

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 52

24 July 1943

Target: Nordisk Magnesium/Aluminum Factory,  
Heroya, Norway

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 7 hours, 45 minutes

Bomb Load: 10 x 500 lb H.E. M43 bombs

Bombing Altitude: 15,350 ft

Ammo Fired: 2,700 rounds

**T**he 303rd BG(H) was assigned a new Commanding Officer on 19 July 1943. Colonel **Charles E. Marion** was transferred to the 1st Bombardment Wing as Deputy Commanding Officer, Operations. The new Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel **Kermit D. Stevens**. LtCol **Stevens** was a member of the original 8th Air Force contingent when the 8th Air Force was constituted at Savannah, Georgia on 19 January 1942. He was part of the small 8th Air Force nucleolus that came to England in January 1942 and served as the 8th Air Force Operations Officer. He became the longest serving 303rd BG(H) Commanding Officer, from 19 July 1943 to 01 September 1944.



LtCol Kermit D. Stevens

The last week of July 1943 became known as "Blitz Week."

When General **Eaker** was informed that clear skies could be expected over Europe for a few days, he scheduled a series of six missions against German targets. Blitz Week began with Major Lewis E. **Lyle** flying in #42-29931 *Satan's Workshop*, leading twenty bombers on the longest trip to date to bomb Norway. LtCol. Kermit D. **Stevens** flew as co-pilot with 1Lt. Guy H. **McClung** in #41-24605 *Knockout Dropper* in the 359th BS High Squadron lead B-17.

Each aircraft carried ten 500-lb bombs. The formations flew across the North Sea at 2,500 feet to conserve fuel before climbing to their 15,000 feet bombing altitude. They flew with full cloud cover until just before they reached the target as the high group in the 103rd Provisional Bombardment Group (303rd, 379th and 384th BGs). Each Group decided to make separate bomb runs. A hole appeared in the clouds just before the 303rd BG(H) reached the target, which allowed a perfect bomb run. There was so much smoke from the formations which had previously bombed that Maj. **Lyle** led his formation over the target twice before the bombardier, Lt. Bernard **Rice** released the bombs. When he did release them, it was necessary to aim for the center of the rising smoke columns.

There were no fighters observed by any of the Group crews, but the anti-aircraft fire was intense and accurate. One aircraft sustained major damage and nine received minor damage. There were no personnel casualties.

