

CONFIDENTIAL

(Ltr, Sta 121, Dtd 10 Nov 44, Subj: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, A/C # 42-107178).

319.1

1st Ind.

P-1-3

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 12 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 557, AAF Station 101.
Att: 21st Statistical Control Unit).

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:



Robert P. Johnson, Jr.
ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, Jr.
Lieut. Colonel, AGD.
Adjutant General

319.1

2nd Ind.

G-3-4

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634.

18 NOV 1944

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, U. S. Army.

H. S. W.
H. S. W.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY-FIRST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 557

P-A-1

10 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Supplement to Missing Air-crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.
Thru channels. (Attention: Statistical Control)

1. In compliance with War Department Letter of Instructions, AG 704, subject "Missing Air-crew Report", dated 5 July 1944, the following additional information is submitted:

a. S/Sgt. Leonard A. Bielawski, 15374224, ball-turret-gunner on aircraft B-17-G, 42-107178, missing in action on mission to Berlin, Germany, 24 May 1944, has returned to duty and reassigned to 70th Replacement Depot, AAF, per par 1 & 2, SO 90, Hq, Legation of the United States of America, Stockholm, Sweden, dated 23 October 1944.

2. S/Sgt. Bielawski concurred with statement in Missing Air-crew Report and added that the aircraft was on fire in rear of the pilot's compartment. He further stated that to the best of his knowledge the status of the remainder of the crew is as follows:

NAME	STATEMENT OF E.M.	STATUS THIS HQ.
1st Lt. William F. Nee, O-803853.	Bailed out over Germany.	P/W, per ETO MRU report, 6 Aug 44.
2nd Lt. Reginald Aragona, O-755262.	Bailed out over Germany.	P/W, per ETO MRU report, 5 Aug 44.
2nd Lt. Frederic T. Neel, Jr. O-688606.	Drowned when A/C hit water.	MIA, 24 May 1944.
2nd Lt. Richard Markey, O-753151.	Believe ret'd to Z of I.	Rep't interned per ETO MRU report, 13 July 1944.
T/Sgt. Gaetano A. Scida, 32497416.	Bailed out over Germany.	P/W, per ETO MRU report, 19 Aug 44.
T/Sgt. Philip J. Branner, 32409526.	Interned in Sweden.	Interned, per ETO MRU report, 13 Jul 44.
T/Sgt. Donald E. Spaulding, 39382615.	Bailed out and was killed when he hit the water.	KIA, ETO MRU report, 26 September 1944.
Sgt. Robert Heimbach, 17154809.	Drowned when A/C hit water. Part of clothing and wallet washed up on beach. Body not found.	MIA, 24 May 1944.



for the Commanding Officer:

CONFIDENTIAL

Joseph G. Stirling
JOSEPH G. STIRLING,
Captain, Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant

1st. Lt. Fredric E. Neel, Jr.

Mrs. Julia Faye Neel, (Wife)
415 West San Antonio Street,
Lockhart, Texas.

1st. Lt. William F. Nee

Mrs. Lottie R. Nee, (Wife)
Fairburn, Georgia.

2nd. Lt. Reginald Aragona

Mrs. Lena S. Edwards, (Mother)
719 W. Washington Avenue,
Montebello, California.

2nd. Lt. Richard Martley

Miss Edith A. Bogert,
Saddle River, New Jersey.

T/Sgt. Donald E. Spaulding

Mrs. Edith A. Spaulding, (Mother)
Route Number Four, Box 792,
Kent, Washington.

S/Sgt. Leonard A. Bielawski

Mrs. Josephine A. Bielawski, (Mother)
2333 Fellows Street,
Toledo, Ohio.

T/Sgt. Philip J. Branner

Mrs. Selia Branner, (Mother)
1266 Clove Road,
Staten Island, New York.

T/Sgt. Bartand A. Solida

Mr. Michael A. Solida, (Brother)
745 Park Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Sgt. Robert Heinbach

Mr. William P. Heinbach, (Father)
1914 Lakewood Drive,
Eden, Minnesota.

CONFIDENTIAL

AG 319.1 Gas

3rd Ind.

JWF/ATD/gd

HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887, U.S. ARMY, 15 February 1945

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.

1. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of the crew members of aircraft number 42-107178 to be prisoners of war with the exception of the instances noted below:

2nd Lt. Francis T. Neel, Jr.	O-588606	KIA	24 May 1944
2nd Lt. Richard Markley	O-753151	INT	24 May 1944
T/Sgt. Philip J. Branner	32409526	INT	24 May 1944
T/Sgt. Donald E. Spaulding	39282615	KIA	24 May 1944
Sgt. Robert Reimbach	17184809	KIA	24 May 1944

2. A Missing Air Crew Report for aircraft number 42-107178 was forwarded your headquarters by letter, this headquarters, File 360.33 Cas, dated 13 June 1944.

For the Theater Commanders:

H. M. RUND,
Colonel, AGO,
Asst. Adj. General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard Markley Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. 0-753151
2. Organization 91st Gp Commander Rank Sqn CO McCartlan Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month May day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Berlin, target time, 1050-1100, altitude, 25,000' route scheduled, , route flown fairly direct, over Belgium
5. Where were you when you left formation? approx (X)20 minutes - 50 miles N.E. Berlin
6. Did you bail out? Yes The plane was flown to Sweden.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes - all. The last in the plane, Lt. Neel, was found clear and in vicinity of crash. Cannot say definitely that he had jumped or been thrown from plane.
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".
Three of crew left plane at time of accident - III5 N.E. of Berlin
Have since been repatriated to the U.S. May of 1945, from Prisoner of War Camp
The rest of us at the end of the flight jumped in vicinity of Swedish coast.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Six men. Nine man crew. coast.
News clipping; Offshore of either Smrlishamm or Gislövshamm to the west.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
Assume Lt. Neel left plane before crash though he may have tried to bring it down alone. Understand he was found in the vicinity of crash and was clear of the plane. Details are not available to me.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Cockpit.
12. What was their condition? Uninjured.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

OVER

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

HEIMBACH, Robert (NMI)

File 5358

Rank:

Sgt

Serial number:

17154809

Position: Crew (Bomber)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: L & R Waist GunnerDid he bail out? Yes, the first to leave the plane.Where? Inland at coast near Skillinge, vicinity of Simrishamn, south Sweden.~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Wind caused a high drift so that the chute came down in the water.

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

Had had no personal contact with him.Was he injured? Was not injured up until the time of jump to my knowledge.Where was he when last seen? Radio room.Any hearsay information: The rescue party reported sighting him and had closed to approximately 35 yards before he disappeared. Sometime later his wallet was picked up.Sgt. Heimbach was not able to be found.Source: Hearsay.Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: YesBecause of the high wind he was carried from land to water where he landed. He would have had difficulty, especially if he had not unfastened the chute from the harness before contact.Total number of missions of above crew member: Nine, but not certain, first were flown separately with other crews.Dates and destinations if possible: 1944; 27 April, Cherbourg; 28 April, Avord, France;1 May, Troyes, France; 7 May, Berlin; 13 May, Stettin; 19 May, Berlin; 22 May, Kiel;23 May, Saarbrücken; 24 May, Berlin last. First three may not check..

SKILLINGE - 55.30 N 14.19 E

Simrishamn, - 55.36 N - 14.22 E

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

SPAULDING, Donald E.

File 5358

Rank:

T/Sgt

Serial number:

39382615

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~EX-100-100-100-100~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes, third from last, and before myself.Where? Over the Swedish coast near Skillinge, vicinity of Simrishamn.

If not, why not? _____

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

Only when he came forward to notify me to jump.Was he injured? Not injured at time of jump.Where was he when last seen? In the bomb bay as he checked his chute.Any hearsay information: They were unable to reach him in time after seeing the descent. He was picked up.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The wind was giving a strong drift and it would have been very difficult to help himself once reaching the water especially if he had not unfastened the chute.Total number of missions of above crew member: He had flown 54 missions prior to this last tour with the Eighth Airforce.Dates and destinations if possible: The first three may not check; The following are the nine the crew flew.

1944; 27 April, Cherbourg

19 May, Berlin

28 " Avord, France

22 May, Kiel

1 May, Troyes, France

23 May, Saarbrücken

7 " Berlin

24 May, Berlin Last

13 " Stettin

Bgt. Spaulding is now at the cemetery of Malmo. Full Military services were held.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Rank:

1LT, Frederick T. Jr.

