

Classification changed

RESTRICTED

by L. A. GRADUNA, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

Date OCT 15 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

11573

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Molesworth; Command or Air Force 8th A.F.
Group 303rd; Squadron 55th; Detachment -----
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth; Course See attached chart.
Target or Intended Destination Koeln, Germany; Type of Mission Bombardment
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Solid, undercast - no visibility downward.
- GIVE: (a) Day 10 Month January Year 1945; Time 1440 Location See par. 17.
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 (). See par. 17.
- 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: Note: A/C crashed somewhere in friendly territory.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 44-6508 ✓
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) Unknown.; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1038527 GFA; (b) 1038164 GFA; (c) 1038572 GFA; (d) 1755034 HLC
(e) 1546047 HLC; (f) 997735 FD GM; (g) 190433 FD GM; (h) 590796 FD GM
(i) 643835 FD GM; (j) (2 chairs - unknown.); (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
of (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 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>GATES, GEOIL J.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-768511</u>	<u>DY</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>SAFARA, FREDORR I.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-713556</u>	<u>DY</u>
3. Navigator	<u>O'DELL, BENJAMIN L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-2057817</u>	<u>DY</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>ELLIOTT, HAROLD F.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-782845</u>	<u>DY</u>
5. Top Turret	<u>WYSOCKI, WALTER (NMI)</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>31189392</u>	<u>MIA</u>
6. Radio Gunner	<u>BAUER, CHARLES E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>12051284</u>	<u>MIA</u>
7. Lower Turret	<u>BAUER, RICHARD D.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>12238550</u>	<u>MIA</u>
8. Tail Gunner	<u>KAYRALLAN, EMIL (NMI)</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>19085262</u>	<u>MIA</u>
9. Waist Gunner	<u>WATRYVA, CHRISTOPHER (NMI)</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>3865C129</u>	<u>MIA</u>
10. Voice Int.	<u>HASSLER, PAUL H.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>33078088</u>	<u>DY</u>
11.				

- 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	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. <u>O'DELL, BENJAMIN L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-768511</u>	} ----- Members of crew of A/C.			
2. <u>HASSLER, PAUL H.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>33078088</u>				
3. <u>GATES, GEOIL J.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-768511</u>				

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl 9'

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used X ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____ ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)

Five of the crew have returned to duty.

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. See attached chart.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. See attached statement.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None.

Date of Report 22 January 1945.

Joseph O. Robinson
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
JOSEPH O. ROBINSON,
Captain, 40.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

A/C was hit by A/A gunfire at the target. As it left the target it was losing altitude. It stayed on briefed course until after crossing Rhine south of Koblenz. The A/C then turned west. After receiving some light A/A gunfire, the A/C turned southwest until the fire stopped and then turned west again. #1 and #2 engines were out, #3 was burning and #4 engine was on its way out. A/C was losing altitude at rate of 300 feet per minute. As soon as the navigator had estimated by dead reckoning that the A/C was over friendly territory, the crew was ordered to bail out. It has been established that all of the crew did bail out. The officers on the crew all landed in friendly territory. According to Sgt. Hassler, he was the third man to leave the A/C, not more than a minute after the first. He landed in German territory several miles south-east of St. Vith, Belgium, in the vicinity of 50°10'N--09°20'E. He was able to make his way from there to friendly territory. Lt. O'Dell, the navigator, landed near Fumay, France, and was taken to 20th Division Hqs. He is of the opinion that the crew bailed out between Neufchateau and Pleroville, Belgium. He cannot be certain as there was a solid undercast and none of his navigational aids were working. The place where the A/C itself crashed is not known. The pilot and navigator believe that no more than eight minutes elapsed between the first and last man going out of the A/C.