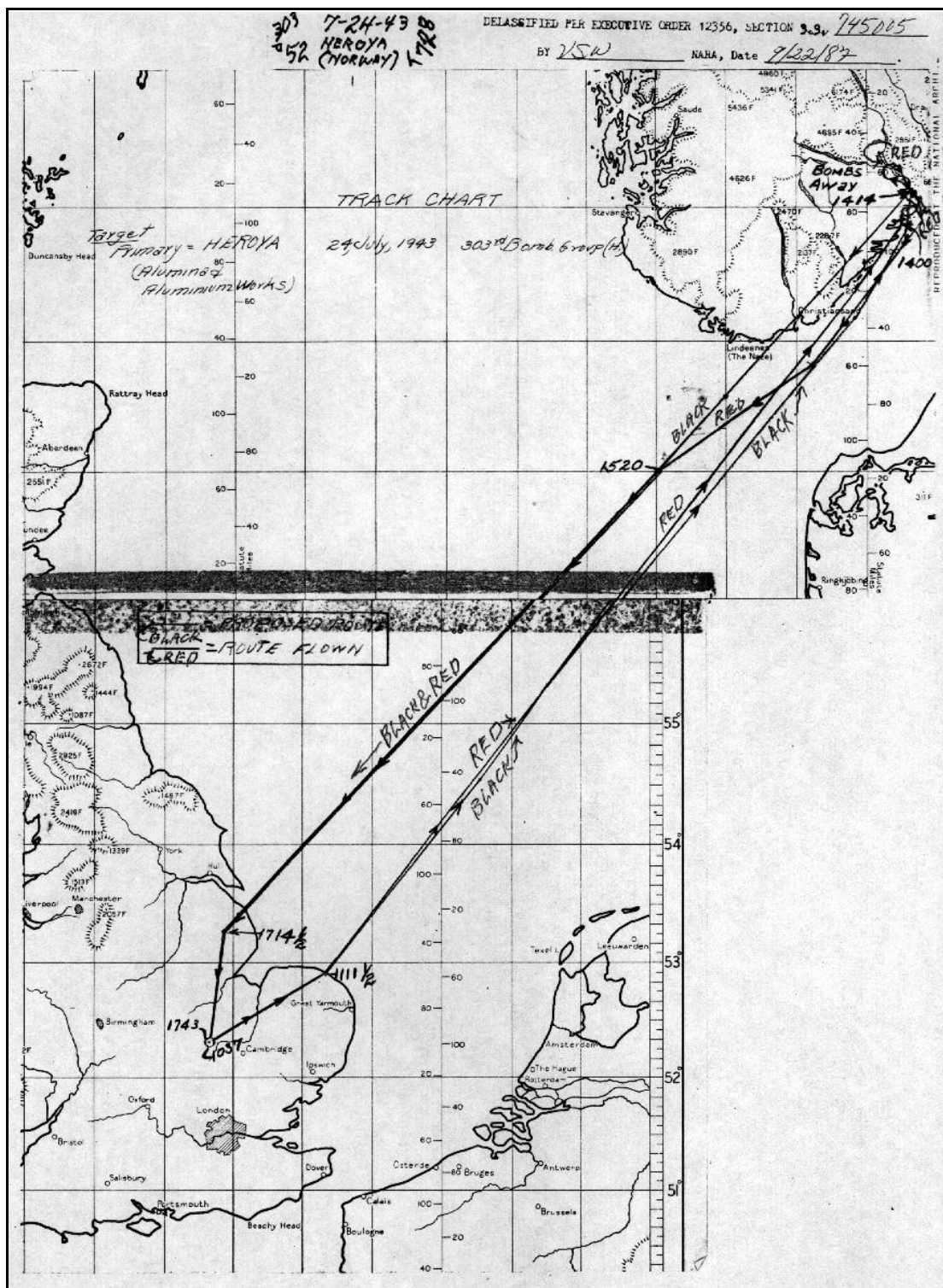
Maj. **Lyle** summed up the raid with this statement: "There was a pillar of smoke up to 6,000 feet before we got there. The ships that went ahead of us really bombed the hell out of it. The target was so smoky we had to make two passes in order to see it. Our bombs landed right smack on it. It was the best mission I have been on. Heavy bombardment at its best. There wasn't a fighter in the sky."

Lt. George **Stallings** in *Alley Oop* remarked, "A tedious trip but a good one. Best of all, there were no fighters menacing us." Lt. Thomas E. **Mulligan**, riding as an observer of *Fast Worker MK II* said, "The Forts going in and coming out looked like traffic at 42nd Street and Broadway in the good old days." Waist gunner S/Sgt. Norville **Vaughn** said, "Didn't see a thing. Clouds going over and coming back and too much smoke on the target. Just test-fired my guns, that's all." T/Sgt. Robert W. **Noll**, radio operator on *Butch* added, "The only thing I saw was my mother's homeland, Norway. No shooting 'cause there was nothing to shoot at."

The Heroya, Norway mission--over 2,000 miles round trip--was a classic "textbook" mission. It was one of the most successful missions of the war. The plant, considered essential to the German war effort had just been completed. The dedication ceremony was taking place as the bombs began to drop. Destruction was so complete that the plant never opened. Many top-ranking German and Norwegian collaborators attending the dedication ceremony were killed.



*American Red Cross Clubmobile visiting Molesworth. It was always welcome with its coffee, donuts and conversation with pretty Red Cross Girls.*



## Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<u><b>Lyle-Clifton</b></u> 931			
	<u><b>Way</b></u> 483		<u><b>Cogswell</b></u> 973
<u><b>Stallings</b></u> 854			
	<u><b>Casello</b></u> 393		<u><b>Van Wie</b></u> 606
	<u><b>Rogan</b></u> 664		<u><b>McClung-Stevens</b></u> 605
<u><b>Kruse</b></u> 360		<u><b>Sumarlidason</b></u> 264	
		<u><b>Mattison</b></u> 177	<u><b>Reeder</b></u> 561
	<u><b>Lemmon</b></u> 192		<u><b>Nix</b></u> 635
<u><b>Timken</b></u> 064		<u><b>Clark</b></u> 571	
		<u><b>Pentz</b></u> 416	<u><b>Loughnan</b></u> 482
	<u><b>Shelhamer</b></u> 081		<u><b>Cote</b></u> 788

