

14168

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RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by **AD**
by **AD**
Date **MAR 15 1948**

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAY 1 1946

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 427th; Detachment -----
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course See Attached Chart.
Target or Intended Destination Dresden, Ger.; Type of Mission Bombardment.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 10/10ths
high cloud, base 21,000. Dense, persistent contrails. Haze. Air to ground visibility 5-8
- GIVE: (a) Day 17 Month April Year 1945; Time 1520 Location ----- miles.
51°08'N-13°25' E. of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 96 miles SSW
(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 42-102544
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any Sack-Time
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R 1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) 43-62664; (b) SW 023096; (c) SW-018353; (d) SW-019902
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) 1528773 BLC; (b) 1528668 BLC; (c) 1528703 BLC; (d) 1528696 BLC; (e) 651374 FDGM; (f) 651307 FDGM; (g) 972208 SA; (h) 1528692 BLC; (i) 731110 BLC; (j) 972478 SA; (k) 652444 FDGM; (l) -----; (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 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	THOMAS, BLAINE E.	2nd Lt.	0-785019	MIA
2. Co-Pilot	BARTHOLOMEW, MAX R.	2nd Lt.	0-929990	MIA
3. Navigator	BONANNO, JOSEPH (NMI)	F/O	7-134535	MIA
4. Bombardier	ESCHINGER, EDWARD G.	S/Sgt.	33799319	MIA
5. TT Gunner	HAYNES, HARRY W.	S/Sgt.	33656863	MIA
6. Radio Gunner	SMITH, WALTER E.	S/Sgt.	37129463	MIA
7. BT Gunner	CONTRERAS, LUIS L.	Sgt.	39583708	MIA
8. Tail Gunner	CARLSON, MELVIN C.	Sgt.	37583525	MIA

MAY 24 1945

- 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		
			by Radio	Saw Sighted	Forced Landing
1. MAROZAS, ARTHUR A.	Sgt.	16187975		X	
2. KROHN, ROBERT	2/Lt.	0-783787		X	
3. CHRISTEN, LOUIS M.	2/Lt.	0-2075111		X	
4. LONSKI, CHARLES J.	1/Lt.	0-1585791		X	

(Over)

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April 5

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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 Sheets.**
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 **19 April 1945.**

Joseph G. Robinson
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

JOSEPH G. ROBINSON,
Capt. AC.

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

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 SQ 427th A/C # 42-102544 MISSION DATE 17 April 1945
FIRST PILOT THOMAS, BLAINE E. 2/Lt. 0-758019 DESTINATION Dresden, Ger.
NAME RANK SER.#

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

- (a) By coordinates 51°08'N-13°25'E.
- (b) Approximate altitude 20,000
- (c) Last noted heading West
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation 5,000 feet below.

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

Intense and accurate A/A gunfire at Brux and moderate and accurate at Dresden. Reports indicate A/C hit north of Brux.

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

One engine was smoking and A/C jettisoned bombs. A/C then crossed target with formation. Then A/C slipped off to left and down. A/C finally exploded in air about three minutes after it started down.

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

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5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with 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.):

Six chutes were seen. First three came out together. Then three more a little later. One jump was delayed. It is believed there was time for entire crew to get out.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

It is possible that one or more of the crew may have landed inside the American lines.

8. Date of report 19 April 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>MAROZAS, ARTHUR A.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>16187975</u>	<u>45-38621</u>
2.	<u>KROHN, ROBERT</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>O-785787</u>	<u>45-38621</u>
3.	<u>CHRISTEN, LOUIS M.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>O-2075111</u>	<u>45-38621</u>
4.	<u>LONSKI, CHARLES J.</u>	<u>1/Lt.</u>	<u>O-1585791</u>	<u>44-85534</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

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

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2nd Lt Blaine E. Thomas
Mrs. Pearl M. Thomas, (Mother)
605 East Broadway
Council Bluffs, Iowa ✓

2nd Lt Max R. Bartholomew
Mr. Maurice A. Bartholomew, (Father)
925 East McGregor Street
Algona, Iowa ✓

F/O Joseph Bonanno
Mrs. Rose D. Bonanno, (Mother)
143 Magnolia Avenue
Tenafly, New Jersey ✓

