



**CONFIDENTIAL**

1325

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS AIR STATION 107  
360TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 634 - US ARMY

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
Date MAR 1 1946

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

**IMPORTANT:** 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.

- 1. ORGANIZATION: Location Molesworth; Command or Air Force VIII Bomber Com.  
Group 303rd Bomb Gp (H); Squadron 360th Bomb; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Molesworth; Course See Attached Diagram  
Intended Destination Solingen, Germany; Type of Mission Bombardment
- 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
9/10 cloud with tops 20,000-23,000 ft. Visibility unrestricted above clouds.
- 4. GIVE: (a) Date Dec. '43 Time 1220-1325 and Location N to N.E. of Aachen, Germany  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted; ( ) Last contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forced down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not Available.
- 5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) ( ) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (x) Other Circumstances as follows A/C dropped down in a gradual turn to right. When last seen, it had turned 140° as if going back into Germany and seemed to be flying itself.
- 6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-59761
- 7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97A. A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 43-64752  
(b) 43-64763; (c) 43-64776; (d) 43-64778
- 8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) SEE; (b) ATTACHED; (c) SHEET; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. 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<br>(Last name first) | Rank    | Serial Number |     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----|
| 1. Pilot                        | LUKE, George W., Jr.              | 2nd Lt. | 0-679085      | RTD |
| 2. Co-Pilot                     | MITCHELL, Frank (NMI)             | 2nd Lt. | 0-681691      | RTD |
| 3. Navigator & Left Nose Gun.   | BALLAGE, Gordon A.                | 2nd Lt. | 0-671085      | RTD |
| 4. Bombardier & Right Nose Gun. | DAHNKE, Leonard L.                | 2nd Lt. | 0-679377      | F   |
| 5. Engineer & Top Turret Gun.   | BORN, Millard A.                  | S/Sgt.  | 37232879      | RTD |
| 6. Ass't Eng. & Left Waist Gun. | YEAKEL, Elwood D.                 | Sgt.    | 12051051      | RTD |
| 7. Radio Oper. & Radio Gunner   | DAY, Ben T.                       | S/Sgt.  | 18217123      | RTD |
| 8. Ass't Radio Oper & R.W.G.    | WRIGHT, Sherman G.                | Sgt.    | 36707114      | RTD |
| 9. Ball Turret Gunner           | WASHBURN, Robert H.               | Sgt.    | 11103114      |     |
| 10. Tail Gunner                 | WALTER, Ira J.                    | Sgt.    | 35741259      | RTD |

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

| Name in Full<br>(Last name first) | Rank | Serial Number | Check Only One Column    |                 |              |                          |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
|                                   |      |               | Contacted<br>By<br>Radio | Last<br>Sighted | Saw<br>Crash | Saw<br>Forced<br>Landing |
| 1. _____                          |      |               |                          |                 |              |                          |
| 2. _____                          |      |               |                          |                 |              |                          |
| 3. _____                          |      |               |                          |                 |              |                          |

- 2. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES 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) Survival Unknown
- 3. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. See attached sheet
- 4. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. None
- 5. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. None

Date of Report 3 December 1943

Jesse M. Barrett  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
Major, AC,  
Group S-2.

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**HEADQUARTERS AAF STATION 107  
305RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 634 - US ARMY**

**3 December 1943.**

**MEMO:**

**TO : Whom It May Concern.**

**Gun Numbers On Ship No. 42-39781  
350th Squadron**

|        |   |                                    |
|--------|---|------------------------------------|
| 569099 | - | Savage Arms Corporation            |
| 568986 | - | " " "                              |
| 569195 | - | " " "                              |
| 568958 | - | " " "                              |
| 568875 | - | " " "                              |
| 569001 | - | " " "                              |
| 568957 | - | " " "                              |
| 568983 | - | " " "                              |
| 569007 | - | " " "                              |
| 414205 | - | Frigidaire Division of Gen. Motors |

**Left and Right Chin Turret guns numbers unknown.**

*Jesse M. Barrett*  
**JESSE M. BARRETT,  
Major, AC,  
Group S-2.**

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## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1325

Name of crew member: **DAINKE, Leonard L.**  
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**  
 Serial number: **0-679377**  
 Position: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Bombardier and Right Nose Gun.**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Lille, France

If not, why not? -

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just before bailing out

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? In nose position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: -

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

He came to some camp (prison) about two months later than I.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three

Dates and destinations if possible: Norway - November 1943  
Bremen - November 26, 1943  
Salingen - December 1, 1943

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Gordon A. Ballagh Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. O-671085
2. Organization 303<sup>rd</sup> B.G.P. 360<sup>th</sup> Sq (Gp) Commander Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO Walter Shaylor Rank Maj.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month December day 1<sup>st</sup> did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Solingen, target time, ?, altitude, 26,000 route scheduled, ?  
route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 Miles West of Solingen
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". "No Knowledge"
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Lille, 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) None
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? When we left on mission.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I was the Navigator and when  
the pilot gave order to bail out, I  
left through the forward escape hatch  
ahead of the Bombardier (Lt. Dahnke).  
I was captured immediately.

