

359th Bombardment Squadron

303rd Bombardment Group (H)

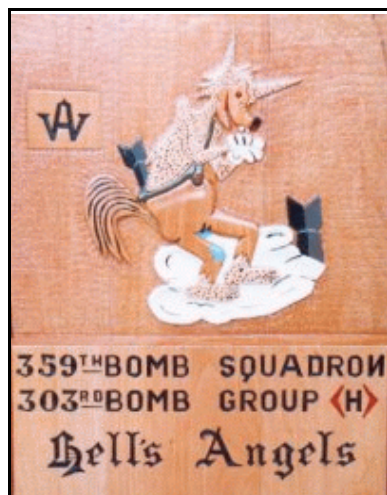
Molesworth, England

1942-1945

The 359th Bombardment Squadron Ground Echelon arrived at Molesworth, England on 12 September 1942, and joined the other Squadrons in trying to get the operation moving without any materials or equipment. But soon, things started arriving and the B-17s began to appear. The original aircraft were: *Green Hornet*, *Holy Mackerel*, *Idaho Potato Peeler*, *Knockout Dropper*, *Lady Fairweather*, *The Duchess*, *The "8" Ball*, *Yehudi* and *Zombie*.



These aircraft were a matter of pride to the men on the ground, and they worked around the clock to prepare them for the next day's raid. M/Sgt Buford G. Pafford was awarded the Legion of Merit for his outstanding performance as Crew Chief of the *Knockout Dropper*, which was the first B-17 to complete 50 and 75 missions over enemy territory. M/Sgt Thomas F. Westmoreland and T/Sgt Joseph B. Strange were awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service after putting in long hours, in all kinds of weather to make certain that their planes could fly the next day.



Wood Carving by William F. Adams

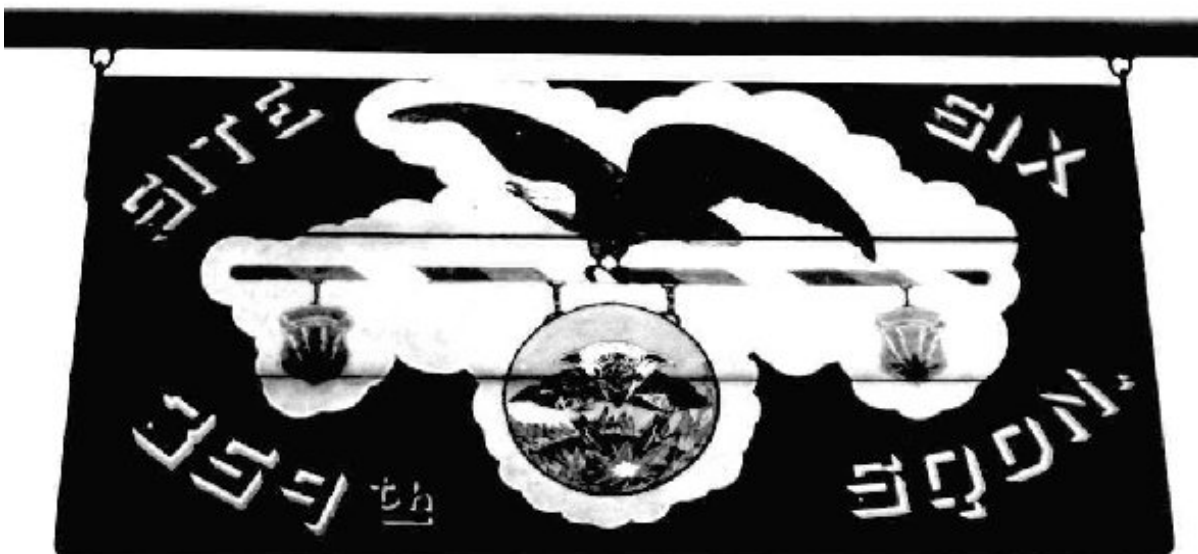
The organization of the 359th Bombardment Squadron followed the normal Table of Organization for Army Air Force Units. The major functions were S-1 (Personnel); S-2 (Intelligence); S-3 (Operations); and S-4 (Maintenance & Supply). There were several supporting functions that included the Adjutant, Communications, Armament, Ordnance, Chemical, Transportation and Utilities.

