

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 352

5 April 1945

Target: Ordnance Depot at Bayreuth, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 39

Length of Mission: 10 hours, 38 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 500 lb G.P. & 4 x 500 lb M17 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 15,000, 14,500 & 18,000 feet

**M**ajor William C. **Heller** flew the Scouter aircraft and 1Lt. Emerson H. **Shields** the Weather Fortress. The ordnance depot at Grafenwoehr, Germany was designated the first priority (visual) and second priority (H2X) target and the Bayreuth ordnance depot was the third priority (visual) and fourth priority (H2X) target. Suggested targets of opportunity were Regensburg, Ingolstadt, Plauen and Straubing—all in Germany. One aircraft, piloted by 1Lt. Rudolph L. **Griffith** (358BS), #44-8318 (*No Name*)

(360BS), aborted the mission about mid-channel. The #1 engine went sour and the #2 was failing. Landing was made at Field A-64 at St. Digiere, France.



**CHARLIE J. LONSKI CREW - 427th BS**

(crew assigned 427BS: 14 Mar 1945)

(Back L-R) Cpl Richard H. Beadle (E), Sgt Sidney W. Newby (R), Sgt Donald O. "Spec" Campen, Jr. (TOG), Sgt Alex G. Czarny (BT), Sgt Dearl E. Adams (WG), Sgt Joseph B. Bourgot (TG) - (Front L-R) 1Lt Charlie J. Lonski (P), 2Lt Eugene L. Halonen (CP), 2Lt Milton J. Szymanski (N), 2Lt Facer (B)

Thirty-seven aircraft dropped 206 500-lb. G.P., 6 500-lb. S.A.P. and 144 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs and 10 units of leaflets on the fourth priority target. Bombardiers utilized PFF (H2X) equipment. Although results could not be observed, the lead bombardier judged that his bombs hit in the

city. The lead and low Squadron bombardiers were able to make 10-second visual assists at the end of the bomb run. One aircraft bombed with the 401BG and dropped 6 500-lb. G.P. and 4 500-lb. M17 incendiary bombs on an ordnance depot at Ingolstadt.

In the target area there were 6/10 to 8/10 low clouds with tops at 8,000 to 10,000 feet. There was no enemy air opposition, good support was provided by 182 P-51s, and no flak was encountered. There was no battle damage or casualties. Several aircraft landed away from Molesworth.

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group A

### Miller-McNamara

876 - PFF

### Greene

427

### McKimmie

710 - PFF

### Griffith

318

### McLeod

778

### Nester

999

### Poole

191

### Perkins

462

### Thornton

258

### Lonski

621

### Nicolaisen

517

### Bohle

977

### Denison

937



### **B-17G #44-8876 (No Name) (358BS) PFF VK-P**

#### **41st CBW-C Lead - Pilot Capt Campbell Miller / CoPilot Capt J.F. McNamara**

(Back L-R) 2Lt Lonvell A. Bannowsky (MN), Capt James M. "Tailwheel" Kaiser (N), 1Lt Floyd E. Moeller (N),  
 Capt James F. McNamara (CP), Capt Campbell Miller (P) - (Front L-R) F/O Jack Silver (TG/O),  
 2Lt Wilson Ford (B), unknown, unknown, 2Lt Ernest G. Danquard (WG)  
 unknowns: T/Sgt James B. Nelson (E), T/Sgt Archie R. Jennings (R)

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group B

Tyler - Jones  
869 - PFF

Smith  
672

Bristol  
860

Wilson  
311

Edmunds  
563

Austin  
532

Kahler  
597

Fowler  
842

Bentzlin  
523

Lacker  
647

Lester  
546

Scott  
870

Maker  
516

## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point - Group C

Sirany-Tilsen  
564 - PFF

Beasley  
682

Bailey  
645

Bitler  
309

Call  
734

Richeson  
883

Henning  
875

O'Donnell  
609

Bashor  
289

Thomas  
206

Tarvid  
891

Towne  
608

Peterson  
944

### 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 #43-38191 *Shasta***

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P	Poole, Lawrence E., 1Lt
CP	Fountain, Clarence M., 2Lt
NAV	Widener, Howard H., F/O
BOM	Bradshaw, Charles A., 2Lt
ENG	Grocki, John J., Sgt
RO	Riehl, William F., Sgt
BT	Darley, Ralph J., Sgt
TG	Kindred, Beryl E., Sgt
PAS	Fleischer, Peter, Sgt (303rd)

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

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P	Greene, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Parson, Jerome G., 2Lt
NAV	Milligan, William J., 2Lt
TOG	Williams, Ira J., S/Sgt
ENG	Rollinger, Joseph C., Sgt
RO	Thompson, Joe C., Sgt
BT	Covert, John L., Sgt
TG	Jobe, Milton L., Sgt
SJ	Brooks, James E., Cpl (360th)

