1032

complete

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

Classification RESTRICTED
To
W. E. A. MALUBAS, Lt. Col., AC
W. F. H. [illegible] Capt., AC
Date

AH 354
AV 359/43

Date		Write About
6/17/46	[illegible]	Press Paper

RESTRICTED

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1/032

Classification changed to RESTRICTED
by B. A. [illegible], Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [illegible], Capt., AC
Date MAR 1 1946

HEADQUARTERS 40th WING
306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 634 - US ARMY

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

. ORGANIZATION: Location Molesworth ; Command or Air Force VIII AAF.
Group 306th Bomb. Gp. (H) ; Squadron 368th Bomb. ; Detachment ——
. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Molesworth ; Course See Diagram.
Intended Destination Duren, Germany ; Type of Mission Bombardment
. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8/10 to 10/10 Cirrus Base 25,000' tops, 30,000'. Multilayer cloud below. Visibility unlimited.
. GIVE: (a) Date 20-Oct-43 Time 1405 ; and Location 10 Mi. Northeast Cambrai, France. of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last Sighted; ( ) Last contacted by Radio; ( ) Forced down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or (X) Information not Available.
. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows ——

. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17F ; A.A.F. Serial Number 41-24629 "G"
. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97 A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-56807
(b) 42-77983 ; (c) 42-77802 ; (d) 42-58979
. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) 488776 SA, 84499 FGM. 295161 CFMA.
(a) 145387 KHM ; (b) 145944 KHM ; (c) 145806 KHM ; (d) [illegible] FGM, 295520 CFMA.
(e) 73945 B.Ga. ; (f) 84257 GFMA ; (g) 145698 KHM ; (h) 295429 CFMA, 377875 FGM
. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty ——
. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 10
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number
EUS	1. Pilot	KENDRY, John W. Jr.	1st Lt.	0-[illegible]
K/A	2. Co-Pilot	CARPER, William [illegible]	2nd Lt.	0-[illegible]
EUS	3. Navigator	McNAMARA, Bernard [illegible]	2nd Lt.	0-[illegible]
EUS	4. Bombardier	BURSTE, Richard R.	2nd Lt.	0-[illegible]
EUS	5. Engineer & Top Turret Gun.	RIDER, Lorna G.	S/Sgt.	[illegible]
EUS	6. Asst. Engineer & Ball Tur.	[illegible], John J.	S/Sgt.	17048543
K/A	7. Radio Operator and Rear Gun.	[illegible], James J.	S/Sgt.	[illegible]
EUS	8. Asst. Radio Op. & R.T.G.	KARGRAVE, Alfred J.	T/Sgt.	[illegible]
EUS	9. Right Waist Gunner	CARELY, Wilbur G.	S/Sgt.	[illegible]
EUS	10. Left Waist Gunner	[illegible], Delbert E.	S/Sgt.	[illegible]

. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

2. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER ITS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ——; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ——; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) ——
3. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. Chart Attached.
. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. ——
. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE ——

CONFIDENTIAL

Date of Report 22 October, 1943

JESSE N. [illegible], Major AC, Group S-2. (Signature of Preparing Officer)

Page 30

AFPOA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 1022

Name of crew member: HARPER, William R.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0 - 79 93 93
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot/Navigator/Bombardier~~: Co-pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Villeneuve France

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He turned and struck my arm calling for me to abandon ship.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? In airport near Villeneuve mentioned in letter

Any hearsay information: No.

Source: Personal observation

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He bailed out just before myself and I hesitated when his chute didn't open out bailing out for a few moments.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25 or last said

Dates and destinations if possible:

APPX 11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 1082

Name of crew member: BROWN, James J.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 34 55 07 18
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot/Navigator/Bombardier~~: Radio Operator and Rd.Gun.

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Over intercom — plane over crossed coast of France

Was he injured? Not at that time

Where was he when last seen? Airport in Villeneuve, France

Any hearsay information: Yes, seen by Lt John Hendry, Pilot.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25 on last raid

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, A

AFPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Bernard T. McNamara Rank 2nd Lt Serial No. O-736016

2. Organization 302nd Bomb Gp Commander Stevens Rank Col Sqn CO Lt Col Mitchell Rank Maj
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1943 month Oct day 20 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, R.R. yards, target, Aachen, target time, _____, altitude, 27,500 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? 10 min's over France

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".
Wm Harper bailed out just before we struck. Navigator Lt Lt Sylvan, Co-Pilot Smith & stayed on. Says Brown body at airport where I was all overnight

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Villeneuve, France

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) James J. Brown

11. Where were they in aircraft? James J. Brown in Radio room

12. What was their condition? Brown was dead

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? In ambulance taking injured members to hospital for treatment

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPRC-1

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 1382

Name of crew member: BROWN, James J.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 34 36 07 25
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator, Pilot~~: Radio Operator and Rad.Gun.