Everyone on Molesworth was dedicated to the success of the mission, and all personnel serving in the Ground Support Echelon set high standards to make sure that all the required tasks were performed in a timely manner.

One of the Crew Chief's of the 359th Bombardment Squadron, T/Sgt James C. Hicks, who was the Asst Crew Chief of *The Duchess* and Crew Chief of the *Queen of Hearts*, has some significant words to say about the Ground Support Echelon in his story, "What I See When I Look at a B-17." He wrote:

As I think about the B-17 today, I see people, as they were the ones that made everything tick. Whether it was the mail clerk, the GI can scrubber, the one on KP, the orderly room clerks, and I can't begin to mention all the other jobs being done, and then there were all the supporting units and their people. All of these people went together to make up the organization of the 303rd Bomb Group. Our success

was because each person did his job. No matter whether the job seemed small or whatever, it had to be done. Some knew absolutely nothing about the "plane" on that parking pad, not unlike the squadron carpenter and by the same token, those on the pad probably didn't know about the squadron carpenters job either, but both jobs had to be done and this made the victory. It was the family, as a Squadron. The family as a Group, the family as Molesworth, Station 107, with all of the necessary components, in whatever it needed to do the job, and we took pride in doing it well. And for the outstanding job that these people have done, they shall forever, with considerable pride, hold their heads high for the rest of their lives.



359th Bomb Squadron Headquarters Personnel

Cole, Richard H.	L/Col	Calhoun, William R. Jr.	L/Col
Seaton, Russell D.	Maj	Stone, Benjamin B. Jr.	Maj
Heller, William C.	Capt	Lumpkin, Edwin K. Jr.	Capt
Smith, Carlton M.	Capt	Esmay, Carle H.	2/Lt
Lyons, Francis X.	F/Sgt	Nadell, Gerson I.	F/Sgt
Ford, John W.	M/Sgt	Salls, Herbert H. Jr.	T/Sgt
Morton, Vernon W.	S/Sgt	Allen, Cecil H.	Sgt
Barwick, Leonard O.	Sgt	Morton, Alvin L.	Sgt
Johnson, Kenneth R.	Sgt	Lebowitz, Maurice B.	Sgt
Magnano, Anthony J.	Sgt	Pasquarelli, Gino	Sgt
Johnson, Paul H.	Cpl	Mulford, John D.	Cpl
Hess, Darrell C.	Pvt		

359th Bomb Squadron Intelligence (S-2) Section Personnel

Higgenbotham, John C.	Capt	Lund, Allan S.	Capt
McQuaid, Charles D.	Capt	Curry, Peter M.	1/Lt
Smith, Carlton M.	1/Lt	Weinheimer, Joseph J.	T/Sgt
Reddick, Jerry	S/Sgt	Whitson, Claud B.	S/Sgt
Schultz, Joseph W.	Sgt	Seidler, Howard A.	Sgt
Eng, Rowland E.	Pvt	Sacket, Jim	Unk

359th Bomb Squadron Communications Section Personnel

Day, Benjamin	1/Lt	Galey, William F.	2/Lt
Sheeler, Donald E.	2/Lt	Patterson, Frank D.	M/Sgt
Froehlich, Harold C.	T/Sgt	Jones, Robert E.	T/Sgt
Franks, Mose W.	S/Sgt	Grassey, Alfred B.	S/Sgt
Hansen, Harry F.	S/Sgt	Middleton, Arthur S.	M/Sgt
Schultz, Alroy E.	S/Sgt	Warren, James B.	S/Sgt
Berry, Raymond	Sgt	Corrigan, Donald W.	Sgt
Cziok, William	Sgt	Keuseman, Gilbert J.	Sgt
Klee, John P.	Sgt	Malone, William C.	Sgt
Quebbeman, Victor C.	Sgt	Villemin, Richar S.	Sgt
Warner, James P.	Sgt	Berry, Joseph E.	Cpl
Baumgartner, Ralph E.	Cpl	De Stephano, Julian A.	Cpl
Nocella, Louis E.	Cpl	Priedecker, Paul W.	Cpl
Rosenfield, Samuel (nmi)	Cpl	Furlong, Nicholas R.	Pfc
Strash, George V.	Pfc	Franks, Charles V.	Pvt

