

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 41

11 June 1943

Target: Submarine Slips & Docks, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 25

Crews Lost: Lt. Haines - 4 KIA, 6 POW, 5 Wounded

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 10 minutes

Bomb Load: 5 x 1000 M-44 G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitudes: 24,600 ft & 25,700 ft

Ammo Fired: 107,601 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 10 Destroyed, 5 Probables, 3 Damaged

**M**aj. S.L. **McMillin**, Deputy CO, 384BG, flew as co-pilot with Capt. Jack **Roller** in Low Squadron Lead B-17, #41-24605 (359BS), *Knockout Dropper*.

Lt. Col. Charles E. **Marion**, CO of the 303rd BG(H), led 25 Group aircraft in taking off to bomb the shipyards at Bremen. Because of heavy cloud cover over Bremen, the secondary target at Wilhelmshaven was chosen.

Five aircraft aborted the mission because of mechanical difficulties:

#42-3002, *The Old Squaw*, 359BS (**Campbell**)

#42-2973, *Iza Vailable*, 360BS (**Palmer**)

#42-5382, *Witches Tit*, 360BS (**Casello**)

#42-3131, *Flak Wolf*, 427BS (**Lipe**)

#42-29955, *Mr. Five by Five*, 427BS (**Burch**)

The bombers flew to the target at 25,000 feet in good weather with perfect visibility. The formation came upon heavy flak as they reached the German coast, but it caused no damage. Just prior to the bomb run, fighters came in to attack in bunches, flying through the formation, attempting to break it up and catch Fortresses out of formation. The fighters were mostly ME-109s and FW-190s and they continued their withering fire for approximately 45 minutes. Violent evasive action was necessary during this period and gunners were busier than they ever had been. Crews generally commented that the enemy's attitude was one of desperation and that they would do anything to stop the destructive 8th Air Force bombing. Although usual heavy and intense flak was being fired at the B-17s, the crew paid it little attention because of the concentrated fighter attacks. 303rd BG(H) gunners claimed ten aircraft destroyed, five probables, and three damaged. There were 18 enemy aircraft encounters, primarily from the nose.

*Pappy/Good Snuf*, #42-5430, 360BS, piloted by 1Lt. Rolland M. **Haines**, was hit by flak immediately after dropping its bombs. The Nos. 1 and 3 engines were throwing oil and power was lost. It went into a steep dive and then leveled out. At this time they were attacked by FW-190s. Shortly after the German fighter attack, seven crewmen bailed out of the stricken Fortress which crashed at Aschhausen, Germany. S/Sgt. R.W. **Martin**, who was injured, died on his way down or drowned in a lake where he landed. S/Sgt. A.G. **Foster** also landed in this lake near Oldenberg and was picked up by a German launch.

S/Sgt. R.A. **Garcia** landed about 200 feet from shore, swam to land, and was immediately captured by German troops. 1Lt. **Haines**, T/Sgt. K.T.M. **Kalk** and S/Sgt. C.E. **Davis** died in the crash. Lt. **Haines** and T/Sgt. **Kalk** are buried in Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium. 2Lt. Mayer **Kramer**, 2Lt. D.D. **DeLorenzo**, 2Lt. Anthony E. **Morse**, S/Sgt. Robert A. **Garcia** and S/Sgt. Robert L. **Morgan** were captured by the enemy and became prisoners of war.

Col. **Marion**, who was leading the 8th Air Force on this mission, lost two engines on his aircraft, #42-29644, *Jersey Bounce, Jr.*, piloted by Capt. Robert **Nolan**, 358BS. The B-17s following in the formation had to maneuver violently and reduce speed dramatically to avoid collisions. The Luftwaffe took advantage of the scattered formation and made repeated head-on attacks.

No reliable observations of bombing results were available because of the smoke screen and considerable aircraft opposition. In general, results appeared to be only fair. One tail gunner, S/Sgt. **Milliff**, 359BS, flying in *Pappy*, #42-29624, piloted by 1Lt. **Cline**, was seriously injured when a 20mm shell exploded in the tail compartment.

