

11575

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by M. WIENCH, Capt., AO
Date OCT 15 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date OCT 25 1948

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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.G.; Squadron 427th; Detachment -----
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth; Course See Attached Chart
Target or Intended Destination Bonn/Hangelar A/F Type of Mission Bombardment
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 2-3/10ths
middle cloud, tops 16,000 feet, Visibility good except for contrails.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 10 Month January Year 1945; Time 1329 Location Bombardier and
Navigator lost at 50°47'N-of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
09°10'E (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by
radio (); forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not avail-
able (). A/C Returned.
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 returned - personnel baled out after accident before A/C was
brought under control.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 42-39875 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any Buss-Blonde
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Not Applicable; AAF Serial
Number (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) Not Applicable; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____;
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____;
(i) _____; (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.)

| Crew Position | Name in Full (Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Current Status |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pilot | <u>SMITH, GRAFTON N.</u> | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>0-797625</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 2. Co-Pilot | <u>ALDERMAN, MELVIN (NMI)</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-774916</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 3. Navigator | <u>GARDNER, EDWARD W.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-2060789</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 4. Bombardier | <u>DOHM, WILLIAM F.</u> | <u>F/O</u> | <u>T-129591</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 5. Top Turret | <u>MASSINGILL, DAVID I.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>14035963</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 6. Ball Turret | <u>MILLER, RAYMOND M.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>42004088</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 7. Radio Gunner | <u>PARKER, GEORGE F.</u> | <u>S/Sgt.</u> | <u>36584200</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 8. Tail Gunner | <u>HOWELL, MELVIN (NMI)</u> | <u>Cgt.</u> | <u>37725133</u> | <u>Dy</u> |
| 9. Waist Gunner | <u>DUSLIERE, ALBERT L.</u> | <u>Sgt. ©</u> | <u>36755539</u> | <u>Dy</u> |

10. NOTE: Only the Bombardier and Navigator are missing. The rest
11. returned with A/C.

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-
CRAFT, 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>SMITH, GRAFTON N.</u> | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>0-797625</u> | <u>---</u> | <u>Pilot of A/C.</u> | | |
| 2. _____ | | | | | | |
| 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) One parachute seen but not known whether from this A/C.
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 Par. 17.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None.

Date of Report 20 January 1945

Joseph G. Robinson
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

JOSEPH G. ROBINSON,
Captain, AC.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Just after bombs away at Bonn/Manglar A/F, Germany, the formation made a left turn. There were dense contrails at the time, and we were pulling full power to stay in good formation. Suddenly there was a series of several hard jars, and the pilot saw another A/C in front of him with tail down and nose up. This was when the two A/C were colliding. This A/C was tossed about violently for almost two minutes. During that time the Bombardier and Navigator baled out of the A/C due to the damage to the nose and also the fact the A/C was apparently out of control. Their oxygen system, heating equipment, and interphone system were knocked out. The pilot is sure they both baled out and believes they had their parachutes on. No parachutes were seen to open. The altitude was 27,000 feet and the temperature was about 60 degrees below. The pilot brought the A/C under control and was able to land the A/C at Field A-67 in Luxembourg.

NOTE: This A/C collided with A/C 42-97861 from the 303rd Bomb Group. The tail gunner on A/C 42-97861 is missing, and a missing air crew report covering him was filed 18 January 1945.

