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

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 358th; Detachment - - -
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course See attached chart.
Target or Intended Destination Oranienburg, Ger.; Type of Mission Bombardment.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
No Clouds - Visibility Aloft Good. *64 mi NW of Frankfurt*
4. GIVE: (a) Day 10 Month April Year 1945; Time 1440 Location 52°50'N-13°15'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 44-8427 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-008497; (b) 43-63871; (c) SW-014439; (d) 42-138018
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) 316013 HS; (b) 1230724 IBM; (c) 1314667 BA; (d) 1220623 BA; (e) 1236702 BA; (f) 1321752 BA; (g) 1322077 BA; (h) 1322316 BA; (i) 1774147 BLC; (j) _____; (k) _____; (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 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.)

Status

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	MURRAY, ROBERT I.	2nd Lt.	0-821336	MIA ✓
2. Co-Pilot	FRIES, LAWRENCE L. JR.	2nd Lt.	0-2062170	MIA ✓
3. Navigator	SMITH, HAROLD S.	F/O	T-129758	MIA ✓
4. Bombardier	HAMMARLUND, CARL O.	S/Sgt.	36296564	MIA ✓
5. TT Gunner	BRUNALE, VITO J.	S/Sgt.	12220844	MIA ✓ <i>RMC</i>
6. Radio Gunner	BATES, THEODORE A.	S/Sgt.	33619466	MIA ✓ <i>RTD</i>
7. BT Gunner	RODOCK, NICHOLAS (NMI)	Sgt.	33609025	MIA ✓
8. Tail Gunner	RENNIE, ROBERT P.	Sgt.	33609175	MIA ✓
9. Spot Jumper	ATKINSON, GERALD V.	S/Sgt.	34814970	MIA ✓
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. BARTHOLOMEW, MAX R.	2/Lt.	0-929990		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2.						
3.						

(Over)

- 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) _____
- 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 **16 April 1945.**

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

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



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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 303rd Bomb SQ 358th A/C # 44-8427 MISSION DATE 10 April 1945.

FIRST PILOT MURRAY, ROBERT I. 2nd Lt. 0-821336 DESTINATION ORANIENBURG, GER.
NAME RANK SER#

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

- (a) By coordinates 52°50'N - 15°15'E.
- (b) Approximate altitude 23,000 -
- (c) Last noted heading North.
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation last seen sliding through formation.

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft): **Persistent B/A attack by a Me 262 coming in on tail of missing A/C.**

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc): **A/C burst into flames between #3 and #4 engines. A/C was not seen to fall apart.**

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Missing A/C held course for very few seconds after being hit, then peeled slightly up and then slid over and down to the right through the formation. Appeared at that time to be out of control.

(Over)

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

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

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

None seen.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Nil.

8. Date of report 12 April 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	BARTHOLMEW, MAX R.	2/Lt.	0-929990	311 "O"
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

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

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.

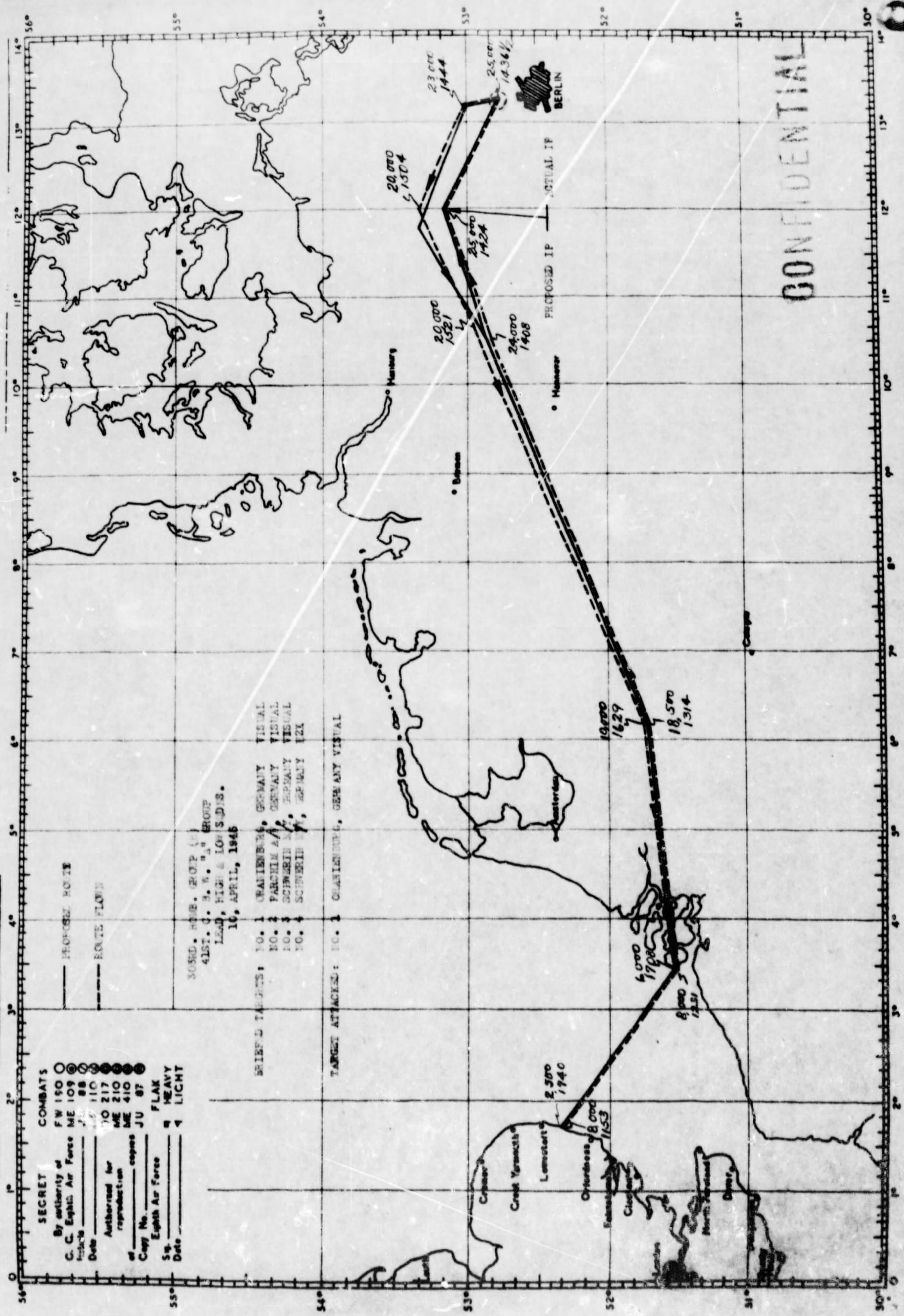
C O N F I D E N T I A L

DATE _____

TARGETS
PRIMARY

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ROUTE FOLLOWED BY



SECRET

By authority of
C. C. Eighth Air Force

Date _____

Authorized for
reproduction _____

Copy No. _____

Eighth Air Force

FLAK

HEAVY

LIGHT

PROPOSED ROUTE

ROUTE FOLLOWED

303RD. BOMB. GROUP (M)
41ST. G. S. W. "A" GROUP
LEAD, HIGH & LOW S.D.S.'S.
10, APRIL, 1945

BRIEFED TARGETS:

NO. 1 ORANIENBURG, GERMANY VISUAL

NO. 2 PARCHIM A.F., GERMANY VISUAL

NO. 3 SCHWEDIN M.F., GERMANY VISUAL

NO. 4 SCHWEDIN M.F., GERMANY IZK

TARGET ATTACKED: NO. 1 QUARTENBURG, GERMANY VISUAL

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OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1	Iden. Br. Search Info. Sec. Mackenburg	Admin. Pentagon Liaison	9 Aug. 1949	Request the current address of the following individual: Brunale, Vito L. 12220844 Ref. Ltr. # 267 <i>SWR</i> Rogers 72000
2	QM Liaison Section	Search Info Sec ATTN: Mackenburg	10 Aug 1949	Information requested above is furnished herewith: Home address: 52 North 8th Avenue Mount Vernon, New York <i>S.J.S.</i> SEKOWSKI 6679 <i>E.M.D.</i> DYER 73090

MACR-138,29

AFPPA-14y-77117
Rm 4324-5-30-45

2nd Lt. Robert V. Murray

Mrs. Gertrude H. Penny (Mother)
201 W. 55th Street
New York, New York

2nd Lt. Lawrence L. Fries Jr.

Mrs. Grace K. Fries (Mother)
Blattsburg, Missouri

Fl/O Harold S. Smith

Mr. Clarence L. Smith (Father)
165 Norwin Avenue
Syracuse, New York

T/Sgt. Carl O. Hammarlund

Mrs. Nettie S. Hammarlund (Mother)
1524 Carrington Street
Janesville, Wisconsin

T/Sgt. Vito J. Brunale

Mrs. Ann W. Brunale (Mother)
55 North 8th Avenue
Mount Vernon, New York

T/Sgt. Theodore A. Bates

Mr. Hervey T. Bates (Father)
31 Highland Avenue
Lonsdale, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Nicholas Redock

Mrs. Mary Redock (Mother)
107 W. Chestnut Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Robert P. Rennie

Mrs. Melvina Rennie (Mother)
R.D. # 1
Hansfield, Pennsylvania

S/Sgt. Gerald V. Atkinson

Mrs. Lena S. Atkinson (Mother)
R.F.D.
Greensboro, Florida

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 13875

Name of crew member: H A M M E R L U N D , Carl O.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 36296564
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Bomber)~~ Bombardier.