Did he bail out? Other members told me that he did not.

Where? Valencennes, Fr.

If not, why not? Wounded or killed in plane.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just prior to loss of plane.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Waist of plane B-17

Any hearsay information: The Germans told me that two members of my ship were killed. This I know to be true

Source: Germans who first captured me in Valencennes

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I supposed he had been killed when we were first hit by ME-109 but some members have told me he was killed in waist of ship while preparing to jump.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25

Date(s) and destination(s) if possible: Oct. 20, 1943 While going to Oldenburg

John W. Hendry, Jr.
Capt. A.C.
Pilot

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-1

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 1088

Name of crew member: BARPER, William R.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0 - 79 96 98
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(Fighter)~~: Co-pilot

Did he bail out? I am told he did.

Where? Near Valencienne, Fr.

If not, why not? He was seen jumping - maybe arrested - maybe chute damaged

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:
I told him to jump and he left his seat.

Was he injured? No - not to my knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? In front of top turret

Any hearsay information: The chute failed to open or had a rip in it - training behind him -

Source: Germans at Valencienne

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: A bullet may have hit his chute but I do not think any came into cockpit.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ? ?12?

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct. 20, '43 target Evian.

John W. Hendry
Capt. A.C.
Pilot

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John W. Hendry Jr. Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-793335

2. Organization 305th Gp Commander [illegible] Rank Col. Sqn CO [illegible] Rank Major
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1943 month Oct day 20 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Disson, target, marshalling yards, target time, [illegible] 1 pm, altitude, 27500 route scheduled, by channel thru Ghent, route flown [illegible]

5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Valenciennes, Fr.

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes (one killed in ship)

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". The tail gunner was held captive for several days. Bombardier started down with the leg by which the 'chute hung. Copilot's chute did not open. Radio operator killed in ship. Rest of crew started o.k.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In town of Valenciennes I think.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Maybe the radio operator.

11. Where were they in aircraft?

12. What was their condition?

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Myself, Bombardier & Navigator in POW camp together. Later 2 NCO's in prison camp together.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. At interrogation center I learned that we were a group for A. Hendry's ship which he said was shot down. I saw the navigator there.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 1082

Name of crew member: HARPER, William D.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0 - 79 93 98
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~gunner/fighter/flight engr~~ Co-pilot

Did he bail out? I don't know.

Where?

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? I seen him going for the escape hatch in the

Any hearsay information: When pilot was leaving ship he said Lt Harper was still there but he did not see what he was doing, he thought he was having trouble with his chute

Source: Lt. John Hendry.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I was going to bail out nose of ship but Lt. Harper was in the way so instead I went out back by the chute may have come apart while he was in ship?

Total number of missions of above crew member: ?

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 21st 1943 Pot. Porce.

6-3061, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # [illegible]

Name of crew member: [illegible], James J.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 34 [illegible] 07 18
Position: Crew (Bomber) on ~~Fighter/Fighterplane~~ Radio Operator and Rad.Gun.

Did he bail out? I don't Know.

Where?

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None.

Was he injured? ?

Where was he when last seen? In radio room.

Any hearsay information: The waist gunner said he came out of the radio room with his chute on and was waiting for them to get the door open, they failed to get door open that was the last they remembered until they found themselfs coming down with there chutes open, they think the ship was blown up.

Source: John J. Doherty A. J. Hargrave.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: When I bailed out I did not pull my rip cord and while I was trying to see how close I was getting to the ground I seen one man going down but his chute was not opened.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25.

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 21st 1943. destination Ploesti.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Biddle, Loren. C. Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 36021148

2. Organization 303 Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO Mitchell Rank Maj
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1943 month Oct. day 21 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Duren, target time, about 1:15 PM?, altitude, 27000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? _____

6. Did you bail out? Yes.

7. Did other members of crew bail out? As far as I know yes.

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". The men in the rear of the ship, S/Sgt Doherty, S/Sgt Hargrove, S/Sgt Cole, S/Sgt Rasch don't remember bailing out they think the ship exploded or nearly. Lt McNamara, Lt Vondy and Lt Wightman bailed out the rear escape hatch as far as I know Lt McNamara & Lt Wightman were injured.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) _____

11. Where were they in aircraft? _____

12. What was their condition? _____

13. When, where, and in what condition did you <u>last</u> see any members not already described above? _____

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862,AF

MAOR 1032

KIA 21 Buried in [illegible] 28 October 1918 in Valenciennes/ Northern France. Single flight

LAFFOY, William
S.Pilots 2 cl
Army Air Corps

Interred at St.Rich Cemetery
Long Valley
Single grave No. 4

KIA 21

DOVE, James
Observer 2 cl
Army Air Corps

see above
Single grave No. 5

MAOR 1032
10 man crew
G.E.05
2 KIA

See KJ 354

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

REPORT OF ROBERT

[redacted]

[redacted]

To: Armed Forces Information Center
for Jerome in Ashlee Gal. Pylonsky
of War

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Type of plane: Boeing - Fortress
Date of crash: 20 October, ~~1942~~ 43 1415
Place of crash: ~~Valenciennes~~

KU - 384
MACK 113
10
8-EUS
2-KIA

KIA - BROWN, James J.
34350715 T 43

dead
buried: 22 Oct., 43
British Cemetery of the first World War in Valenciennes.