359th Bomb Squadron S-3 (Operations) Section Personnel

Heller, William C.	Capt	Eisenhart, William E.	1/Lt
Connors, Wayne S.	2/Lt	Dolan, Louis W.	2/Lt
Rubin, Robert	T/Sgt		

359th Bomb Squadron S-4 (Maintenance & Engineering) Section Personnel

McCoy, Melvin T.	Capt	Neff, William J.	Capt
Panyan, Steve W.	Capt	Adams, William B.	1/Lt
Bausch, Dewey D.	2/Lt	Ashlock, Jesse	M/Sgt
Borglin, Richard A.	M/Sgt	Brucher, Martin	M/Sgt
Dewald, Clyde L.	M/Sgt	Dufresne, Joseph R.	M/Sgt
Fessler, Elmer A.	M/Sgt	Fuller, Virgil	M/Sgt
Gray, Leonard	M/Sgt	Green, Chester L.	M/Sgt
Guthrie, Sidney E. Jr.	M/Sgt	Hansen, Lester C.	M/Sgt
Helton, Fletcher	M/Sgt	Hoffman, James J. Jr.	M/Sgt
Hoffreiter, Harry H.	M/Sgt	Howes, Jack A.	M/Sgt
Kenison, Clarence E.	M/Sgt	Lytle, Lloyd E.	M/Sgt
Mintz, Bryant L.	M/Sgt	Moon, Morton M. Jr.	M/Sgt
McGinty, Joseph J.	M/Sgt	Oravetz, Steve	M/Sgt
Osiecki, Michael P.	M/Sgt	Pafford, Buford C.	M/Sgt

Peterson, John L.	M/Sgt	Peterson, Loren N.	M/Sgt
Porta, Lawrence P.	M/Sgt	Ruark, Blaine R.	M/Sgt
Thompson, James P.	M/Sgt	Turner, Duane O.	M/Sgt
Westmoreland, Thomas J.	M/Sgt	Wilson, James L.	M/Sgt
Yaniga, Martin	M/Sgt	Yeager, Wallace H.	M/Sgt
Zachar, William P.	M/Sgt	Cozza, Victor J. (KIA)	T/Sgt
Craddock, William W.	T/Sgt	Hicks, James C.	T/Sgt
Lesh, Donald O.	T/Sgt	Strange, Joseph B.	T/Sgt
Trant, Wayne L.	T/Sgt	Trubela, John (nmi)	T/Sgt
Warner, Jesse B.	T/Sgt	Wood, James A.	T/Sgt
Edwards, Hurd L.	S/Sgt	Felker, Stewart W.	S/Sgt
Harrington, James B.	S/Sgt	Hyer, Ted	S/Sgt
Jacobs, Michael T.	S/Sgt	Jacobs, Stanley J.	S/Sgt
Lawrence, Wm. R. "Larry"	S/Sgt	Stone, Robert C.	S/Sgt
Stoner, Charles H.	S/Sgt	Thorsen, Jack N.	S/Sgt
Travis, Robert J.	S/Sgt	Worthington, Joseph G.	S/Sgt
Amram, Jack	Sgt	Anders, Carl	Sgt
Bauer, Joseph F.	Sgt	Benners, Alfred M, Jr	Sgt
Bigley, Milton	Sgt		
Cardenuto, Francis J.	Sgt	Curless, Beverly C.	Sgt
Dillon, Homer C.	Sgt	Evans, George	Sgt
Ferguson, Irue	Sgt	Fisher, James H.	Sgt
Folkman, Morris	Sgt	Gleason, Carl P.	Sgt
Goldsberry, Robert L.	Sgt	Grief, George K.	Sgt
Heller, Harry H.	Sgt		
Imm, Elmer L.	Sgt	Jackson, Sidney E.	Sgt
Korzick, George	Sgt		
Kuhn, Leonard J.	Sgt	Kurtz, Joseph T.	Sgt
Lee, Robert E.	Sgt	Masse, Henry J.	Sgt
Mayer, William G.	Sgt	Mazzone, Joseph V.	Sgt
Miller, Harvey E.	Sgt	McShane, James T.	Sgt
Moscattello, George V.	Sgt	Nichols, Charles E.	Sgt
Price, Thomas J.	Sgt		
Roesner, Elmer W.	Sgt	Rydell, Arthur H.	Sgt
Strassburg, Martin N.	Sgt	Toland, William J.	Sgt
Tomlinson, Alfred	Sgt	Triffe, Jacob R.	Sgt
Triffo, William J.	Sgt	Vardy, Charles A	Sgt
Varverius, Peter	Sgt	Vincent, Richard M.	Sgt
Weiler, Edwin J.	Sgt	Wise, Everett	Sgt
Zeiler, Edwin J.	Sgt	Beck, Charles G.	Cpl
Bielski, John M. Jr.	Cpl	Bolles, Donald W.	Cpl
Branham, William R.	Cpl		
Brassil, Robert D.	Cpl	Durham, James K.	Cpl
Hutchinson, Theodore B.	Cpl	Olson, James W.	Cpl
Pascucci, Antonio	Cpl	Watson, Charles F.	Cpl
Wilson, Wilmer D.	Cpl	Underkoffler, Marlin	Pfc
De Maria, Albert	Unk		