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

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P	Griffith, Rudolph L., 2Lt
CP	Smith, Orville H., F/O
NAV	Besharian, Joseph, F/O
TOG	Pearce, Roscoe L., Sgt
ENG	Wilson, Warren J., Sgt
RO	Ruff, Merle H., Sgt
TG	Jarrett, Robert W., Sgt
BT	Hogan, Walter B., Sgt
	(Abortive)

### **B-17G #43-38778 (No Name)**

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P	McLeod, William S., 1Lt
CP	Pinkert, Paul A., 2Lt
NAV	Correale, Fortunato G., S/Sgt
TOG	Rafferty, William A., S/Sgt
ENG	McGreevy, James, T/Sgt
RO	Baloga, Stephen M., T/Sgt
BT	Nichols, William A., Jr., Sgt
TG	Powell, George A., Sgt
PAS	Ladd, John M., Sgt (427th)

### **B-17G #44-8710 *Idle Wheel* - PFF**

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P	McKimmie, William L., 2Lt
P	Sims, Allen R., 2Lt
NAV	Triebes, Earl E., 2Lt
MN	Wilson, Donald M., 2Lt
BOM	McCall, John W., 1Lt
ENG	Farmer, Evert L., S/Sgt
RO	Kilroy, Robert E., S/Sgt
TG	Mogusar, John F., Sgt
PAS	Paul, Sidney L., 2Lt

### **B-17G #44-8876 (No Name) - PFF**

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P	Miller, Campbell, Capt
CP	McNamara, James F., Capt
NAV	Kaiser, James M., Capt
NAV	Moeller, Floyd E., 1Lt
MN	Bannowsky, Lonvell A., 2Lt
BOM	Ford, Wilson, 1Lt
ENG	Nelson, James B., T/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Archie R., T/Sgt
TG	Silver, Jack, 2Lt
WG	Danquard, Ernest G., 2Lt

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

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

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P Thornton, Everett H., 2Lt  
CP Smith, Lawrence S., 2Lt  
NAV Wyman, Asa H., F/O  
TOG Meade, Joseph J., S/Sgt  
ENG Schroeder, Karl T., S/Sgt  
RO Kasik, Robert F., S/Sgt  
BT Diaczynski, Andrew J., Sgt  
TG Hudler, Billie E., Sgt

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

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P Nicolaisen, Arthur R., 2Lt  
CP Rush, Herbert, F/O  
NAV Wilson, Rufus E., F/O  
TOG Novakovich, George B., Sgt  
ENG Bentley, Robert L., Sgt  
RO Wierzbicki, Ted F., Sgt  
BT Straub, Robert C., Sgt  
TG Gray, Robert J., Sgt

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

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P Perkins, Morton C., 2Lt  
CP Kamstra, Walter W., 2Lt  
NAV Cooper, Saul A., F/O  
TOG Allen, Arlan R., Sgt  
ENG Carlson, Charles P., S/Sgt  
RO Little, Gerald G., Sgt  
BT McDonald, John T., Sgt  
TG Beckwith, Walter D., Sgt

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

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P Nester, Harry E., 2Lt  
CP Craig, Fred, 2Lt  
NAV Rainey, John L., 2Lt  
TOG Jones, James P., Sgt  
ENG Kappardaki, Kermit P., Sgt  
RO Strouse, Jacob J., Sgt  
BT Sexton, Norman R., Sgt  
TG Edleman, Robert W., Sgt

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

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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

## 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	Barger, Donald T., 2Lt
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

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

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P	Tarvid, Arthur J., 1Lt
CP	Grandwilliams, Louis C., F/O
NAV	Webber, Gale M., 2Lt
TOG	Carlson, Dale H., S/Sgt
ENG	Jenkins, Maurice L., T/Sgt
RO	Grden, Matthew W., S/Sgt
TG	Dimick, Richard D., S/Sgt
BT	Garcia, Leonard A., S/Sgt

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

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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

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

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P	Bashor, Oliver L., 2Lt
CP	Baker, Ira B., 2Lt
NAV	Johnson, Herbert G., 2Lt
TOG	Hansen, Robert S., Sgt
ENG	Reed, Paul E., Sgt
RO	Shook, Victor N., Sgt
BT	Greene, Norman S., Sgt
TG	Theisen, Robert J., Sgt

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

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P	Beasley, William M., 1Lt
CP	Rich, Richard H., 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 #44-8734 *Hell's Cargo***

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P	Call, Fred E., 1Lt
CP	Wilson, Carl V., 2Lt
NAV	Udy, Donald M., F/O
TOG	Davis, Carl J., Sgt
ENG	Myers, Ernest L., S/Sgt
RO	Sussman, Martin, S/Sgt
TG	Moser, Lawrence B., Sgt
BT	Hager, Mark I., Sgt