FEB 22 1945



RECEIVED

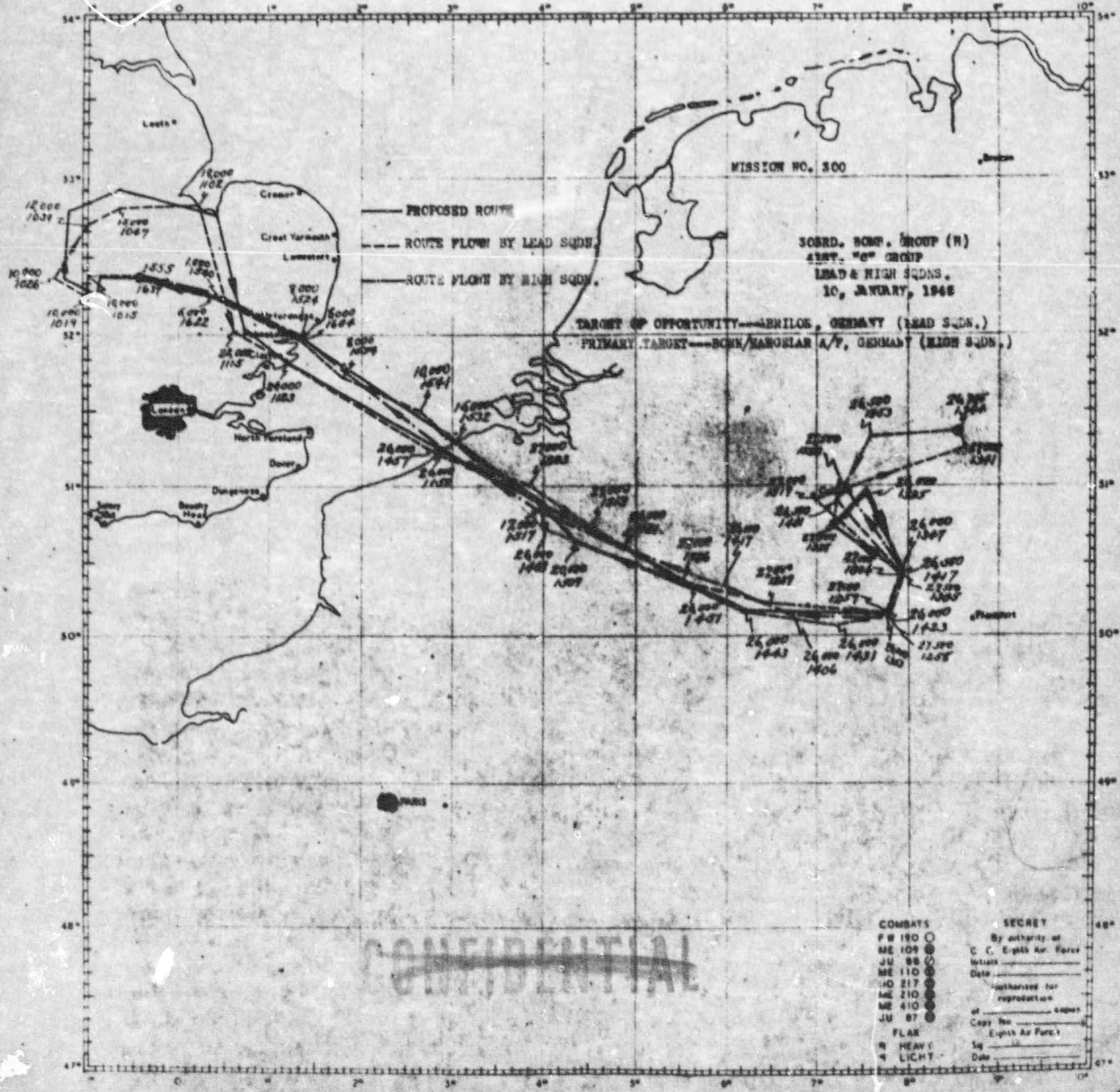
11743

CONFIDENTIAL TRACK CHART

DATE _____

TARGETS
PRIMARY _____

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY _____



CONFIDENTIAL

- COMBAT'S
- FW 190 ○
 - ME 109 ○
 - JU 88 ○
 - ME 110 ○
 - HO 217 ○
 - ME 210 ○
 - ME 410 ○
 - JU 87 ○

FLAK
H HEAVY
L LIGHT

SECRET
By authority of
C. C. Eighth Air Force
Initials _____
Date _____
Authorized for
reproduction
of _____ copies
Copy No. _____
Eighth Air Force
Sq. _____
Date _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
AAF STATION 107
APO 557 - US ARMY

D-A-4

31 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report, 10 January 1945, 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates,
O-768511.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters, 1st Air Division, APO 557, U. S.
Army. (Attention: Statistical Control).

The following change in Missing Air Crew Report, 1st Lt. Cecil J.
Gates, O-768511, 10 January 1945, is hereby made:

*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Par. #17,	line 13 -	Coordinates	<u>50°10'N-08°20'E.</u>			
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Should read: 50°10'N-06°20'E.

