

Here are a few words about the B- SWEETS. My crew and I were mated together in Pratt, and stayed together for our full tours ending in July 1945. The names are as follows.

Aircraft Commander-----Captain William Schaal  
Co-Pilot ----- I st. Lieutenant Curtis Horlacher  
Navigator -----2nd. Lieutenant Frank Kupec  
Bombardier----- 2nd. Lieutenant Edward Shine  
Flight Engineer-----Flight Ofcer Laverne Fowler ( returned to USA July, 44, hardship)  
Flight Engineer-----2nd. Lieutenant Carl Moore. (Fowler's replacement)  
Top Gunner-----Sgt. Thomas Walsh  
Tail Gunner-----Sgt. Thadues Waddell  
Right Gunner -----Sgt. Truman Kinsley  
Left Gunner -----Sgt. Donald Hahn  
Radio Operator -----Sgt. Robert Starkey  
Radar Operator-----Sgt. Robert Martin

The name "B SWEET" is derived from my wife's maiden name. Since I was the only married man on the crew I proposed to use my wife's maiden name Barbara Sweet inside the spreading wings of our country's eagle. The crew agreed. The question is asked what happened to B. Sweet # 1. The initial manning for the squadrons provided 2 crews per B-29. My crew was the second crew and therefore was not assigned to go on the first mission. The number one crew flew the mission but failed to return. Other losses and operational factors required a change in manning so that only one crew was assigned per aircraft. The attached photo shows B SWEET II. Missions shown on nose were all by my crew and I. We lost her on a flight from our India. airbase to the China airbase. None of us were hurt in the bail out, and when we returned to our unit we were assigned another aircraft. I do not have a photo of B SWEET III. We flew 7 or 8 missions and moved with the Wing to Tinian. My crew and I were promoted to "lead crew" and given a new B-29, and another crew was assigned to B SWEET III. The photo shows nose art and some of my crew by B SWEET IV. We flew our last combat mission in July 1945, and flew a war weary B-29 home to Arizona The second photo shows battle damage to B SWEET IV on the last mission we flew.

(these notes from William R. Schaal)