

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 75

8 Oct 1943

Target: Center of City, Bremen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 21

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 42 x 65 lb M47A2 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 28,900 ft

Ammo Fired: 9,700 rounds

Black Week - 8-14 Oct 1943

The primary target was the important submarine-building yard at Bremen. During 1942, this yard produced 10.6% of total German production. On 8 October, there were 21 submarines under construction and 10 being fitted out. There were also four "Seetier" class destroyers being constructed and two being fitted out. The yard capacity had recently been increased by one slip. Another plant in Bremen was producing 75 JU-87 aircraft each month. The secondary target was the center of the city of Bremen.

Aircraft #41-24577 *Hell's Angels* turned back at the English coast when the pilot, Lt. John R. **Johnston** 358th BS, lost his No. 1 engine.

The effectiveness of the target smoke screen, in combination with a haze that extended to altitude, caused the Group to attack the secondary target. Twenty-seven tons of M47A1 65-lb. incendiary bombs were dropped from 28,000 feet and appeared to have landed east of the aiming point.

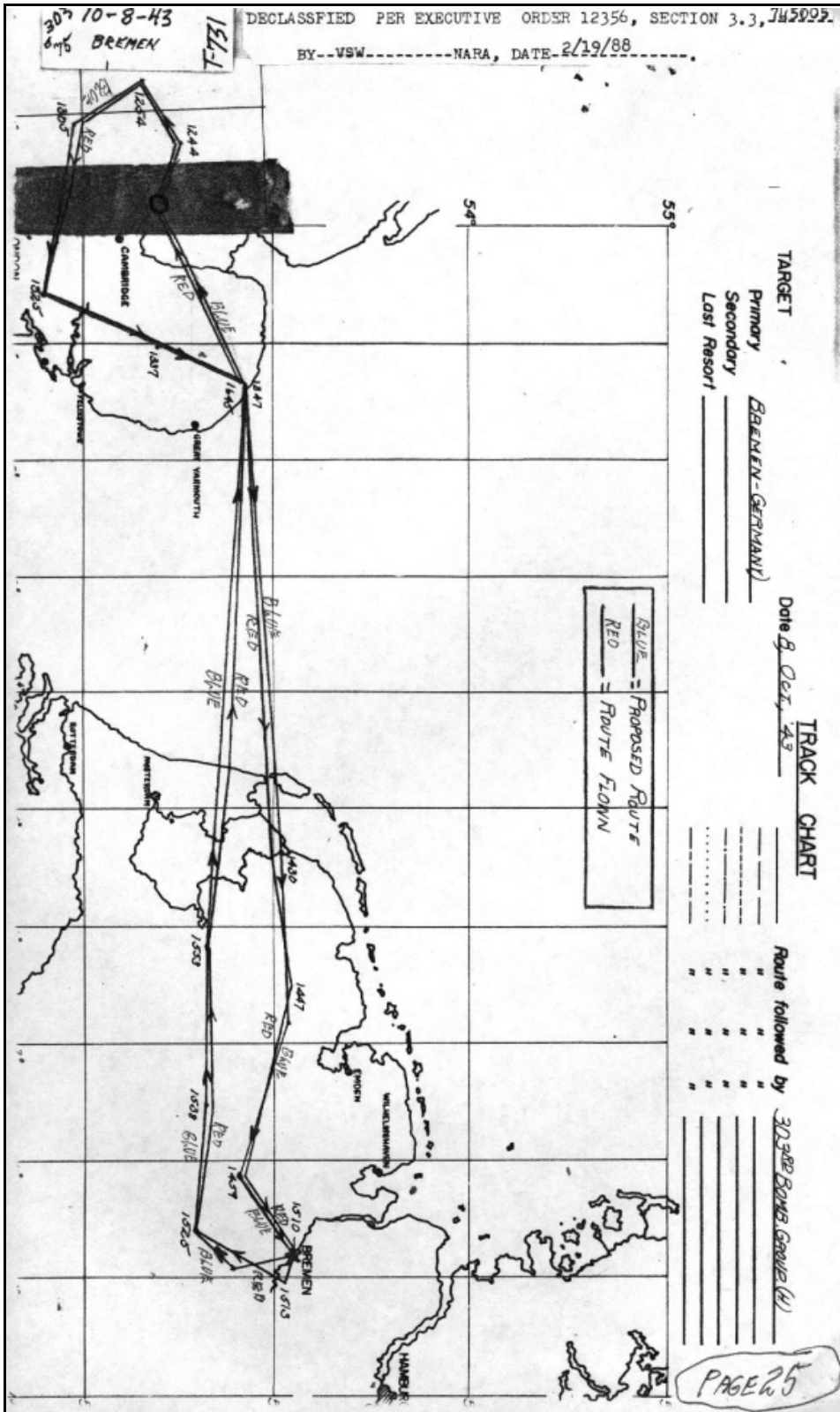
Flak in the target area was intense and accurate for Groups below the 303rd BG(H) formation. Both barrage and continuously pointed fire were employed. Meager inaccurate flak was met at various points to and from the target. Up to 300 enemy aircraft were seen, but there were very few attacks by the ME-109s, ME-110s and FW-190s. There were no claims made by the Group, no aircraft lost and no casualties. Nine aircraft suffered minor flak damage. Fighter support was good.

