

13570

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changes

~~RESTRICTED~~

by BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC

by GUNNCH, Capt., AC

Date 1 APR 1968

514

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRAUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MURCH, Capt., AC
Date 1 MAR 1946

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Molesworth, Eng. Command or Air Force 8th A.F.
Group 303rd Bomb; Squadron 359th; Detachment -----
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course See attached chart.
Target or Intended Destination Hamburg, Germany; Type of Mission Bombardment.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 4-6/10ths
low cloud, tops 10,000 feet. Visibility aloft unrestricted.
- GIVE: (a) Day 20 Month March Year 1945; Time 1623 Location 53°55'N-10°00'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 (X); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); Other Circumstances as follows: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 43-38767
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-007442; (b) SW-023111; (c) SW-024211; (d) 43-65966
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1482892 Frig.; (b) 1482439 Frig.; (c) 1482432 Frig.; (d) 1482645 Frig.; (e) 32957 Unknown; (f) 1482727 Frig.; (g) 1482921 Frig.; (h) 1259561 Frig.; (i) 1482466 Frig.; (j) 1031619 Unkn.; (k) L. Chin Gun is; (l) _____; (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) Unknown; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X of (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
- 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	MOORE, THOMAS L.	2nd Lt.	O-1285796	MIA	EUS
2. Co-Pilot	BARNETT, JAMES M.	2nd Lt.	O-780488	MIA	EUS
3. Navigator	MIESLICH, MORRIS (NMI)	F/O	T-132721	MIA	KIA
4. Bombardier	WEISE, WILLIAM A. JR.	Sgt.	33733641	MIA	KIA
5. Top T. Gnr	OGURCHAK, JOSEPH T.	Sgt.	33432238	MIA	EUS
6. Radio Gnr	BROOKSTRA, WILLIAM A.	Sgt.	36874109	MIA	KIA
7. Ball T. Gnr	KOHAN, FREDERICK (NMI)	Sgt.	36865526	MIA	KIA
8. Tail Gnr.	PESTA, CLARENCE A.	Sgt.	16130700	MIA	KIA
9.					
10.					5 KIA
11.					3 EUS

- 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. Marsh, John F.	2/Lt.	O-778868		X		
2. Hamilton, John W.	S/Sgt.	14203108		X		
3.						

(Over)

Encl 5'

CONFIDENTIAL

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 fairly well under control.
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 25 March 1945.

Joseph G. Robinson
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

JOSEPH G. ROBINSON,
Captain, AC.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See S-2 Summary Attached.

MAY 5 1945



RECEIVED



file in MAOR-13570



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8-JH

24 October 1945

SUBJECT: Flight Officer Morris Mieslich, T-1312721

TO: Second Lieutenant Thomas L. Moore
1409 North Main Street
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

1. Records of this headquarters indicate that you were a crew member on the same mission of which subject officer was the navigator on the date that he was reported missing in action, 20 March 1945.

2. It is requested that you furnish this headquarters with all information which you may know concerning the mission in which you participated on 20 March 1945.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

John J. Smith

JOHN J. SMITH
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1

6 November 1945

On 20 March 1945 we were given oral orders to bomb Hamburg, Germany. We took off approximately 1200 o'clock and were over the target at 1620. A very short time after bombs away, we were hit by 2 German jet planes and our ship immediately burst into flame. Oxygen and interphone systems were completely shot out, so no conversation with any of the crew members was possible. The following day at the interrogation center near Renseberg, the German officer in charge of receiving said five (5) of my crew were killed. It is my honest opinion F/O Morris Mieslich was K.I.A. 20 March 1945.

by sent A GO



Thomas L. Moore
Thomas L. Moore
2d Lt.

MIA *moore*

COPY

6 November 1945

On 20 March 1945 we were given oral orders to bomb Hamburg, Germany. We took approximately 1200 o'clock and were over the target at 1620. A very short time after bombs away, we were hit by 2 German jet planes and our ship immediately burst into flame. Oxygen and interphone systems were completely shot out, so no conversation with any of the crew members was possible. The following day at the interrogation center near Peneberg, the German officer in charge of receiving said five (5) of my crew were killed. It is my honest opinion F/O Morris Mieslich was KIA 20 March 1945.

/s/ Thomas L. Moore
2d Lt.

