





9406

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Molesworth, Eng. Command or Air Force 8th A. F.  
Group 303rd B. (H); Squadron 360th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course As ordered.  
Target or Intended Destination Magdeburg, Ger.; Type of Mission Bombardment.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8-10/10ths  
cumulus, tops 16-18,000, visibility aloft unrestricted
4. GIVE: (a) Day 28 Month September Year 1944 Time 1148 Location 52°11'N-10°35'E.  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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 (); Other Circumstances as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 43-37930
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None.
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-020544; (b) SW-021307; (c) SW-021616; (d) SW-021234
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) 1213201 S.A.; (b) 1213212 S. A.; (c) 1214976 S.A.; (d) 1213209 S.A.; (e) 1213019 S.A.; (f) 1213198 S.A.; (g) 1213060 S.A.; (h) 1213281 S.A.; (i) 1213284 S.A.; (j) 1212985 S.A.; (k) 1212809 S.A.; (l) 1213266 S.A.; (m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty   
of (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9  
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 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	Current Status	
1. Pilot	<u>HOWARD, VICTOR L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-784677</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>WISAPAK, ALOYSIUS I.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-823703</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>WELLIS, ROBERT B.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-127046</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>TIMMINS, JACK L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-729516</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
5. Top Turret	<u>MC GRAW, CLAUDE (NM)</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>35431732</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
6. Radio Gunner	<u>KERMAN, SHEPPARD (NMI)</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>16078681</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
7. Ball Turret	<u>SOFIANEK, JOSEPH C.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>33613391</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8. Waist Gunner	<u>STEWART, GEORGE E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>39206106</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
9. Tail Gunner	<u>BAKER, THOMAS E. JR.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>11004280</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10.					
11.					

12. 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 (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check Only One Column			
			Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. <u>DURFEE, JAMES R.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>39337342</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2. <u>BLUMENTHAL, ROBERT</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-717584</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3.						

(Over)



13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes.; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash           ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. Not required.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. See S-2 Summary attached.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None.

Date of Report 1 October 1944

Jesse M. Barrett  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

JESSE M. BARRETT,  
Major, AC,  
Group S-2.

See S-2 Summary Attached.

NOV 9 11 1944



RECEIVED











1st. Lt. Victor L. Howard

Mrs. Wilhemina M. Howard, (Mother)  
626 East 72nd Street,  
Seattle, Washington.

1st. Lt. Jack L. Timmins

Mrs. Billie J. Timmins, (Wife)  
1353 Grandview Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

2nd. Lt. Aloysius I. Sapak

Mr. Louis J. Sapak, (Father)  
1875 Houlihan Road, Box One,  
Saginaw, Michigan.

F/O Robert B. Ellis

Mrs. Alice Ellis, (Wife)  
2026 Sixth Street,  
Berkeley, California.

S/Sgt. George E. Stewart

Mrs. George Stewart, (Wife)  
c/o Lloyd Grover,  
Chester, Iowa.

Mrs. Grey McMillen, (Aunt)  
Windsor, Colorado.

Sgt. Joseph C. Sofianek

Mrs. Barbara Sofianek, (Mother)  
676 McKinley Street,  
Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

Sgt. Thomas E. Baker, Jr.

Mr. Thomas E. Baker, Sr. (Father)  
129 Connection Street,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

Sgt. Claude McGraw

Mrs. Carrie M. McGraw, (Wife)  
Nallen, West Virginia.

Sgt. Sheppard Kerman

Mr. Simon D. Kerman, (Father)  
837 Junior Terrace,  
Chicago, Illinois.



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

9408

Name of crew member: ~~KERMAN~~, Sheppard  
Rank: Sgt.  
Serial number: 16078681  
Position: ~~Crew Chief (Bomber) / Crew Chief (Bomber)~~: Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 5 minutes from target (Magdeburg)

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Shep KerMan  
checked in at left waist gun when fighters were announced.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Leaving waist escape hatch

Any hearsay information: According to George Steward waist gunner, Kerman  
was hit when Two projectiles exploded in the waist.

Source: George Steward

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: According  
to German source he was dead when he hit the ground, chute open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Two (2) missions

Dates and destinations if possible: 26 & 28th of September 1944 (Magdeburg)







## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

9406

Name of crew member: KERMAN, Sheppard  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 16078681  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Pilot (Fighter): Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? APP 100 MI WEST OF MAGDEBURG

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

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

TO ME ON OXYGEN CHECK APP 3MIN. BEFORE ATTACK OK

Was he injured? HE WAS WOUNDED BEFORE LEAVING AIRCRAFT.

Where was he when last seen? LAST SEEN BAILING OUT.