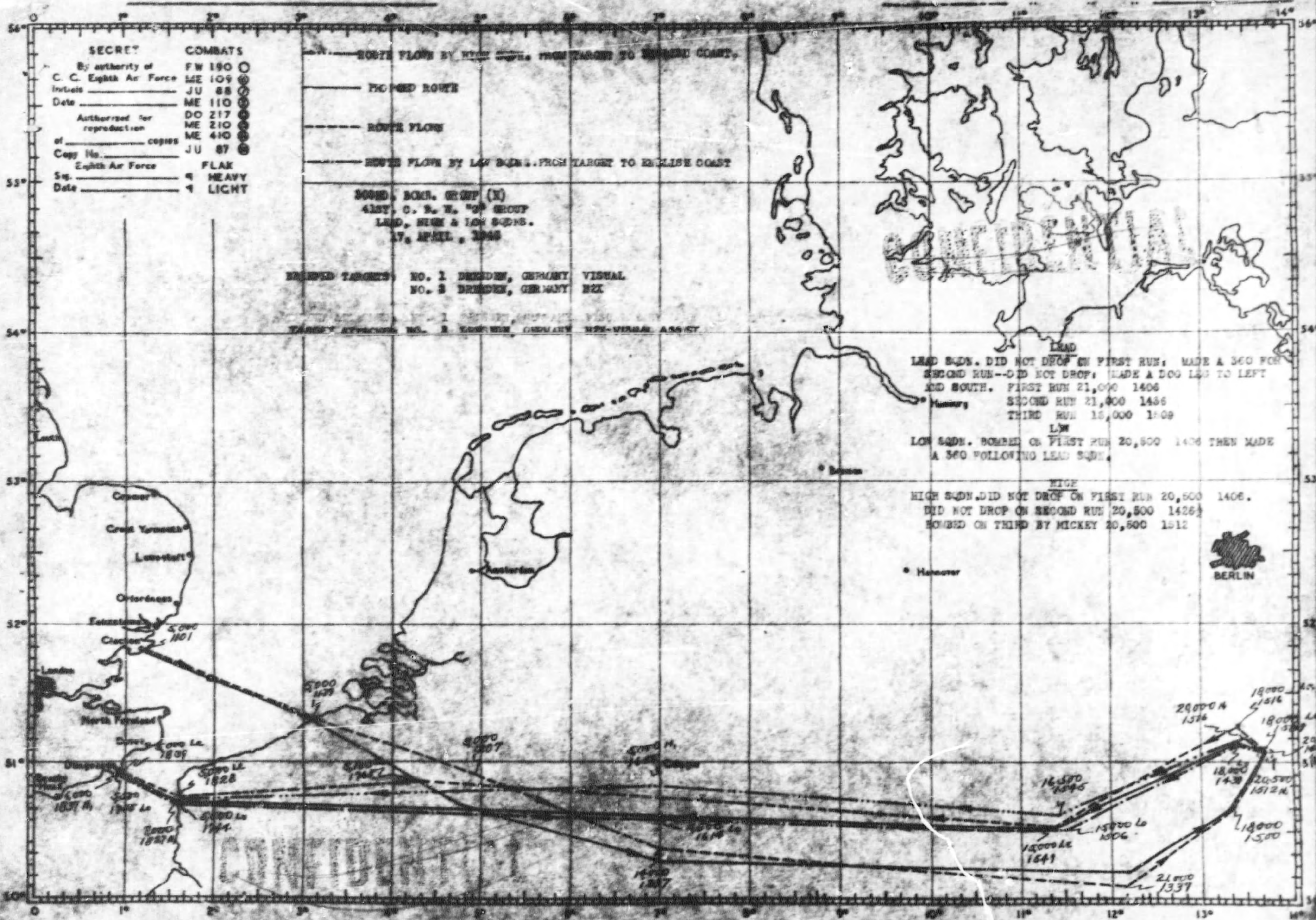
S/Sgt Edward G. Eschinger
Mrs. Stella A. Eschinger, (Wife)
2844 W. Huntingdon Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ✓

S/Sgt Harry W. Haynes, Jr.
Mrs. Clarice O. Haynes, (Mother)
1540 Grayson Avenue Northwest
Roanoke, Virginia ✓

S/Sgt Walter E. Smith
Mr. Joseph W. Smith, (Father)
3713 Pine Grove Avenue
Pine Lawn, Missouri ✓

Sgt Luis L. Contreras
Mr. Thomas D. Contreras, (Father)
265 West "L" Street
Colton, California ✓

Sgt Melvin C. Carlson
Mrs. Annie C. Carlson, (Mother)
Route Number Two
Sisseton, South Dakota ✓



SECRET

By authority of
C. C. Eighth Air Force

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Date _____

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of _____ copies
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Eighth Air Force
Sq. _____
Date _____

COMBATS

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

FLAK
HEAVY
LIGHT

ROUTE FLOW BY HIGH SQRN. FROM TARGET TO ENGLISH COAST.

