

# 303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 82

16 November 1943

Target: Knaben II Molybdenum Mine at Knaben, Norway

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 8 hours, 30 minutes

Bomb Load: 6 x 500 w/internal tanks, 12 x 500 w/o internal tanks

Bombing Altitude: 11,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 13,100 rounds

**T**wenty aircraft took off and twenty returned. There were no losses and no abortive aircraft. Due to the nature of the terrain and a cover of snow and ice, the target could not be found after a 25-minute search. No bomb run was made on the secondary target due to a lack of gas. Bombing was to have been at an altitude of 11,000 feet. All bombs were returned to Molesworth except eight that were jettisoned in the North Sea on the return trip. All twenty crews were credited with an Abortive Sortie.

Flak encountered was meager and inaccurate and emanated from a flak boat in the Stavanger Fjord. No battle damage was sustained. From six to eight enemy fighters were seen, but few attacks were made on the 303rd BG(H). There were no enemy aircraft claims. The fighters were picking on the stragglers. The trip was made without fighter escort.

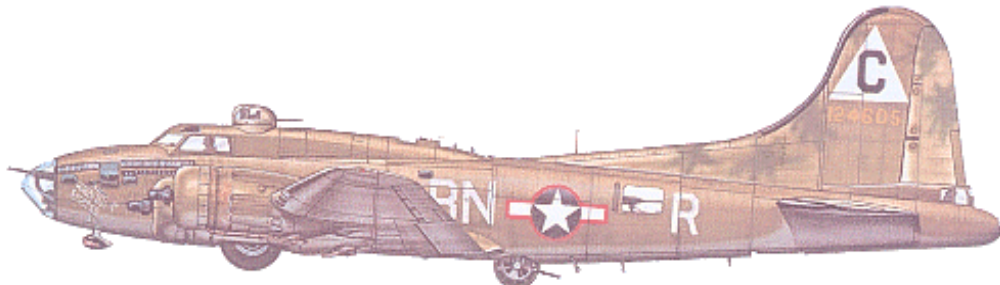
Five B-17Gs were used this mission—the first B-17Gs on a 303rd Combat Mission:

42-31052(#)	(No Name)	360BS PU-A	Lt P.C. Brinkley
42-39769(*)	Miss Manooki	359BS BN-P	Lt B.M. Goolsby
42-39764(*)	Santa Ana	360BS PU--B	Lt J.A. Long
42-37757(*)	(No Name)	360BS PU-N	Lt F.A. Brumbeloe
42-39781(*)	(No Name)	360BS PU-D	Lt G.W. Luke

(#) Assigned 11 Oct 43    (\*) Assigned 18 Oct 43

#42-31052 was the first B-17G received by the 303rd BG(H) - 11 October 1943

#42-39781 was the first B-17G to be lost on a combat mission - 01 December 1943



## #41-24605 Knockout Dropper 359th BS (BN-R)

1Lt. John P. **Manning** piloted *Knockout Dropper* 359BS on its 50th combat mission, the first 8th Air Force Fortress to achieve this distinction. Two other 303rd BG(H) B-17s competed for the honor and completed 47 missions: *Hell's Angels* and *S for Sugar*.

# Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

<b><u>Shelhamer-Snyder</u></b>				
955				
	<b><u>Leve</u></b>		<b><u>Sheets</u></b>	
	619		587	
		<b><u>Hullar</u></b>		
		795		
	<b><u>Humphreys</u></b>		<b><u>Woddrop</u></b>	
	052		131	
	<b><u>Brinkley</u></b>			<b><u>Manning</u></b>
	052			605
<b><u>Long</u></b>		<b><u>Baker</u></b>	<b><u>Hanselman</u></b>	<b><u>Goalsby</u></b>
764		498	416	769
	<b><u>Bergeron</u></b>			<b><u>Reeder</u></b>
	859			561
<b><u>Luke</u></b>		<b><u>Brumbeloe</u></b>	<b><u>Quinn</u></b>	<b><u>Bolsover</u></b>
781		757	257	177
	<b><u>Heller</u></b>			<b><u>DeCamp</u></b>
	854			562

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>CREW POSITIONS</u></b> 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  <b><u>RESULTS OF MISSION</u></b> 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 List

