

11758

CONFIDENTIAL

KU-3615
Brown

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC
Date: **JAN 15 1948**

**GERMAN RECORDS
COMPLETED**

Date	Writer	Wrote About
4/16/46	LT SACKS	BROWN
"	"	FARRELL
"	"	GRAMIAK
"	"	FINN
"	"	RILEY
"	"	WOODSON
"	"	BURNETTE
"	"	

CONFIDENTIAL

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Classification changed
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by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUECH, Capt., AG
Date JAN 15 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

11758

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, Eng Command or Air Force 8th AF
Group 303rd Bomb; Squadron 358th; Detachment - - -
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth; Course See attached chart.
Target or Intended Destination Sterkrade; Type of Mission Bombardment
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 3-5/10ths
thin middle cloud, tops 8-10,000 feet. Moderate non-persistent contrails.
- GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month January Year 1945; Time 1336 Location Sterkrade, Germany
51°32'N-06°48'E. of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); last contacted by radio (); forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not available ().
- 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: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 43-38530
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None.
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-026348; (b) SW-026370; (c) SW-008480; (d) SW-026405
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) 1316225 BA; (b) 1315876 BA; (c) 135958 BA; (d) 1477371 BA; (e) 1477588 BA; (f) 1315738 BA; (g) 1314240 BA; (h) 1316011 BA; (i) 1314129 BA; (j) 1316278 BA; (k) 1315879 BA; (l) 1314431 BA; (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 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>WOODSON, WILLIAM H.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-771608</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>LANIGAN, HAROLD A.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-62734</u>	<u>MIA POW RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>ELNN, RUSSELL C.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-5398</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>COOPER, RAY R.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>38568592</u>	<u>MIA POW RTD</u>
5. Top Turret	<u>BROWN, RICHARD A.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>11097235</u>	<u>MIA MIA</u>
6. Radio Gunner	<u>GRAMIAK, VICTOR J.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>12093762</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
7. Ball Turret	<u>BURNETTE, R.L. (i.e.)</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>14189079</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
8. Waist Gunner	<u>RILEY, LLOYD S.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>35624513</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
9. Tail Gunner	<u>FARRELL, PETER J.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>37585338</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
10.				
11.				

- IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK A PROPPRIATE 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>GMERNICKI, RICHARD H.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0826139</u>		<u>X</u>		
2. <u>GOERCHT, HARRY D.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0771696</u>		<u>X</u>		
3.						

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl 9'

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

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) _____
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 29 January 1945.

Joseph G. Robinson
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

JOSEPH G. ROBINSON,
Capt., AC.

See S-2 Summary attached.



TO: [illegible] FROM: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

-JSC- A
-IA

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 Bomb.(H) SQ 359th A/C # 43-38530 MISSION DATE 22 January 1945.

FIRST PILOT WOODSON, WILLIAM H. 1st Lt. 0-771608 DESTINATION Sterkrade, Ger.
NAME RANK SER#

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

- (a) By coordinates 51°32'N-06°48'E
- (b) Approximate altitude 25,000 feet.
- (c) Last noted heading A/C going down.
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation A/C was going down

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

Intense and extremely accurate A/A gunfire.

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

A/C received a direct hit in #2 engine from A/A gunfire. The left wing broke off and the A/C went down with left side burning. Several reports that A/C then exploded in the air.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

See Par. 3.

(Over)

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

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 in the area.

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

Two to three parachutes are reported to have been seen just about time A/C is said to have exploded, as if some of crew had been blown out.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

There is considerable confusion as to what happened because two other A/C in formation got into serious trouble about the same time. These other A/C returned to friendly territory safely. Many of the crews reported what happened, but it is evident they **thought** they saw one A/C when actually they saw another. It seems certain, however, that this A/C had its left wing shot off by A/A gunfire.

