

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 62

23 August 1943

Target: Air-Sea Rescue Mission

Crews Dispatched: 6

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 30 minutes

Altitude: Low level search

Ammo Fired: 6,035 rounds

Enemy Aircraft Claims: 1 DO-24

Captain George **Stallings** in #42-5483 *Red Ass*, with five other B-17s in a composite Squadron, was assigned to a search mission for an airborne lifeboat that had been dropped. The mission was flown at an altitude of 1,000 feet or less and was to be flown until a sighting was made, in which event one aircraft was to climb to 5,000 feet and report the position. Take-off was at 1000 hours and a sighting was made at 1357. The lifeboat was empty.

About one-quarter mile from the lifeboat a German DO-24 was sighted on the water with its engines running. Lt. **Manning's** aircraft #42-29846 passed in front of the enemy aircraft and fired several bursts in the water and dropped a smoke bomb. The motors of the enemy aircraft were stopped and it put out what appeared to be three red smoke flares and then put out three yellow dinghies, two of which were lashed together and the other drifted away by itself. At least one man was seen to be in the single dinghy but no clear observation was had as to how many were in the two dinghies that were lashed together.

One aircraft attempted to report the position as set out in the order but had no success. Other procedures for making contact were tried but they also failed. Our aircraft continued in the area and received a recall from First Wing at 1515. Running short of gas, the group headed home. Lt. **Manning** finally came in low over the DO-24 and S/Sgt. H.F. **Jennings**, tail gunner and S/Sgt. R.E. **Montgomery**, ball turret gunner fired 300 to 400 rounds into it, cutting off a part of the tail assembly and starting a fire in one engine. It burst into flames and was burning profusely when they left the scene.

En route home, Group aircraft were attacked by a formation of three JU-88s, one of which attacked *S for Sugar*, #41-24619. The tail gunner, T/Sgt. T.F. **Kelly** on his 25th mission, shot down one of the JU-88s. A splash in the water was seen. Several crews reported this aircraft as being shot down but haze prevented a positive claim. Two crews also reported a second DO-24 or DO-217 (Airborne) in the vicinity of the DO-24 that was on the water. The second aircraft headed for the Dutch coast as soon as Group B-17s were sighted. All our aircraft returned to the base between 1734 and 1741.

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

	<u>Stallings</u> 483	
<u>Bradbury</u> 393		<u>Crockett</u> 754
	<u>Brown</u> 257	
<u>Cardwell</u> 619		<u>Manning</u> 846

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 - Togglier 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 cuntry 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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Composite Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5257 Miss Bea Haven - 359BS

P Brown, Malcolm E., 2Lt
CP Halpin, Robert H., F/O
NAV Alloway, Hillard C., 2Lt
BOM Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt
ENG Kress, Beryl W., T/Sgt
RO Cirello, Ralph T., T/Sgt
LWG Boucher, Henry C., S/Sgt
BT Wernet, Charles E., Sgt
TG Boggs, Calvin E., S/Sgt
RWG Wright, Malcolm, S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5177 Fast Worker MK II - 359BS

P Manning, John P., 2Lt
CP Blossom, George H., 2Lt
NAV Antman, Jack, 2Lt
BOM Pullman, Edward J., 2Lt
ENG Keesling, George R., T/Sgt
RWG Kolling, Arthur J., S/Sgt
RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt
LWG Santella, Albert G., S/Sgt
BT Montgomery, Robert E., S/Sgt
TG Jennings, Harley F., S/Sgt

B-17 #41-24619 S for Sugar - 427BS

P Cardwell, Burt J., Lt
CP Noblin, John D., Lt
NAV Ashwell, Silas B., Lt
BOM Bierman, Leonard B., Lt
ENG Barlow, Benjamin, T/Sgt
BT Sink, Robert K., S/Sgt
RO Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG Cooney, Robert M., Sgt
TG Arnold, Robert W., S/Sgt
RWG Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5393 Thumper Again - 360BS

P Bradbury, Joseph E., 1Lt
CP Fyler, Carl J., 1Lt
BOM Gibson, Steve M., 2Lt
ENG Addison, Bill J., T/Sgt
NAV Tharp, Willard L., S/Sgt
LWG Fisher, George C., S/Sgt
RO Jillson, John S., S/Sgt
BT Ford, Ray D., S/Sgt
TG Kelly, Thomas F., T/Sgt
RWG Stachowiak, Martin G., Sgt

B-17F #42-29754 Shangrila Lil - 360BS

P Crockett, George W., Jr., Lt
CP Barsam, Merian A., Jr., Lt
NAV Millner, Israel, Lt
BOM Cramsie, William J., Lt
ENG Tepper, Morris, T/Sgt
RWG Homer, Eddie D., Sgt
RO Jaynes, Allen D., T/Sgt
BT Clarke, Benjamin, Jr., S/Sgt
LWG Williams, Eugene F., S/Sgt
TG Burke, James C., S/Sgt

B-17F #42-5483 Red Ass - 360BS

P Stallings, George V., Jr., Capt
CP Ward, Robert C., Lt
NAV Molnar, George, Lt
BOM Kulesa, Frank E., Lt
ENG Watson, James A., T/Sgt
RWG Yattaw, Robert H., S/Sgt
RO Kistulentz, Paul, T/Sgt
BT Ayres, Arthur B., S/Sgt
TG Stickler, John J., S/Sgt
LWG Levin, Meyer, T/Sgt
OBS Villarreal, Rodolfo A., S/Sgt