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

P DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt  
CP Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt  
NAV Haddock, Ralph M., 2Lt  
NG Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt  
ENG Hembree, William T., T/Sgt  
RO King, Robert E., Sgt  
LWG Hitt, William T., S/Sgt  
BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt  
TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt  
RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt  
PHO Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt



**Knockout Dropper #41-24605 (359BS) BN-R**  
**303rd BG High (359BS) - Pilot 1Lt J.P. Manning / CoPilot Capt G.T. Mackin**

(L-R) Sgt L.L. Mace (BT), S/Sgt R.I. McKenna (WG), T/Sgt G.R. Keesling (E),  
Capt G.T. Mackin (CP), S/Sgt A.G. Santella (TG), 1Lt J.P. Manning (P),  
T/Sgt K.P. Fitzsimmons (R), 2Lt M. Schreidell (B), Sgt C.R. Horton (WG),  
T/Sgt E.A. Howell (PHO), 2Lt J. Antman (N-behind Keesling)

## 359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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P Manning, John P., 1Lt  
CP Mackin, George T., Capt  
NAV Antman, Jack, 2Lt  
BOM Schreidell, Matthew, 2Lt  
ENG Keesling, George R., T/Sgt  
TG Horton, Carl R., Sgt  
RO Fitzsimmons, Kenneth P., T/Sgt  
RWG Santella, Albert C., S/Sgt  
BT Mace, LeRoy L., S/Sgt  
LWG McKenna, Robert I., Sgt  
PHO Howell, E.A., S/Sgt

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

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P Quinn, Thomas J., 2Lt  
CP Miller, Arthur W., 1Lt  
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 Munson, James E., Sgt  
LWG Quinn, Charles A., Sgt  
TG Pelkey, Elwood R., S/Sgt

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

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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 Zitzler, George A., T/Sgt  
RWG Williams, Walter S., S/Sgt  
BT Armstrong, Keith N., S/Sgt  
TG Tybuszewski, Mitchel J., S/Sgt  
PHO Bartholomew, G.W., Sgt

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

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P Reeder, D.M., 1Lt  
CP Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Capt  
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  
PHO Green, William H., Jr., T/Sgt

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

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P Bolsover, Harold S., 2Lt  
CP Rice, Charles M., 2Lt  
NAV Johnson, Lloyd S., 2Lt  
BOM McClain, Charles J., 2Lt  
ENG Powell, Marvin F., S/Sgt  
TT Robb, Charles W., Sgt  
RO Mouser, Lloyd C., Sgt  
BT Joubert, Francis M., S/Sgt  
TG Perryman, Jack L., Sgt  
LWG Robichaud, Joseph E., S/Sgt  
PHO Mahaffey, William D., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-39769 *Miss Manooki***

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P Goolsby, Billy M., 2Lt  
CP Savage, John N., 2Lt  
NAV Towberman, P.E., 2Lt  
BOM Bowen, Richard R., 2Lt  
ENG Bumgarner, Donald, T/Sgt  
LWG Rothrock, Harry J., Sgt  
RO Greenhalgh, Chester W., S/Sgt  
BT Charniuk, W., Sgt  
TG Strobel, William A., Sgt  
RWG Maggia, Edmond A., Sgt

## 360th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

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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-17G #42-31052 (No Name)**

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P	Brinkley, Pharis C., 1Lt
CP	Parrott, John H., 2Lt
NAV	Becker, Sylvester J., 2Lt
BOM	Saiz, Reinaldo J., Capt
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 #42-29498 *Dark Horse***

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P	Baker, William T., 1Lt
CP	Gahimer, Loyd D., 2Lt
NAV	McLane, Joseph T., Lt
NG	Petrolino, James S., Lt
ENG	Fielder, Neal F., T/Sgt
RWG	Bowman, Vergil E., S/Sgt
RO	Bonn, Charles J., Sgt
BT	Stevens, A.S., T/Sgt
TG	Bacon, Charlie M., S/Sgt
LWG	Borrer, Norwood D., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-39781 (No Name)**

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P	Luke, George W., Jr., Lt
CP	Mitchell, Frank, Lt
NAV	Ballagh, Gordon A., Lt
BOM	Dahnke, Leonard L., Lt
ENG	Boren, Millard A., S/Sgt
RWG	Yeakel, Elwood D., Sgt
RO	Day, Ben T., S/Sgt
LWG	Wright, Sherman G., Sgt
BT	Washburn, Robert H., Sgt
TG	Walter, Ira J., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-5859 (No Name)**