File 5378

Serial number:

2nd Lt

Position: Crew (Bomber)

~~or Flight (Fighter)~~

G-100106

Navigator

Did he bail out? He was to have bailed out. As it was he was found clear
Where? of the plane in a chute harness. He may have attempted a landing
if not, why not? alone or jumped just before crash.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: There was no
conversation except earlier in the decision to jump and a visual
understanding from me that I was the last of the crew before him and was
Was he injured? ready to jump. He was not injured.

Where was he when last seen? Cockpit

Any hearsay information: Only that he was found in vicinity of crash free of plane
and according to a clipping was found by a boy in a boat near Gislövshammar
which is near Malmo.

The plane had been flown to Sweden rather than back to England.

Source: Clipping and Engineering Officer attached to Air Attache,
conducting salvage.

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

Circumstances at the last are not known, that is, exactly what he did
when the others had left.

Total number of missions is unknown since it was only the second mission
he had flown with our crew.

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Date ~~of capture~~ if possible: _____

He was first taken to Hoby and then it was to be decided whether he would
be taken to the Malmo cemetery, according to first news clipping.
(East Hoby Cemetery)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BIELAWSKI, LEONARD Rank S/SGT Serial No. 15374224
2. Organization 91st Gp Commander _____ Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 24th did you go down? YES
4. What was the mission, BERLIN, target, BERLIN, target
time, _____, altitude, 25,000 FT., route scheduled, HOLLAND
GERMANY, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER BERLIN
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES - PILOT, CO-PILOT
BOMBARDIER, TOP TURRET, BALL GUNNER, WAIST,
TAIL AND RADIO GUNNER
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". PILOT, CO-PILOT
AND TOP TURRET GUNNER BAILED OUT OVER BERLIN.
BOMBARDIER AND RADIO MAN OVER SWEDEN.
NEAR YSTAR, SWEDEN.
NO
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? (WATER) NEAR YSTAR
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NAVIGATOR
WAS IN AIRCRAFT WHEN IT HIT WATER.
OTHERS HAD ALREADY BAILED OUT.
11. Where were they in aircraft? NAVIGATOR WAS IN PILOT
SEAT.
12. What was their condition? WERE NO KNOWLEDGE.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? PILOT, CO-PILOT, AND TURRET (TOP) GUNNER
WERE LAST SEEN ON GROUND BEFORE MISSION BEGAN.
BOMBARDIER IN HIS COMPARTMENT, NAVIGATOR IN
PILOT SEAT, TAIL GUNNER IN CO-PILOT SEAT,
WAIST GUNNER AND RADIO MAN WERE IN GOOD
CONDITION BEFORE BOTH BAILED OUT. I WAS TRYING
TO LEAVE SHIP.
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

Name of crew member:

NEEL, Frederick T. Jr.

File 5558

Rank:

2nd Lt

Serial number:

O-688606

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SEXTON/ENGINEER~~: NavigatorDid he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? BELIEVE PARACHUTE WAS INFLATED.HE WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP IN WATER

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

WAS TOLD TO BAIL OUTWas he injured? BELIEVE HE WAS SLIGHTLY BURNEDWhere was he when last seen? IN PILOT SEAT

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: WAS TOLD
BY AMERICAN LEGATION OFFICER THAT HE
WAS FOUND NEAR PILOT SEAT, DEEP. THAT
WAS WHEN THE SHIP WAS RAISED FROM
BOTTOM OF BALTIC SEA.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10BELIEVEDates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Rank:

Serial number:

Position: Crew (Bomber)

SPALDING, Donald E.

File 5750

2/sgt

3700615

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out?

YES

Where?

NEAR YSTAD SWEDEN BUT OVER WATER

If not, why not?

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

TOLD HIM TO TAKE CO-PILOT'S PLACE IN CO-PILOT SEAT.

Was he injured?

NO

Where was he when last seen?

IN CO-PILOT SEAT

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

I WAS

TAKEN BY SWEDISH OFFICERS TO IDENTIFY
 T/SGT. SPALDING'S DOCTORS. THAT WAS NEAR THE
 PLACE WHERE HE WAS FOUND IN THE WATER REAR

I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE HIS BODY BUT WAS TOLD
 HE WAS ALIVE WHEN I SAW HIS DOCTORS

Total number of missions of above crew member:

12

Dates and destinations if possible:

BERLIN 3 TIMES, POZNAN
 POLAND, KIEL, PARIS

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

BERNARD, Robert (RM1)

File 5393

Rank:

2nd

Serial number:

17154007

Position: Crew (Bomber)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ L & R Waist GunnerDid he bail out? YESWhere? NEAR VSTAD SWEDEN BUT IN WATER.

