

303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 89

16 December 1943

Target: City area, Bremen, Germany

Crews Dispatched: 20

Length of Mission: 6 hours, 40 minutes

Bomb Load: 8 x 500 lb G.P. and 20 x M47A1 Incendiary bombs

Bombing Altitude: 26,000 ft

Ammo Fired: 3,680 rounds

There were no abortives, no aircraft losses and no casualties on this seventh 303rd BG(H) visit to Bremen. All aircraft returned safely to England. Three landed away from Molesworth: #42-31055 *Aloha* 360BS (Lt. **Glass**), at Bury St. Edmonds; #42-5788 *A.O.G. Not in Stock* 360BS (Lt. **Holdcroft**) at East Wrethan; #42-29524 *Meat Hound* 359BS (Lt. **Smith**), at Newmarket.

Bombing was conducted at an altitude of 26,000 feet, dropping 39 tons of 500-lb. bombs and 12 tons of incendiaries. Moderate to intense accurate flak was encountered at the target with meager flak along the route, especially at Tessel. Enemy fighter opposition was meager with about six aircraft seen. The effective fighter escort contained P-47s and P-51s teaming to give the bombers maximum protection. Fourteen of the 20 aircraft sustained flak damage, three of which were major.

Captain John R. **Johnston**, leading the 358BS on his 24th mission in the *Fortress Wanton Woman*, described the raid by saying, "It was uneventful until we reached the target. The formation was perfect. Every ship snugged right in there. We made a good bomb run and let our bombs go right in the middle of the flak and I'm almost sure they hit where they were supposed to. The flak was damned intense and accurate, but fortunately, didn't bother us much. The only fighters we saw were our own, which gave us good escort over the target and out. Some of my crew saw a couple of Germans quite a distance away. I'd say it was a pretty good mission."

1Lt. Fred C. **Humphreys**, pilot of *Mizpah* 427BS thought it was a successful mission and was sure that they hit a vital spot. He reported, "The flak was good and accurate, but we dropped our bombs in a good pattern. As we left the target, we could see great curls of smoke coming up through the clouds. We saw that for a great many miles, so we must have hit something good."

A piece of flak burst through the floor and barely missed hitting S/Sgt. James E. **Mills**, 358BS waist gunner in *Wanton Woman*. "It was pretty thick for a while," he said. "But, the nicest part of the trip was the scarcity of German fighters. I just saw three of them. They just sat down below us and weren't eager at all to come up."

303rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) COMMENDATION

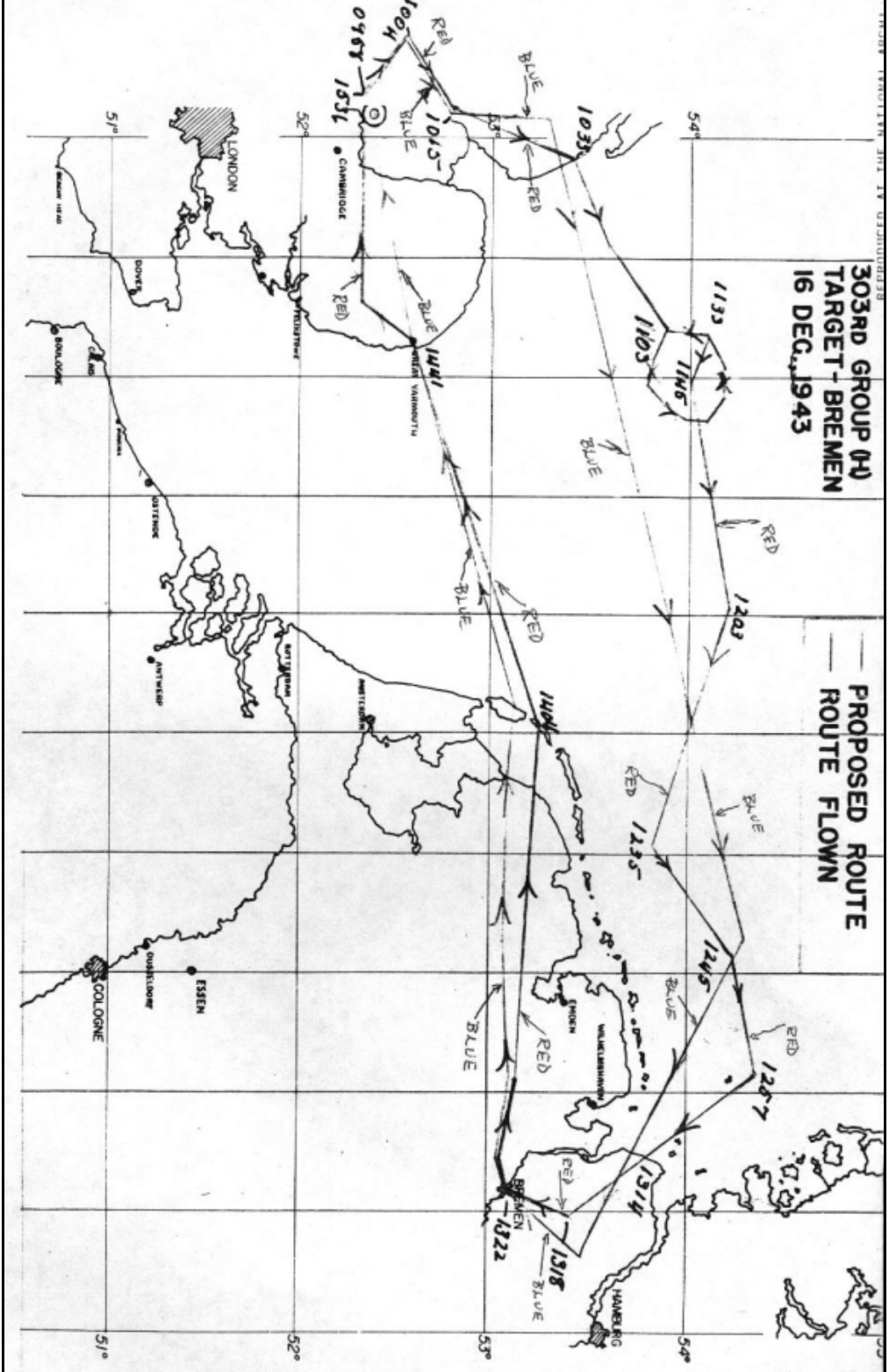
On 16 December 1943, B/Gen Robert F. **Travis**, Commanding General of the 41st Combat Bombardment Wing (H), issued a commendation to Col. **Stevens** and members of the 303rd BG(H) for the outstanding record set by the 41CBW and 303rd BG(H) on the mission to Bremen on 13 December. Col. **Stevens** was commended personally for the splendid record set by his Group. "Such a record indicates a fine esprit de corps and a very high degree of training and determination in the Group, made possible by the outstanding leadership and supervision of the Group Commander." Group personnel were commended for "the utmost in efficiency, cooperation, diligence and untiring effort."



B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam* 358BS (VK-O) in flight (mission unknown)

303 12-16-43
#89 BREMEN T.733

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12256, SECTION 3.2, 745005
BY VSW NARA, DATE 5/18/88



Route Map

Aircraft Formation at Assembly Point

Stevens-McGinnis
486 (PFF)

Glass
055

Crook
052

Heller
795

Holdcroft
788

Long
764

Hullar
241

Johnston
787

McGarry
823

Simmons
795

Smith
524

Worthley
893

Humphreys
052

Emerson
264

Barnes
131

Fowler
233

Clark
785

Schwaebe
360

Sheets
786

DaShiell
810

Wilson
213 - Spare

Troppman
927 - Spare

Sawyer
875 - Spare

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 #42-29524 *Meat Hound*

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

B-17G #42-39785 *Thru Hel'en Hiwater*

P Clark, Martin L., 2Lt
 CP Bass, Julius W., 2Lt
 NAV Abernathy, Milton B., 2Lt
 BOM Zientar, Matthew S., 2Lt
 ENG Quevedo, Alfonso, S/Sgt
 RWG Grsetic, John P., Sgt
 RO Hensley, James C., S/Sgt
 LWG Canale, Michael J., Sgt
 TG Hendricks, Anthony C., Sgt
 BT Witherwax, Leon J., Sgt