Capt. Robert J. **Nolan**, flying his 25th mission as the lead ship pilot of *Jersey Bounce, Jr.*, commented, "They came in at us as soon as we opened our bomb bay doors. They started to pour it on us and knocked out one of our engines. 'Hop' [1Lt. Richard R. **Hopper**, the bombardier] said he thought the bombs got away just before we had trouble with the ship. He claimed we laid a good pattern of bombing."

1Lt. George **Stallings** was flying as the pilot of *Thumper Again* on the right wing of Maj. Lewis **Lyle** in *A.O.G. Not in Stock*. Maj. **Lyle** was leading a composite group of six 360BS B-17s and others from the 379BS. Lt. **Stallings** and his entire crew were eager to tell of their harrowing experiences against the German fighters. He remarked, "We have never experienced so many persistent attacks. They came in right up to the last instance and lighted us up from one end to the other like a Christmas tree. Their 20mm shells looked like a fistful of tinsel right in our face. Our bombardier was thinking of walking out on our wing to get some more ammunition from the ship next to us to shoot." The bombardier, Lt. Frank **Kulesa**, said, "Next trip we will fill the ship up to the gunnels with ammunition. If anyone has any old kitchen sinks or bathtubs, I'll throw them at the fighters, too." The navigator, Lt James F. **Kelley**, said, "We had about 35 attacks on the nose of the ship. We had two enormous boxes of ammunition and shot it all up. We took an extra big box just for laughs and we had to use it, too." T/Sgt. Dick **Jones**, radio operator, said, "I have been on ten raids and this is the toughest I have been on. There were easily 125 fighters coming in. I could almost see what they were wearing." S/Sgt. Joseph S. **Klasnick**, left waist gunner, voiced, "It reminded me of a trip to Lorient when we were shot up so badly we had to crash land. Lt. **Stallings** did a swell job of flying the ship." S/Sgt. John **Stickler**, tail gunner, added, "My buddies have already said it all." S/Sgt. Robert **Yattaw** said, "Fighters shot out my oxygen, so I had to use a couple of walk-around bottles. Luckily, by the time I finished those, we were low enough so that I didn't need any more. I shot an enemy plane down, too. An ME-109 came in to attack from 12 o'clock and peeled off to attack. I hit him and the plane went down in flames." T/Sgt. James **Watson**, top turret

gunner, remarked, "It wasn't fit for man nor beast today and we were the beast. Shot up more ammunition today than on any other trip. They were coming in close and I couldn't stop them. Not those boys. They weren't cadets."

### **Crew Reports of Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Damaged**

S/Sgt. J.P. Goff (664)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. F.M. White (432)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. L.W. Isham (664)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. C.F. Hardacre (432)	ME-109	Destroyed
T/Sgt. A. Berzansky (571)	ME-109	Probable
T/Sgt. E.B. Ziemer (360)	FW-190	Damaged
S/Sgt. B.W. Johnson (432)	ME-109	Possible
Sgt. E.T. Knudsen (640)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. W.C. Mulgrew (635)	FW-190	Destroyed
S/Sgt. W.W. Stephen (635)	FW-190	Probable
Sgt. A.L. Burnham (605)	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. R.C. Fortunak (635)	FW-190	Probable
S/Sgt. J. Kerr (624)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. A.S. Doran (624)	FW-190	Destroyed
Lt. L.V. Gordon (624)	FW-190	Destroyed
T/Sgt. S.T. Hardaway (846)	ME-109	Destroyed
S/Sgt. R.H. Yattaw (393)	FW-190	Damaged
Lt. L.B. Bierman (124)	FW-190	Damaged



# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point



Five (5) aircraft aborted this mission:

Lt. Campbell in 002

Lt. Casello in 382

Lt. Burch in 955

Lt. Palmer in 973

Lt. Lipe in 131

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><b>CREW POSITIONS</b></p> <p>CMP - Command Pilot P - Pilot CP - Co-Pilot NAV - Navigator ANV - Ass't. Navigator MNV - Mickey Navigator ENG - Engineer BOM - Bombardier RO - Radio Operator</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>VI - Voice Interpreter OBS - Observer PAS - Passenger PHO - Photographer</p> <p><b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b></p> <p>KIA - Killed in action WIA - Wounded in action MIA - Missing in action POW - Prisoner of war</p>	<p>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</p>
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303rd Aircraft Which Flew in Composite Group  
with 379th BG(H)

Lyle  
788

Mack  
483

Stallings  
393

Clifton  
444

Palmer  
973

Casello  
382



Jersey Bounce, Jr. #42-29664 (358BS) VK-C  
103rd PBCW Lead (358BS) - Pilot Capt R.J. Nolan / CoPilot LtCol C.E. Marion

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Nolan, Robert J., Capt  
 CP Marion, Charles E., LtCol  
 NAV Clements, Richard W., 1Lt  
 NAV Foister, J.N., Capt (384BG)  
 BOM Hopper, Richard R., 1Lt  
 ENG Hively, Roy J., T/Sgt  
 BT Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt  
 RO Hamill, Milton, T/Sgt  
 RWG Isham, Lawrence W., S/Sgt  
 TG Joy, Ripley W., 1Lt  
 LWG Goff, James P., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5432 *The Hunting Club***

P Jess, Ray W., 2Lt  
 CP Gunn, Harold W., 2Lt  
 NAV Davidson, Robert P., 2Lt  
 BOM Sweet, William T., 2Lt  
 ENG Smith, Harold E., T/Sgt  
 RWG Hardacre, Charles F., S/Sgt  
 RO Godzinski, Joseph J., T/Sgt  
 BT Johnson, Byron W., S/Sgt  
 LWG Hall, Sidney V., Sgt  
 TG White, Frank M., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29571 *Charley Horse***

P Lemmon, John V., 1Lt  
 CP Clark, Elmo E., F/O  
 NAV Gust, Darrell D., 2Lt  
 BOM Stone, Elbert E., 2Lt  
 ENG Berzansky, Andrew, T/Sgt  
 RWG Beavers, Albert T., S/Sgt  
 RO Zeller, Caryl C., T/Sgt  
 BT Bagwell, Clayton R., S/Sgt  
 TG Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Briggs, Wayne E., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29656 *The Terrible Ten***

P Timken, Jack C., 1Lt  
 CP Wright, George E., 2Lt  
 NAV Chamberlain, William V., 2Lt  
 BOM Solverson, Robert K., 2Lt  
 ENG Knuth, Leland M., T/Sgt  
 RWG Bangert, John C., Sgt  
 RO Matthews, James O., T/Sgt  
 BT Toy, James E., Sgt  
 TG Giassullo, Criscienzo N., S/Sgt  
 LWG Redhead, George R., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5360 *Old Faithful***

P O'Connor, Robert S., 2Lt  
 CP Hurlburt, Donald W., 2Lt  
 NAV McSween, William D., 2Lt  
 BOM Steele, Earl A., 2Lt  
 ENG Ziemer, Frederick B., T/Sgt  
 BT Bitter, Emile V., Jr., S/Sgt  
 RO Hogue, Earl, T/Sgt  
 RWG Dioquardo, Fred J., Sgt  
 TG Sadler, James K., S/Sgt  
 LWG Heaps, Theodore C., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3192 (No Name)**

P McDonald, James M., 1Lt  
 CP Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt  
 NAV McElwain, Richard E., 2Lt  
 BOM McCord, Lawrence E., 2Lt  
 ENG Coykendall, Ralph A., T/Sgt  
 TG Zioance, John, S/Sgt  
 RO Carpenter, Glenn S., T/Sgt  
 BT Johnson, Otto D., S/Sgt  
 TG Westfall, Max M., S/Sgt  
 LWG Martin, James C., S/Sgt  
 PAS Beckett, T.P., Maj (384BG Ops Officer)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5430 Pappy/Good Snuf - CR-L**

P	Haines, Rolland M., 1Lt	KIA
CP	Kramer, Mayer, 2Lt	BO/POW
NAV	Delorenzo, D.D., 2Lt	BO/POW
BOM	Morse, Anthony E., 2Lt	BO/POW
ENG	Garcia, Robert A., S/Sgt	BO/POW
RO	Kalk, Kenneth T.M., T/Sgt	KIA
TG	Davis, Charles E., S/Sgt	KIA
RWG	Martin, Raymond W., S/Sgt	BO/KIA
BT	Foster, Allen G., S/Sgt	BO/POW
LWG	Morgan, Robert L., Sgt	BO/POW