*Original on file in Notification Br.
Personal Affairs Div, AAF.*

Copy to A.H.O.

Basic: Ltr 27 Sept 45, fr Hqs, AAF, Washington, to CO, AAF Redsitribution Station No. 2, Miami Dist, AAFFDC, Miami Beach, Fla, file 201, subj; Sgt Joseph T. Ogurchak.

3rd Ind.

TSWSE-2/JAJ/mes

Intelligence Branch, Base Security Section, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, 23 October 1945.

To: Commanding General, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C. Attention: Chief, Notification Section, Personal Affairs Branch, Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1.

1. Subject enlisted man was interrogated at this headquarters 22 October 1945 in accordance with instructions contained in basic communication.

2. Ogurchak stated that upon completion of a bombing mission over Hamburg, 20 March 1945, German fighter planes were encountered about two minutes off the target at an altitude of 29,000 feet. On the first pass the German planes shot up the entire under side of their B-17 aircraft, knocking out the No. 3 engine and setting the nose on fire. Inasmuch as the fire spread rapidly toward the rear of the plane, the pilot and co-pilot were forced to abandon their position. As the intercommunication system had been rendered useless, Subject stated that Moore attempted to personally instruct all crew members to bail out. (Mieslich was shaken violently by Moore but appeared to be dead and was subsequently abandoned.) Moore and Barnett left the burning plane ahead of Ogurchak, who was stuck in the escape hatch while trying to abandon the plane. Several seconds later a tremendous explosion occurred which threw Subject clear of the plane. Subject stated he immediately blacked out after pulling the rip cord and was unconscious until he reached an altitude of 7,000 feet, later landing near Luebeck, Germany, 40 miles from Hamburg.

3. At a later date in a Prisoner of War Camp Subject conversed with Moore, who had apparently landed near the scene of the crash. Moore informed Subject that he counted five bodies in the wreckage, which would account for the remaining members of the eight man crew. Ogurchak was unable to shed any other light on this Subject, but stated that he believes that Mieslich and other members of the crew, with the exception of the pilot and co-pilot, are dead.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. A. Mosebach

J. A. MOSEBACH,
Major, Air Corps,
Chief, Intelligence Branch,
Base Security Section.

AFPPA-S-JH

27 September 1945

SUBJECT: Second Lieutenant Thomas L. Moore, 01285796
Second Lieutenant James M. Barnett, 0780488
Sergeant Joseph T. Ogurchak, 33733641

TO : Commanding Officer
1020 Base Unit
Miami Beach, Florida

1. It is requested that the above named airmen be interrogated with reference to any information which they may know concerning the whereabouts of Flight Officer Morris Wieslich and other members of the crew.

2. Request this headquarters be notified of any further details as soon as possible, for dissemination to Mrs. Anker.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

N. W. REED
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1

Basic: Ltr 27 Sept 45, fr Hqs, AAF, Washington, to CO this Station,
file 201, subj; Sgt Joseph T. Ogurchak.

201-Ogurchak, Joseph T. (Enl) 1st Ind.

⁰
t/bjp 213

Intelligence Division, AAF Redistribution Station No. 2, Miami
District, AAFPDC, Miami Beach, Fla. 2 October 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, ATSC, 4000th AAF Base Unit (Air Base),
Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: Intelligence Officer.

1. Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your command.
2. Subject E.M. transferred your command per Par 71, SO 264,
this Headquarters, dated 21 September 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1

Theodore J. Hiatt

THEODORE J. HIATT
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Intelligence &
Security Division

IN-7/729(2)

2d Ind.

TSPIN2a/MWC/rj

HQ ATSC Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. 9 October 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. Attention: Chief,
Intelligence Branch, Base Security Section

Forwarded for compliance with basic communication.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL KNERR:

Marvin W. Carr

MARVIN W. CARR
Captain, Air Corps
Assistant, Security Section
Base Services Division

Grayville, Ill.
27 Oct. 1945

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of
a JPPA-8-JH, dated 24 October 1945, I
will furnish as much information
as possible.