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<u><b>CREW POSITIONS</b></u>			
CMP - Command Pilot	TOG - Togglier	VI - Voice Interpreter	DOW - Died of wounds
P - Pilot	BT - Ball Turret Operator	OBS - Observer	EVD - Evaded the enemy
CP - Co-Pilot	TT - Top Turret Operator	PAS - Passenger	INT - Interned in neu cntry
NAV - Navigator	TG - Tail Gunner	PHO - Photographer	REP - Repatriated
ANV - Ass't. Navigator	NG - Nose Gunner	<u><b>RESULTS OF MISSION</b></u>	RES - Rescued
MNV - Mickey Navigator	RG - Radio Gunner	KIA - Killed in action	ESC - Escaped
ENG - Engineer	WG - Waist Gunner	WIA - Wounded in action	BO - Bailed out
BOM - Bombardier	LWG - Left Waist Gunner	MIA - Missing in action	DCH - Ditched
RO - Radio Operator	RWG - Right Waist Gunner	POW - Prisoner of war	CR-L - Crashed on land
	GUN - Gunner		CR-S - Crashed at sea

## 358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Kruse, Richard L., 1Lt
CP	Hendry, John W., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	McNamara, Bernard T., 2Lt
BOM	Webster, Richard E., 2Lt
ENG	Biddle, Loran C., T/Sgt
LWG	Doherty, John J., S/Sgt
RO	Brown, James J., T/Sgt
BT	Humphries, Olwin L., S/Sgt
TG	Abney, Howard L., S/Sgt
RWG	Arasin, John C., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5264 *Yankee Doodle Dandy***

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P	Sumarlidason, Arni L., 2Lt
CP	Benepe, Louis M., 1Lt
NAV	Cassidy, Raymond J., 2Lt
BOM	Sager, Richard A., 2Lt
ENG	Backiel, Stanley J., T/Sgt
BT	Stender, Francis H., S/Sgt
RO	Grimm, Richard C., S/Sgt
RWG	Clemens, Bruce R., T/Sgt
LWG	Cassidy, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Buske, George W., S/Sgt

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

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P	Rogan, Dave L., 1Lt
CP	Gamble, Donald, 1Lt
NAV	Karraker, William H., 2Lt
BOM	Coburn, Ralph F., 2Lt
ENG	Wagner, Clyde E., T/Sgt
LWG	Vaughn, Norville, S/Sgt
RO	Bland, Hugh N., T/Sgt
BT	Scharch, Richard G., S/Sgt
TG	Gilbert, Bill A., S/Sgt
RWG	Schmeltzer, Charles S., Sgt

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

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P	Clark, Elmo E., F/O
CP	DeCamp, Donald F., 2Lt
NAV	Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt
BOM	Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt
ENG	Hembree, William T., T/Sgt
RO	Brooke, Curtis O., T/Sgt
RWG	Doback, Charles R., S/Sgt
BT	Mathews, Frank M., S/Sgt
TG	Jenkins, William H., S/Sgt
LWG	Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt

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

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

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

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P	Lemmon, John V., 1Lt
CP	Harper, William J., 2Lt
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
PHO	Luman, Morton, Sgt

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Mattison, Robert L., 1Lt
CP	Manning, John P., 2Lt
NAV	Rich, David A., 1Lt
BOM	Shafer, John H., 1Lt
ENG	Green, Frederick J., T/Sgt
RO	Nordyke, Lloyd E., T/Sgt
TG	McEachen, David C., S/Sgt
BT	Schneider, James E., S/Sgt
LWG	Case, Spencer F., 2Lt
TT	Vogel, George W., S/Sgt
PHO	Mulligan, Thomas E., 2Lt

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

P	Loughnan, Victor J., 2Lt
CP	Gredvig, Winfield H., 2Lt
NAV	Maxwell, James L., 2Lt
BOM	Robinson, John M., 2Lt
ENG	High, Eugene W., T/Sgt
LWG	Knorpp, Billy F., S/Sgt
RO	Daley, Russell M., T/Sgt
BT	McGee, Kenneth L., S/Sgt
RWG	Barr, Gordon E., S/Sgt
TG	McConaghy, Leo R., S/Sgt