8. Date of report 29 January 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>GMERNICKI, RICHARD H.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0826139</u>	<u>44-8427</u>
2.	<u>GOERECHE, HARRY D.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0771696</u>	<u>43-38999</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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 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

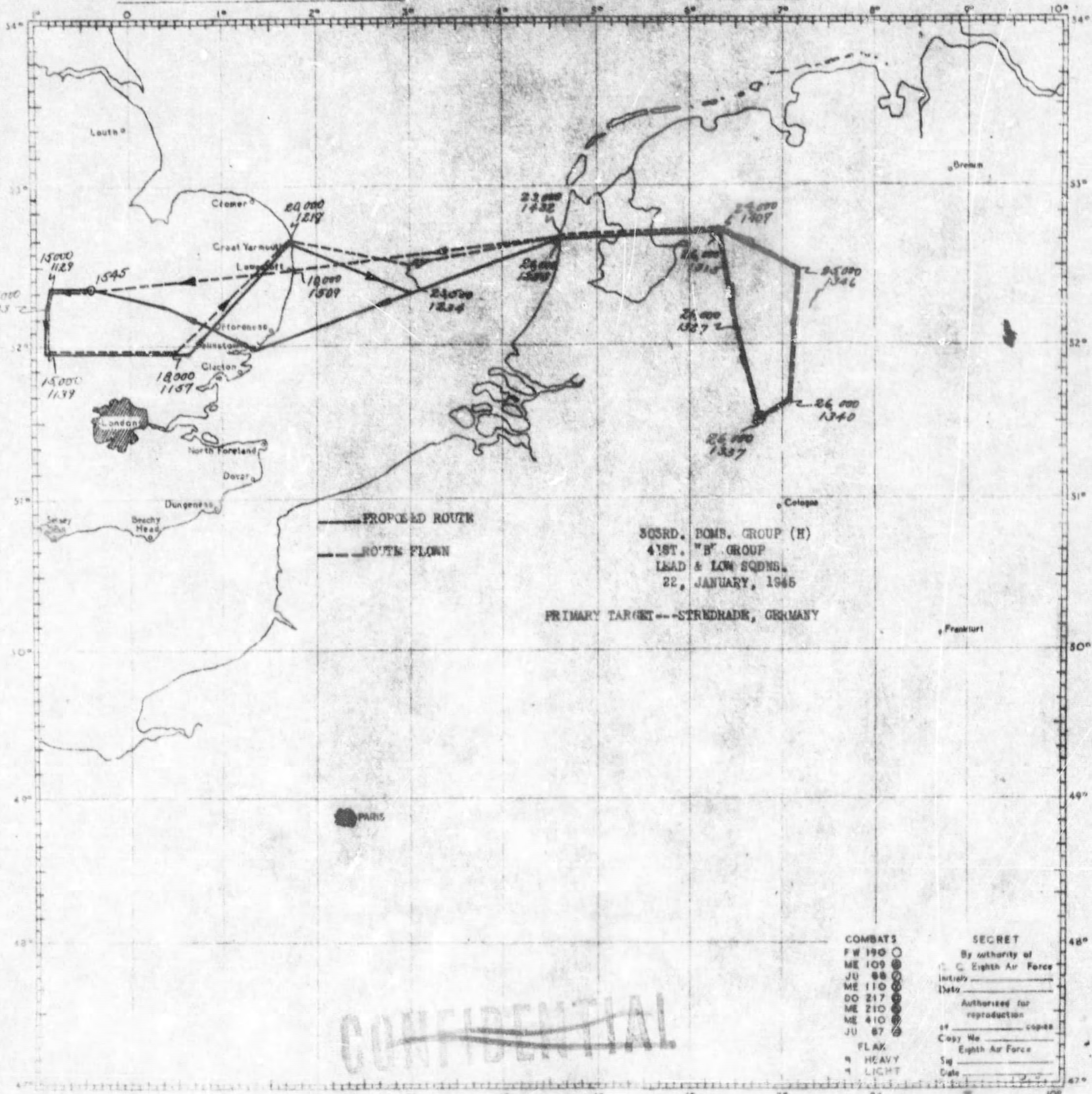
TRACK CHART

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DATE _____

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY _____

TARGETS
PRIMARY _____



30SRD. BOMB. GROUP (H)
41ST. "B" GROUP
LEAD & LOW SQDNS.
22, JANUARY, 1945

PRIMARY TARGET -- STREDRAD, GERMANY

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COMBATS
FW 190 ○
ME 109 ●
JU 88 ●
ME 110 ●
DO 217 ●
ME 210 ●
ME 410 ●
JU 87 ●

