

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 77

10 October 1943

Target: Center of city, Coesfeld, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 1,000 lb G.P. plus 38 x MA47A1 Incendiaries

Bombing Altitude: 24,650 ft

Ammo Fired: 7,120 rounds

The primary and secondary targets were the center of the towns of Muenster and Hamm, with the last resort any target of opportunity. 1Lt. W.T. **Baker** aborted the mission 40 miles west of Molesworth with a severe oxygen leak in #42-5393 *Thumper Again* 360BS.

Ground haze made visibility in the target area very poor. Maj. **Mitchell**, in his mission narrative, described the movement of the Wing formations as follows:

The 384th had a "bunch" of airplanes rather than a "Group formation." There was a three-ship low Squadron that shoved us out of formation twice. An aircraft out of the high Squadron of the 384th Group aborted about two-thirds of the way across the channel and dumped his bombs over our formation, barely missing some of our aircraft. The 384th Group led us across the northern end of the Ruhr Valley over Huls, subjecting us to the fire of approximately 100 flak guns. The fire was extremely accurate for altitude and deflection and was tracking type. The lead Group took no evasive action. Upon reaching the IP, we took interval for the target. The 384th Group turned back to the left which put the 303rd BG(H) Group between them and the primary target. We turned left to get behind the 384th Group again and they bombed a little town, believed to be Coesfeld, Germany. We released our bombs on this town also... and the town was believed to have been well covered by the bomb pattern.

There were 20-30 enemy fighters observed, but no attacks were made. P-47s gave excellent protection and coverage. Anti-aircraft fire was intense and accurate. Fourteen Group aircraft suffered minor damage and one had major damage.

"There weren't many fighters to bother us," reported Maj. **Mitchell**. "The P-47s did a wonderful job of keeping them away. However, it's the first time in my life I've been really scared. That flak was the roughest I've ever seen." 2Lt. J.B. **Halliburton**, bombardier on *Hell's Angels* 358BS that finished its 45th mission said, "The P-47s did a good job today. It could have been a rough trip without them. I saw several dogfights develop in the distance and the P-47s seemed to be doing all right." S/Sgt. Virgil E. **Brown**, who finished his 25th mission on *Jersey Bounce, Jr.* 358BS said of the flak, "It's certainly no place for a man to be if he has a wife and family. The Ruhr Valley was one big black cloud from the flak."

Third Division B-17s came under heavy fighter attack and claimed to have destroyed 177 German aircraft with 20 probable and 49 damaged. The 390th BG claimed 60 fighters destroyed, a record for a bomber Group on one mission. This record was never surpassed.

General **Anderson**, Commanding General of the VIII Bomber Command, sent all Groups the following message after the mission: "In the last two days you have ripped the Hun apart. You have dug him out of his hole. You have shown him that no matter where he goes—Austria, Poland or Prussia—you will search him out and destroy him. My admiration, my congratulations and my appreciation is yours. I am proud to be one of you."



Jersey Bounce #42-29664 (358BS) VK-C
303rd BG Lead - Pilot Maj K.R. Mitchell / CoPilot Capt M.R. Hungerford, Jr.

Maj K.R. Mitchell (P), Maj M.R. Hungerford, Jr. (CP),
1Lt R.E. McElwain (N), 1Lt E.E. Stone (B), Lt G.E. Wright (TG-O)

T/Sgt A. Berzansky (E), S/Sgt A.T. Beavers (WG), T/Sgt C.C. Zeller (R),
S/Sgt C.R. Bagwell (BT), S/Sgt V.E. Brown (WG), Sgt W.G. Martin (PHO)

(crewmembers are not in order)