Any hearsay information: I WAS INFORMED BY THE GERMANS THAT

HE HAD DIED WHEN I SAW HIS PERSONAL POSSESSIONS  
AT BRUNSWICK GER. AND INQUIRED TO HIS WHEREABOUTS

Source: GERMAN CIVILIAN POLICE

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

WAS CONSCIOUS AND NOT TOO BADLY WOUNDED WHEN  
HE BAILED OUT, I SUSPECTED HE MAY HAVE BEEN  
MURDERED BY THE CIVILIANS. I BASE THIS ON MY OWN  
TREATMENT IN THAT AREA BY CIVILIANS

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1 ONE

Dates and destinations if possible: DESTINATION MAGDEBURG



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JACK L TIMMINS Rank CAPT. Serial No. 0-729516
2. Organization 303 BOMB Gp. Commander WALTER N SHALER Rank LTCOL Sqn CO ? Rank ?  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month SEPT day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ALT. BOMBING, target, MAGDEBURG, target time, 1145, altitude, 26,000 route scheduled, ?  
?, route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? NEAR INITIAL POINT
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". ALL BAILED AT CLOSE INTERVAL ALL EXCEPT SGT NERMAN WERE SEEN ON THE GROUND ALL OK.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? AIRCRAFT EXPLODED NOT SEEN ON THE GROUND
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. NO KNOWLEDGE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name STEWART, George E Rank S/SGT Serial No. 39206106
2. Organization RAF Gp Commander UNKNOWN Rank LT, USAF CO UNKNOWN Rank UNKNOWN  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month SEPT day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, MAGDEBURG, target, ANTI AIRCRAFT FACTORY, target  
time, UNKNOWN, altitude, 26,000 route scheduled, UNKNOWN  
route flown NO KNOWLEDGE
5. Where were you when you left formation? NO KNOWLEDGE
6. Did you bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE
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". BOMBARDIER, NAV, ENG, PILOT, & CO-PILOT, ALL BAILED OUT FORWARD ESCAPE HATCH, RADIO GUNNER, ARMORER, BALL TURRET OPERATOR BAILED OUT WAIST ESCAPE HATCH - TAIL GUNNER WENT OUT REAR HATCH
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) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? NONE
12. What was their condition? NONE
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)



Name of crew member: KENNAH, Sheppard  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 16078681  
 Position: Crew Chief (Bombardier) Radio Operator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES SOUTH OF BRUNSWICK

If not, why not? XXXXXXXXXX

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

WAS SHOT OUT

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? IN WAIST SECTION OF AIRCRAFT

Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID HE WAS KILLED AND SHOWED HIS DOG TAGS

TO LT. TIMMINS, OUR BOMBARDIER.

Source: LT. TIMMINS

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: BASED WHOLLY ON

SUPPOSITION IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE DIED OF HIS WOUNDS BUT HE HAD STRENGTH ENOUGH TO

ASSIST ANOTHER CREW MEMBER OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT AND THEN TO BAIL OUT HIMSELF SO HE

MAY OF MET WITH FOUL PLAY. HE SHOULD OF COME DOWN IN THE SAME LOCALITY THAT I DID

WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE A TOWN CALLED WOLFENBUTTEL. SOUTH OF BRUNSWICK.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ONE

Dates and destinations if possible: SEPT. 28, 1944 MAGDEBURG, GER.



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name VICTOR L. HOWARD Rank 1ST. LT. Serial No. 0-764677
2. Organization 303B.G.Gp Commander KERMIT D. STEVENS Rank COL. Sqn CO WALTER K. SHAYLER Rank LT. COL.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month SEPT. 28 day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, STRATEGIC BOMBING, target, MAGDEBURG, GER., target time, 1140 APPROX., altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, NOT KNOWN, route flown AS SCHEDULED BUT OFF COURSE SOME
5. Where were you when you left formation? SOME 30 MILES SOUTH OF BRUNSWICK
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". LT. TIMMINS, LT. SAPAK, F. O. ELLIS, SGT. MC'GRAW AND MYSELF ALL BAILED OUT THE NOSE HATCH APPROXIMATELY 1145 30 TO 40 MILES SOUTH OF BRUNSWICK. SGTS. SOFIANECK, STEWART, AND BAKER BAILED OUT THE WAIST AND TAIL ESCAPE DOORS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME AND PLACE. ALL THE ABOVE MEN ARE BACK IN THE STATES.
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) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
12. What was their condition? XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ALL CREW MEMBERS WERE LAST SEEN AT ST. VALLERY, FRANCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SGT. KERMANS, MAY 1945 ALL AWAITING SHIPMENT TO THE STATES ALL APPARENTLY IN FAIR CONDITION.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

OVER

6-3862, AF



I AM NOT POSITIVE OF THE POSITIONS MENTIONED, AS I CAME DOWN NEAR A SMALL TOWN THAT I BELIEVE WAS CALLED WOLFENBUTTEL. HERE I MET MOST OF THE CREW AND LATER WE WERE TAKEN TO BRUNSWICK BY TRUCK WHICH SEEMED TO BE A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 30 MILES IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION.

*Victor L Howard*



**Meldung über den Abschluß eines  
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

**Abschuß-Nr.** KU 3042

**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 28.9.44 13.00

**Abschußort:** Dorstadt b. Wolfenbüttel

**Flugzeugtyp:** Fortress

**Meldende Dienststelle:** Fl. H. Braunschweig-Bretzen

**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	weiches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage

HOWARD Victor L. 1. Lt. 0-764877 gef. Dulag-Luft

SOFIANEK Joseph Carl Sgt. 33613391 gef. Dulag-Luft

**Bemerkungen:** 9406

**DULAG-LUFT, den** 10.10.44 **Wo.**