FLAX
H HEAVY
L LIGHT

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

Downing No: KU 3615

Report on Downing of an American Plane:

Date of Downing...: 22 January 1945 - 1336
Place of Downing...: Sterkrade near Oberhausen
Type of Plane.....: Fortress
Reporting Office...: Air Base Muehlheim/Rhur

C R E W

LANIGAN 30 June 1922	Harold A.	F/O	T-62734	captured	Dulag Luft West
COOPER 4 December 1925	Ray Rex	T/Sgt.	38568592	captured	Dulag Luft West
WOODSON	William H.	1st.Lt.	0-771608	dead	
FINN	Russell C.	F/O		dead	
GRAMIAK	Victor J.	T/Sgt.	12093762	dead	
BURNETTE	R.L.	S/Sgt.	14189079	dead	
RILEY	Lloyd S.	S/Sgt.	35624513	dead	
FARRELL	Peter J.	Sgt.	37585338	dead	

Case 5734

To Computing Station West Oberursel

On 22 Jan 45, at 1336 hours, a Boeing Fortress was shot down by flak in Sterkrade north of Guenther Street, KO 9, explosion in the air, 90% destruction, engine No. 38530, 7 men dead, 2 men captured.

Dead: Farrell, Eter J. 37585338
Brown R. A., 11097235
Riley, Lloyd S., 35624513
Russel C. T 5398
Woodson, William H. O 771608
Burnette R. L., 14189079
Ramiak, Victor J. 12093762

Captured: Off. Langtan, Harold A A T 62734
Sgt Cooper Ray R. 38568592

Identification Tags

Lloyd S. Riley, 3 5624513 44 A

Richard A. Brown, 11097235

Russell C. Finn, T 5398 and War Department Identification Card

Woodson, William H., O 771608

Victor J. Gramiak, 12093762

R. L. Burnette, 1 4189079 44 A

Peter J. Farrell, 37585338

Harold A. Lanigan, T 62734 and Pilot and Crew Member Physical Record Card

MACR 11758
 B-17
 AAF 43-38530
 9 men

22 Jan. 1945 1336
 Sterkrade, Oberhausen
 Type: Fortress
 358 Sqd. 303 Group
 Target: Airbase Mucklheim
 a.d.Rh.

7 Febr.

KU 3615

F/O.	FINN	Russell C.	T-5398	dead
Lt.	WOODSON	William H.	O-771608	dead
F/O.	LANIGAN	Harold A.	T-62734	capt
T/Sgt.	COOPER	Ray Rex	38568592	capt
^N _{DED} Sgt.	BROWN	Richard A.	38868552 11097235	dead
Sgt.	RILEY	Lloyd S.	35624513	dead
Sgt.	^{RA} GARMIAK	Victor J.	12093762	dead
Sgt.	BURNETTE	R.L.	14189079	dead
Sgt.	FARRELL	Peter J.	37585338	dead

7 dead; Memorial Cemetery Essen

Case 5734
 MACR 11758

1st Lt. William H. Woodson

Mr. Everard M. Woodson, (father)
1431 North Royer Street,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

F/O Russell C. Finn

Mrs. Lillian R. Thomas, (sister)
4034 1/2 North Keystone Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

E/O Harold A. Lanigan

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Lanigan, (parents)
5739 SW 12th Street,
Coral Gables, Florida.

S/Sgt. Lloyd S. Riley

Mrs. Hazel L. Riley, (mother)
2207 Erie Avenue,
Springfield, Ohio.

S/Sgt. R. L. Burnette

Everard Heard T. Burnette, (father)
Route 1, Box 184,
Lutz, Florida.

T/Sgt. Ray R. Cooper

Mr. Bryan Cooper, (father)
225 North Randlett
Hobart, Oklahoma.