If not, why not? _____

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

WAS TOLD TO FOLLOW HIMWas he injured? NOWhere was he when last seen? IN BOMBAY READY TO LEAVE SHIP

Any hearsay information: _____

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: WAS TOLD BY SWEDISH AND AMERICAN OFFICERS THAT HE HAD LANDED IN WATER BUT DROWNED BEFORE BOAT COULD REACH HIM. HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.

Total number of missions of above crew member: BELIEVE 9

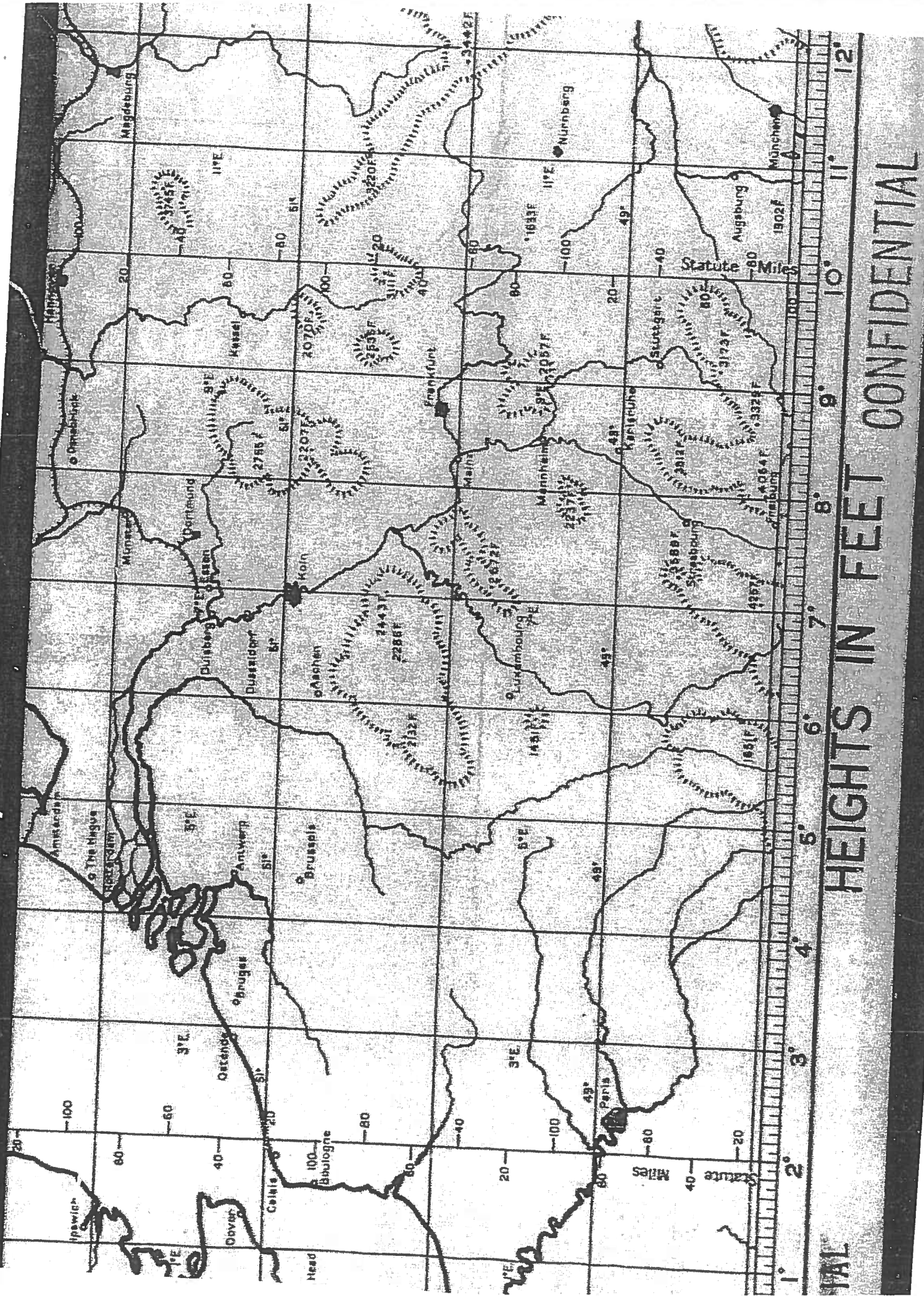
Dates and destinations if possible: KIEL, POZNAN, PARIS, + BERLIN 3 TIMES.

