





Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUNCH, Capt., AC  
Date 22 15 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

11760

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.G.; Squadron 359th; Detachment ----
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course See attached chart.  
Target or Intended Destination Aschaffenburg, Ger. Type of Mission Bombardment
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 3-5/10ths cloud, tops 18-20,000 feet, Visibility good.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 21 Month January Year 1945 Time 1120 Location 48°27'N-08°20'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: A/C was involved in a mid-air collision with another A/C from this Group.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 42-97058
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any Scorchy
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-023522; (b) SW-025461; (c) SW-007002; (d) 42-77718
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
(a) 638891 FDGM; (b) 638251 FDGM; (c) 638852 FDGM; (d) 652371 FDGM;  
(e) 949955 SA; (f) 950025 SA; (g) 1181870 SA; (h) 949964 SA;  
(i) 898798 BA; (j) (2 chins unknown); (l) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(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 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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank    | Serial Number | Current Status |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Pilot        | TASKER, RICHARD F.                | 2nd Lt. | 0-826029      | MIA            |
| 2. Co-Pilot     | FRANCIS, ANGELITO (NMI)           | 2nd Lt. | 0-828998      | MIA            |
| 3. Navigator    | MEADOWS, CLYDE (NMI)              | F/O     | T-129168      | MIA            |
| 4. Bombardier   | MC DONNELL, JOHN J.               | 2nd Lt. | 0-2063189     | MIA            |
| 5. Top Turret   | TOON, WILLIAM D.                  | S/Sgt.  | 11090807      | MIA            |
| 6. Radio Gunner | HINNERSHOTS, BRUCE H.             | S/Sgt.  | 33371029      | MIA            |
| 7. Ball Turret  | KAPCZYNSKI, PAUL B.               | Sgt.    | 33427064      | MIA            |
| 8. Waist Gunner | VAN ORNUM, CHARLES S.             | S/Sgt.  | 39575057      | MIA            |
| 9. Tail Gunner  | DRIVER, ARTHUR H.                 | Sgt.    | 19195058      | MIA            |
| 10. Voice Int.  | HURLBUTT, CARL R.                 | S/Sgt.  | 16035994      | MIA            |
| 11.             |                                   |         |               |                |

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

| Name in Full<br>(Last Name First) | Rank   | Serial Number | Check Only One Column |              |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                                   |        |               | Contacted by radio    | Last Sighted | Saw Forced Landing |
| 1. CHALMERS, JOHN D.              | F/O    | T-126685      |                       | X            |                    |
| 2. GARZA, DAVID (NMI)             | S/Sgt. | 38462212      |                       | X            |                    |
| 3.                                |        |               |                       |              |                    |

(Over)

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13. 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)

Indefinite report three parachutes were seen.

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 S-2 Summary attached.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None.

