

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 72

27 September 1943

Target: Port Area, Emden, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Crews Lost: S/Sgt. W.E. Rein wounded by flak

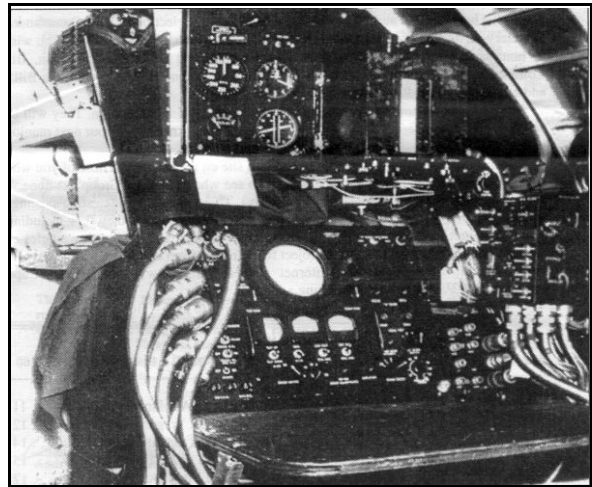
Length of Mission: 5 hours, 50 minutes

Bomb Load: 40 M47A1 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 25,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 6,655 rounds

Eighth Air Force General **Eaker** was satisfied with the results of the Pathfinder practice missions of 23 and 25 September and decided to use the Emden mission as the first 8th Air Force operational use of Pathfinder aircraft. Emden was chosen as the first target because the contrasting reflections of water and land would show up on the H2S radar scopes more distinctly than any land target.



H2S (later H2X) Pathfinder Radar Equipment

Group aircraft were loaded with 1,000-lb general purpose H.E. M-44 bombs and 100-lb M47A1 white phosphorous bombs. The 303rd BG(H) approached the target at 25,000 feet to find 7/10 to 10/10 cloud cover and eight to ten miles visibility. 1Lt. Donald F. **DeCamp** in B-17 *Star Dust*, 358BS, aborted the mission when the No. 2 engine throttle linkage, vibrated apart and control of the engine was lost.

Due to an extremely steep, tight left turn immediately before the target was reached to avoid a heavy cloud at the bombing altitude, the 303rd BG(H) formation was separated from the Combat Wing at the target. Bombing instructions were to adhere to the policy of dropping on the Pathfinder B-17s parachute flares with the lead Group bombing on the flares and other Groups dropping on the lead Group. The 303rd BG(H) lead ship bombardier 1Lt. Reinaldo J. **Saiz**, never saw bombs being dropped by the lead Group and was unable to drop his bombs. During the subsequent confusion, three Group aircraft dropped their bombs in the vicinity of the target area--two on the city of Norden, Germany, one near the Island of Borkum and two jettisoned bombs into the North Sea.

Flak over the target was meager and inaccurate. Approximately 25 enemy fighters were seen. Their attacks were not persistent due to the excellent fighter protection given the Group by P-47s. There was one slight casualty. S/Sgt. W.E. **Rein**, tail gunner on Lt. **Brinkley's** crew in #42-5483 *Red Ass* 360BS, was hit by a small anti-aircraft gunfire splinter.

Many of the 303rd BG(H) crews were critical of the policy that required them only to drop bombs when the Group lead ship dropped theirs. They could have dropped their bombs on the Pathfinder ships' parachute flares that were clearly visible. They also requested that the Pathfinders "should get better organized." Groups in other Divisions had similar confusion and problems and most bombs fell far and wide from the target area.

AIR-SEA RESCUE MISSION: On the return trip to Emden several B-17s were seen in distress with parachutes observed. A hastily organized air-sea rescue effort was organized to search in two areas. The emergency timing gave little time for mission preparation and organization. Gee equipment, useful in overwater searches, was missing. Crews complained that they were not provided with food. The search was unsuccessful. The next day, a second air-sea rescue search was conducted by 10 B-17s of the 358th and 427th BSs. Four areas were searched at an altitude of 300 to 500 feet. The wing of an RAF fighter and a small tethered balloon were observed. The search lasted about five hours. Returning crews suggested that further searches be conducted at an altitude of 1000 feet rather than lower altitudes.



