

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 87

11 December 1943

Target: Port & Dock Area, Emden, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 5 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 12 x 500 lb G.P. bombs

Bombing Altitude: 22,980 ft

Ammo Fired: 4,885 rounds

Major **Richard H. Cole** flew on this mission, leading the 359BS in #41-24605, *Knockout Dropper*. This was his first mission as CO of the 359BS and his first 303rd BG(H) mission. B-17F #42-29629 358BS (Lt. **Troppman**), failed to assemble with the 303rd BG(H). He joined the 401BG, flying the No. 7 position in their low Squadron. An aircraft from the 379BG joined the lead 358BS, flying in the No. 7 position. Another aircraft from the 306BG joined the lead Squadron, flying in the position that Lt. **Troppman** failed to fill.



Major Richard H. Cole

Flak was meager, but very accurate over Emden on the bomb run. Evasive action was taken to good advantage after the bombs were released. Only two twin-engine enemy fighters were seen, but no attacks were encountered. Limited P-47 fighter support was provided before reaching the enemy coast, but they left between the IP and the target because the Group was about 20 minutes late reaching the target. Visibility over the target was excellent except for a fairly effective smoke screen and some haze. The target was bombed with 57 tons of 500-lb. H.E. M-43 bombs from 29,000 feet.

Maj. **Mitchell** commented, "I would say it was a pretty good mission. Our bomb run couldn't have been better. We did run into some flak over the target, but not much. However, what was there was damned accurate. We didn't see a single fighter any place at any time. Although I didn't see the bombing, the boys say that our bombs landed right on the dock area." Maj. **Mitchell's** co-pilot, Maj. Glynn **Shumake** added, "There isn't much to be said about the trip. Just flew over, dropped our bombs on the target and came back. It was definitely easier than most others I have been on."

1Lt. James **McCormick**, lead ship bombardier stated, "We got a good break on weather and were able to make a nice bomb run. I followed my bombs down and they went right into the dock area. There was a good smoke screen over the target, but it didn't bother us." Later photographs, however, indicated that poor bombing results were achieved. The target was missed and the bombs landed in open fields to the right of the outer harbor entrance.

Capt. Richard **McElwain**, the lead navigator, was flying on his 28th mission, and added, "It was certainly easier for our outfit than most that I have been on. We ran into a little flak, but successfully avoided most of the flak areas in the vicinity. If they were all like

that, it would be OK," T/Sgt. Kenneth **Fitzsimmons**, flying as radio operator in *Knockout Dropper* on its 54th mission said, "the P-47s didn't let a fighter within miles of us. However, the flak was accurate enough for me to wear my flak suit. Our ship picked up about a dozen holes."

There were no casualties and all aircraft returned safely, although seven aircraft received minor flak damage.