FIGURED ROUTE

ROUTE FLOW

ROUTE FLOW BY LOW SQRN. FROM TARGET TO ENGLISH COAST

30000 BOMB. GROUP (X)
41ST, C. S. W. "9" GROUP
LEAD, HIGH & LOW SQRNS.
17, APRIL, 1945

MARKED TARGETS NO. 1 BREITENBURG, GERMANY VISUAL
NO. 2 BREITENBURG, GERMANY BZZ

TARGET APPROX. NO. 1 BREITENBURG, GERMANY VISUAL
NO. 2 BREITENBURG, GERMANY BZZ-VISUAL ASSIST

LEAD
LEAD SQRN. DID NOT DROP ON FIRST RUN; MADE A 360 FOR
SECOND RUN--DID NOT DROP; MADE A 90 DEG LEFT
AND SOUTH. FIRST RUN 21,000 1406
SECOND RUN 21,000 1436
THIRD RUN 18,000 1409

LOW
LOW SQRN. BOMBED ON FIRST RUN 20,500 1406 THEN MADE
A 360 FOLLOWING LEAD SQRN.

HIGH
HIGH SQRN. DID NOT DROP ON FIRST RUN 20,500 1406.
DID NOT DROP ON SECOND RUN 20,500 1426;
BOMBED ON THIRD BY MICKEY 20,500 1512



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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ESCHINGER, Edward G.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 33799319
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Near Dresden Germany at 1520 on 17th of April 1945.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He reported that bombs were away on the target and his acknowledgment of the order to bail out.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? Leaving the plane through the forward escape hatch.

Any hearsay information: None known.

Source: _____

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

It is my opinion that he was picked up by civilians. He was one of the first men out of the ship and would have landed quite close to Dresden.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Twenty-one (21)

Dates and destinations if possible; 11 Mar 45-Betzdorf-15 Mar Zossen-17 Mar Liepsige-18 Mar Berlin-20 Mar Hamburg-21 Mar Hansdorf-22 Mar Gelsenkerchen-~~23 Mar~~-28 Mar Berlin-30 Mar Bremen-21 Mar Halle-3 Apr Kiel-4 Apr Unterlusz-5 Apr Bayreuth-6 Apr Liepsige-7 Apr Hitzacker-8 Apr Schafstedt-10 Apr Oranienburg-11 Apr Freiham-14 Apr Royan, Fr.-16 Apr Straubing-17 Apr Dresden.

Max R. Bartholomeu
1st Lt. A.C. Reese

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BONANNO , Joseph
Rank: F/O
Serial number: T-134535
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~; Navigator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Near Dresden Germany at 1520 on 17th of April 1945.

If not, why not? _____

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

acknowledgment of the order to bail out.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? F/O Bonanno was liberated and sent back to the States through regular channels for liberated P.O.W.
any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible; Unknown

Max R. Bartholomew
1st Lt. A.C. Reserve
6-3861-4F

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BOHANNON, Joseph**

Rank: **E/O**

Serial number: **1-134535**

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator~~ **Navigator**

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ESCHINGER, Edward G.

Rank: S/Sgt.

Serial number: 33799319

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~; Bombardier

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CARLSON , Melvin G.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **37583525**

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SPILLER/COPILOT/ENGINEER~~ **Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SCHLONER, Edward G.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **33789319**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Bombardier**

APP-8
2

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Dresden

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21

Dates and destinations if possible; _____

By: *Luis L. Contreras*
265 West L St
Colton, Calif

AG

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: CARLSON, Melvin G.

Rank: Sgt.

Serial number: 37583525

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SPOOKLIGHT (EGGPOUNDER)~~ Tail Gunner

Yes

Did he bail out? _____

Dresden

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21 _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BONANNO , Joseph

Rank: F/O

Serial number: T-134535

Position: Crew (Bomber)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Navigator

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Dresden

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? Radio operator saw him in France

any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