### **B-17F #42-3002 The Old Squaw**

P	Campbell, Claude W., 1Lt
CP	Miller, Arthur W., 2Lt
NAV	Ririe, George M., 2Lt
BOM	Boutelle, Winston E., 2Lt
ENG	Hernan, Howard E., T/Sgt
RO	Kraft, Harold A., T/Sgt
RWG	Bachert, Kurt W., S/Sgt
BT	Catozza, Peter P., S/Sgt
TG	Quick, George D., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, Benton, Sgt

(Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-29624 Pappy**

P	Cline, William J., 1Lt	
CP	Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt	
NAV	Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt	
BOM	Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt	
ENG	Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt	
RO	McGee, Paul C., T/Sgt	
TG	Milliff, Mike C., S/Sgt	WIA
RWG	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt	
BT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt	
LWG	Kerr, Joseph, Sgt	

### **B-17F #41-24635 The 8 Ball MK II**

P	Nix, James S., 1Lt
CP	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Stettler, Donald G., 2Lt
BOM	Yonkman, Robert J., Capt
ENG	Zaorski, Roman R., T/Sgt
RO	Terry, Charles R., T/Sgt
LWG	Fortunak, Richard C., S/Sgt
BT	Mulgrew, William C., S/Sgt
TG	Stephen, Willard W., S/Sgt
RWG	Murphy, Murel A., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29640 Old Ironsides**

P	Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt
CP	Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., 2Lt
BOM	Philpitt, Russell O., 1Lt
ENG	Dougherty, John A., T/Sgt
BT	Edwards, Hurd L., Sgt.
RO	Murray, Robert L., T/Sgt
RWG	Horvath, Robert A., S/Sgt
TG	Knudsen, Elmer T., Sgt
LWG	Howard, George Z., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29846 (No Name)**

P	Smith, Sanford T., Capt
CP	Farrell, Lawrence C., 2Lt
NAV	Summers, Thomas E., 1Lt
BOM	Dwyer, Robert P., 1Lt
ENG	Hardaway, Sidney T., T/Sgt
RO	York, Robert F., T/Sgt
LWG	Adams, Ralph B., S/Sgt
BT	Tibbles, Russell F., S/Sgt
TG	Howard, Earl R., Sgt
RWG	Powell, Marvin F., Sgt
PHO	Kagey, Martin I., Jr., Sgt
PAS	Newell, Robert H., Capt

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

P	Roller, Jack, Capt
CP	McMillin, S.L., Maj (384BG Dep CO)
NAV	Henson, Walter C., 1Lt
BOM	Shoup, John R., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Marcelonis, Joseph G., S/Sgt
RO	Williams, Lemuel T., T/Sgt
TT	Ketron, Frank M., S/Sgt
BT	Beringer, John L., Jr., S/Sgt
TG	Burnham, Arthur L., S/Sgt
LWG	Traban, James J., S/Sgt



## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5444 *We Dood It!***

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P Clifton, David S., Lt  
CP Garvey, John L., Lt  
NAV Wright, Howard R., Lt  
BOM Currie, Herman C., Lt  
ENG Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt  
LWG Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt  
RO Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt  
BT Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt  
TG Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt  
RWG Jameson, Jimmie E., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5393 *Thumper Again***

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P Stallings, George V., Jr., Lt  
CP Bradbury, Joseph E., Lt  
NAV Kelley, James F., Lt  
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., Lt  
ENG Watson, James A., T/Sgt  
LWG Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt  
RO Jones, Dick W., S/Sgt  
BT Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt  
TG Stickler, John J., S/Sgt  
RWG Klasnick, Joseph S., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5382 *The Witches Tit***

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P Casello, John J., Lt  
CP Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt  
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt  
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt  
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt  
RWG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt  
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt  
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt  
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt  
TG Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

### **B-17F #42-5788 *A.O.G. Not in Stock***

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P Lyle, Lewis E., Maj  
CP Fredericks, Jacob W., Capt  
NAV Hoyt, Otis A., Lt  
BOM Fonorow, Milton S., Lt  
ENG Hlastala, Michael S., T/Sgt  
LWG Schneiderman, Henry G., S/Sgt  
RO Smith, Richard J., T/Sgt  
BT Nardine, Howard H., S/Sgt  
TG Davey, Kenneth W., Lt  
RWG Collins, Harvie L., S/Sgt  
OBS Peaslee, B.J., Col (384BG CO)