#42-30865 (No Name) (358BS) VK-G

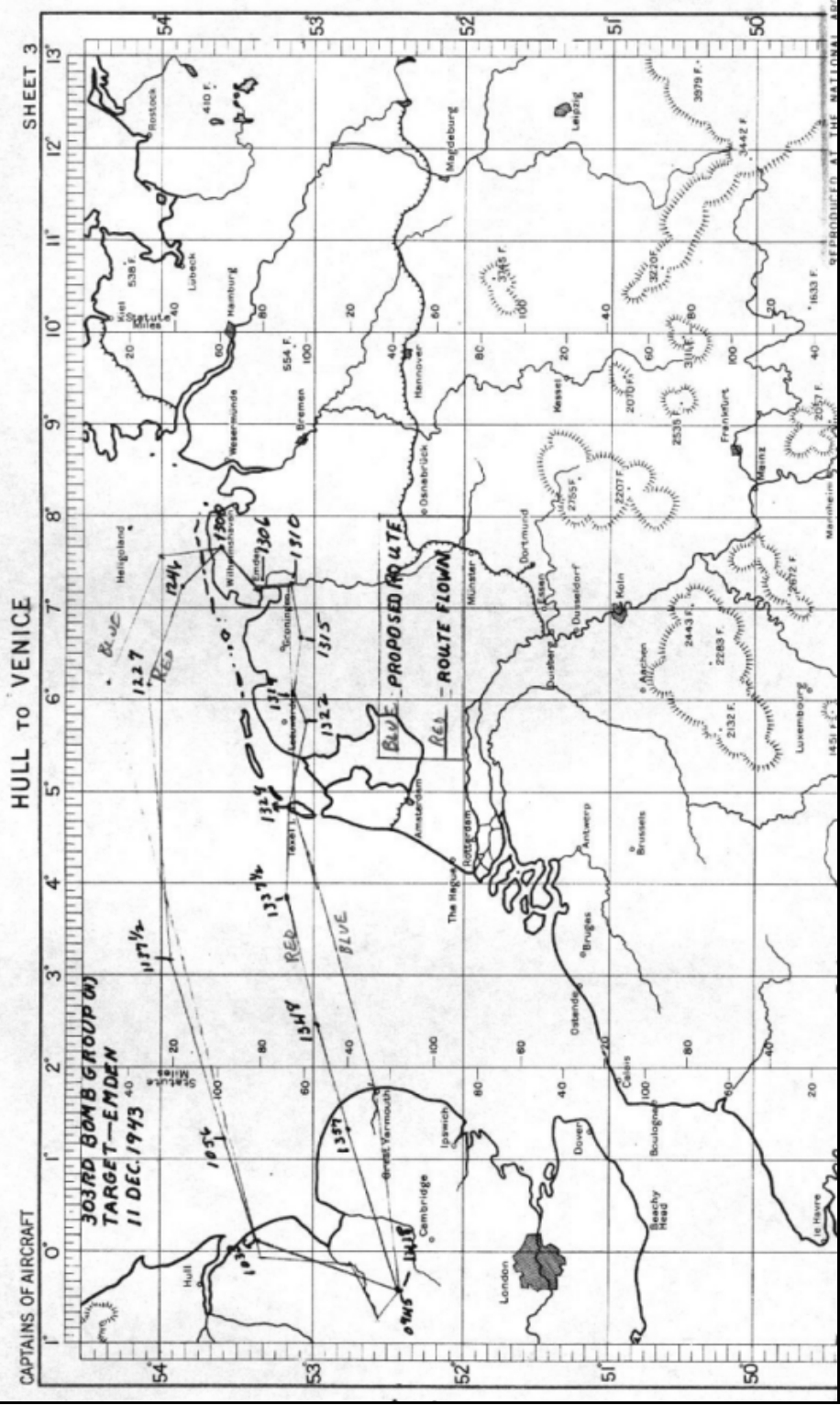
41st CBW Lead (358BS) - Pilot Maj K.R. Mitchell / CoPilot Maj G.F. Shumake

(Back L-R) Capt K.W. Davey (TG-O), Maj K.R. Mitchell (P), Maj G.F. Shumake (CP),
1Lt J.E. McCormick (B), 1Lt R.E. McElwain (N), 2Lt J.P. Nothstein (N)

(Front L-R) S/Sgt G.C. Mullins (E), S/Sgt J.C. Supple (R),
S/Sgt J.G. Viszneki (WG), S/Sgt J.H. Pleasant (WG), S/Sgt E.W. Griffin (BT)

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Route Map

358th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-29629 Connecticut Yankee

P Troppman, Walter W., 2Lt
 CP Elder, Damon C., 2Lt
 NAV Minkowitz, Samuel, 2Lt
 BOM Armstrong, Charles C., 2Lt
 ENG Wilson, David L., S/Sgt
 LWG Stender, Francis H., S/Sgt
 RO Gilmore, Daniel F., S/Sgt
 BT Mirenda, Frank J., Sgt
 TG Swank, Verden D., Sgt
 RWG Garcia, Mario D., Sgt
 PHO Dockendorf, Cyril J., Sgt