Jersey Bounce #42-29664 (358BS) VK-C

41st CBW High (359BS) - Pilot R.L. Mattison / CoPilot Capt H.E. Kalhoefer

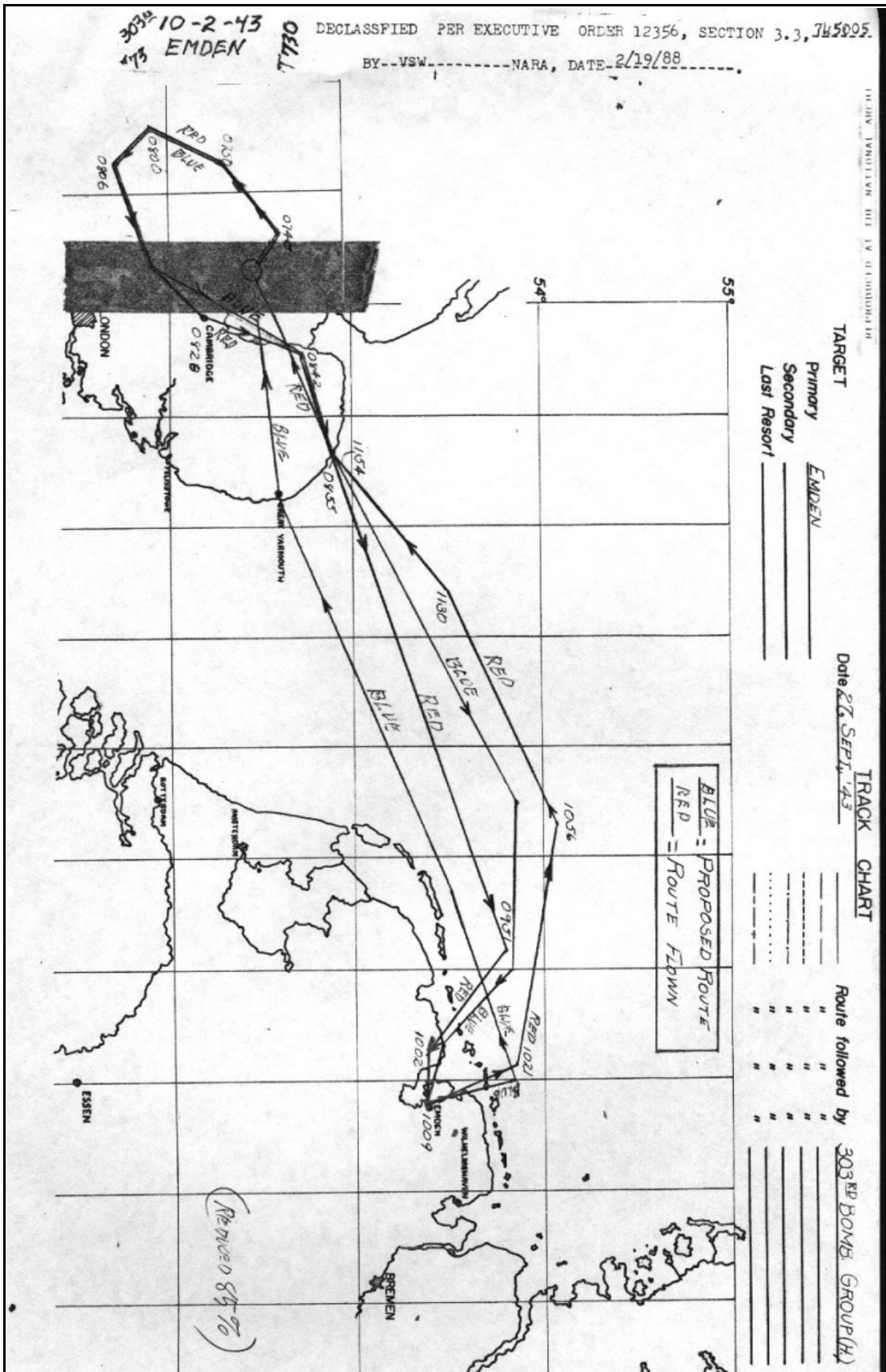
(Back L-R) 1Lt David A. Rich (N), S/Sgt James E. Schneider (BTG),
Lt Reinaldo J. Saiz (B), 1Lt Robert L. Mattison (P),
1Lt Norman N. Jacobsen (N), Capt Herbert E. Kalhoefer (CP)

(Front L-R) Lt Spencer F. Case (TG/O), S/Sgt Shuble A. Boling (LWG),
T/Sgt Lloyd E. Nordyke (RO), S/Sgt David G. McEachern (RWG),
S/Sgt Morton Luman (Photo), T/Sgt Frederick J. Green (FE)

303 10-2-43
473 EMDEN
0710

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, J45005

BY--VSW-----NARA, DATE-2/19/88



Route Map

Mission 072 - 3

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

		<u>Mattison</u> 664		
		<u>Phelps</u> 177		<u>Hanselman</u> 029
			<u>Manning</u> 565	
		<u>Brown</u> 257		<u>Reeder</u> 561
	<u>Casello</u> 260			<u>Gamble</u> 341
<u>Fyler</u> 393		<u>Brinkley</u> 483		<u>DeCamp</u> 064
	<u>Jokerst</u> 482			<u>Johnston</u> 562
<u>McClellan</u> 619		<u>Clifford</u> 221		<u>Hendry</u> 360
	<u>Ness</u> 158			<u>Woddrop</u> 131
				<u>Sanders</u> 524
				<u>Hartigan</u> 605