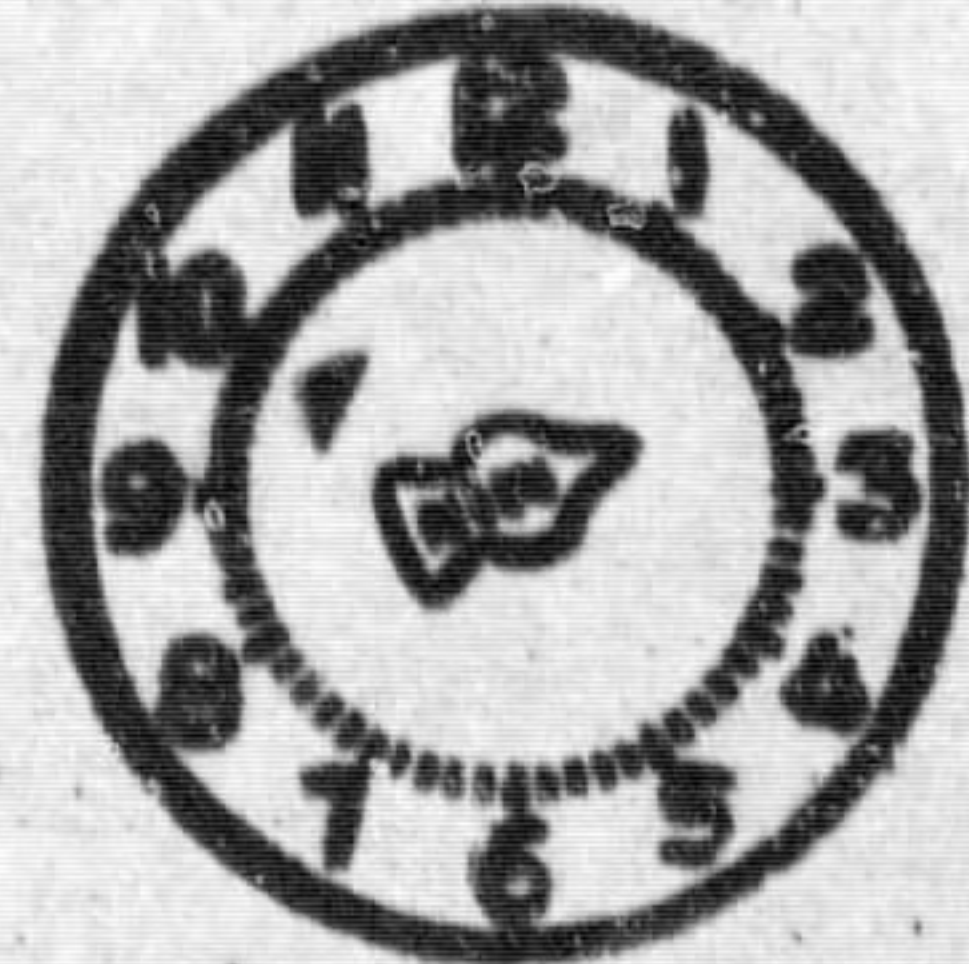
Date of Report 22 January 1945

*Joseph G. Robinson*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
JOSEPH G. ROBINSON,  
Captain, AC.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See S-2 Summary attached.

MAR 9 1945



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C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 303rd B. SQ 359th A/C # 42-97058 MISSION DATE 21 January 1945

FIRST PILOT TASKER, RICHARD F. 2nd Lt. O-826029 DESTINATION Aschaffenburg, Ger.  
NAME RANK SER#

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

- (a) By coordinates 48°27'N--08°20'E
- (b) Approximate altitude 23,000 at time of collision.
- (c) Last noted heading Going down
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Going down.

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft):

None

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

A/C which was leading second flight collided with the squadron leader and both A/C went down.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

The left wing of A/C 44-8137 caught the right wing of A/C 42-97058. The wing of A/C 42-97058 came off and the A/C went down.

(Over)

C O N F I D E N T I A L



5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort?                      If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.).     **Fighter support was present.**    

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):     **No parachutes were seen by any crews of this Group which were flying in the high squadron of the group formation. S-2 of the 379th Bomb Group (H) which furnished the low squadron in the group formation states several crews report seeing some parachutes and bodies falling out, the number being three. Sgt. Garza was able to follow the A/C all the way to the ground. He saw no parachutes.**    

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:  
                                    **44-8137 -- Also Missing**  
    Reporting A/C **44-48576**      
                                    **42-97058 - Missing A/C.**

                                    **44-6316 - Reporting A/C**  
8. Date of report                     **22 January 1945**

| <u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u> | <u>NAME</u>                                 | <u>RANK</u>                                 | <u>SFR #</u>                                | <u>A/C #</u>                                |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1.                    | <u>CHALMERS, JOHN D.</u>                    | <u>F/O</u>                                  | <u>T-126685</u>                             | <u>44-48576</u>                             |
| 2.                    | <u>GARZA, DAVID (NMI)</u>                   | <u>S/Sgt.</u>                               | <u>38462212</u>                             | <u>44-6316</u>                              |
| 3.                    | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> |
| 4.                    | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> | <u>                                    </u> |

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

|                                  |              |                 |                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <u><i>Joseph G. Robinson</i></u> | <u>Capt.</u> | <u>0-904618</u> | <u>Ass't S-2.</u> |
| <u>JOSEPH G. ROBINSON</u>        | <u>RANK</u>  | <u>SER #</u>    | <u>DUTY</u>       |

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par C, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.