T/Sgt. Victor J. Gramiak

Mrs. Victoria Gramiak, (mother)
357 Walnut Street,
Newark, New Jersey.

T/Sgt. Richard A. Brown

Mrs. Marjorie L. Brown, (wife)
South Thomston, Maine.

Sgt. Peter J. Farrell

Mrs. Velma E. Farrell, (mother)
R.F.D. #1
Edmunds, North Dakota

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11758

Name of crew member: **WOODSON, William H.**
 Rank: **1st Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-771608**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~ENGINEER~~ **Pilot**

Did he bail out? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Where? _____

If not, why not? I DON'T KNOW. THE CO-PILOT ESCAPED

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I GAVE OXYGEN CHECK AND HE CHECKED IN APPROXIMATELY 1 MINUTE BEFORE PLANE WENT DOWN

Was he injured? NO. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Where was he when last seen? I FIRST SAW HIM WHEN WE LOADED UP FOR THE TAKE OFF.

Any hearsay information: MY CO-PILOT TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS FIRST CAPTURED THE GERMANS BROUGHT IN FOUR SETS OF DRESSERS WHICH BELONGED TO OUR CREW MEMBERS AND THAT THE GERMANS SAID THEY FOUND SIX OR SEVEN BODIES AROUND THE WRECKAGE OF THE AIRPLANE.

Source: F/O. HAROLD A. LANIGAN 0-2005930

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I THINK HE WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH OF OUR PLANE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 25TH

Dates and destinations if possible: THE DAY WE WERE SHOT DOWN WAS THE ONLY TIME I HAD EVER FLOWN WITH HIM.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 11758

Name of crew member: **BROWN, Richard A.**
 Rank: **T/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **11097235**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight Navigator~~ **Top Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

CHECK APPROXIMATELY ONE MINUTE BEFORE PLANE WENT DOWN. HE CHECKED

Was he injured? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Where was he when last seen? I LAST SAW HIM WHEN WE LOADED UP FOR THE TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: MY CO-PILOT TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS LEAVING THE

PLANE BROWN WAS COMING OUT OF HIS TURRET. ALSO THAT WHEN HE

WAS FIRST CAPTURED THE GERMANS BROUGHT IN FOUR SETS OF DENTAL

WHICH BELONGED TO OUR CREW-MEMBERS AND THAT THE GERMANS SAID

THEY FOUND SIX OR SEVEN BODIES AROUND THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE

Source: F/O HAROLD A. LANIGAN O-2005930

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

WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH OF OUR PLANE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 25TH

Dates and destinations if possible: THE DAY WE WERE SHOT DOWN

WAS THE ONLY TIME I HAD EVER FLOWN WITH HIM.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 11758

Name of crew member: **GRAMIAK, Victor J.**
 Rank: **T/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **12093762**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Radio Op., Gunner~~ **Radio Op., Gunner**

Did he bail out? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Where? _____

If not, why not? BECAUSE THE PLANE WAS GOING DOWN AT TOO GREAT A SPEED,

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I GAVE OXYGEN CHECK APPROXIMATELY 1 MINUTE BEFORE PLANE WENT DOWN AND HE CHECKED IN.

Was he injured? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? I LAST SAW HIM WHEN WE LOADED UP FOR THE TAKE OFF.

Any hearsay information: MY CO-PILOT TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS FIRST CAPTURED THE GERMANS BROUGHT IN FOUR SETS OF DOG TAGS WHICH BELONGED TO OUR CREWMEMBERS AND THAT THE GERMANS SAID THEY FOUND SIX OR SEVEN BODIES AROUND THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE.

Source: HAROLD A. LANIGAN 0-2005930

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I THINK HE WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH OF OUR PLANE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 25TH MISSION WHEN HE WAS SHOT DOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: THE DAY WE WERE SHOT DOWN WAS THE ONLY TIME I HAD EVER FLOWN WITH HIM.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11758

Name of crew member: **BURNETTE, R.L. (IO)**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **14189079**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~FLIGHT/ENGINEER~~ **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? No, to the best of my knowledge.

Where? _____

If not, why not? because the plane was going down AT TOO GREAT A SPEED.