F/O Morris Mieslich was a spare
member of our crew on the date
we were shot down. I never
knew him personally, but was
in the same Squadron. The last
time I heard him was on the
interphone just before "Bombs Away."
He called up the Radio Operator
to start the Chaff. That was
the last time I heard him for
we demanded that the interphone
be saved for emergencies only.
Just after "Bombs Away" we were
hit and caught fire. Our inter-
Phone was gone and the nose
section was burning. When I

got out the flames had the
nose section covered so I could
not see in there. There was no
life in the nose as I could see.

When the Germans got me
they said that there were two dead
men in the nose section. I don't
know whether to believe them or
not for they told me so many
lies.

That is all I know about
Lt Mieslich. If I can help any
other way please call on me.

Sincerely yours
James W. Barnett
2nd Lt. A.C. Res.

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? Yes. If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). Fighter escort in the area.

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

None.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

43-38853 - Reporting A/C.

43-38767

- Missing A/C

8. Date of report 25 March 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>Marsh, John F.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>O-778868</u>	<u>43-38883</u>
2.	<u>Hamilton, John W.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>14203108</u>	<u>43-38883</u>
3.				
4.				

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>Joseph G. Robinson</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0-904618</u>	<u>Ass't. S-2.</u>
<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER. #</u>	<u>DUTY</u>

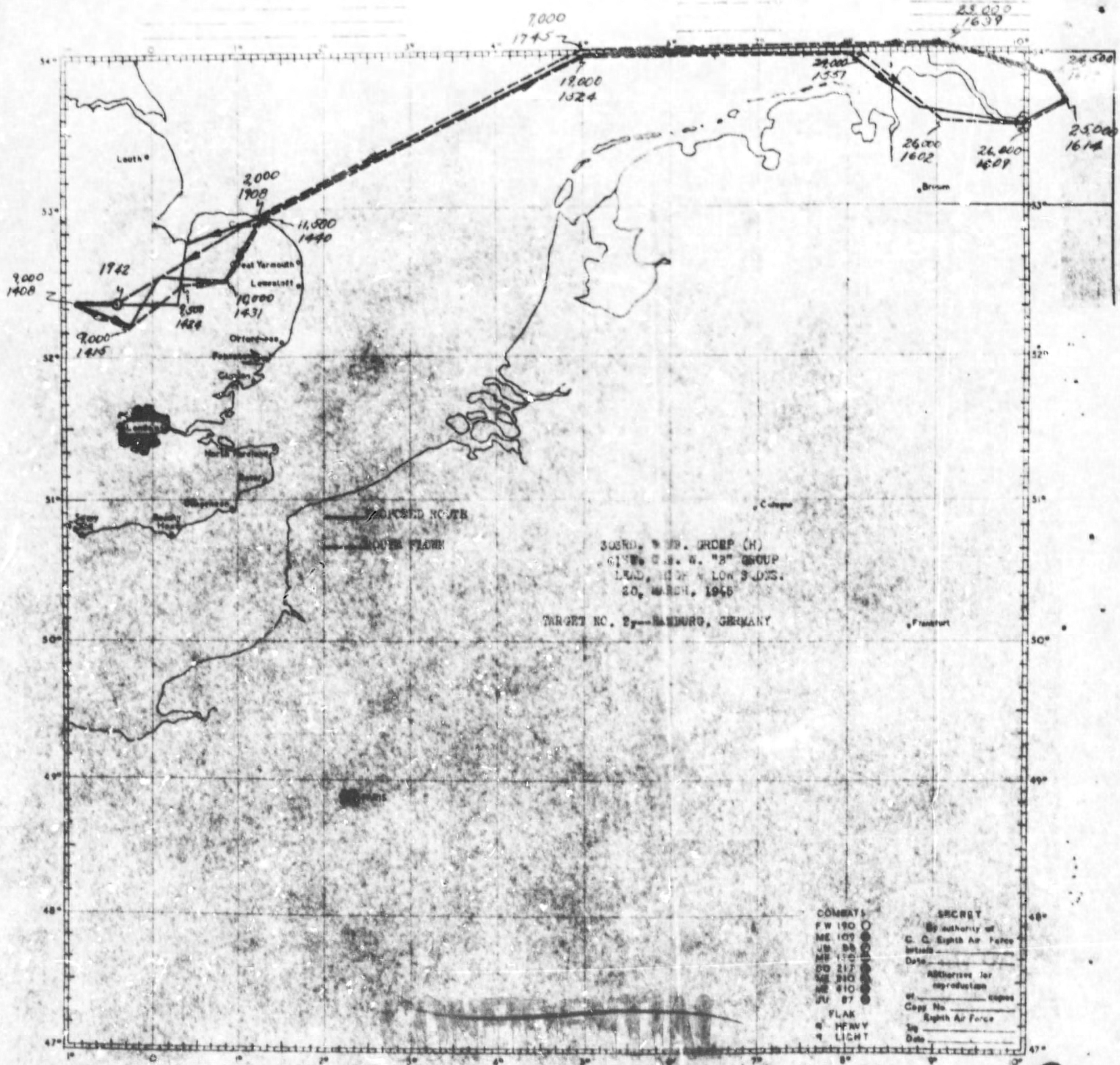
NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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