KIA - HARPER, William B.
0-799393 T 43 - 0

dead
buried: 22 Oct., 43
British Cemetery of the first World War in Valenciennes.

See AV 359

TRACK CHART

TARGET

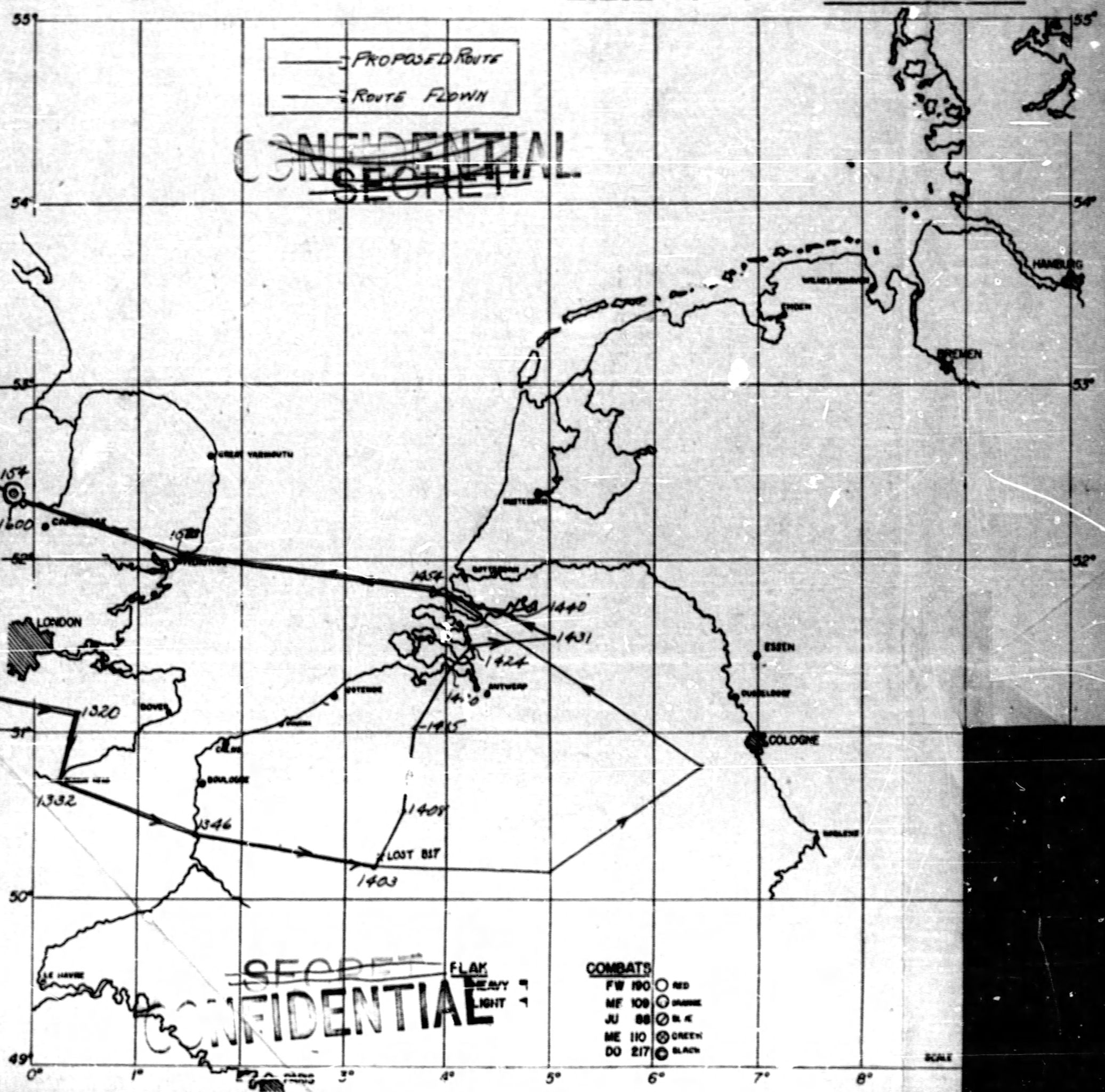
Primary DÜREN, GERMANY

Secondary

Last Resort

Date 20 Oct. '43

Route followed by 303rd Bomb Group (H)



SECRET

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