One aircraft aborted: 1Lt. DeCamp in 064

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<p><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</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><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u> 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 cntry REP - Repatriated RES - Rescued ESC - Escaped BO - Bailed out DCH - Ditched CR-L - Crashed on land CR-S - Crashed at sea</p>
--	--	---	--

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
CP Kyse, Walter R., 2Lt
NAV McSween, William D., 2Lt
BOM Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt
ENG Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt
RWG Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
LWG Schmeltzer, Charles S., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24562 *Sky Wolf*

CP 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 Sortie)

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

P Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
CP Wise, Calder L., 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
PHO Moffett, Ralph M., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Sanders, Roy C., 2Lt
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
(Abortive Sortie)

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

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 Hoffman, Robert W., Sgt
BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt
TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt
RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt
(Abortive)

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

P Hartigan, William R., 2Lt
CP Campbell, Paul W., 2Lt
NAV Douthett, Lorin F., 2Lt
BOM Dorsey, Bernard F., 2Lt
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
PHO Martin, Wallace G., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Brown, Malcolm E., 1Lt
CP Szelwian, Felix T., 2Lt
NAV Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
BOM Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt
ENG Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt
RO Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
BT Konecko, John, Sgt
TG Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt
TT Manchester, Robert E., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #41-24565 *Idaho Potato Peeler*

P Manning, John P., 1Lt
CP Blossom, George H., 2Lt
NAV Antman, Jack, 2Lt
BOM Shafer, John H., 1Lt
ENG Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
TG Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt
RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
RWG Santella, Albert C., S/Sgt
BT Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt
LWG McKenna, Robert I., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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 McGee, Paul P., S/Sgt
BT Joubert, Francis M., Sgt
TG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt
LWG Robichaud, Joseph E., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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
TG Hayes, John J., S/Sgt
RO Mowery, Ellis D., T/Sgt
LWG Hull, Kenneth W., S/Sgt
BT Wright, Samuel S., S/Sgt
RWG Newman, John N., S/Sgt
PHO Mahffey, William D., Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-3029 *Wallaroo*

P Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt
CP Calwell, Lucien B., 2Lt
NAV Ramsey, Elijah W., Jr., 2Lt
BOM Livermore, William D., 2Lt
ENG Fouss, Howard E., T/Sgt
TT Laubert, Robert J., S/Sgt
RO Mouser, Lloyd C., Sgt
RWG Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt
BT Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt
TG Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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

P Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt
NAV Jacobsen, Norman N., 1Lt
NAV Rich, David A., 1Lt
BOM Shafer, John H., 1Lt
ENG Green, Frederick J., T/Sgt
RO Nordyke, Lloyd E., T/Sgt
RWG McEachern, David C., S/Sgt
BT Schneider, James E., S/Sgt
LWG Boling, Shuble A., Sgt
TG Case, Spencer F., 1Lt
PHO Morton, Luman, S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt
CP Ward, Robert C., Lt
NAV Davis, Darius R., Lt
BOM Gibson, Steve M., Lt
ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
RWG Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
RO Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
BT Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
TG Sawicki, Joseph R., S/Sgt
LWG Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt
(Sortie)

B-17F #42-5260 *Yardbird II*

P Casello, John J., Capt
CP Jackson, Theodore M., Lt
NAV Molnar, George, Lt
BOM Rice, Bernard, Lt
ENG Carnathan, Hugh S., T/Sgt
RG Stout, Otis T., S/Sgt
RO Calco, Anthony, T/Sgt
LWG Frost, Carlyle A., S/Sgt
BT Ponder, Truly S., S/Sgt
RWG Gray, Johnnie E., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

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
(Sortie)

B-17F #42-5482 *Cat-O-Nine Tails*

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 Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt
LWG Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt
PHO Churchan, Ervin A., Sgt
(Sortie)

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17 #42-3131 *Flak Wolf*

P Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt
ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt
BT Allen, Glen R., S/Sgt
RO Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
TG Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG Priestly, Van B., S/Sgt
(Abortive Sortie)

B-17F #42-5221 *Son*

P Clifford, Bernard J., Lt
CP Jahn, Charles O., Lt
NAV Stata, Charles M., Lt
BOM Bruce, Robert V., Lt
ENG Dyke, Andrew A., Lt
TT Horning, A.E., S/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
(Sortie)

B-17F #41-24619 *S for Sugar*

P McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
CP Greenwood, Ernest G., Lt
NAV Kotz, Warren 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
(Sortie)

B-17F #42-3158 *Max*

P Ness, Howard C., Lt
CP Barker, John C., 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 McGrew, Robert H., S/Sgt
RWG Hoff, Henry, Sgt
TG Ferguson, Jack D., Sgt
(Sortie)