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

P	Nix, James S., 1Lt
CP	Phelps, Robert L., Jr., 1Lt
NAV	Street, Benjamin B., 1Lt
BOM	Gordon, LeRoy V., 1Lt
ENG	Doran, Arnold S., T/Sgt
TT	Jordan, Lloyd L., S/Sgt
RO	McGee, Paul P., S/Sgt
TG	Jones, John D., Sgt
BT	Lemann, Paul C., S/Sgt
LWG	Kerr, Joseph, S/Sgt
PAS	Newell, Robert H., Capt

### **B-17F #41-24561 *The Duchess***

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

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

P	McClung, Guy H., 1Lt
CP	Stevens, Kermit D., LtCol
NAV	Jacobsen, Norman N., 2Lt
BOM	Rothman, Theodore I., 2Lt
NAV	Yonkman, Robert J., Capt
ENG	Traban, James J., S/Sgt
RO	Roberts, Raymond K., T/Sgt
TT	Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt
TG	Piatek, Casimir P., S/Sgt
BT	Joubert, Francis M., Sgt
LWG	Ryan, Francis J., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24416 *Black Diamond Express***

P	Pentz, Arthur H., 1Lt
CP	Brown, Malcolm E., 2Lt
NAV	Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
BOM	Philpitt, Russell O., 1Lt
ENG	Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt
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
OBS	Bolsover, Harold S., F/O

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-29606 *Butch***

P	Van Wie, John A., Lt
CP	Walsh, James D., Lt
NAV	Blank, Paul, Lt
BOM	Taylor, Robert L., Lt
ENG	Hlebasko, Albert, T/Sgt
BT	Morton, Eugene L., S/Sgt
RO	Noll, Robert W., T/Sgt
RWG	Spring, Benjamin F., S/Sgt
LWG	Swanson, Theodore G., S/Sgt
TG	Bridges, Robert C., S/Sgt

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

P	Cogswell, Robert W., Lt
CP	Tippet, Paul S., Lt
NAV	Cobb, Edward L., Lt
BOM	Kennedy, John B., Lt
ENG	Bengston, Gilbert E., T/Sgt
RWG	Etheredge, Alvin, S/Sgt
RO	Deerfield, Eddie, S/Sgt
BT	Davis, Paul J., S/Sgt
LWG	Brundage, Augustus V., S/Sgt
TG	Timm, Harold R., S/Sgt

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

P	Casello, John J., Lt
CP	Huguenin, Wesley V., Lt
NAV	Millner, Israel, 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
GUN	Plummer, Robert, S/Sgt
OBS	Currie, Herman C., Lt

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

P	Lyle, Lewis E., Maj
CP	Clifton, David S., Lt
NAV	Wright, Howard R., Lt
BOM	Rice, Bernard, Lt
NAV	Rosenblum, Nathan J., Lt
ENG	Doss, Carroll P., T/Sgt
LWG	Compo, Anthony, S/Sgt
RO	Morrison, Eugene D., T/Sgt
BT	Mitchell, John B., S/Sgt
RWG	Jameson, Jimmie E., S/Sgt
TG	Garvey, John L., Lt
OBS	Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt

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

P	Way, Arthur C., Lt
CP	Fyler, Carl J., Lt
NAV	Molnar, George, Lt
BOM	Gibson, Steve M., Lt
ENG	Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
LWG	Stachowiak, Martin G., S/Sgt
RO	Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
RWG	Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
TG	Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt
BT	Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5854 *Alley Oop***

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
RWG	Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO	Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
BT	Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt
TG	Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
LWG	Pierson, Lawrence C., Sgt
OBS	Henderson, Paul E., S/Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P	Cote, Addell A., Lt
CP	Eckhart, Alan, Lt
NAV	Barnhill, Wilbur R, Lt
BOM	Hull, John W., Lt
ENG	Arter, John R., T/Sgt
BT	May, Cecil M., S/Sgt
RO	Reaves, Vaughan, T/Sgt
TG	Gunsauls, Paul, S/Sgt
LWG	Micek, John M., S/Sgt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt

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

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P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Lt
CP	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Willet, John K., S/Sgt
BT	Garrett, Frank O., Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
TG	Vateckas, Coster R., S/Sgt
LWG	Barlow, Elmer O., T/Sgt
RWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt