

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13568

Classification changed:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
J. S. MURPHY, Capt., AC
Date 1 MAR 1948

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RESTRICTED

P. 25

Fl. How - 20

Rev. by P. G. B.

P. 27.

MAY 5 1945

5 1945

(Date)

No letters need answer required

H.A.K.

(Initials)

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Classification changed

RESTRICTED

by BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
MUENCH, Capt., AG
1 MAR 1945

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 Bomb. Squadron 427th; Detachment - - - - -
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course See Attached Chart.
 Target or Intended Destination Zossen, Germany; Type of Mission Bombardment
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
0-3/10ths low cloud, visibility aloft good.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 15 Month March Year 1945 Time 1400 Location 52°38' N-10°00' E
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (X); 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: Unknown mechanical failure.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 43-39220
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number (a) SW 037326; (b) SW 037365; (c) SW 037327; (d) SW 037314
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
 (a) 1758716 BLC; (b) 1758705 BLC; (c) 1768623 BLC; (d) 1768545 BLC;
 (e) 1768544 BLC; (f) 1780069 BLC; (g) 1768597 BLC; (h) 1768504 BLC;
 (i) 1768562 BLC; (j) 1768660 BLC; (k) 1297993 FRIG; (l) _____;
 (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
 of (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 8; Passengers 0; Total 8
 (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>Richardson, Thomas W.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-828337</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Ayling, Peter D.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-781166</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Rubins, William Ronald</u>	<u>2/O</u>	<u>T-133145</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>Pacheco, John E.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-927216</u>	<u>MIARMC</u>
5. T.T.Gunner	<u>Lindeman, Henry E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>36828651</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
6. B.T.Gunner	<u>Graves, John M.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>18219808</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
7. Radio Op.	<u>Grossman, Howard A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>36035598</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
8. T.Gunner	<u>Wakefield, Richard E.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>37587516</u>	<u>MIARMC RTD</u>
9.				
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 Landing
1. <u>Denian, Julius C.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-3919</u>	<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Tractman, Bernard</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-133026</u>	<u>X</u>		
3. <u>Frohn, Robert (NMI)</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-783787</u>			<u>(Informed by Eastern Base Command 8th A.F.)</u>

(Over)

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Incl. 7

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) A/C still under control when last reported.
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. See attached chart.
15. ATTACH CREW/PILOT 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 9 April 1945

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

17. REMARKS OF EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:
See S-2 Summary Attached.

MAY 5 1945



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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 305th Bomb SQ 427th A/C # 43-39220 MISSION DATE 15 March 1945.
FIRST PILOT Richardson, Thomas W. E/Lt. RANK O-2/8337 DESTINATION Zossen, Germany.
NAME RANK SER.#

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

- (a) By coordinates 52°33'N-10°00'E
- (b) Approximate altitude 22,500'
- (c) Last noted heading East
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Still in formation but dropping behind.

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): **Pilot of missing A/C called in and reported he had one propeller feathered.**

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Still under control.

(Over)

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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.). Missing A/C heard to call for fighter escort.

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

None.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above: Missing A/C called on VIII and reported it was going to abort as it had one engine feathered and it was going to head for the lines. Which lines were not specified but it was thought that the western front lines were meant. Later, information was received from 1st Air Division that the A/C had landed at Okocin A/F, near Warsaw, Poland. Lt. Krohn who recently returned from Russia confirmed that the Eastern Base Command of the 8th A.F. at Poltava had been informed by the Russians that the A/C had landed there, but there was no information available as to the status of the crew.

8. Date of report 19 March 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>Dorian, Julius C.</u>	<u>P/O</u>	<u>T-3519</u>	<u>42-87311</u>
2.	<u>Tractman, Bernard</u>	<u>P/O</u>	<u>T-133026</u>	<u>42-87311</u>
3.	<u>Krohn, Robert (SMI)</u>	<u>S/Lt.</u>	<u>O-788787</u>	<u>Not available.</u>
4.				

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>Joseph G. Robinson</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>O-904613</u>	<u>Asst. S-2.</u>
<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>DUTY</u>

JOSEPH G. ROBINSON

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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

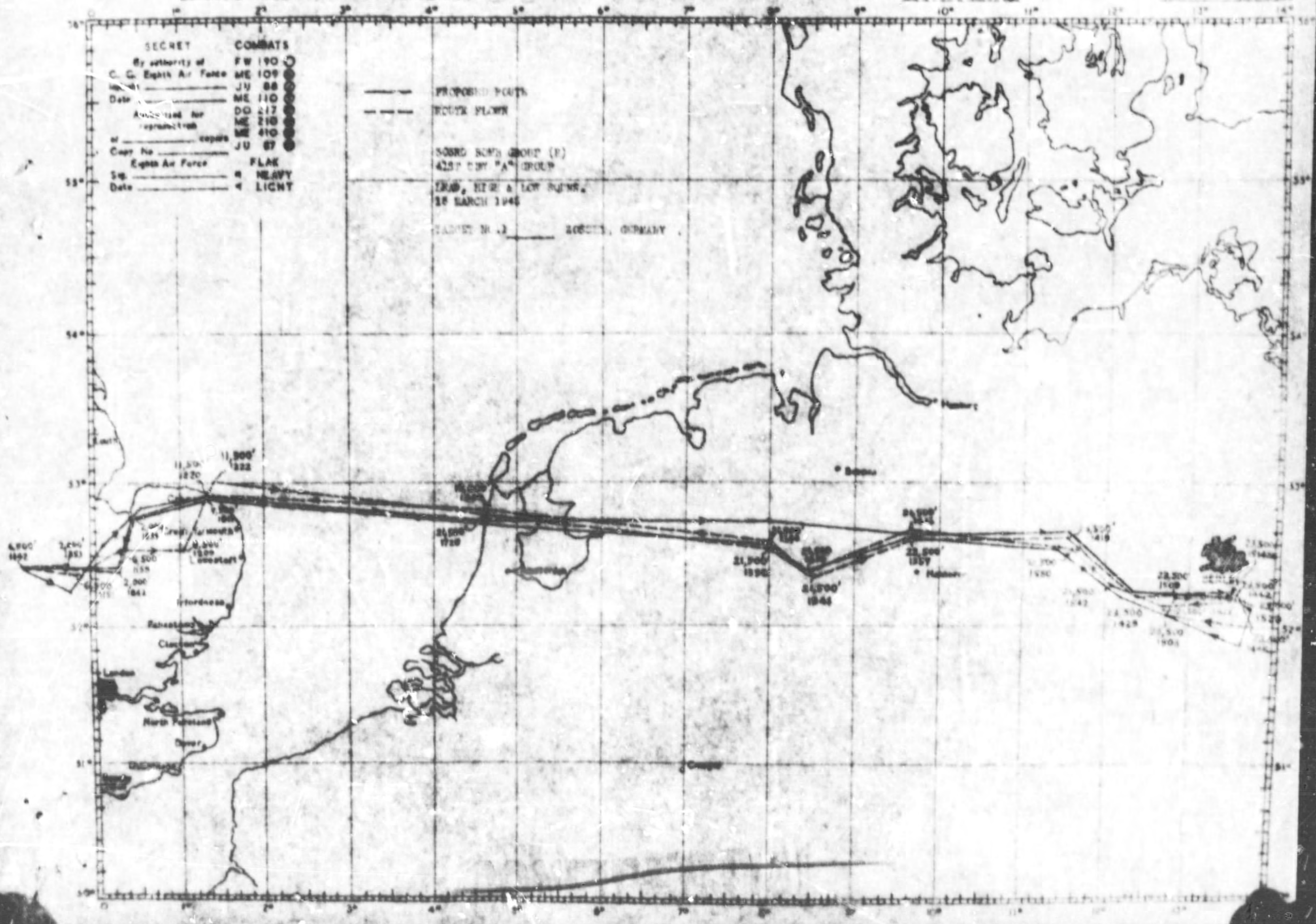
TRACK CHART

DATE _____

TARGETS
PRIMARY _____

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY _____

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SECRET
By authority of
C. G. Eighth Air Force
Date
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Eighth Air Force
SG
Date

COMBATS
FW 190
ME 109
JU 88
ME 110
DO 217
ME 210
ME 410
JU 87
FLAK
HEAVY
LIGHT

PROPOSED PATH
ROUTE PLANNED

50800 SQM GROUP (F)
4257 SQM "A" GROUP

TRIP, HIGH & LOW ALTITUDE,
18 MARCH 1945

TARGET NO. 1 SCOTT'S, GERMANY

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Your name Pacheco, John E. Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-9 27216
2. Organization 303 Gp Commander W. Raper Rank Col. Sqn CO John W. Sheets Rank Maj.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month ~~XXXX~~ March day 15 did you go down? Warsaw, Poland
4. What was the mission, Berlin, target, German headquarters, target time, 1430, altitude, 24,000 Ft. route scheduled across FRANCE, in an eastern dir. Sq., route flown Same of Hannover to IP.
5. Where were you when you left formation? at the initial point.
6. Did you bail out? No, we could not make it back, so we crashed in POLAND
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".
No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the city of WARSAW, POLAND
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
Complete Crew
11. Where were they in aircraft? Emergency landing positions
12. What was their condition? Good
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 or any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. We also ^{saw} another crew from our home base, who had gone down after we did.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)