359th Bomb Squadron S-4 Armament/Ordnance Section Personnel

McGuire, Archie J.	Capt	Sapienza, Samuel R. Jr.	Capt
Strahs, Jacob A.	1/Lt	Blair, Alexander Jr.	2/Lt
Dillon, Stephen P.	2/Lt	Wilson, Eugene D.	2/Lt
Eanes, James H.	M/Sgt	Gerow, Warren H.	M/Sgt
Van Sleet, John P.	M/Sgt	Queen, Troy	T/Sgt
Foley, James J.	S/Sgt	Jones, Darrel "Buck"	S/Sgt
Kamerance, Steven A.	S/Sgt	Massie, Robert W.	S/Sgt
Robinson, Allen R. Jr.	S/Sgt	Crowe, William S.	Sgt
Curran, William L.	Sgt	Damico, Michael L.	Sgt
Eady, Jack W.	Sgt	Fanning, Jack F.	Sgt
Gallant, Francis J.	Sgt	Goldwasser, Joseph B.	Sgt
Harris, Joseph R.	Sgt		
Martinez, Toby A.	Sgt	Pitcher, Maynard F.	Sgt
Rutherford, George (nmi)	Sgt	Salazar, Jose C.	Sgt
Van Altena, Garret J.	Sgt	Vastine, Robert E.	Sgt
Walker, Frank N.	Sgt	Cole, Donald S.	Cpl
Coulson, Thomas D.	Cpl	Kurolovich, Joe	Cpl
Schaffner, Howard S.	Cpl	Weathers, Ronald A.	Cpl
Gehr, Sidney K.	Pfc	Kasman, Sidney Z.	Pfc
Mertz, Dale M.	Pfc	Wroblewski, Zygmunt	Pfc
Barstad, Rader M.	Pvt	Salazar, Jose C.	Pvt

359th Bomb Squadron S-4 Supply Section Personnel

Hatton, Thomas E.	1/Lt	Johnson, David W.	1/Lt
Dusman, Raymond E.	M/Sgt	Wheeler, Vernon E.	M/Sgt
Skyles, Bernard A.	S/Sgt	Jenkins, Timothy	Sgt
Petty, Francis E.	Sgt	Cunningham, John L.	Cpl