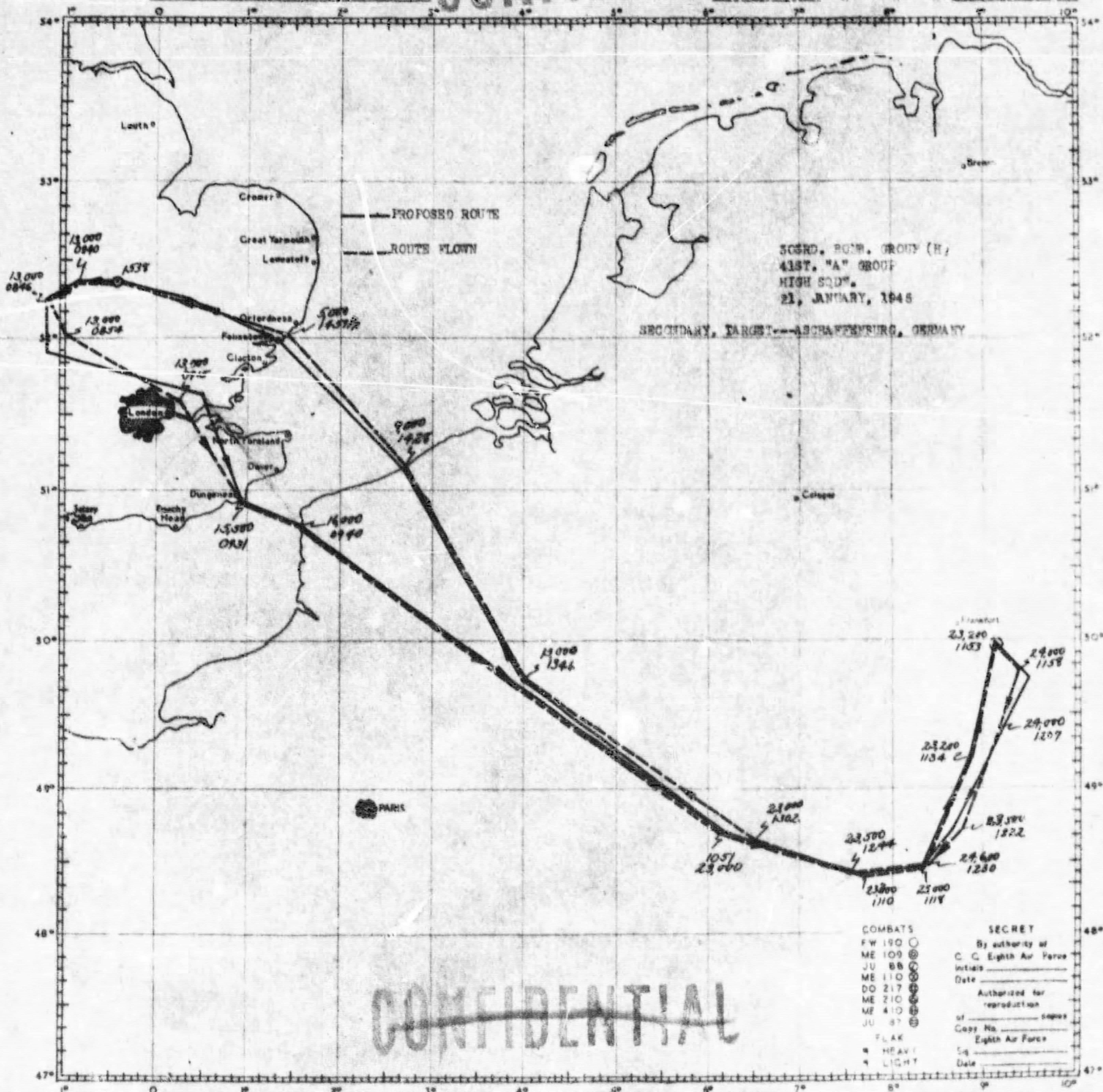
# TRACK CHART

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TARGETS  
PRIMARY \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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HEADQUARTERS  
AAF STATION 107  
APO 557, US ARMY

D-A-3

31 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report, 2nd Lt Richard F. Tasker, O-826029.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Air Division, APO 557, U.S. Army.  
(Att'n: Statistical Control).

1. The following change in Missing Air Crew Report, 2nd Lt Richard F. Tasker, O-826029, 21 January 1945 is hereby made:

Par. #4 \* \* \* Location 48°27'-08°20'  
\* \* \* \* \*

Should read: \* \* \* Location 49°27'-08°20'

2. Par #1(a) of S-2 Summary attached thereto should be changed in the same way.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Richard P. Vinial*  
RICHARD P. VINIAL,  
Captain, AC,  
Adjutant.

201.62 1st Ind. P-L-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

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*Casualty*

(Ltr Hq AAF Sta 107, APO 557, subj: "Missing Air Crew Report, 2nd Lt Richard F. Tasker, O-826029" dtd 31 Jan 45)

319.1 *m. A. C. R.*

2nd Inrl.

SCU-D-17

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

10 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  
Maj. A.G.D.  
Asst. Adi. Gen



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|   |                             |                          |  |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 7 | 2nd Lt. Richard F. Tasker   | <u>KIA</u>               | Mrs. Estella B. Tasker (Mother)<br>259 Hawthorne Street<br>New Bedford, Massachusetts  |
| 2 | 2nd Lt. Angelito Francis    | <u>KIA</u>               | Mr. Joseph Francis (Father)<br>66 Mill Street<br>New Bedford, Massachusetts            |
| 6 | F/O Clyde Meadows           | <u>MIA</u>               | Mrs. Catherine S. Meadows (Wife)<br>987 Springdale Road<br>Atlanta, Georgia            |