B-17F #42-29524 Meat Hound

P DeCamp, Donald F., 1Lt
 CP Ames, Walter J., 2Lt
 NAV Halliburton, J.B. Lewis, 2Lt
 BOM Galbraith, Robert E., 2Lt
 ENG Hembree, William T., T/Sgt
 RO King, Robert E., Sgt
 LWG Hitt, William T., S/Sgt
 BT Miller, Richard C., Sgt
 TG Tracy, Richard J., S/Sgt
 RWG McLawhorn, Jerry C., Sgt

B-17G #42-39810 Big A Bird

P Lake, Lester A., Jr., 1Lt
 CP Schwaebe, Harry A., 2Lt
 NAV Degnan, Paul T., 2Lt
 BOM Wiley, Wilburn W., 2Lt
 ENG Foreman, Roy, S/Sgt
 RWG Whitesell, Russell O., Sgt
 RO Smalley, Gordon W., S/Sgt
 BT Gibbs, Paul M., Sgt
 TG Sutton, Bernard J., Sgt
 LWG Malcolm, James F., Sgt

B-17G #42-30865 (No Name)

P Mitchell, Kirk R., Maj
 CP Shumake, Glynn F., Maj
 NAV McElwain, Richard E., 1Lt
 NAV Nothstein, John P., 2Lt
 BOM McCormick, James E., 1Lt
 ENG Mullins, Grover C., Sgt
 RG Pleasant, James H., S/Sgt
 RO Supple, James C., S/Sgt
 BT Griffin, Edward W., Sgt
 LWG Viszneki, John G., S/Sgt
 TG Davey, Kenneth W., Capt

B-17G #42-37927 (No Name)

P Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt
 CP Worthley, Joe R., 2Lt
 NAV Ratay, Joseph B., 2Lt
 BOM Blum, Eugene C., 2Lt
 ENG Johnson, Edwin D., S/Sgt
 BT Vanderhoff, Grant W., Sgt
 RO Egan, Harry R., S/Sgt
 RWG Malherbe, Benjamin F., S/Sgt
 TG Lawson, Fred B., Sgt
 LWG Robinson, Ray I., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 Bam Bam

P Smith, Marshall L., 2Lt
 CP Palecek, Francis J., 2Lt
 NAV Neuwirth, Edward, 2Lt
 BOM Troy, Edward J., 2Lt
 ENG Dick, Andrew, S/Sgt
 LWG Schor, John, Sgt
 RO Frolick, Edwin J., S/Sgt
 BT Clink, Robert L., Sgt
 TG Fugate, Walter O., Sgt
 RWG Rogers, Thomas J., Sgt

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-3448 (No Name)

P	Eich, Henry J., Jr. 2Lt
CP	Woodside, William E., 2Lt
NAV	Carroll, James E., 2Lt
BOM	Stein, William G., 2Lt
ENG	Lenson, H., Sgt
BT	Celoni, J.P., Sgt
RO	Harvey, D.S., S/Sgt
RWG	Erdmann, D.C., Sgt
TG	Maggia, Edmond A., S/Sgt
LWG	Kolenda, Frank M., Sgt

B-17F #42-3029 Wallaroo

P	Hanselman, Charles F., 2Lt
CP	Bech, G. Neil, Jr., 2Lt
NAV	Cotter, Edward R., 2Lt
BOM	Corbin, Frederick A., F/O
ENG	Sanelli, Floyd L., S/Sgt
RWG	Boatwright, Edward C., Sgt
RO	Dennis, Julian E., S/Sgt
RWG	Johnson, Lawrence G., Sgt
BT	Cundiff, Robert W., Sgt
TG	Cox, Elbert S., Jr., Sgt

B-17F #41-24605 Knockout Dropper

P	Cole, Richard H., Maj
CP	Manning, John P., 1Lt
NAV	Antman, Jack, 1Lt
BOM	McClain, Charles J., 2Lt
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

B-17G #42-31177 Lonesome Polecat

P	Hybert, Arthur J., 2Lt
CP	Harrison, Weldon O., 2Lt
NAV	Lunde, Frithjof M., 2Lt
BOM	Kelly, James H., Jr., 2Lt
ENG	Broderick, George V., S/Sgt
RO	Ratford, Edward V., S/Sgt
RWG	Johnson, J.W., Sgt
BT	Jaehne, Charles R., Sgt
LWG	Neathery, Ralph P., Sgt
TG	Barmak, Paul J., Sgt