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

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P	Bailey, Jack W., 1Lt
CP	Heller, Emerson E., 2Lt
NAV	Hudson, Glenn V., 2Lt
BOM	Evans, Charles F., 2Lt
ENG	Walling, Glenn R., S/Sgt
RO	Cohen, Seymour T., T/Sgt
TG	Westfall, Byron D., Sgt
BT	Kelley, Francis H., S/Sgt

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

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P	Richeson, Marvin G., Jr., 2Lt
CP	Bennett, Ralph S., F/O
NAV	Bielski, Casimir, Jr., 2Lt
TOG	Benge, Charlie W., S/Sgt
ENG	Gray, Alexander W., S/Sgt
RO	Mahoney, Denis J., Sgt
TG	Hoxie, Charles R., Sgt
WG	Davidson, Dyle K., Sgt

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

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

P	O'Donnell, Thomas M., 1Lt
CP	Goulding, Traynum D., 2Lt
NAV	Crawford, Raymond C., 2Lt
TOG	Redhage, Louis H., Sgt
ENG	Fischer, Norbert G., Sgt
RO	Portney, Sol, S/Sgt
TG	Proctor, Isaac H., S/Sgt
BT	Kennedy, Jack B., S/Sgt
RCM	Haley, James W., S/Sgt

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

P	Sirany, George R., Capt
CP	Tilsen, Cyril, 1Lt
NAV	Carriere, Lawrence C., 1Lt
MN	Weil, Frank P., 1Lt
BOM	Dodson, Jasper C., 1Lt
ENG	Ela, Lyman E., T/Sgt
RO	Jobe, Andrew K., Jr., T/Sgt
TG	Bates, Roger K., S/Sgt
WG	Palsa, Rudolph, Sgt

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

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

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

P	Bitler, Hower E., 2Lt
CP	Lowry, William J., 2Lt
NAV	Wood, Stuart K., 2Lt
BOM	Wort, Irving, 2Lt
ENG	Manina, Joseph J., Sgt
RO	Thomas, William B., Sgt
BT	Warcholak, Emanuel, Sgt
TG	Moots, Merritt L., Sgt

### 05 April 1945 — AIRCRAFT DAMAGED AFTER PILOT "BUZZED" THE GROUND



*B-17G #43-38878 Damage*

Pilots were flying slow time and new crew orientation flights. Pilot 1Lt Clem W. **Rogers**, flying an orientation flight in #43-38878 (No Name), 359BS, with 12 crewmen, decided to "buzz" the ground. He descended to about 40 to 50 feet above the ground and hit some trees on top of a small hill about six miles northwest of Leicester. Lt Rogers returned the B-17G to Molesworth and safely landed. The aircraft had some damage, but none of the crewmen were injured.

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Bentzlin, Bertil V., 2Lt
CP	Briley, Dewey E., 2Lt
NAV	Andrzejczyk, Walter A., F/O
TOG	Friery, James R., Sgt
ENG	Rodgers, Walter D., Sgt
RO	Sole, John A., Sgt
BT	Henderson, Clarence J., Sgt
TG	Joneson, Leonard B., Sgt

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

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P	Lester, Jack L., 2Lt
CP	Gaspar, Robert V., F/O
NAV	Sutherland, James M., 2Lt
TOG	Valdes, George J., T/Sgt
ENG	Livingston, Edward B., Sgt
RO	Rachel, Frank R., Sgt
BT	Keenan, Alexander J., Sgt
TG	Donner, Eugene D., Sgt

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

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P	Scott, John, 2Lt
CP	Weinandt, Bernard M., 2Lt
NAV	Bergvall, Otis A., 2Lt
BOM	Grezzo, Anthony D., 2Lt
ENG	Hart, Leroy M., Sgt
RO	Gentry, John M., Sgt
BT	Gilmore, Dean D., Sgt
TG	Woolpert, John C., 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., S/Sgt
ENG	Ingles, Howard L., Sgt
RO	Kummer, Burnell R., Sgt
BT	Danielsen, Stanley K., Sgt
TG	Krouse, Thomas R., Sgt

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

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P	Edmunds, Robert E., 1Lt
CP	Sumpter, James A., 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	Maxson, Gordon H., Sgt

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

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P	Maker, Eugene L., 2Lt
CP	Kaltenbacher, Robert F., 2Lt
NAV	Strassburger, Harvey D., F/O
BOM	Galardi, John F., 2Lt
ENG	Smith, Paul R., Sgt
RO	Wisniewski, Andrew J., Sgt
BT	Mattucks, Robert E., Sgt
TG	Martis, Joseph A., Sgt