Gordon A. Ballagh  
1st Lt. 0-671085

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1325

Name of crew member: WASHBURN, Robert H.  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 11103114  
 Position: ~~Crew member of B-24 Liberator~~ Ball Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? Reasonably sure he did follow me out.

Where? Over the city of Lille, France.

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

He would follow.

Was he injured? Not at the last time I saw him.

Where was he when last seen? Standing beside the waist guns.

Any hearsay information: Only, that he had been shot. (German Interrogation

at Dulog Luft)

Source: German Interrogation at Dulog Luft.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Washburn told us

so many times that he wouldn't be taken prisoner, so in my knowledge

of him, he didn't stop when they told him to.

Total number of missions of above crew member: That mission was the third (3)

Dates and destinations if possible: December 1, 1943. Destination, Solingen,

Germany.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1325

Name of crew member: DAHKE, Leonard L.  
 Rank: 2nd Lt.  
 Serial number: O-679377  
 Position: ~~O-679377~~ Bombardier and Right Nose Gun.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Lille, France.

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

"So Long"

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Camp Lucky Strike, France. After liberation

Any hearsay information: That he is home.

Source: Lt. Gordon A. Ballagh, another crew member.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three (3)

Dates and destinations if possible: December 1, 1943 Solingen, Germany

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Walter, Ira Jerome Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 35741259
2. Organization AC Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month December day 1 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, No. 3, target, Solingen, Germany, target time, 12:36, altitude, 26000 Ft. route scheduled, Below Ruhr and up to target route flown Same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Ruhr Valley
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All bailed out.
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". Elwood Yeakel, Ben T. Day, Ira J. Walter, Robert H. Washburn, Sherman G. Wright, and Millard A. Boyen bailed out the waist door in that order. Lt.s Ballagh and Dahnke went out the nose, and Lt.s Mitchell and Luke went out the bomb bay. In that order. Luke was injured slightly on the hand.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? West side of Lille, 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) None.
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? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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)

(OVER)

For more information contact the people listed  
as to what they saw.

I was staying there , and they tried to help me  
get back.

Mr. and Mme. Dacquignies Chardeaux  
Pont Chibaut  
Par Font a Marcy  
Ennevelin Nord, France.

Mille. Georgette Darquignies  
Estaminct Pont Chibaut, Par  
Pont a Marcy  
Ennevelin Nord, France.

Esq. Prudent Verdier  
Pont Chibaut  
Nord, France.

AAF CASUALTY INFORMATION

1325

Name WASHBURN, Robert B. Rank Sgt

Crew Position Ball Turret Unit 303rd Bomb Group

Date last seen 1 December 1943 Place last seen Over Lille, France

Circumstances of loss of aircraft Flak

Known information (eyewitness only)\*

Heresay information (with estimate of reliability)\* French civilians

reported to me that German soldiers had shot WASHBURN as he was running  
after parachuting

Reported by: WRIGHT, Sherman G. 36707114  
(Name) (SN)

S/Sgt 303rd Bomb Group  
(Rank) (Unit)

\* Use additional sheets if necessary.

REPORT OF CASUALTY INFORMATION

Name DAY, BEIL, T. Rank 1/5 Lt

Crew Position First Radio Op. Unit 303 Bomb Gr. 360 Sq.

Date last seen 1 JUNE 45 Place last seen LEHARVE FR.

Circumstances of loss of aircraft LOSS OF 3 ENGINES & PART OF CONTROLS, BY FLAK.

Known information (eyewitness only) Bailed from plane & TAKEN P.W. INTERNED AT STALAG 17B KREMS AUSTRIA.

Hearsay information (with estimate of reliability) \*

Reported by: Millard G. Bowen 37232879  
(Name) (SSN)

1/5 Lt 52 Wing, Sedalia  
(Rank) (Unit) AAFI

\* Use additional sheets if necessary.

Incl #1

## A.F. CASUALTY INFORMATION

Name YEAKEL, Elwood, D. Rank Sgt.  
 Crew Position Ass. Eng. Gunner Unit 303 Bomb Gr. 3605g.  
 Date last seen 1, JUNE 1945 Place last seen LE HARVE, FR.  
 Circumstances of loss of aircraft LOSS OF 3 ENGINES &  
PART OF CONTROLS BY FLAK

Known information (eyewitness only)\* Bailed from plane  
& TAKEN P.W. & INTERNED AT STALAG  
17 B KREMS AUSTRIA.

Heresay information (with estimate of reliability)\*

Reported by: Millard A. Bowen 39232879  
 (Name) (SN)

T/1st 52 Wing Sedalia AAFld  
 (Rank) (Unit)

AAF CASUALTY INFORMATION

Name WALTER, IRA, J. Rank Sgt.  
 Crew Position TAIL GUNNER Unit 303 BOMB GP 360 SQ  
 Date last seen 1 JUNE 1948 Place last seen LE HARUE, F.R.  
 Circumstances of loss of aircraft LOSS OF 3 ENGINES & PART OF CONTROLS BY FLAK

Known information (eyewitness only)\* Bailed from plane & TAKEN P.W. & INTERNED AT STALAG 17 B, KREMS, AUSTRIA

Heresay information (with estimate of reliability)\*

Reported by: Millard A. Bowen 39237879  
 (Name) (SN)

P/Sgt 52 Wing Sedalia AAFB  
 (Rank) (Unit)

\* Use additional sheets if necessary.