359th Bomb Squadron Transportation Section Personnel

Comi, Charles P.	S/Sgt	Allison, Ned G.	Sgt
Gosselin, Joseph R.	Sgt	Kautzer, Clarence P.	Sgt
Lackman, Burdelle J.	Sgt	Price, Philip A.	Sgt
Sacco, Anthony J.	Sgt	Sipe, Ray R.	Sgt
Walker, Champ C.	Sgt	Ables, Loie S.	Cpl
Cataldo, Louis J.	Cpl	Cook John W.	Cpl
Tallman, Fred N.	Cpl	Bernard, Vernon	Pvt

359th Bomb Squadron Equipment (Supply) Section Personnel

Moffett, Louis T.	1/Lt	McGuire, Darrell A.	M/Sgt
Adams, Thomas H.	Sgt		

359th Bomb Squadron Refueling Unit Personnel

Shanahan, Kenneth	M/Sgt	Engholm, Clyde V.	S/Sgt
Batcheler, Donald	Sgt	Clark, Vernon	Sgt
Cleone, Joseph C.	Sgt	Fisher, James H.	Sgt
Clark, James E.	Cpl	Oltemarei, Adolphus J.	Cpl

359th Bomb Squadron Medical Section Personnel

Austin, John H.	Capt	Newell, Robert H.	Capt
McAllister, Richard E.	S/Sgt	Beckman, Elvin F.	Cpl
Frick, Ivan R.	Cpl	Labelle, Thomas A.	Cpl
Whitney, Julius W.	Cpl	Phillips, Richard (nmi)	Pfc

359th Bomb Squadron Utilities Sections Personnel

Santiwan, Nicholas	2/Lt	Barnaby, Joseph E	M/Sgt
Prickett, James O.	M/Sgt	Carocari, Roger P.	S/Sgt
Madsen, Stanley A.	S/Sgt	Bonaduci, Tony	Sgt
Brouillette, Wesley L.	Sgt	Fanning, Jack F.	Sgt
Lawellin, Alvin F.	Sgt	Mackey, Roy H.	Sgt
Miessler, Richard N.	Sgt	Pepper, Reginald B.	Sgt
Priedecker, Paul W.	Sgt	Henry, James S.	Cpl
Parades, Gilbert	Cpl	Rapsheer, Wilfred H.	Cpl
Swanson, Charles O. T.	Cpl	Walker, Lyle G.	Cpl
Faunce, Samuel J.	Pfc		

All of the men listed above, as well as others listed in our *Index of Support Personnel*, were responsible for everything that happened in the 359th Bombardment Squadron in carrying out their mission of getting their flying crews in the air. They housed them, fed them, transported them, advised them, provided them with guns and bombs and flyable aircraft on many of the most dangerous missions flown by the 303rd Bomb Group.

359th Bomb Squadron B-17s

<u>Serial #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Fate</u>	<u>Missions</u>
41-24416	Black Diamond Express	17 Jun 43	Trfd Walnut Ridge, AR	7
41-24561	The Duchess	17 Sep 42	Trfd Altus AFB, OK	59
41-24565	Idaho Potato Peeler	18 Sep 42	MIA 11 May 43 (Grant)	28
41-24566	Zombie	18 Sep 42	MIA 20 Dec 42 Ditched (Witt)	4
41-24568	Lady Fairweather	18 Sep 42	MIA 23 Nov 43 Ditched (Reddig)	3*
41-24581	The "8" Ball	21 Oct 42	B/L 20 Dec 42 (Calhoun)	5*
41-24603	Green Hornet	21 Sep 42	MIA 23 Jan 43 (Sanderson)	9*
41-24605	Knockout Dropper	22 Sep 42	Trfd to Stillwater Airport, OK	75
41-24608	Yehudi	23 Sep 42	MIA 3 Jan 43 (ditch) (Saunders)	6
41-24609	Holy Mackerel	23 Sep 42	MIA 4 Apr 43 (Eyster)	18
41-24635	The "8" Ball Mk II	Dec 42	To BAD 1 & Albuquerque, NM	37
42-3002	The Old Squaw	8 Apr 43	6 Sep 43 Ditched (Hullar)	16*
42-3029	Wallaroo	9 Apr 43	MIA 14 Jan 44 (Hungerford)	35
42-3448	(No Name)	18 Oct 43	MIA 11 Jan 44 (Eich)	13
42-5177	Fast Worker Mk II	Feb 43	C/L 26 Nov 43 (Unknown)	49*