For the Commanding Officer:

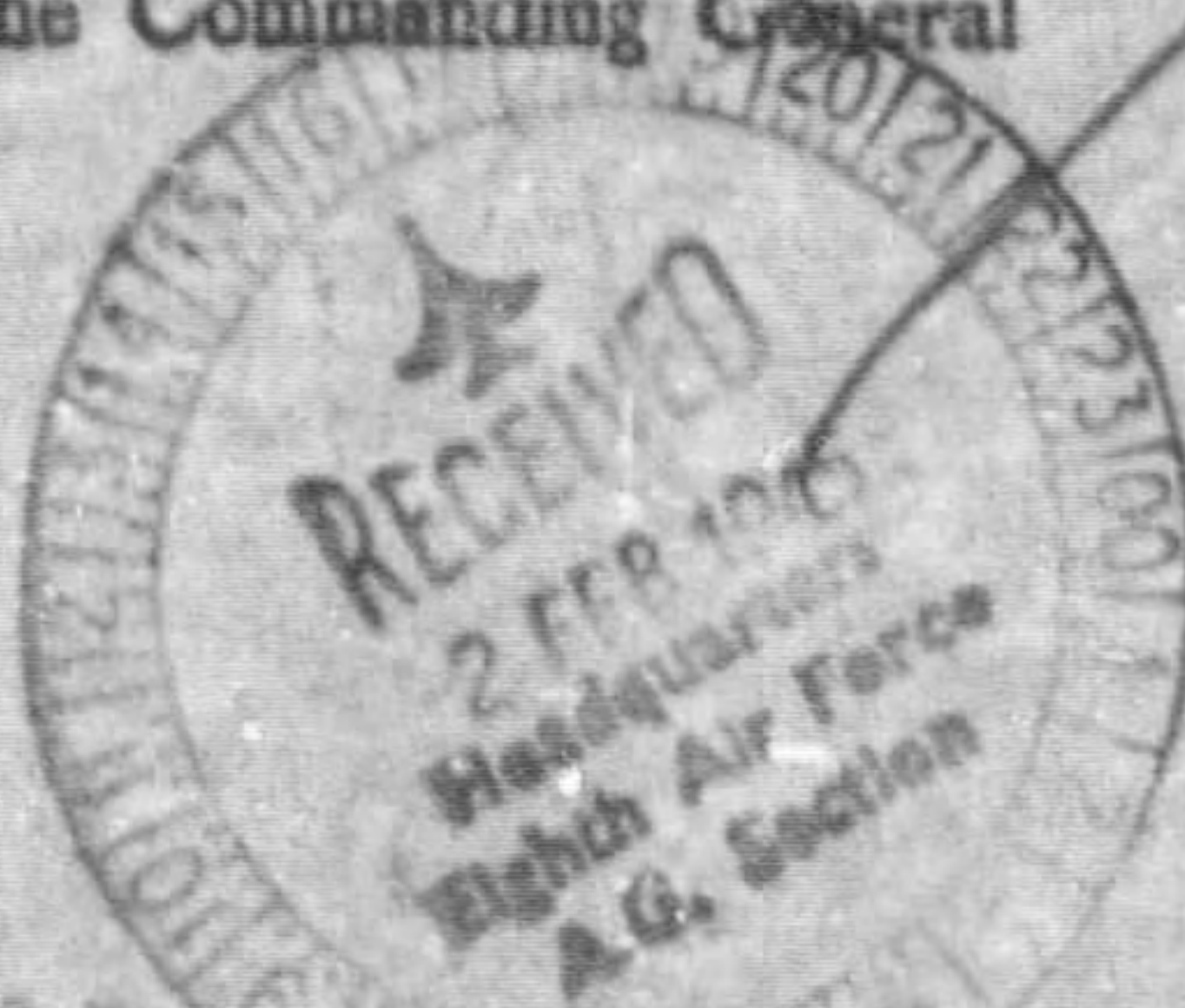
Richard P. Vinal
 RICHARD P. VINAL,
 Captain, AC,
 Adjutant.

201.62 1st Ind. P-1-5
 HEADQUARTERS 1ST AIR DIVISION, APO 557, 2 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.
(Att: 21st Statistical Control Unit).