10-10-43
MUNSTER

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, 745005

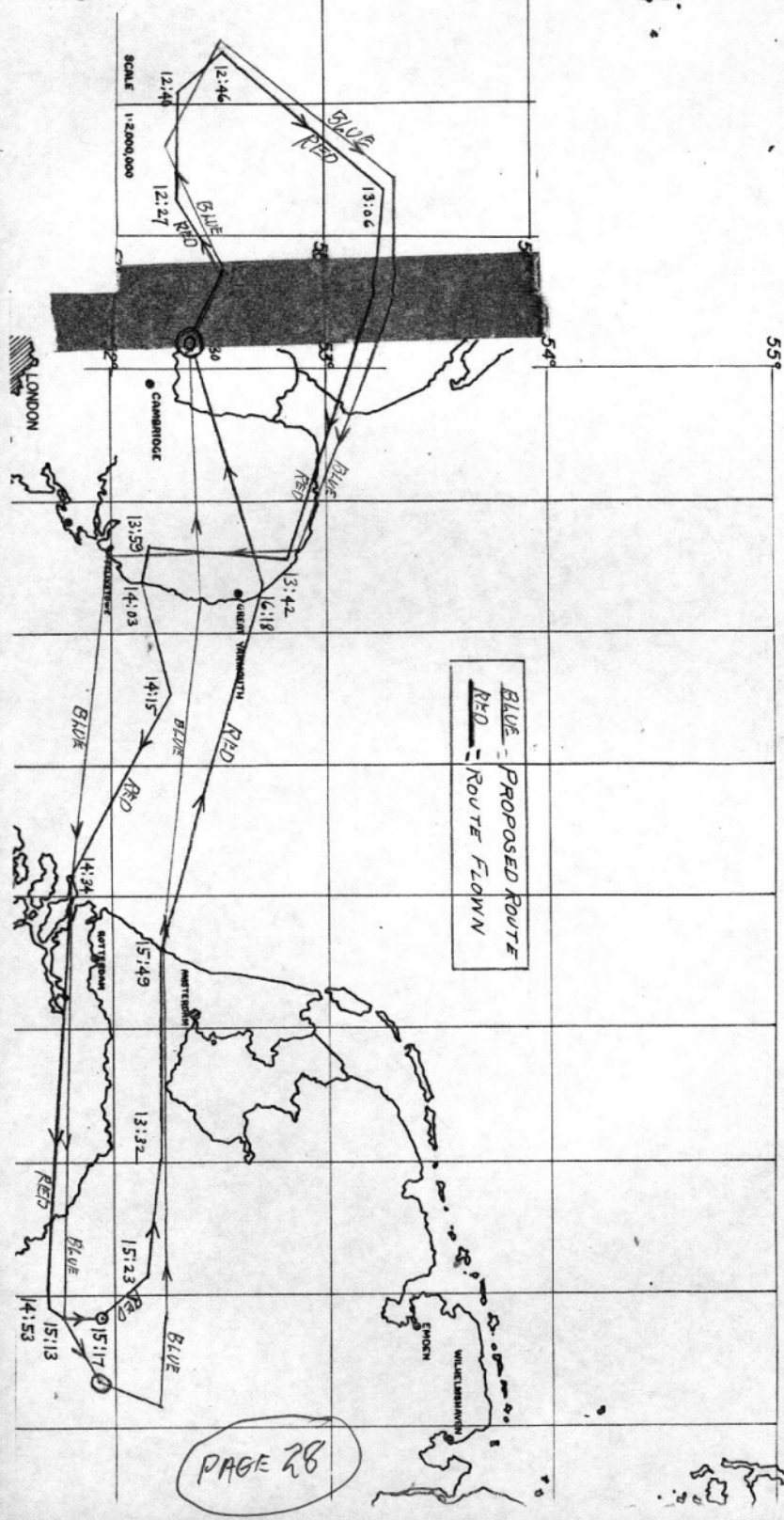
BY VSW NARA, DATE 2/19/88

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

TARGET
Primary COESFELD, GERMANY
Secondary _____
Last Resort _____

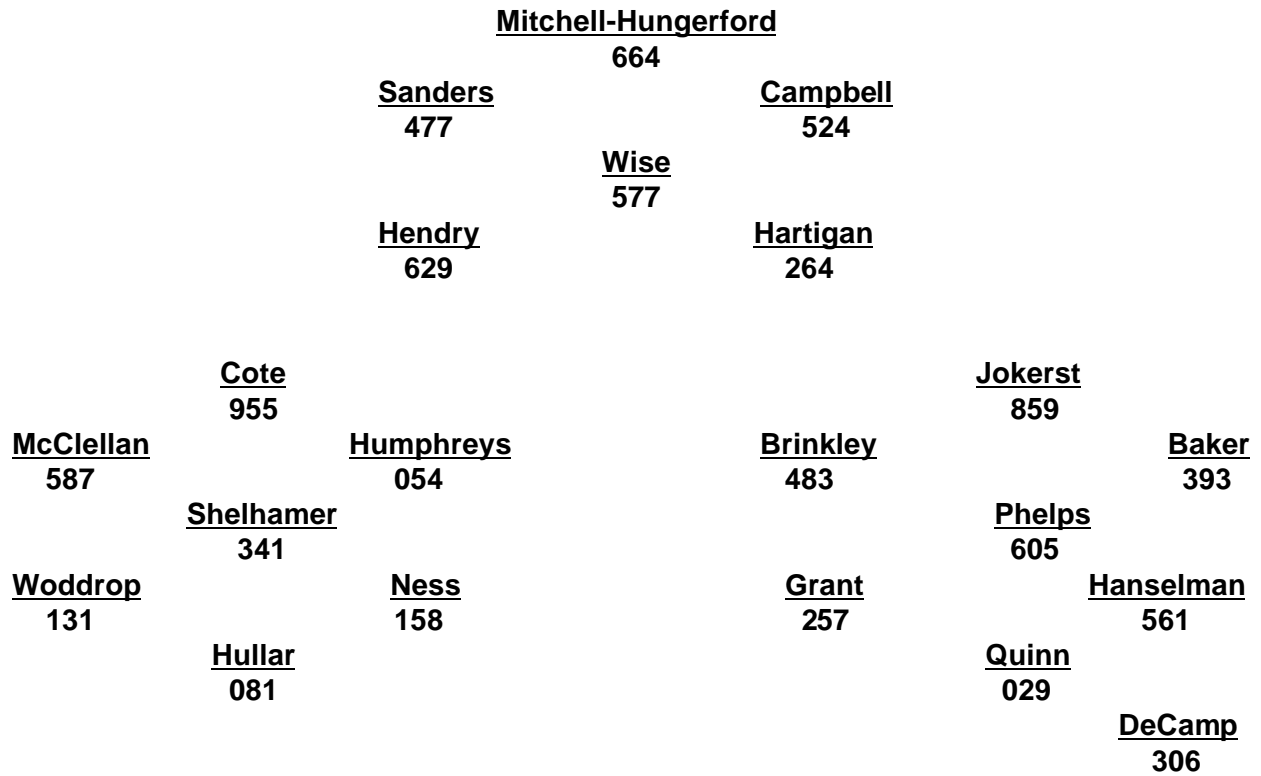
TRACK CHART
Date 10 Oct 43

Route followed by	<u>309th Bomb</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



One (1) aircraft aborted this mission:
Lt. Baker in 393

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

CREW POSITIONS 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 NG - Nose Gunner RG - Radio Gunner WG - Waist Gunner LWG - Left Waist Gunner RWG - Right Waist Gunner GUN - Gunner	VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer RESULTS OF MISSION KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war	DOW - Died of wounds EVD - Evaded the enemy INT - Interned in neu cuntry 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-17F #42-5306 (No Name)

P	DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt
CP	Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt
NAV	Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt
BOM	Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt
ENG	Hembree, William T., T/Sgt
RO	King, Robert E., Sgt
LWG	Hitt, William T., Sgt
BT	Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
TG	Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt
RWG	McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

B-17F #42-5264 Yankee Doodle Dandy

P	Hartigan, William R., 2Lt
CP	Goddard, Edward N., 2Lt
NAV	Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt
BOM	Dorsey, Bernard F., 2Lt
ENG	Resto, Clement, T/Sgt
LWG	Guhr, Delbert E., Sgt
RO	Ward, Robert L., T/Sgt
RWG	Dove, Charles J., S/Sgt
BT	Stoddard, Val F., S/Sgt
TG	Ince, James T., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29477 Joan of Arc

P	Sanders, Roy C., 1Lt
CP	Nogash, Henry F., 2Lt
NAV	Wood, Gordon W., 2Lt
BOM	Peed, Philip A., 2Lt
ENG	Rozek, Joseph A., T/Sgt
RWG	Carll, Martin V., Sgt
RO	Trest, James G., T/Sgt
BT	Kremer, Mathias J., S/Sgt
TG	Cockrum, Alfred E., S/Sgt
LWG	Smith, Riker K., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29524 Meat Hound

P	Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
CP	Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt
BOM	Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
ENG	Fulanovich, Charles J., S/Sgt
RWG	Wisniewski, Alexander, S/Sgt
RO	McGuire, Robert J., S/Sgt
BT	Brooks, John W., Sgt
TG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
LWG	Hoy, James F., Sgt

B-17F #41-24577 Hell's Angels

P	Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
CP	Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
BOM	Halliburton, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt
ENG	Mullins, Grover C., S/Sgt
RWG	Pleasant, James H., S/Sgt
RO	Supple, James C., S/Sgt
BT	Zeitner, Howard H., Sgt
TG	Sutton, Bernard J., Sgt
LWG	Viszneki, John G., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24629 (No Name)

P	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP	Harper, William B., 2Lt
NAV	McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt
BOM	Webster, Richard E., 2Lt
ENG	Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt
TG	Doherty, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt
BT	Hargrave, Alfred J., Sgt
RWG	Raesley, Wilmer G., Sgt
LWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29664 Jersey Bounce, Jr.

P	Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
CP	Hungerford, Merle R., Jr., Capt
NAV	McElwain, Richard E., 1Lt
BOM	Stone, Elbert E., 1Lt
ENG	Berzansky, Andrew, T/Sgt
RWG	Beavers, Albert T., S/Sgt
RO	Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt
BT	Bagwell, Clayton R., S/Sgt
LWG	Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt
TG	Wright, George E., 1Lt
PHO	Martin, Wallace G., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

P Quinn, Thomas J., F/O
CP Eisenhart, William E., F/O
NAV Howlett, Oscar D., 2Lt
BOM Van Zandt, Roland, 2Lt
ENG Holper, Ralph M., T/Sgt
RWG Kalafut, Joe J., S/Sgt
RO Vieira, Joseph, T/Sgt
BT Bergman, Harvey F., S/Sgt
LWG Reynolds, James B., S/Sgt
TG Pelkey, Elwood R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5257 *Miss Bea Haven*

P Grant, Ambrose G., 2Lt
CP Hall, Franklin C., 2Lt
NAV Berger, James F., 2Lt
BOM Blackburn, Marion D., 2Lt
ENG Jaouen, Robert F., T/Sgt
TT Kujawa, Tony T., S/Sgt
RO Sexton, Edward J., T/Sgt
TG Anderson, Francis D., S/Sgt
RWG Greenlee, Woodrow W., S/Sgt
BT Petrosky, Chester, S/Sgt
PHO Mahaffey, W.D., Sgt

B-17F #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper*

P Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt
NAV Johnson, Lloyd S., 2Lt
BOM Rothman, Theodore I., 1Lt
ENG Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
TT Robb, Charles W., Sgt
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
BT Joubert, Francis M., S/Sgt
TG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
LWG Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt

B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess*

P Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt
CP Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt
NG Quick, George D., T/Sgt
ENG Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
TT Laubert, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt
RWG Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
BT Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
TG Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt
PHO Hunter, Robert G., Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5483 Red Ass