42-5243	FDR's Potato Plr Kids	29 Jan 43	MIA 14 May 43 Ditched (Bales)	18
42-5257	Miss Bea Haven	19 Feb 42	C/L (Unknown)	28
42-5306	(No Name)	25 Sep 43	MIA 25 Sep 43 (Shoup)	21
42-5430	Pappy (Good Snuf)	25 Feb 43	MIA 11 Jun 43 (Haines)	17
42-5444	We Dood It	22 Jun 43	To 384th BG on 11 Aug 43	1*
42-5482	Cat-O-Nine Tails	6 Mar 43	C/L 14 Oct 43 (Grant)	32*
42-29640	Ol' Ironsides	26 Mar 43	MIA 12 Aug 43 (Pentz)	16
42-29846	(No Name)	16 May 43	MIA 4 Oct 43 (Longnan)	16
42-29894	Baltimore Bounce	25 Sep 43	MIA 11 Jan 44 (Purcell)	15
42-31177	Lonesome Polecat	10 Nov 43	MIA 12 Sep 44 (Clemenson)	64
42-31183	Bad Penny	7 Jan 44	MIA 15 Aug 44 (Goss)	69
42-31213	Pistol Packin Mama	18 Nov 43	MIA 30 May 44 (Van Weelden)	32
42-31314	Scorchy	18 Nov 43	C/L 11 Feb 44 (Dahleen)	8
42-31386	Sky Duster (Woof)	18 Jan 44	MIA 19 May 44 (Roth)	36
42-31405	Wallaroo Mk II	14 Jan 44	(Unknown)	81*
42-31483	Bonnie "B"	1 Jan 44	LOC 5 Sep 44 (Parker)	93
42-31830	Marie	20 Feb 44	MIA 10 Nov 44 (Boulter)	78
42-38050	Thunderbird	10 Jan 44	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	116
42-38168	Dear Mom	22 Feb 44	C/L 5 Apr 44 (Daub)	10
42-39765	Baby Lu III	?	14 Nov 43 To 401st BG	43
42-39769	Miss Manooki	43	C/L 19 Dec 43 (Stoullil)	2
42-39807	Nero	19 Nov 43	MIA 22 Apr 44 (Seddon)	29
42-97058	Scorchy II	27 Mar 44	MIA 21 Jan 44 (Tasker)	37
42-97272	Duchess' Daughter	9 Apr 44	Taxi Accident 11 May 44 (Sirany)	43*
42-97284	Ain't Miss Bea Haven	9 Apr 44	Damaged 16 Jul 44 (Charney)	33
42-97291	Myasis Dragon	21 May 44	MIA 25 Aug 44 (Hillary)	15
42-97781	The "8" Ball Mk III	12 May 44	MIA 2 Nov 44 (Davis)	57
42-97944	Daddy's Delight	2 Jun 44	C/L on Continent 7 Apr 1945	110
42-97994	(No Name)	4 Aug 44	MIA 24 Aug 44 (Eldridge)	1
42-102484	Heller's Angel	23 Apr 44	MIA 21 Nov 44 (Chance)	49
42-102496	Special Delivery	30 Apr 44	C/L 18 Sep 44 (Gould/Lasker)	86
42-102960	(No Name)	6 Jun 44	Ditched 23 Jul 44 (Morgan)	16
42-107206	Old Black Magic	23 Apr 44	LOC 25 Apr 45 (Damon)	122
43-37537	Queen of Hearts	7 Jun 44	Became a Pathfinder Acft	78
43-38289	Sweet LaRhonda	31 Aug 44	To 457th BG 22 May 45	87
43-38604	(No Name)	29 Sep 44	MIA 15 Oct 44 (Gaines)	11*
43-38608	Lucille	23 Oct 44	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	59
43-38609	(No Name)	44	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	78
43-38619	(No Name)	44	LOC 14 Feb 45 (Towne)	17
43-38645	(No Name)	22 Nov 44	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	49
43-38682	(No Name)	22 Nov 44	To 457th BG 22 May 45	31*
43-38764	(No Name)	28 Oct 44	MIA 9 Feb 45 (Bailey)	14
43-38767	(No Name)	23 Nov 44	MIA 20 Mar 44 (Moore)	29
43-38878	(No Name)	28 Oct 44	To 457th BG 22 May 45	36
43-38883	Lady Beth	17 Feb 45	To 457th BG 22 May 45	39*
43-38891	Blues in the Night	44	C/L 9Apr 45 (Sirany)	25
43-39127	(No Name)	28 Jan 45	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	34
44-6076	Liberty Run	28 May 44	MIA 13 Sep 44 (Walker)	61
44-6309	Duchess Granddaughter	26 Jul 44	Trfd to Kingman, AZ	70
44-6502	(No Name)	24 Sep 44	MIA 10 Jan 45 (Gates)	46
44-6600	(No Name)	28 Oct 44	MIA 21 Nov 44 (Virig)	1
44-8137	(No Name)	26 Aug 44	MIA 21 Jan 45 (Duffield)	35
44-8256	Yankee Girl	2 Oct 44	(Unknown)	41
44-8564	(No Name)	21 Jan 45	Trfd to Walnut Ridge, AR	16
44-8734	Hell's Cargo	17 Feb 45	To 457th BG 22 May 45	27
44-8912	(No Name)	12 Apr 45	(Unknown) 3*	