FFR 22 1945



RECEIVED

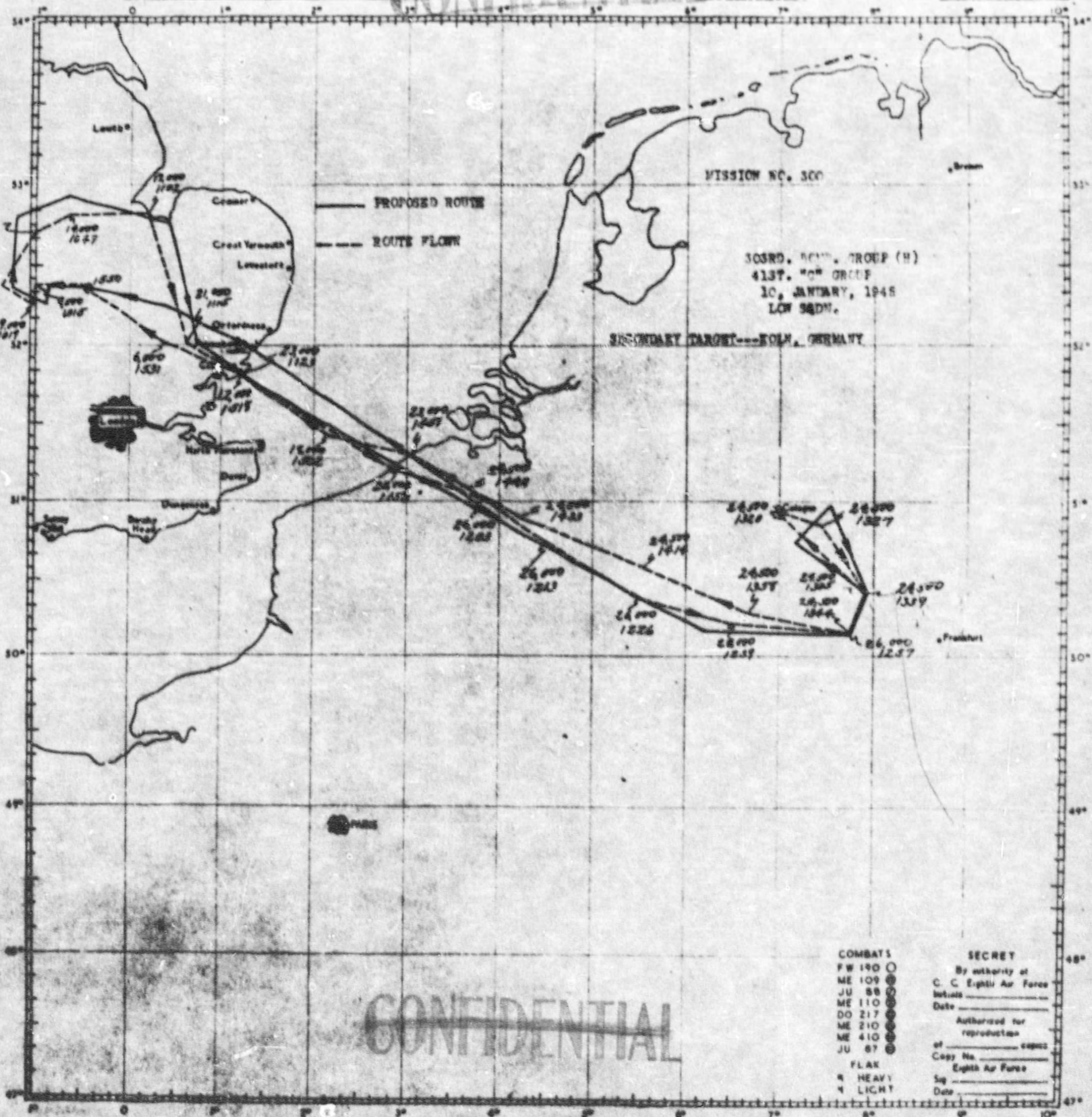
TRACK CHART

DATE _____

TARGETS
PRIMARY

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY

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MACR 11575
B-17
AAF 42-39875
9 men

Date: 10 Jan 45, at 1300

Place: Koeln-Rahn

Type of aircraft: Fortress

Markings: ---
427(HBo) Sqd.
303 Group

| Rank: | Name: | KU 1220 a |
|---------|-------------------------|----------------|
| P/O. | DOHN, William F. | ASN: T-129591 |
| 2nd Lt. | GARDNER, Edward William | ASN: O-2060789 |
| 1st Lt. | SMITH, Grafton | |
| 2nd Lt. | ALDEMAN, Melvin | |
| S/Sgt. | PARKER, George | |
| Sgt. | MILLER, Ray | |
| Sgt. | DUSLIERE | |
| Sgt. | HOWELL, Melvin | |

First Supplementary REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES dated 17 March 1945

PLACE:

DATE:

NAME AND FIRST NAME OF PRISONER: **GARDNER, Edward William**

W. J.
02060789

ASN: *./.*
YEAR OF BIRTH: **25 March 1923 in Chicago/Ill.**

RANK: **2nd Lt.**

PLACE AND DATE OF CAPTURE: **captured, Dulag Luft West**

PARTICULARS CONCERNING CAPTURE: -
(CRASHED? EMERGENCY LANDING? SHOT DOWN?)