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P	Bergeron, Willard H., Lt
CP	DeWall, Hershel R., Lt
NAV	Noland, James B., Lt
BOM	DeFeis, Robert N., Lt
ENG	Serwa, Alphonse B., T/Sgt
RWG	Oxendine, Simeon, S/Sgt
RO	Cline, Leroy, T/Sgt
BT	Hemmings, Norman A., S/Sgt
LWG	Wilson, George W., S/Sgt
TG	Appleton, Vernon R., S/Sgt

### **B-17G #42-37757 (No Name)**

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P	Brumbeloe, Finis A., Lt
CP	Marsh, Donnell H., Lt
NAV	Groves, James R., Lt
BOM	Garneau, C.D., Lt
ENG	Kiebish, Peter J., S/Sgt
RWG	Payton, Howard S., Sgt
RO	Johnson, Irwan A., S/Sgt
BT	Steele, William C., Sgt
LWG	Hosso, Harry V., Sgt
TG	Perryman, William R., Sgt

### **B-17G #42-39764 *Santa Ana***

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P	Long, John A., Lt
CP	Earhart, Amon E., Lt
NAV	Carroll, George M., Lt
BOM	Cascio, Guisepppe, Lt
ENG	Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt
LWG	Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt
RO	Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt
RWG	Henson, Mace, S/Sgt
TG	Orlando, Anthony T., S/Sgt
BT	Logan, Frank C., Sgt

## 427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

### **B-17F #42-5052 Mizpah**

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Kotz, Warren C., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Beach, Russell F., S/Sgt
RO	Woods, Arthur H., T/Sgt
BT	Ross, Madison H., S/Sgt
RWG	Dare, Melvin M., S/Sgt
TG	Sparks, William C., Sgt

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

P	Woddrop, Edward M., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Iverson, Ingvald M., Lt
BOM	Matthews, E.P., Lt
ENG	Watts, William A., S/Sgt
BT	Plante, Royal F., S/Sgt
RO	Mulholland, John J., T/Sgt
LWG	Baggs, Charles C., S/Sgt
TG	Valis, William, S/Sgt
RWG	Hoff, Henry, Sgt
PHO	Hawn, E.A., Sgt

### **B-17F #42-29795 Flying Bitch**

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Culbertson, A.T., LtCol
NAV	Brown, Elmer L., Lt
BOM	Lewis, William L., Lt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
RWG	Ferguson, Jack D., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
LWG	Fuller, Charles, S/Sgt

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

P	Shelhamer, David P., Jr., Capt
CP	Snyder, Edgar E., Jr., Maj
NAV	Scroggins, Paul W., Lt
BOM	Fawcett, Jack B., Lt
ENG	Willett, John K., S/Sgt
RO	Harvie, Warren L., T/Sgt
BT	Knight, Frederick B., S/Sgt
TG	Tucker, Frederick W., Lt
RWG	Keaton, Joe J., S/Sgt
LWG	Volz, Robert J., S/Sgt

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

P	Leve, Franklin, Lt
CP	Libbee, Dick L., Lt
NAV	Moorehead, Richard D., Lt
BOM	Murphy, Dennis J., Lt
ENG	Spross, James C., Sgt
BT	Drees, Edward W., Sgt
RO	Craig, Percy D., S/Sgt
TG	Van Landingham, Armond O., S/Sgt
LWG	Midkiff, Frank L., Sgt
RWG	Keefer, Oliver L., Sgt

### **B-17F #41-24587 Bad Check**

P	Sheets, Robert W., Lt
CP	Jackman, Lon E., Jr., Lt
NAV	Peacock, Lawrence A., Lt
BOM	Wallen, George A., Lt
ENG	Souder, Lee F., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	King, Earl J., Sgt
RO	Du Bray, Ernest D., S/Sgt
TG	Sullens, Tom C., Sgt
LWG	Donnelly, James F., Sgt
RWG	Smith, Leonard C., Sgt

On 25 November 1943, T/Sgt. Victor J. **Cozza** 359th BS Radio Repairman, tripped over a homelite generator and fell headfirst into the #2 prop of *Knockout Dropper* and was killed. T/Sgt. **Cozza** had been a Flight Engineer on Lt. Frank **Sanders'** crew, one of the original 359th BS crews and had been medically grounded.