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

P Emerson, Aubrey L., 2Lt
 CP Stuermer, John W., 2Lt
 NAV Tielman, William A., 2Lt
 BOM Newman, Clyde D., 2Lt
 ENG Harris, David W., S/Sgt
 RWG Burch, Lee E., Sgt
 RO Murray, Edward F., S/Sgt
 BT Stark, Joseph, Sgt
 TG Collins, Marvin B., Sgt
 LWG Carroll, Marvin A., Sgt

B-17G #42-39787 *Wanton Woman*

P Johnston, John R., Capt
 CP Gorman, Quentin J., 2Lt
 NAV Karraker, William H., 1Lt
 BOM Millner, William J., 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

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

P Schwaebe, Harry A., 2Lt
 CP Riddick, McDonald L., 2Lt
 NAV Degnan, Paul T., 2Lt
 BOM Wiley, Wilburn W., 2Lt
 ENG Foreman, Roy, S/Sgt
 RWG McArthur, Robert G., Sgt
 RO Smalley, Gordon W., S/Sgt
 BT Harvey, Benjamin F., Sgt
 TG Iott, George F., Sgt
 LWG Malcolm, James F., Sgt

B-17G #42-37893 *Bam Bam*

P Worthley, Joe R., 2Lt
 CP Crook, Kenneth D., 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 #42-39810 *Big A Bird*

P DaShiell, William C., 2Lt
 CP Mabie, Hilton C., 2Lt
 NAV Sutherland, Thomas A., 2Lt
 BOM DeLaura, Don J., 2Lt
 ENG Stevenson, Robert L., S/Sgt
 BT Robinson, Authur H., Sgt
 RO Radebaugh, Bernard J., S/Sgt
 RWG Owen, Robert J., Sgt
 LWG Hunt, John L., Sgt
 TG McKinney, Clifford M., Sgt

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

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 Hoy, James F., S/Sgt
 RO Gilmore, Daniel F., S/Sgt
 BT Mirenda, Frank J., Sgt
 TG Swank, Verden D., Sgt
 RWG Garcia, Mario D., Sgt
 (Abortive - Spare)

359th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17G #42-39795 Ladies Home Companion	B-17F #42-5788 A.O.G. Not in Stock
P Heller, William C., Lt	P Holdcroft, Lloyd L., Lt
CP Coppom, John F., Lt	CP Bradley, Clyde W., Jr., Lt
NAV Zwayer, James P., Lt	NAV Pace, Charles M., Lt
BOM DeSousa, John, Jr., Lt	BOM Riley, Milton S., Lt
ENG Huston, William J., T/Sgt	ENG DeMarco, John A., S/Sgt
RWG Payne, George S., S/Sgt	RWG Hustus, Walter L., Sgt
RO Spoerri, Felix, T/Sgt	RO Francis, Walter G., S/Sgt
LWG Lanier, Leo, Jr., S/Sgt	LWG Slusser, Walter C., Sgt
BT Schultz, Melvin E., S/Sgt	BT Kern, Lloyd F., Sgt
TG Laurinitis, Anthony, S/Sgt	TG Krumholz, Robert A., Sgt
B-17G #42-31055 Aloha	
P Glass, Henry F., Lt	P Crook, Charles D., Lt
CP McMahan, Eugene A. Lt	CP Evans, Ernest N., Lt
NAV Pepe, Nicholas A., Lt	NAV Davis, Roscoe, Lt
BOM Robrock, Paul A., Lt	BOM DeLuca, Joseph, F/O
ENG Patrone, Frank, S/Sgt	ENG Breitenbach, Louis H., S/Sgt
LWG Stellato, Francis A., Sgt	RWG Chavez, Salvador, Sgt
RO Miller, Gordon R., S/Sgt	RO Hannan, Robert J., S/Sgt
RWG Carbillano, Dominick J., Sgt	LWG Williams, Norris R., Sgt
BT Michael, David O., Sgt	BT Cheek, Roy A., Sgt
TG Roberts, James E., Sgt	TG Hensley, James H., Sgt
B-17G #42-39764 Santa Ana	
P Long, John A., Lt	P Wilson, Fred F., Lt
CP Earhart, Amon E., Lt	CP Bowen, James W., Lt
NAV Carroll, George M., Lt	NAV Przybyszewski, Henry S., Lt
BOM Cascio, Guiseppe, Lt	BOM Fahlbusch, Joseph F., Lt
ENG Wilson, Clarence G., T/Sgt	ENG Goland, Harry, S/Sgt
LWG Ledley, Albert J., S/Sgt	RWG Roads, Dwight W., Jr., Sgt
RO Jennings, Ralph T., T/Sgt	RO Mirkin, Herman H., S/Sgt
RWG Henson, Mace, S/Sgt	LWG Petree, Wendell R., Sgt
TG Orlando, Anthony T., S/Sgt	BT Webbink, Elvin F., Sgt
BT Deffinger, John P., S/Sgt	TG Hubley, Warren G., Sgt
B-17G #42-31213 Pistol Packin' Mama	
(Abortive - Spare)	
B-17F #42-3486 (PFF) (482BG)	
P Stevens, Kermit D., Col	
CP McGinnis, Martin S., Lt	
NAV Davis, Darius R., 1Lt	
BOM Fawcett, Jack B., Capt	
TG Huguenin, Wesley V., 1Lt	