Did he bail out? Didn't see him but when I looked in the
bombardiers compartment he wasn't there
 Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him just before target

Any hearsay information: None, definite, but I saw
2 parachutes below me, whether he was one, I really
am not sure, but I am sure that F/O Smith, must
of been in one, because I actually saw him bail
out.

Source: Me

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____
Just on supposition, he could of been the other
fellow in that second chute below me, but I am
not sure.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Same as myself 22nd

Dates and destinations if possible: I had a record of all my
missions but it was stolen in England.

Name of crew member: R E N N I E , Robert P ,
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 33609175
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Tail Gunner.

Did he bail out? I didn't see him

Where? If he did it would be near Oranienburg.

If not, why not? Don't Know

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

None

Was he injured? Don't Know

Where was he when last seen? last I saw him was after takeoff in plane.

Any hearsay information: Except that of German Guard, and

the other parachute which I saw below me. It

could of been any of the boys except F/O Smith

as he was in the other.

Source: German Guard

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

Purely, supposition & hope.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 22

Dates and destinations if possible: Don't Know.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 13875

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Name of crew member: M U R R A Y , Robert I.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-821336
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Pilot.

Did he bail out? I didn't see him bail out.

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was directly behind me and the plane blew up.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____
No personal conversation, but motions to bail out - were disconnected ^{My interphone lines}

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Behind me on the flight deck

Any hearsay information: No, but one hope I had was that when questioned by the Germans, I refused to talk, and one question I remember, the Germans asked "How many men bailed out safely?" When I refused to answer a German guard told his officer he saw 5 parachutes

Source: German Guard

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The only explanation of his fate can only be based on supposition, and that is that he may of been blown clear.

Total number of missions of above crew member: It was our 22nd

Dates and destinations if possible: Do not have that information

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 13875

Name of crew member: F R I E S , Lawrence L jr.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-2062170
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? Everything happened so quickly

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

None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In co-pilots seat

Any hearsay information: None - except the same for any

of my buddies, that this German saw 5 parachutes

Source: German Guard

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

Same supposition as that of Lt. Murray

Total number of missions of above crew member: either his 1st or 2nd

Dates and destinations if possible: I don't know, he wasn't our

regular co-pilot, and we were more or less

breaking him in.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 13875

Name of crew member: S M I T H , Harold S ,
 Rank: F/C
 Serial number: T-129758
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Navigator.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Oranienburg, Germany

If not, why not? _____

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

None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? I saw him kick open the escape hatch & bail out

Any hearsay information: A friend of mine who flew many missions with us as Radar Operator, came to visit me after my discharge, and said that Intelligence reports were that he was killed by the Gestapo.

Source: "Chuck" - as I knew him Merrill

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

Whether this is true or not, it is based merely on the fact that Merrill told me this.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Don't Know

Dates and destinations if possible: Sorry, I don't know.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 13875

Name of crew member: B A T E S , Theodore A.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 33619466
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Radio Gunner.

Did he bail out? No + that I know of

Where? _____

If not, why not? Don't know

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

last saw Ted, he was in the radio room, and I motioned for
him to bail out, he then closed the door of his radio room.
Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In the radio room

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Just on
supposition of what that German Guard said.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Same 22

Dates and destinations if possible: I don't know.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 13875

Name of crew member: R O D O C K , Nicholas ,
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33609025
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ball Turret Gunner.

Did he bail out? Not that I knew of

Where? _____

If not, why not? Didn't see him at all

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

Was he injured? I couldn't say, as I don't know

Where was he when last seen? The last I saw him was just after takeoff

Any hearsay information: Same as for my other buddies

Source: German Guard

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

Same Supposition

Total number of missions of above crew member: Same as myself 22

Dates and destinations if possible: Sorry, I haven't the information

Name of crew member: **A T K I N S O N , Gerald V.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **34814970**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ **Spot Jammer.**

Did he bail out? I didn't see him

Where? If he did it would be near Oranienburg

If not, why not? Perhaps there wasn't enough time.

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

He was with the Radio operator when I motioned to bail out.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? He was with Ted Bates in the Radio Room

Any hearsay information: Same for all the boys, of what this German Guard said. And he may of seen the other fellow in that 2nd chute

Source: German Guard & my own

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Supposition, he may of been blown clear of the plane.

Total number of missions of above crew member: I'm not sure but it was between

Dates and destinations if possible: Sorry, I don't know. ¹²⁻¹⁴

April 2, 1950
The members of the committee
were present at the meeting
held on April 2, 1950, at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

Present: ...
Absent: ...
The meeting was held at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

The meeting was held at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

The meeting was held at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

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the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

The meeting was held at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

The meeting was held at
the home of the late Mrs.
John H. ...

While I was in a ...
... of ...
... that ...
... of ...
... of ...

I have found ...
... to ...
... of ...
... and ...
... of ...

John H. ...