### **B-17F #42-5483 *Red Ass***

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P Mack, David W., Lt  
CP Barhaug, Ragnar, Lt  
NAV Smith, Roland M., Lt  
BOM Cox, Charles J., Lt  
ENG Deitch, Daniel T., T/Sgt  
LWG Stewart, Carl C., S/Sgt  
RO Cicinelli, Salvatore J., S/Sgt  
TG Biernacki, Joseph J., S/Sgt  
BT Peterson, Andrew C., S/Sgt  
RWG Spitzfaden, Robert E., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-2973 *Iza Vailable***

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P Palmer, Joseph F., Lt  
CP Sheldon, Robert M., Lt  
NAV Rosenblum, Nathan J., Lt  
BOM Kieffer, Claude M., Lt  
ENG Duffey, Elmer E., S/Sgt  
RO Gullage, Edmund, T/Sgt  
LWG Hornbacher, Norman E., Sgt  
BT Owen, Burl M., S/Sgt  
TG Hodges, Alva E., S/Sgt  
RWG Holder, Samuel A., S/Sgt  
(Abortive)

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Burch, Armand F., Lt  
 CP Cardwell, Burt J., Lt  
 NAV Noblin, John D., Lt  
 BOM Butt, Byron K., Lt  
 ENG Bryant, Carson, S/Sgt  
 BT Bourdon, Louis F., S/Sgt  
 RO Ashworth, George W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt  
 TG Bednarchuk, Antonio, S/Sgt  
 LWG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

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

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P Lipe, Fort W., Lt  
 CP Rolfson, Jack G., Lt  
 NAV Illgen, Frederick J., Lt  
 BOM Smith, Abbott M., Jr., Lt  
 ENG Good, James K., T/Sgt  
 BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt  
 RO Brandfas, Dale F., T/Sgt  
 TG Serpa, Joseph E., S/Sgt  
 LWG Hinds, Durward L., S/Sgt  
 RWG Barron, Dante G., Sgt  
 (Abortive)

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

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P Broussard, Edward J., Jr., Capt  
 CP LeFevre, William G., Lt  
 NAV Herman, Charles L., Lt  
 BOM Rohrlich, Robert E., Lt  
 ENG Smock, Edmund L., T/Sgt  
 RO Karanson, William A., Jr., T/Sgt  
 BT Choice, Hudson, S/Sgt  
 LWG Hairr, Elwood F., S/Sgt  
 RWG Koch, Vernon E., S/Sgt  
 TG Storer, Charles R., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5392 *Stric Nine***

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P Strickland, Alexander C., Lt  
 CP Olsen, Curtis M., Lt  
 NAV Hokans, Carl A., Lt  
 BOM Lamme, Edwin G., Lt  
 ENG Baart, James C., T/Sgt  
 BT Peck, Raymond R., S/Sgt  
 RO Martel, Albert E., Jr., T/Sgt  
 RWG Strohsack, R.R., S/Sgt  
 TG Sherg, Anthony W., S/Sgt  
 LWG McGill, Edward E., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5221 *Son***

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P Southworth, Billy B., Jr., Capt  
 CP Dubell, Richard P., Lt  
 NAV Soha, Walter M., Capt  
 BOM Sherwood, Lyle D., Lt  
 BOM Bonnett, C.D., Lt (384BG)  
 ENG Zipfel, Charles E., T/Sgt  
 BT Belk, Jack, S/Sgt  
 RO Doughty, Edward J., T/Sgt  
 TG Henderson, George W., S/Sgt  
 RWG Harmon, Edward Z., S/Sgt  
 LWG Brandt, Waldo B., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-3124 (*No Name*)**

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P Pratt, James H., Lt  
 CP Bowling, William A., Lt  
 NAV Boner, Allen M., Lt  
 BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt  
 ENG Scheuerer, Joseph E., S/Sgt  
 RO Royar, Frederick J., S/Sgt  
 BT Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt  
 TG Johnston, Walter J., S/Sgt  
 LWG Schilling, D.E., S/Sgt  
 RWG Humphreys, Robert R., S/Sgt