| 5 | 2nd Lt. John J. Mc Donnell  | <u>KIA</u>               | Miss Marie Mc Donnell (Sister)<br>R. F. D. Number One<br>Waterford, Connecticut        |
| 8 | S/Sgt. William D. Toon      | <u>KIA</u>               | Mr. William T. Toon (Father)<br>33 Howitte Road<br>West Roxbury, Massachusetts         |
| 3 | S/Sgt. Bruce H. Hinnershots | <u>KIA</u>               | Mr. Harry W. Hinnershots (Father)<br>2152 Perkidmen Avenue<br>Mount Penn, Pennsylvania |
| — | Sgt. Paul B. Kapczynski     | <u>MIA</u>               | Mrs. Anna Kapczynski (Mother)<br>1206 Methyl Street<br>Pittsburg, Pennsylvania         |
| 9 | S/Sgt. Charles S. Van Ornum | <u>MIA</u>               | Mrs. Agnes O. Van Ornum (Mother)<br>4440 Bemis Street<br>Los Angeles, California       |
| 1 | Sgt. Arthur H. Driver       | <u>KIA</u><br><u>POW</u> | Mrs. Betty M. Driver (Wife)<br>802 East First Street<br>Ellensburg, Washington         |
| 4 | S/Sgt. Carl R. Hurlbutt     | <u>MIA</u>               | Mrs. Naney A. Hurlbutt (Wife)<br>2942 West 53rd Street<br>Chicago, Illinois            |



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 11760

Name of crew member: FRANCIS, Angelito (NMI)  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: 0-828998  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? NO

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Probably killed at time of collision

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: KAPCZYNSKI, Paul B.  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 33427064  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~ ~~Flight~~ Ball Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: all the information I can give is based on my own difficulty in leaving the plane, and the facts given me by the Germans in Lousburg - all the members of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: only mission with

Dates and destinations if possible: my crew.