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General



Harry T. Hance
 HARRY T. HANCE
 Major, AGD
 Asst. Adjutant General

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Ltr Hq Sta 107, APO 557, subj: "MACR 16 Jan 45, 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates, O-768511" dtd 31 Jan 45)

319.1

2nd Ind.

SCU-D-17

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U. S. ARMY.

18 FEB 1945

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, U. S. Army.

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:



Burnis Archer
BURNIS ARCHER
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~

30 Jan

AG 319.1 Cas

3rd Ind.

S: 23 March 1945

JWP/dlt

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887 US ARMY, 8 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.
Attention: Battle Casualty Section.

1. Request clarification of the preceding indorsements and basic communication.
2. No casualty record exists at this headquarters for 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates, O-768511 and no record exists of a Missing Air Crew Report concerning subject officer being received at this headquarters.
3. Verify present status. If 1st Lt. Gates is a casualty submit necessary Battle Casualty Report and Missing Air Crew Report.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER:



Robert L. Woodward
 ROBERT L. WOODWARD,
 Capt. AGD,
 Asst. Adj. General.

G-G-8



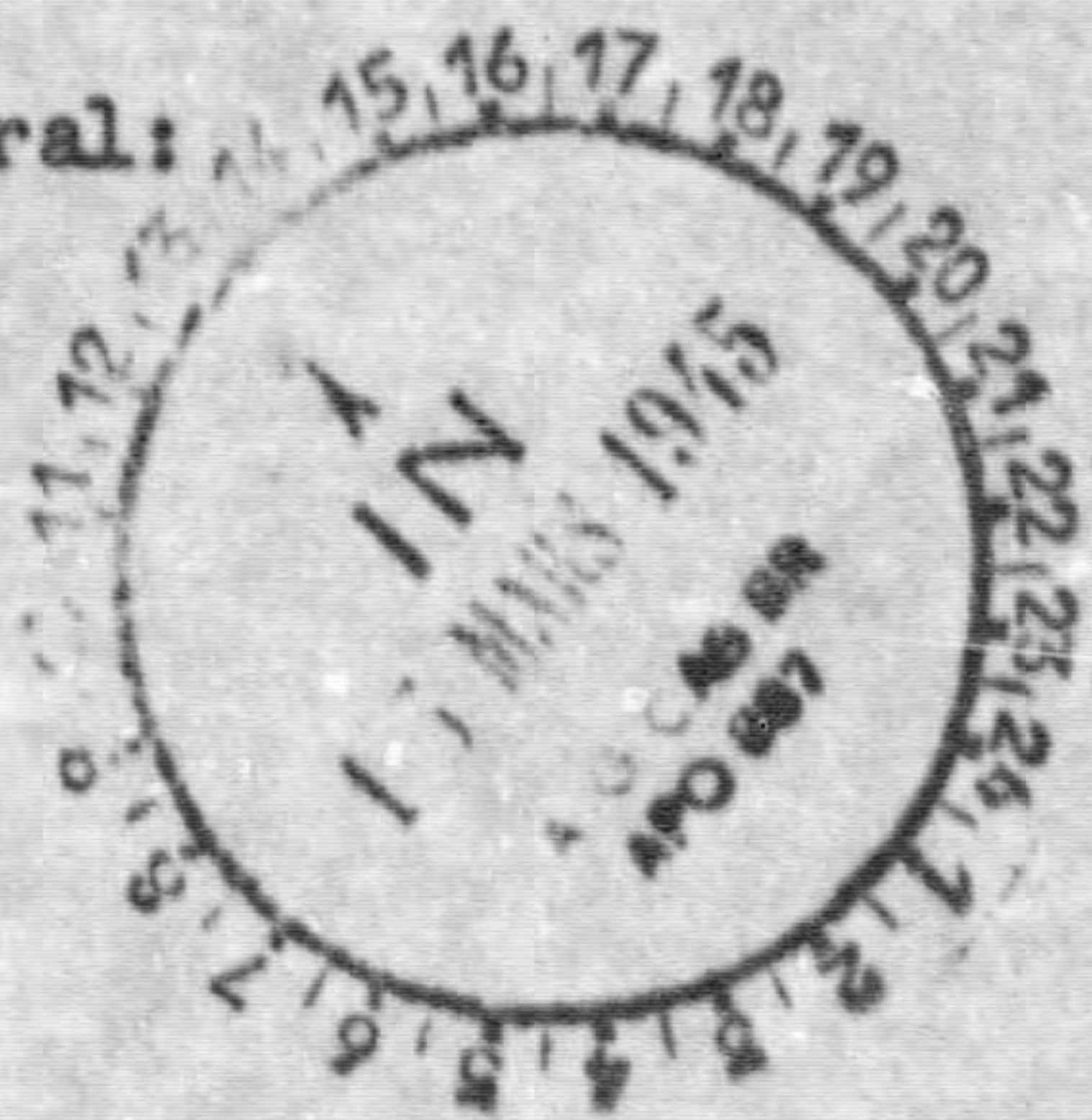
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634, US Army.