The lead pilot, Capt. **Casello** reported, "My crew saw bombs hitting on the center of town. There was a lot of flak, but the P-47s kept the enemy fighters away most of the time. We had a few tail attacks, but they didn't damage the ship any." "They definitely haven't taken any flak away from Bremen." added Maj. **Shayler**. "We were lucky enough to fly above most of it, but it must have been hell for the boys flying below us. The flak was bursting fiercely down there. However, we weren't bothered much by fighters. They didn't seem to want to come up to our altitude and mix with the P-47s."

S/Sgt. Virgil E. **Brown**, tail gunner on *Sky Wolf*, said he saw three FW-190s attack one Fortress when the P-47s weren't around. "That tail gunner was really on the ball. He shot down two of the FWs in about thirty seconds and the other one turned around and got

out of there fast," Sgt. **Brown** reported. S/Sgt. Chester **Petrosky**, tail gunner on *Miss Bea Haven* said, "I've never seen flak as thick as it was today. It looked like we could have gotten out and walked on it."

The crew of *Star Dust* 358BS, had the roughest Group trip of the day. Over the target flak hit the ship, damaged a supercharger and caused a runaway propeller. Flying on three engines, *Star Dust* fell behind the rest of the formation, but went on to bomb the target. Two bombs stuck in the racks and the bomb bay doors refused to close, slowing the ship down even more. To complicate matters, oxygen masks froze at the sub-zero altitude. Bombardier Lt. Phillip A. **Reed** passed out from lack of oxygen. Engineer T/Sgt. Joseph A. **Roze**k went back to the bomb bay to try to close the doors and increase the speed of the ship a little. He dislodged the two bombs, which rolled out of the partially closed doors. Then Sgt. **Roze**k passed out on the narrow catwalk over the open bomb bay doors five miles above earth. Seeing Sgt. **Roze**k's position, 2Lt. Roy C. **Sanders**, pilot of *Star Dust*, left the controls in the hands of the co-pilot 2Lt. Henry F. **Nogash**. After dragging Sgt. **Roze**k to a safer spot and fitting him up with an emergency oxygen system, Lt. **Sanders** went to the nose and succeeded in reviving Lt. **Reed**. "We were lucky to get back," the crew agreed. "We weren't in very good shape to keep off fighters, but those P-47s were all around us. Boy! They really looked good—as welcome as a letter from home."