B-17G #42-31055 Aloha

P	Purcell, William A., 2Lt
CP	Goolsby, Billy M., 2Lt
NAV	Mussett, Marvin H., 2Lt
BOM	Kyne, Joseph B., 2Lt
ENG	Castriciano, P.C., S/Sgt
RO	Beeny, J.C., S/Sgt
LWG	Nye, K.W., Sgt
RWG	Eastburn, H.R., Sgt
BT	Faner, Leon N., Sgt
TG	Swanson, J.W., Sgt

B-17F #42-29894 Baltimore Bounce

P	McManus, Henry, F/O
CP	Daub, Leroy E., 2Lt
NAV	Carroll, Charles P., 2Lt
BOM	Cecot, Chester R., 2Lt
ENG	Row, Robert A., S/Sgt
RO	Colburn, Robert R., S/Sgt
RWG	Doezema, Albert, Sgt
LWG	Jewett, William B., Sgt
BT	Davies, John W., Sgt
TG	Cowles, Clifton G., Sgt

B-17F #41-24561 The Duchess

P	Reeder, D.M., 1Lt
CP	Kalhoefer, Herbert E., Maj
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	Greene, William H., Jr., T/Sgt

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

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

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Kaliher, John C., Lt
BOM	Mire, Burnie N., 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-17G #42-5341 Vicious Virgin

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Rice, Dale W., S/Sgt
LWG	Marson, Charles H., S/Sgt
RO	Hoyt, George F., S/Sgt
BT	Sampson, Norman A., S/Sgt
TG	Miller, Merlin D., S/Sgt
RWG	Fuller, Charles, S/Sgt

B-17G #42-31060 Poque Ma Hone

P	Leve, Franklin, Lt
CP	Libbee, Dick L., Lt
NAV	Morehead, 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-17G #42-29823 (No Name)

P	Hoeg, Kenneth A., F/O
CP	O'Hare, Phil W., Lt
NAV	Olsen, Kenneth L., Lt
BOM	Cronin, Ernest L., Lt
ENG	Relyea, Ralph R., S/Sgt
BT	McMahan, Bonnar P., Sgt
RO	O'Connor, William S., S/Sgt
TG	Vargas, Michael A., Sgt
LWG	McFall, Leonard C., Sgt
RWG	McLaughlin, Jesse W., Sgt

B-17G #42-39786 G.I. Sheets

P	Fowler, James F., Lt
CP	Sheets, Robert W., Lt
NAV	Halligan, Robert W., Lt
BOM	Taylor, Alvin L., Lt
ENG	Finley, Curtis E., T/Sgt
BT	Jackson, Miller O., Sgt
RO	Dinwiddie, Donald J., S/Sgt
TG	Wallrobenstein, Harry, Sgt
LWG	Arrington, Richard, S/Sgt
RWG	Zimmer, Loren E., Sgt

B-17G #42-31233 (No Name)

P	Barnes, Deane L., Lt
CP	McClellan, George S., Jr., Lt
NAV	Randall, Everett Z., Lt
BOM	Roode, William A.T., Lt
ENG	Sparks, Willie T., S/Sgt
BT	Chancellor, John R., Sgt
RO	Doyle, Edward J., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., Sgt
LWG	Winters, Craig W., Sgt
RWG	Price, John B., Sgt

B-17F #42-29795 Flying Bitch

P	Sawyer, Frederick W., Lt
CP	Barker, John C., Lt
NAV	Arvanites, George L., Lt
BOM	Vaughan, R.W., Lt
ENG	Weed, Lowrey A., Jr., S/Sgt
BT	Teno, James R., Sgt
RO	Cohen, Leo, S/Sgt
TG	La Frenier, James E., Sgt
LWG	Wright, Edgar A., Sgt
RWG	Kotel, Tofil P., Sgt