11 MAR 1945

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, US Army.
(Attention: Battle Casualty Section)

1. Missing air crew report for aircraft #44-6502 forwarded to your headquarters - 30 January 1945.
2. 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates, O-768511, pilot and four (4) other crew members returned to duty. Five (5) other crew members reported initially MIA - 10 January 1945.

For the Commanding General:



H.S. Wilson, Jr.
 H.S. WILSON, JR.,
 Major, A.G.D.,
 Asst. Adj. Gen.

~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

92

AG 319.1 Cas
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887, U S ARMY, 14 March 1945.

5th Ind.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, 25, D.C.
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded herewith supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, concerning aircraft number 44-6502, piloted by 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates, O-768511.
2. Original Missing Air Crew Report was forwarded to your headquarters by 1st indorsement this headquarters, AG 360.33 Cas, dated 9 February 1945.
3. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of 1st Lt. Cecil J. Gates, O-768511, as not reported as a casualty.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:



H. M. Rund
H. M. RUND, JAO
Colonel, AGD,
Assistant Adjutant General.

11 573

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PK-21870

MACR 11573
 B-17
 AAF 44-6502
 10 men

	Rank:	Name:	KU 1245 a
Date:	10 Jan 45, at 1400	1st Lt. GATES, Cecil J.	07685
Place:	Bastogne	2nd Lt. ZAPORA	
Type of craft:	Fortress	Lt. O'DELL	
Markings:	--	-- ELLIOTT	
	399 (Hq) Sq.	Sgt. TARNAVA, Christopher Jr.	ASN: 38555125
	303 Group	S/Sgt. MAURER, Charles E.	ASN: 12091284
		Sgt. BUNN, Richard Donald	ASN: 12230990
		--	
		--	

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN 19 Jan. 1945, 1400 hrs

CASUALTY NO. KU 1245 A

PLACE OF CRASH Bastogne

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE Harthoche near Bonn

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPTURED WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
------	------	------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

DUNN, Richard Donald 1925 USA	Sgt.	122338530	captured	Dulag Luft West
----------------------------------	------	-----------	----------	-----------------

TARNAVA, Christopher, Jr. 11 Feb. 1925 USA	Sgt.	36555125	captured	Dulag Luft West
---	------	----------	----------	-----------------

MAURER, Charlie E.	Sgt.	12031284	captured	Dulag Luft West
--------------------	------	----------	----------	-----------------

REMARKS

Dulag Luft, 22 Feb. 1945 No.

Remarks:

NR. 1245

KU 1245 A

M. - Stammlager 6 G
Haupt (Post camp) lager Bonn Duisdorf

Harthoehe 27. Jan. 1945

Intelligence Office West

Oberursel / FFA, Main.

Offs. (Sgt) Krause got the order 3 american and 1 british flyer to deliver at above mentioned Office. He is a member of the 2. Comp. Landesschuetzen Bataillon 709.

The following articles were transferred too.

- 1 List of names
- 1 certification about search.
- 1 comparison form.
- 4 covers with prop erty of the prisoner.
- 2 letters.

Dulag Luft Wetzlar 1 Feb. 1945

Grau

Cpt. and 1st. Camp Officer.

KU 1245 A

M Stamalager 6 G
Camp Hardtkebe

Bonn /Duisdorf 25. Jan. 1945

TRANSPORT LIST:

Name list of amer ican and british Flying Sgt's.

1) American Flying Sgt.'s

1. Tarnava

2. Mau'er

3. Duerr

2) British Flying Sgt.

1. Lawrence.

KU 1245. A

Flamersheim 23. Jan. 1945

POW Receiving Unit.
Flamersheim.
Call Flamersheim 306

Subject: Br. Nr. 276/44 List M 18/Oct. .1944.

TO Intelligence Office West
Oberursel.