Original 359th Aircraft and Their Crew Chiefs

Original Line Chief:	M/Sgt Martin Brucher
Original Flight Chiefs:	M/Sgt William L. Caldwell M/Sgt Bryant L. Mintz M/Sgt Loren N. Peterson
"The Duchess"	M/Sgt Leonard Gray
"Idaho Potato Peeler"	M/Sgt Martin Yaniga
"Zombie"	M/Sgt Steve Oravetz
"Lady Fairweather"	M/Sgt Joseph R. DuFresne
"The "8" Ball"	M/Sgt Sidney E. Guthrie, Jr.
"Green Hornet"	M/Sgt Fletcher Helton
"Knockout Dropper"	M/Sgt Buford G. Pafford
"Yehudi"	M/Sgt Virgil Fuller
"Holy Mackerel"	M/Sgt Jesse Ashlock
Replacement Line Chiefs:	M/Sgt William L. Caldwell M/Sgt Bryant L. Mintz
Replacement Flight Chiefs:	M/Sgt Sidney E. Guthrie, Jr. M/Sgt Lloyd E. Lytle M/Sgt Buford G. Pafford M/Sgt Martin Yaniga
Follow-On Crew Chiefs:	
M/Sgt Richard A. Borglin	M/Sgt Clyde L. Dewald
M/Sgt Chester Green	M/Sgt Lester G. Hansen
M/Sgt Jack A. Howes	M/Sgt Clarence E. Kenison
M/Sgt Morton M. Moon, Jr.	M/Sgt Michael P. Osiecki
M/Sgt John L. Peterson	M/Sgt James P. Thompson
M/Sgt Duane O. Turner	M/Sgt Thomas Westmoreland
M/Sgt William P. Zachar	T/Sgt James C. Hicks
T/Sgt Rueben W. Raubach	T/Sgt Joseph B. Strange
T/Sgt John Trubela	
S/Sgt Hurd L. Edwards	S/Sgt Blaine A. Ruark
S/Sgt Robert J. Travis	S/Sgt Jesse B. Warner

Abbreviations Used:

*	Missions Flown and Aborts
MIA	Missing in Action
C/L	Crash Landing
CR	Crashed
LOC	Landed on the Continent
B/L	Belly Landing