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: HINNERSHOTS, Bruce H.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 33371029  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight/Flight Officer~~ Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: all the information I can give is based on my own difficulty in leaving the plane, and the facts given me by the Germans in Lossburg - all the members of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: only mission with

Dates and destinations if possible: my crew



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: VAN ORNUM, Charles S.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 39575057  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight/Fighter~~ // Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? no

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

information I can give is based on my own difficulty  
in leaving the plane, and the facts given me  
by the Germans in Rosburg - all the members  
of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21

Dates and destinations if possible: not possible



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: TOON, William D.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 11090807  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight/Fighter!~~ Top Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

information I can give is based on my own  
difficulty in leaving the plane - and the facts  
given me by the Germans in Lossburg - and  
the members of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: MC DONNELL, John J.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: O-2063189  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~ ~~(Fighter)~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

information I can give is based on my own  
difficulty in ~~the~~ leaving the plane, and the  
facts given me by the Germans in Lossburg  
all the members of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: MEADOWS, Clyde (NMI)  
Rank: F/O  
Serial number: T-129168  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight/Navigator~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: all the information I can give is based on my own difficulty in leaving the plane, and the facts given me by the German in Lorschburg, all the members of my crew were killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11760

Name of crew member: TASKER, Richard F.  
 Rank: 2nd Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-826029  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flyer~~ / ~~(Fighter)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Probably killed at time of collision.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DRIVER, ARTHUR H. Rank SPT. Serial No. 17:95058
2. Organization AAF Gp Commander <sup>303 RD</sup> A. X. X Rank <sup>35724</sup> Col. Sqn CO COLE Rank Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JAN. day 21 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, \_\_\_\_\_, target  
time, 11 A.M., altitude, 23,000 ft. route scheduled, ACROSS  
FRANCE TO GERM, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER GERMANY
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NO
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". \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? LOSSBURG, GERMANY
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 9
11. Where were they in aircraft? AIRCRAFT EXPLODED
12. What was their condition? BODIES BLOWN TO PIECES
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. I WITNESSED THE  
CRASH & EXPLOSION OF AIRCRAFT WE COLLIDED WITH-  
SAW BOMBARDIER OF THAT SHIP - NO NAMES I  
CAN REMEMBER AT THIS TIME - HE WAS ONLY  
SURVIVOR

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

July



German civilians of Lossburg - were quite curious and consequently friendly to me. They were the source of my information concerning the fate of my crew members. I was quite positive no one bailed out, but couldn't be sure - I didn't get clear of the ship until about a 1,000 ft above Lossburg - and landed about 400 yds from the village.

I was on the ground a second when both ships hit & exploded - no over a half mile from myself & the village.

The Germans didn't allow me to go to the crash, but told me the bodies were blown to small pieces -

They searched the area the rest of that day & the next for others who may have parachuted.



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MACR-11760

JPAK  
22

AG 319.1 Cas.

3rd Ind.

JWP/JFR/rr

HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887, U.S. ARMY, 17 February 1945

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.

1. Forwarded herewith supplement to Missing Air Crew Report concerning aircraft number 42-97058, piloted by 2nd Lt. Richard F. Tasker, O-826029.
2. Original Missing Air Crew Report was forwarded to your headquarters by 1st indorsement this headquarters AG 360.33 Cas., dated 16 February 1945.
3. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of 2nd Lt. Tasker to be, missing in action, 21 January 1945.

For the Theater Commander:

*H M Rund*

H. M. RUND, *w*  
Colonel, AGD,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

No MACR  
27 FEB 45  
cdc

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