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

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P	Fowler, Robert R., 1Lt
CP	Boyles, Kenneth L., 2Lt
NAV	Sarkis, George A., F/O
TOG	Bice, Lowell E., S/Sgt
ENG	Bryson, Emil M., T/Sgt
RO	Ahland, Walter F., T/Sgt
BT	Henager, Rudolph M., S/Sgt
TG	Jones, William P., Sgt

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

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P	Bristol, Clarence D., 2Lt
CP	Welshon, Frank E., 2Lt
NAV	Robinson, Truman, 2Lt
BOM	Inman, James O., 2Lt
ENG	Jackson, James L., Sgt
RO	Bridgman, Robert A., S/Sgt
BT	Paris, Russell C., Sgt
TG	Mangum, Henry L., Jr., Sgt



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

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

P	Lacker, Howard C., 2Lt
CP	Kacus, Alexander, 2Lt
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
VI	Fegette, Iva L., T/Sgt

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

P	Smith, Samuel W., 2Lt
CP	Shanafelt, Arthur S.C., 2Lt
NAV	Knudsen, Russell A., F/O
BOM	Runnels, Billy L., 2Lt
ENG	Zenick, Thomas E., Sgt
RO	Berly, Joel A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Kucab, Michael J., Sgt
TG	Jensen, Jens C., Sgt
VI	Brenner, Seymour, S/Sgt (427th)

### **B-17G #44-8869 (No Name) - PFF**

P	Tyler, Samuel L., 2Lt
CP	Jones, William E., Capt
NAV	Papp, Melvin E., 1Lt
MN	Fleming, David D., 2Lt
BOM	Downey, Francis G., 1Lt
ENG	Reed, Richard S., S/Sgt
RO	Snell, John K., S/Sgt
TG	Patterson, Charles A., S/Sgt
WG	Faulkner, Leroy, S/Sgt

### **A VERY LONG DAY OVER GERMANY**

by Lt. Billy L. Runnels  
(2Lt Samuel W. Smith Crew)

I was flying as 1st deputy bombardier, for the 360th Bomb Squadron on the 5th of April, 1945. Our target was the Ordnance Depot at Bayreuth, Germany. The bomber stream (of hundreds of airplanes) was dispatched over the northern route to create the impression that we were headed for Berlin. Over the continent, we turned south for Bayreuth, our target.

Ten seconds from "bombs away," a squadron of B-24s slid under us in the drop zone. The run was aborted and we made a 360 degree turn for a second try, which was successful.

Due to the added time over the target, we exhausted our supply of oxygen and had to drop down and fly the last two to three hundred miles over enemy territory at a very low altitude (tree top) to avoid radar detection. Our B-17G made it back to Molesworth, but several aircraft had to land on the continent for fuel.

Considering the early lead crew briefing hour and the late hour associated with cleaning the gun barrels, it made for "A Very Long Day Over Germany."

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Denison, William A., 2Lt  
CP Pauling, Verlin C., 2Lt  
NAV Zabelicky, John E., 2Lt  
TOG McComb, Harold A., Sgt  
TT Eckert, Clair E., S/Sgt  
BT Conyer, Roy, Jr., Sgt  
RO Kiggins, William P., Sgt  
TG O'Hearn, Walter D., Sgt

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

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P Kahler, Thomas F., 2Lt  
CP Cotton, Lewis, F/O  
NAV Slauson, Leon H., 2Lt  
TOG Fogarty, Richard T., Sgt  
TT Lowery, Lloyd, S/Sgt  
RO Latz, Leslie L., S/Sgt  
TG Turkovich, Charles J., Sgt  
BT Broughton, William A., S/Sgt

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

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P Wilson, Jack G., 2Lt  
CP Barr, Thomas J., 2Lt  
NAV Walker, Raymon G., 2Lt  
BOM Wentworth, Richard H., F/O  
TT Daspit, Thomas M., Cpl  
BT Laza, Benney F., Cpl  
RO Zierk, George W., Cpl  
TG Byers, McClellan A., Cpl

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

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P Thomas, Blaine E., 2Lt  
CP Bartholomew, Max R., 2Lt  
NAV Bonanno, Joseph, F/O  
TOG Eschinger, Edward G., Sgt  
TT Haynes, Harry W., Jr., Sgt  
BT Contreras, Luis L., Sgt  
RO Smith, Walter E., Sgt  
TG Carlson, Melvin C., Sgt

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

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P Lonski, Charles J., 1Lt  
CP Halonen, Eugene L., 2Lt  
NAV Szymanski, Milton J., 2Lt  
TOG Campen, Donald O., Jr., Sgt  
TT Beadle, Richard H., Sgt  
BT Czarny, Alex G., Sgt  
RO Newby, Sidney W., Sgt  
TG Bourget, Joseph B., Sgt