AAF CASUALTY INFORMATION

Name LUKE, GEORGE, W Rank 2nd Lt

Crew Position Pilot Unit 303 Bomb GP

Date last seen 1 JUNE 1945 Place last seen LE HARVE FR

Circumstances of loss of aircraft Loss of 3 engines & part of controls, by Flak

Known information (eyewitness only)\* SEEN ONLY AT PORT OF ~~LE HARVE~~ LE HARVE AFTER LIBERATION

Heresay information (with estimate of reliability)\*

Reported by: William G. Bowen 39 232879 (Name) (SN)

1/Sgt. 52 Wing Sedalia AAFld (Rank) (Unit)

\* Use additional sheets if necessary.

AAF CASUALTY INFORMATION

Name BALLAGH, GORDAN Rank 2nd Lt.  
 Crew Position NAVIGATOR Unit 33 Bomb Gr. 360 Sq  
 Date last seen JUNE 1945 Place last seen LE HARVE FR.  
 Circumstances of loss of aircraft LOSS OF 2 ENGINES &  
PART OF CONTROLS BY FLAK

Known information (eyewitness only)\* SEEN ONLY AT LE HARVE FR. AFTER LIBERATION.

Heresay information (with estimate of reliability)\*

Reported by: William G. Bauer 39232879  
 (Name) (SN)

T/Sgt. 52 Wing SEDATIA AAFld  
 (Rank) (Unit)

\* Use additional sheets if necessary.

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

MACR #  
13251

SOURCE: FRANK MITCHELL, 2d Lt, O-681691

E&E #700

DATE: 1 June 1944

MIA: 1 December 1943

UNIT: 360 Bomb Squadron, 303 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRIB RECORDS

|                    |          |       |                   |     |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-------------------|-----|
| PILOT              | 0-679083 | 2d Lt | George W LUKE, JR | P/W |
| CO-PILOT           | 0-681691 | 2d Lt | Frank MITCHELL    | RD  |
| NAVIGATOR          | 0-671085 | 2d Lt | Gordon A BALLAGH  | P/W |
| BOMBARDIER         | 0-679377 | 2d Lt | Leonard L DAHNKE  | P/W |
| RADIO OPERATOR     | 18217123 | S/Sgt | Ben T DAY         | P/W |
| TOP TURRET GUNNER  | 37232879 | S/Sgt | Millard A BOREN   | P/W |
| BALL TURRET GUNNER | 11103114 | Sgt   | Robert H WASHBURN | P/W |
| WAIST GUNNER       | 36707114 | Sgt   | Sherman G WRIGHT  | P/W |
| WASIT GUNNER       | 12051051 | Sgt   | Elwood D YEAKEL   | P/W |
| TAIL GUNNER        | 35741259 | Sgt   | Ira J WALTER      | P/W |

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All bailed out; all chutes opened.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

None.

**SECRET**

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

**SECRET**

By authority A. C. or S., G-2

Date: 1 June 1944 Initials: RHS

FRANK MITCHELL, 2d Lt, O-681691  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

1 June 1944  
(Date)

E&E #700

360 Bomb Squadron, 303 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
1 December 1943; 1330 hours; 10 kms South of LILLE, France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.  
Was it on fire, etc?  
#2 Engine ran away; #3 and #4 engines knocked out by flak; not on fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 15,000 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
All members bailed out; I think all chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? I do not know.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? No

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.  
No

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

Did not examine

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

None were wounded or killed in plane.

Sgt 1st George W. Lake, Jr.

Mrs. G. W. Lake, (Mother)  
2777 E. Lake Street,  
Gainesville, Florida.

Sgt 1st Frank Mitchell

Mrs. Sarah L. Mitchell, (Mother)  
612 Central, Pennsylvania.

Sgt 1st Francis A. Halligan

Mr. Robert A. Halligan, (Father)  
General Delivery,  
Merrill, Missouri.

Sgt 1st Leonard L. Risher

Mr. William G. Risher, (Father)  
Franklin, Missouri.

S/1st William A. Moran

Mr. William A. Moran, (Father)  
529 South  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Sgt Edward E. Tostel

Mr. Robert E. Tostel, (Father)  
General Delivery Number 1,  
Merrill, Pennsylvania.

S/1st Sam T. Day

Mrs. Clara Day, (Mother)  
114 Maple Street,  
Cedar Springs, Texas.

Sgt Charles E. Wright

Mrs. Jay E. Wright, (Mother)  
611 South Main,  
Paris, Illinois.

Sgt Robert E. Mathews

Mr. Robert E. Mathews, (Father)  
107 Willow Street,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Sgt Tom J. Miller

Mrs. Clara E. Miller, (Mother)  
54 Jones Street,  
Martinsburg, West Virginia.