

40th BOMB GROUP ORIGINAL B-29 ASSIGNMENTS: Feb '44

During February of 1944 B-29s were delivered from the Boeing Wichita factory for use as combat airplanes. These had to be worked over at Modification Centers to meet requirements for overseas service. At the same time, each Bomb Group in the 58th Wing, XX Bomber Command, had to make decisions on which crews would fly the Superfortress overseas. Each of the four squadrons was allotted nine (9) B-29s, plus two additional for the Group Headquarters staff. There were 15 Combat Crews in each Squadron as it was believed crews would not be able to take the stress and strain of the expected flying that would be done by each B-29. This number of crews per squadron per airplane was based on bombing experience in Europe to allow for sickness, combat losses, and men on R&R.

In the 40th Bomb Group, the following plane assignments were made:

<u>25th Squadron</u>	<u>44th Squadron</u>
237 Capt Garth Doyle	241 Maj Joseph White
249 Capt William O'Neil	250 Capt William Hunter
269 L/Col Warren Wilkinson	268 Maj Donald Roberts
288 Capt Daniel Rogers	289 Maj Ira Cornett
294 Maj William Kingsbury	290 Capt Neil Wemple
298 Maj Woodrow Swancutt	297 Maj Joe McWilliams
301 Capt James Slattery	319 Capt James Lyons
310 Capt Murr Skousen	322 Capt William Mueller
331 Capt Robert Gaughan	348 Capt Everett Berry
<u>45th Squadron</u>	<u>395th Squadron</u>
222 Capt Robert Haley	240 Capt Keith Lindley
254 Capt Ira Matthews	276 Maj Pierre Koenig
261 Capt Marvin Stockett	282 Capt John Sanders
275 Capt Marvin Goodwyn	291 Capt Richard McGlinn
281 Capt Richard Mallory	303 L/Col Walter Lucas
295 Capt Robert Moss	304 Maj Alex Zamry
308 Capt Charles Taylor	306 Maj Edwin Glass
313 Capt William Renfro	318 Maj John Keller
326 Maj Oscar Schaaf	342 Capt Ernest Turner

40th Group Headquarters  
344 Maj Henry Luna  
351 L/Col Louis Coira

Spare flight crews in the 40th Bomb Group Squadrons were as follows:

<u>25th Squadron</u>	<u>44th Squadron</u>
Maj George Weschler	Capt John Eigenmann
Capt Robert Copley	Capt Clayton Gray
Capt Edward Franks	Capt Ronald Harte
Capt Howard Gerber	Capt Raymond Moore
Capt Cornelius Meyer	Capt Robert Tisserat
Capt Clark Thomas	Capt Graham Bleiler
<u>45th Squadron</u>	<u>395th Squadron</u>
Capt Boyd Grubaugh	Capt William Howard
Capt Glenn Landrith	Capt Chester Woolsey
Capt Jack Ledford	Capt William Schaal
Capt Aubrey Richard	Capt George Varoff
Capt Robert Shanks	1/Lt Alvin Hills
Capt Jasper Woodruff	1/Lt George Lowry