 2Lt  
NAV Cohen, Leo, F/O  
TOG Anderson, Dale R., Sgt  
TT Calderon, Reuben J., S/Sgt  
BT Miller, Raymond M., Sgt  
RO Parker, George F., S/Sgt  
TG Dussliere, Albert L., Sgt

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

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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

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

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P Richter, George K., 2Lt  
CP Kipfer, James F., 2Lt  
NAV Thompson, John M., 2Lt  
BOM Steinberg, Clifford, 2Lt  
TT Bates, Grover P., T/Sgt  
BT Smith, Donald S., S/Sgt  
RO Longo, Angelo L., S/Sgt  
WG Chisholm, Robert E., S/Sgt