427th Bombardment Squadron Crew Lists

B-17F #42-5052 Mizpah

P	Humphreys, Fred C., Lt
CP	Clemons, James H., Lt
NAV	Culpin, John J., Jr., Lt
BOM	Orvis, George T., Jr., Lt
ENG	Janisch, Ferdinand J., T/Sgt
LWG	Madak, Edward P., 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 #42-31241 Spirit of Wanette

P	Hullar, Robert J., Lt
CP	Klint, Wilbur, Lt
NAV	Linnehan, Arthur, Lt
BOM	Mire, Burnie N., 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-17F #42-3131 Flak Wolf

P	Barnes, Deane L., Lt
CP	Raistrick, Albert G., Lt
NAV	Randall, Everett Z., Lt
BOM	Roode, William A.T., Lt
ENG	Sparks, Willie T., S/Sgt
BT	Chancellor, John R., Sgt
RO	Brooks, Winnie R., S/Sgt
TG	Underwood, Clifford B., Sgt
LWG	Winters, Craig W., Sgt
RWG	Price, John B., Sgt
PHO	Mulberry, Harold F., Sgt

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

P	Fowler, James F., Lt
CP	Rawlings, Bernard W., Lt
NAV	Eccleston, Edward F., Lt
BOM	Taylor, Alvin L., Lt
ENG	Finley, Curtis E., T/Sgt
BT	Arrington, Richard, S/Sgt
RO	Volmer, Lawrence D., S/Sgt
TG	Ziegler, Roland R., Sgt
LWG	Burkett, Albert S., Sgt
RWG	Hawk, Kenneth L., Sgt

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

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

B-17F #42-29795 Flying Bitch

P	Simmons, Thomas L., Lt
CP	Henderson, Grover C., Lt
NAV	Clyatt, William L., Jr., Lt
BOM	Vaughan, R.W., Lt
ENG	Elliott, W.S., S/Sgt
BT	DiPietra, Dante C., Sgt
RO	Bennett, Joseph A., S/Sgt
TG	Hasty, Wesley L., Sgt
LWG	Stewart, Robert D., Sgt
RWG	Livingston, Robert F., Sgt

B-17G #42-37875 Empress of D Street

P	Sawyer, Frederick W., Lt
CP	Sayers, Darwin D., Lt
NAV	Arvanites, George L., Lt
BOM	Umphress, F.E., Jr., 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
	(Abortive - Spare)

B-17F #42-29823 (No Name)

P	McGarry, John J., Jr., Lt
CP	Jenkins, Elton L., Lt
NAV	Halligan, Robert W., Lt
BOM	Foe, Kenneth D., Lt
ENG	Grace, Henry J., S/Sgt
BT	Friedman, Ira, Sgt
RO	Wilson, Elmer A., S/Sgt
TG	Kowalonek, Walter A., Sgt
LWG	Brown, Edgar S., Sgt
RWG	Hilborn, Ervin, Sgt