TRACK CHART

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY



308TH. W. B. GROUP (H)
 61ST W. B. W. "B" GROUP
 LEAD, HIGH & LOW 3-DIG.
 20. MARCH, 1945

TARGET NO. 27--SAARBURG, GERMANY

- COMBAT:
- FW 190 ○
 - ME 109 ●
 - BF 109 ●
 - ME 110 ●
 - DO 217 ●
 - ME 210 ●
 - ME 810 ●
 - Ju 87 ●

- FLAK
- HFVY
 - LIGHT

SECRET

By authority of
 C. C. Eighth Air Force
 Serials _____
 Date _____

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 Eighth Air Force
 Sig _____
 Date _____

EUS

2nd Lt Thomas L. Moore

Mrs. Clara B. Moore, (Wife) ✓
1409 N Main St
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

EUS 2nd Lt. James M. Barnett

Mrs. Margaret L. Bernett, (Wife) ✓
Box Number 613
Grayville, Illinois

F/O Morris Mieslich

Mr. Lewis Anker, (Brother-in-law) ✓
37-37 Warren Street
Jackson Heights
New York, New York

Sgt William A. Weise, Jr.

Mr. William A. Weise, (Father)
Quarters # Six
Fort Howard, Maryland

* note change of address -
W EA

EUS

Sgt Joseph T. Ogurchak

Mrs. Mary E. Ogurchak, (Mother) ✓
Box 689
Perryopolis, Pennsylvania

Sgt William A. Brookstra

Mr. William M. Brookstra, (Father) ✓
5127 Wabash Street
Detroit, Michigan

Sgt Frederick Kohan

Mrs. Tatina Novik, (Mother) ✓
11431 Hegel Rd
Goodrich, Michigan

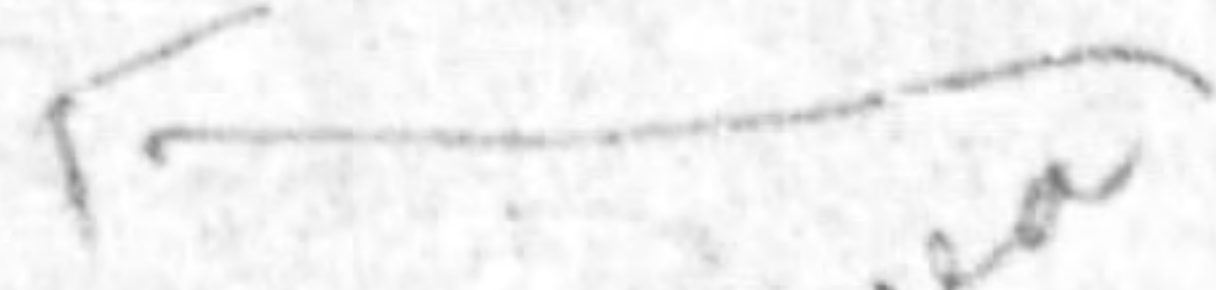
Sgt Clarence A. Pesta

Mrs. Angeline Pesta, (Mother) ✓
2287 Wyandotte
Hamtramck, Michigan

MACR 13570

FILM 8 VOL 1 132715

20 March 1945, 1630 h

near Neuengoehrs near Bad Segeberg 

Type of plane : Boeing, 99 % wreckage

Crew : 5 corpses, 4 prisoners

Plane last seen at 1623 hr. in area

*MACR 13570
(5 KIA / 3 EUS)*

13052 (5 KIA)

13570 (5 KIA, 3 EUS)