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

check approximately 1 minute before plane went down and he checked in.

Was he injured? No, to the best of my knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we loaded up for the takeoff.

Any hearsay information: MY CO-PILOT TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS FIRST CAPTURED THE GERMANS BROUGHT IN 4 SETS OF DOG TAGS WHICH BELONGED TO OUR CREW-MEMBERS AND THAT THE GERMANS SAID THEY FOUND SIX OR SEVEN BODIES AROUND THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE.

Source: F/O HAROLD A. LANIGAN O-2005930

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I THINK HE WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH OF OUR PLANE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: he was on his 25th

Dates and destinations if possible: THE DAY WE WERE SHOT DOWN WAS THE ONLY TIME I HAD EVER FLOWN WITH HIM.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11758

Name of crew member: **RILEY, Lloyd S.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **35624513**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Blade/Fighter~~ **Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Where? _____

If not, why not? BECAUSE THE PLANE WAS GOING DOWN AT TOO GREAT A SPEED.

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

CHECK APPROXIMATELY 1 MINUTE BEFORE PLANE WENT DOWN AND HE CHECKED IN.

Was he injured? NO, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Where was he when last seen? I LAST SAW HIM WHEN WE LOADED UP FOR THE TAKE OFF.

Any hearsay information: MY CO-PILOT TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS FIRST CAPTURED THE GERMANS BROUGHT IN 4 SETS OF DOG TAGS WHICH BELONGED TO OUR CREW-MEMBERS AND THAT THE GERMANS SAID THEY FOUND SIX OR SEVEN BODIES AROUND THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE.

Source: F/O HAROLD A. LANIGAN O-2005930

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I THINK HE WAS KILLED IN THE CRASH OF OUR PLANE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 25TH

Dates and destinations if possible: THE DAY WE WERE SHOT DOWN WAS THE ONLY TIME I HAD EVER FLOWN WITH HIM.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

12M 2 CIVILIAN NOW

1. Your name RAY R. COOPER Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 38568592
2. Organization 303rd B. G. - 358th Sqd. 1 Gp Commander No Knowledge Rank ✓ Sqn CO No Knowledge Rank ✓
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JANUARY day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, underground oil factory, target, near Rhine, target time, Approx. 11-30 AM., altitude, 26,000 ft. route scheduled, No Knowledge, route flown No Knowledge
5. Where were you when you left formation? Mulheim
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? The co-pilot is the only other one who bailed out, to the best of my knowledge.
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". My co-pilot, Harold A. Langston, is the only one that I know bailed out. He bailed out from the escape hatch just behind the nose, over Mulheim, Germany. He bailed out a little after I did. I know that because he said the wing came off before he got out.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the vicinity of Mulheim, 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) No Knowledge for certain. My supposition is that all of them were in the plane when it crashed except the co-pilot and I who escaped, the navigator whom I believed fell out of a flak hole without his chute, and the top turret gunner whom I have no supposition about.
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? This information is on the individual questionnaires of all the members except the co-pilot whom I last saw in prison camp at Nurnberg, Germany.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11758

Name of crew member: **PARKELL, Peter J.**
 Rank: **Sgt.**
 Serial number: **37585338**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~: **Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? No, To the best of my knowledge.

Where? _____

If not, why not? because the plane was going down too fast and he had

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

check approximately 1 minute before plane went down and he checked in.

Was he injured? Yes - in the leg

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we loaded up for the take off.

Any hearsay information: My copilot told me that when he was first captured the Germans brought in 4 sets of dog tags which belonged to our crewmembers and that the Germans said they found six or seven bodies around the wreckage of the airplane; also that one of the bodies had a leg separated from the body

Source: F/O HAROLD A. LANIGAN 0-2005930

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I think he had his leg shot clean off before we went down, because he called the pilot and told him he was hit in the leg. When the pilot told him to put his hand over it, he said he couldn't. I think he was killed in the crash of our plane

Total number of missions of above crew member: he was on his 25th

Dates and destinations if possible: The day we were shot down was the only time I had ever flown with him.

2076 Wound