On 22. Jan .1945 The prisoner (american) Fl. Sgt. Maurer Charles E 12031284
was delivert by Dulag 377 Gerolstein .

The guard Command had not any papers or other documents witch could give ecplanation
about the prisoner.

The prisoner was questioned here and gave the following statements.

Shot down on 10. Jan. 1945 1400.

Place of shot down: 25 km. of Bastogne

Captured on 10. Jan. 1945 1500.

Place of capture : 25 km. of Bastogne

Type of aircraft: 4 mot Fortress P 17 (10 Crewmembers.)

Markings: Behind the Insigni, J

Nr. of admison : unknown

Kind of capture: Flak.

The prisoner flew as waist gunner

The flight began 90 milcs N. of London. (Molesworth)

The prisoner willbe transferred to Camp Hardthoehs and later to Oberursel.

Meymann

Dulag Luft Wetzlar
1. Feb. 1945.

Cpt. and leader of the Office.

Duerr
Tarnava.

Report:

NR. 1245

KU 1245 A

M. - Stammlager 6 &
Haupt (Post camp) Lager Bonn Duisdorf

Harthoche 27. Jan. 1945

Intelligence Office West

General / Lt. Main.

Offn. (Sgt) Kennes got the order 3 american and 1 british flyer to deliver at above mentioned Office. He is a member of the 2. Comp. Landasschutzen Batterie 709.

The following articles were transferred too.

- 1 list of names
- 1 certification about search.
- 1 comparison Fern.
- 4 covers with prop erly of the prisoner.
- 2 letters.

Dulang Luft Wetzlar 1 Feb. 1945

Cy 87th Lt. Camp Officer.

KU 1245. A

Flamersheim 23. Jan. 1945

POW Receiving Unit.
Flamersheim.
Call Flamersheim 306

Subject: Dr. Nr. 276/44 List N 18/Oct. 1944.

TO Intelligence Office West
Oberursel.

On 22. Jan. 1945 The prisoner (American) Fl. Sgt. Maurer Charles E 12031284
was delivered by Dulag 377 Gerolstein.

The guard Command had not any papers or other documents which could give explanation
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Place of capture: 25 km. of Bastogne

Type of aircraft: 4 mot Fortress P 17 (10 Crewmembers.)

Markings: Behind the Insignia, J

Nr. of admission: unknown

Kind of capture: Flak.

The prisoner flew as waist gunner

The flight began 50 miles N. of London. (Molesworth)

The prisoner will be transferred to Camp Hardthoche and later to Oberursel.

Dulag Luft Westalar
1. Feb. 1945.

Cpt. and leader of the Office.
Meymann

Duerr
Tarnava.

S/Sgt. Walter Wysocki

Mr. Adam Wysocki (father) ✓
72 Beverly Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

S/Sgt. Emil Kayrallah

Mrs. Katherine Tornai (sister) ✓
244 Connecticut Street
San Francisco, California

S/Sgt. Charles E. Maurer

Mr. La Verne W. Maurer (father) ✓
143 Warrington Street
Rochester, New York

Sgt. Christopher Tarnava, Jr.

Mr. Christopher Tarnava Sr. (father) ✓
223 Taft Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas

Sgt. Richard D. Duerr

Mr. Arthur F. Duerr (father) ✓
28 Morris Street
North Tonawanda, New York

S/Sgt. Walter Wysocki

Mr. Adam Wysocki (father)
72 Beverly Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

S/Sgt. Emil Kayraian

Mrs. Katherine Tornai (sister)
244 Connecticut Street
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S/Sgt. Charles E. Maurer

Mr. La Verne W. Maurer (father)
143 Barrington Street
Rochester, New York

Sgt. Christopher Tarnava, Jr.

Mr. Christopher Tarnava Sr. (father)
223 Taft Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas

Sgt. Richard D. Duerr

Mr. Arthur F. Duerr (father)
28 Monroe Street
North Tonawanda, New York

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: HASSLER, Paul H.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 33078088
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~ Voice Int.