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u>Shayler-Casello</u>			
931			
<u>Brinkley</u>		<u>Heller</u>	
483		973	
<u>Jokerst</u>			
854			
<u>Baker</u>		<u>Grant</u>	
498		257	
<u>Lemmon</u>		<u>Shelhamer</u>	
562		955	
<u>DeCamp</u>	<u>Campbell</u>	<u>Clifford</u>	<u>Whitcomb</u>
571	524	158	131
<u>Johnston</u>		<u>Cote</u>	
577		052	
<u>Hartigan</u>	<u>Wise-Fort</u>	<u>Hullar</u>	<u>McClellan</u>
264	477	221	587
<u>Sanders</u>		<u>Quinn</u>	
064		029	
		<u>Phelps</u>	<u>Reeder</u>
		177	561
		(Spare)	(Spare)

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u>CREW POSITIONS</u> 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 <u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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 cntry 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 #42-29571 *Charley Horse*

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
 NG Hoffman, Robert W., Sgt
 ENG Resto, Clement, T/Sgt
 LWG Lowther, John W., S/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 #41-24577 *Hell's Angels*

P Johnston, John R., 1Lt
 CP Lake, Lester A., Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Karraker, William H., 2Lt
 BOM Sweet, William D., 2Lt
 ENG Lopez, Rudolph S., T/Sgt
 RWG Mills, James E., S/Sgt
 RO Matthews, James O., T/Sgt
 BT Griffin, Edward W., S/Sgt
 TG Moody, John P., S/Sgt
 LWG Cobb, Edward N., S/Sgt
 (Abortive)

B-17F #42-3064 *Star Dust*

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 #41-24562 *Sky Wolf*

P Lemmon, John V., Capt
 CP Harper, William B., 2Lt
 NAV Gust, Darrell D., 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
 TG Brown, Virgil E., S/Sgt
 LWG Briggs, Wayne E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-29524 *Meat Hound*

P Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
 CP Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
 NAV McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt
 BOM Spencer, Charles W., 2Lt
 ENG Backiel, Stanley J., T/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 #42-29477 *Joan of Arc*

P Wise, Calder L., 2Lt
 CP Fort, William C., Jr., 2Lt
 NAV Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
 BOM Hallibutron, 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
 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

B-17F #42-5177 *Fast Worker MK II*

P Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
CP Bolsover, Harold S., F/O
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 Reeder, D.M., 1Lt
CP McLean, Ralph C., 2Lt
NAV Salk, Harvey M., 2Lt
BOM Vermillion, Earl E., 2Lt
ENG Herod, Henry W., T/Sgt
RWG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt
LWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
TG Swan, Henry, S/Sgt

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29931 *Satan's Workshop*

P Casello, John J., Capt
CP Shayler, Walter K., Maj
NAV Effinger, Lawrence E., Lt
NAV Molnar, George, Lt
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Lt
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt
TG Jackson, Theodore M., Lt
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt
RWG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt

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

P Heller, William C., Lt
CP Coppom, John F., Lt
NAV Zwayer, James P., Lt
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt
ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt
RWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt
RO Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt
LWG Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt
BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt
TG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt

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 #42-5854 *Alley Oop*

P Jokerst, Leonard E., Lt
CP Bergeron, Willard H., 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 #42-29498 *Dark Horse*

P Baker, William T., 1Lt
CP Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt
NAV McLane, Joseph T., Lt
NG Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt
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

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	Heaton, Barnell S., Sgt
TG	Dugan, Charles E., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5052 *Mizpah*

P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R., Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P	Clifford, Bernard J., Lt
CP	Jahn, Charles O., Lt
NAV	Stata, Charles M., Lt
BOM	Bruce, Robert V., Lt
ENG	Horning, A.E., S/Sgt
RWG	Dyke, Andrew A., T/Sgt
RO	Hartzog, F.G., T/Sgt
BT	Gale, Charles L., S/Sgt
TG	Heller, W.O., S/Sgt
LWG	McLarty, J.L., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5221 *Son*

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	Fullem, Charles, S/Sgt

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

P	Whitcomb, Ralph E., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Meagher, Robert W., Lt
ENG	Sparks, William C., S/Sgt
TT	Glendening, Vane N.L., S/Sgt
RO	Kuehl, Fred T., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., Sgt
TG	Smith, Nyle F., S/Sgt
LWG	Young, Earl W., Sgt

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

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willett, 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
OBS	Johnson, Hans C., Capt