TYPE OF CRAFT

REMARKS:

MIA 10 JUN 45
EUS
AC

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: **Airfield Command A (0) 13/6**

PLACE: **Bonn - Hangelar**

DATE: **11. Jan. 1945**

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, **Unknown**

EM. LANDING: AT:

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **Gardner**

FIRST NAME: **Edward Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **O-2060789**

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **captured**

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: **on 10. Jan. 1945 near Seelscheidt at Siegburg.**

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

To Distributor. 11. Jan. 1945

signed

Cpt and Staff Officer of the Airfield .

MR. 1220 A

Remarks



IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

- | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------|-----|----|---|---|
| 1) | John Willie F. | T-129591 | T43 | 44 | A | P |
| 2) | Gardner Edward W. | 02060789 | T43 | 44 | O | P |

11575

NR. 1220 A

Remarks:

#####

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

- | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------|-----|----|---|---|
| 1) | Dohn William F. | T-129591 | T43 | 44 | A | P |
| 2) | Gardner Edward W. | 02060789 | T43 | 44 | O | P |

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Command A (O) 10/6

PLACE: Bonn - Hangelar

DATE: 11. Jan. 1945

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, UnknownEN. LANDING: AT:

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Gardner

FIRST NAME: Edward Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) O-2060789

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: on 10. Jan. 1945 near Seelscheidt at Siegburg.

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

To Distributor. 11. Jan. 1945

signed

Cpt and Staff Officer of the Airfield .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member: PARKER, George F.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 36584200
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator~~ ~~Engineer~~ ~~Radio Gunner~~ 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? no

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: S/Sgt. Parker re-
 mained with the plane which crash-landed over Allied line in Bonn
 Sector. He returned to the 303rd Heavy Bomb. Group, completed his
 tour - 35 missions, and returned to the U.S. Was discharged
 from AAF in fall of 1945.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member:

MILLER, Raymond M.

Rank:

Sgt.

Serial number:

42004088

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Ball Turret

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? no

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt. Miller re-
mained with the plane which crash landed in Allied sector
near Bonn. He returned to 303rd. Heavy Bomb Group
and completed his tour. Returned to States in May of 1945.

Discharged from AAF in fall of 1945.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member:

MESSINGILL, David I.

Rank:

Sgt.

Serial number:

14035963

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Top Turret

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? no

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt. Messingill remained with the plane which crash landed in Allied sector near Bonn. He returned to 303rd Heavy Bomb Group and was removed from flying status. Have no further information, but believe he returned to U.S.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member:

DOHM, William F.

Rank:

F/O.

Serial number:

T-129591

Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~

Bombardier

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Several miles southeast of Bonn, Germany.

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Yes, flak wounds and serious frostbite.

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate ~~based in part or wholly on supposition:~~ F/O Dohm was captured near Bonn and taken to (Ober Oursel) Frankfurt, Germany, where he remained for a month or so while wounds healed. Was taken to Luft camp in southern Germany for remainder of war. Was freed by U.S. troops, flown to Camp Lucky Strike, St. Valery, France. Returned to U.S., was released on terminal leave in Oct.-Nov. 1945.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member: ALDERMAN, Melvin (NMI)
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-774916
 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? no

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: 2nd Lt. Alderman remained with plane which crash landed in Allied sector near Bonn. He returned to 303rd Heavy Bomb Group and continued to fly combat missions. On his last mission he flew as first pilot with a new crew - his plane and another collided in flight over Germany and both planes exploded. As far as I know he is still listed as "Missing in action."

Total number of missions of above crew member: 34

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member: SMITH, Grafton N.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: O-797625
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXX FLIGHT (Fighter) XXX~~ 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? no.

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate ~~based in part or wholly on supposition~~: Lt. Smith re-
mained with the plane which crash landed in Allied sector near
Bonn. He returned to 303rd. Heavy Bomb. Group, and completed
a tour. He returned to the U.S. in Spring of 1945. At present

Lt. Smith is in the A.T.C. at Long Beach, Calif.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11575

Name of crew member: DUSSLIERE, Albert L.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 36755539
 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? no

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt. Dussliere remained with the plane which crash landed in the Allied sector near Bonn. He returned to 303rd Heavy Bomb. Group and completed a tour. Returned to U.S. in Spring 1945, was discharged from A.A.F. late in 1945.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible: _____