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR BASTOGNE BELGIUM

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: IN WAIST OF FUSELAGE

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? AT WAIST DOOR

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN (substitute)

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member:

KAYRALLAH, Nail (NMI)

Rank:

S/Sgt

Serial number:

19085262

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Pilot)~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YESWhere? NEAR BASTOGNE BELGIUM

If not, why not? _____

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

NONEWas he injured? BELIEVE NOTWhere was he when last seen? BAILING OUT OF PLANEAny hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

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

ACCORDING TO OBSERVATION HIS CHUTE FAILED
TO OPENTotal number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN (Substitute)

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: WISOCKI, Walter (MIL)
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 31169392
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Top Turret

Did he bail out? Didn't SEE Him

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

IN Bomb Bay. HE STATED WE WERE TO JUMP

Was he injured? SLIGHTLY

Where was he when last seen? BEHIND PILOT'S POSITION

Any hearsay information: NONE

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25

Dates and destinations if possible: 11/27/44 OFFENBURG - 11/29/44 MIBURG

11/9/44 KASSEL - 12/5/44 BERLIN - 12/11/44 FRANKFURT - 12/12/44 MERSEBERG

12/13/44 ASCHAFFENBURG - 12/27/44 EUSKIRCHEN - 12/29/44 BINGEN - 12/31/44 HAMBURG

1/1/45 COBLENZ - 1/2/45 SARRLAUTERN

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: ELLIOTT, Harold F.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-782843
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? DIDN'T SEE HIM

Where? _____

If not, why not? DON'T KNOW

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

OXYGEN CHECK

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? NOSE OF PLANE

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: AROUND 20

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: O'DELL, Benjamin L.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: O-2057817
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? DIDNT SEE HIM

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

HE TOLD US TO BAIL OUT AS INTERPHONE WAS OUT

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN WALIST

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: ZAFORA, Theodore I.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-719916
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? DIDNT SEE HIM

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? DONT THINK SO

Where was he when last seen? CO PILOTS SEAT

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: AROUND 22

Dates and destinations if possible: 11/27/44 OFFENBURG - 11/29/44 MISBURG

12/9/44 KASSEL - 12/5/44 BERLIN - 12/11/44 FRANKFURT - 12/12/44 MERSEBERG

12/13/44 ASCHAFFENBURG - 12/27/44 EUSKIRCHEN - 12/29/44 BINGEN - 12/31/44 HAMBURG

1/1/45 COBLENZ - 1/2/45 SAARLAUTERN

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member:

GATES, Cecil J.

Rank:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

O-768511

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER/COPILOT~~

Pilot

Did he bail out? DIDN'T SEE HIM

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

NONE AS INTERPHONE SYSTEM WAS SHOT OUTWas he injured? NOT SUREWhere was he when last seen? PILOTS SEATAny hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONETotal number of missions of above crew member: 15Dates and destinations if possible: 11/27/44 OFFENBORG - 11/29/44 MIBORG - 12/4/44 KASSEL12/15/44 BERNIN - 12/17/44 FRANKFURT - 12/12/44 MELSEBERG - 12/13/44 ASCHAFFENBURG12/27/44 EUSKIRCHEN - 12/29/44 RINGEN - 12/31/44 HAMBURG - 1/1/45 COBLENZ1/2/45 SAARLAUTERN

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name MAURER, CHARLES E. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 12031289
2. Organization 303 Gp Commander Col. William S. RAPER Rank COL Sqn CO RICHARD H. COWE Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JANUARY day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, COLOGNE, target, BRIDGE, target time, NO KNOWLEDGE, altitude, AROUND 30,000 FT. route scheduled, NO KNOWLEDGE, route flown NO KNOWLEDGE
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER COLOGNE GERMANY
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES - TAIL GUNNER, WAIST GUNNER, BALL TURRET GUNNER, VOICE INT.
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". WAIST GUNNER - BALL TURRET GUNNER AND MYSELF JUMPED WITHIN MINUTES OF EACH OTHER LANDING ABOUT 10 MILES APART. BOTH WAIST GUNNER AND BALL GUNNER LANDED SAFELY
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) NO KNOWLEDGE
11. Where were they in aircraft? NO KNOWLEDGE
12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? AT THEIR RELATIVE POSITIONS, ALL SEEMS PHYSICALLY ALRIGHT.
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)

Our interphone system was shot out. We were told by Lt. Benjamin O'Bell, navigator, that we were to bail out when the Co pilot gave us a signal. The tail gunner bailed out first but no chute was seen, then the voice int. and likewise no chute was seen to open. The waist gunner, ball turret gunner and myself were the only chutes I seen in the sky. The fate of the others I have no knowledge of.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: GATES, Cecil J.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: O-768511
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? Not known

Where? ..