P Brinkley, Pharis C., Lt
CP Parrott, John H., Lt
NAV Becker, Sylvester J., Lt
BOM Petrolino, James S., Lt
ENG Worthington, Arthur J., T/Sgt
LWG Lance, Guy A., S/Sgt
RO Snyder, Richard N., T/Sgt
RWG Ferguson, Charles R., S/Sgt
BT Reid, Harold C., S/Sgt
TG Rein, William E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5859 (No Name)

P Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP Jackson, Theodore M., Lt
NAV Noland, James B., Lt
BOM DeFeis, Robert N., Lt
ENG Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG Stephens, William H., S/Sgt
RO Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt
BT Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt
LWG Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5393 Thumper Again

P Baker, William T., 1Lt
CP Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt
NAV McLane, Joseph T., Lt
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., Lt
ENG Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt
RWG Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt
RO Bonn, Charles J., Sgt
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt
TG Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt
LWG Pierson, Lawrence C., S/Sgt
(Abortive)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #41-24587 *Bad Check*

P	McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
CP	Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV	Kaliher, John C., Lt
BOM	Cornish, Merlin L., Lt
ENG	Tempesta, David, T/Sgt
RWG	Chiles, Alfred B., Jr., S/Sgt
RO	Callihan, George A., T/Sgt
BT	Yarian, Robert G., S/Sgt
LWG	Hadley, Owen W., Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3131 *Flak Wolf*

P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Harmes, D.D., Sgt
ENG	Watts, William A., Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
TG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
LWG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29955 *Mr. Five by Five*

P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Gomes, Theodore, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	Ness, Howard C., Lt
CP	Ashwell, Silas B., Lt
NAV	Doyle, Robert V., Lt
BOM	Reeder, John J., Lt
ENG	Walsh, Charles E., T/Sgt
BT	Tambe, Angelo L., S/Sgt
RO	Ratliff, Leonard E., T/Sgt
LWG	Hoff, Henry, Sgt
RWG	Madak, Edward P., Sgt
TG	Ferguson, Jack D., Sgt

B-17F #42-5081 *Luscious Lady*

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	McCormick, James E., Lt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
RWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
LWG	Fuller, Charles, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5054 *Belle of San Joaquin*

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt
RO	Woods, Arthur H., T/Sgt
BT	Ross, Madison H., S/Sgt
RWG	Dare, Melvin M., S/Sgt
TG	O'Neill, Austin J., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5341 *Vicious Virgin*

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willet, John K., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
BT	Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
TG	Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
LWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

B-17Gs ARRIVE

The 8th Air Force received its first B-17Gs in early September, 1943. However, the 303rd BG(H) waited until 11 October to obtain its first B-17G. On 18 October, 17 arrived, with an additional five on 19 October. The new B-17Gs had Bendix electrically-powered chin turrets. These turrets had been part of the YB-40 B-17 "gunship" arsenal and gave the Flying Fortress improved and more positive firepower to meet the successful head-on attack tactics of the Luftwaffe fighters. While some bombardiers had a hard time adjusting to the "chin turrets," these complaints soon disappeared. The initial B-17Gs were slightly slower than the B-17Fs, creating problems when both B-17Fs and B-17Gs were utilized in the same formation. The B-17Gs also had a revised navigator's station and better actuators for the bomb racks and bomb bay doors.

RETURN TO "NATURAL METAL" COLORS ON B-17s

In October, the factory no longer applied camouflage to the combat aircraft. With the return of the natural silver, the radio call letters on the sides of the B-17s were changed from yellow to black. Dark olive paint was applied in front of the cockpit and on the engine cowlings for anti-glare purposes.



**B-17G - NATURAL METAL FINISH
FUSELAGE LETTERING CHANGED TO BLACK**

B-17Gs *Miss Lace & Earthquake McGoon* Painting commissioned by Jim Reeves.
Note the incorrect serial number and radio call letter. Radio call letter on tail should be in yellow.