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ~~He asked for~~
A check. Then inter -phone went dead

Was he injured? Not/any knowledge

Where was he when last seen? In pilots seat

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: none

Total number of missions of above crew member: NOT KNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: ..

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member:

O'DELL, Benjamin L.

Rank:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

O-3057817

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Navigator

Did he bail out? Not known

Where? ..

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ~~He checked~~
into pilot

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? not known

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: none

Total number of missions of above crew member: not known

Dates and destinations if possible: ..

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member:

ELLIOTT, Harold F.

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-752843

Position: Crew (Bomber)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Bombardier

Did he bail out?

~~Not~~ Known

Where?

..

If not, why not?

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

~~He checked~~

into pilot

Was he injured?

Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

not known

Any hearsay information:

none

Source:

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

none

Total number of missions of above crew member:

not known

Dates and destinations if possible:

..

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: **WISOCKI, Walter (MIA)**
 Rank: **S/Sgt**
 Serial number: **31189392**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ **Top Secret**

Did he bail out? Not Known

Where? ..

If not, why not? ..

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He checked
on inter phone into pilot then interphone went dead

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? On flight deck behind pilot, co-pilot

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: none
none

Total number of missions of above crew member: not known

Dates and destinations if possible: ..

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member:

KAYRAHAR, Earl (PHI)

Rank:

S/Sgt

Serial number:

19085262

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER/PILOT~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Same place I did He jumped first and I was second to jump

If not, why not? _____

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

Waist from the tail, He and I Removed waist door, then he jumped first

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? Leaving The airplane

Any hearsay information: NO

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: where WE jumped

There were front line troops, they may have caught and killed him.

Total number of missions of above crew member: not known

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11573

Name of crew member: KASSLER, Paul F.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 33076000
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) X Voice Int.

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? If so not known

If not, why not? I dont know

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just after
we were hit the pilot asked for a check and he answered to that

Was he injured? he said that he wasnt

Where was he when last seen? Just before I jumped he was in the waist

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: After I jumped
I looked up and only saw two other chutes later I found out that it
was the Ball Gunner and Radio Man . The airplane was still flying when
I last saw it. I believe That he never jumped, seemed to be scared worse
than the rest of us.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Not known

Dates and destinations if possible: ..

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name TARNAVA, Christopher JR Rank Sgt. Serial No. 38555125
2. Organization 303 Gp Commander W.S. Raper Rank Col Sqn CO Richard Cole Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JAN. day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Not KNOWN, target, EISENKIRCHEN, target time, ABOUT NOON, altitude, 26000 route scheduled, Not KNOWN, route flown Not KNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? IN THE WAIST
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes. Bail GUNNER first, then I followed him, BAIL GUNNER followed ME, then the RADIO MAN WAS LAST MAN 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". well the BAIL GUNNER followed me out. Then the Radio MAN followed. I didn't see ANY other "chutes" after those two. the AIR CRAFT WAS STILL IN FLIGHT when I hit the GROUND
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) NO Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? NO Knowledge
12. What was their condition? NOT KNOWN
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? When I left the AIRCRAFT EVERYONE checked in, to my knowledge they were OK. THEN ON THE GROUND I teamed up with the BAIL GUNNER. we were held. CAPTURE FOR SEVERAL HOURS. THEN we were taken PRISONER. The SAME BUNCH had CAUGHT the RADIO MAN EARLIER. we were OK except for a few BRUISES + STUFF.
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)

(over)

I DIDN'T KNOW THE FELLOWS ON THIS CREW I HAD TO FLY
SPARE WITH THE CREW & THERE FOR I WASN'T AWAKEN TO GO TO
THE BRIEFING SO I AM NOT SURE OF SOME OF THESE DETAILS
BUT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THEY ARE CORRECT.

Christopher Tamar

Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschuß-Nr. KU 1245 A

Abschußtag und Zeit: 10.1.45 - 14.00
 Abschußort: Bastogene
 Flugzeugtyp: Fortress
 Meldende Dienststelle: Maxhöhe b. Bonn

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
✓ DUNN 1925 Richard Donald USA	Sgt.	122338550	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
✓ TARNAVA 11.2.25 Christopher Tex.	Sgt.	38555125	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
✓ MAURER Charlie E.	Sgt.	12031284	gef.	Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen:

MAC 11573

DULAG-LUFT, den 22.2.45 Vo.