EXPLANATION OF MISSION

MAY LAST MISSION WAS TO BERLIN, MAY 24th, 1944. TOTAL NUMBER OF CREW WAS NINE. OVER TARGET WE WERE HIT. BELIEVE IT WAS WIRING IN BACK OF PILOT SEAT THAT STARTED BURNING. IT MUST HAVE PUT OUT ALARM SYSTEM AND INTER-PHONE BECAUSE NEITHER WERE HEARD WHEN PILOT, CO-PILOT AND TOP TURRET GUNNER BAILED OUT OVER GERMANY. NAVIGATOR PUT OUT FIRE WHILE IN PILOT SEAT. LATER, TAIL GUNNER WAS TOLD TO FLY CO-PILOT. ~~SB~~ PLANE WAS FLOWN TO COAST OF SWEDEN.

WE BAILED OUT IN THIS ORDER, WAIST GUNNER WAS FIRST AND WAS DROWNED. HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND. RADIO MAN SECOND. HE LANDED UNINJURED. I WAS THIRD AND UNINJURED. FOURTH TO LEAVE WAS TAIL GUNNER WHO WAS KILLED WHEN HE HIT WATER. BOMBARDIER WAS NEXT AND LANDED IN WATER. HE WAS SAVED BY SWEDISH FISHERMEN. HE STILL HAD HIS PARACHUTE WHEN HE HIT WATER AND SUFFERED FROM SHOCK.

NAVIGATOR WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP. HE WAS FOUND IN PLANE WITH A PARACHUTE THAT WAS INFLATED.



HEIGHTS IN FEET

CONFIDENTIAL

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

KIMBACH, Robert (NMI)

File 5358

Rank:

Sgt

Serial number:

17154809

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I & R Waist GunnerDid he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere? " "If not, why not? " "Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE CALLED
AND REPORTED 4 ENEMY PLANES ATTACKINGWas he injured? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere was he when last seen? IN WAISTAny hearsay information: NO

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE DIDN'T
ANSWER ME WHEN I CALLED BACK AND WHEN I TOLD HIM
TO BAIL OUT. I BELIEVE HE WAS KILLED IN THE ATTACK.Total number of missions of above crew member: 7 (APPROXIMATELY)

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

MR. Frederick T. Jr.

File 3330

Rank:

2nd Lt

Serial number:

O-66306

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

Navigator

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere? " "If not, why not? " "Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NOCONTACTWas he injured? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGEAny hearsay information: NO

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NOTotal number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name REGINALD ARAGONA Rank 1ST LT. Serial No. 0755262
2. Organization 91ST B.G. Gp Commander FUTNAM Rank COL. Sqn CO MC PARTLIN Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, BERLIN, target time, 1130, altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, NORTH SEA ROUTE, route flown NORTH SEA ROUTE
5. Where were you when you left formation? FORMATION OF 3 PLANES OVER BERLIN
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
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". PILOT 2ND LT WILLIAM F NEE, T/SGT GAETANO SCIDA BAILED OUT SAME TIME I DID FROM BOMB BAY OVER BERLIN AREA ABOUT 1200 HR.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NO KNOWLEDGE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY
11. Where were they in aircraft? NO KNOWLEDGE
12. What was their condition? " " "
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? NEE, SCIDA AND I MET IN POLICE STATION OF A SMALL TOWN WITHIN 24 HRS. NEE AND I WERE IN FAIR CONDITION AND WERE TAKEN TO PRISON CENTER. SCIDA WAS IN BAD CONDITION DUE TO AN INJURED NECK AND WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF DEATH OF LT EDWARD PAUL RIDINGS OF 303 VINE ST, MACON MISSOURI. HE DIED ON A FORCED MARCH IN NIEDELUMELSDORF GERMANY ON APRIL 14, 1945. DUE TO AN INFECTED THROAT

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Missing Air Crew Report No. 5358

Date _____ Theatre _____

Involves

ARAGONA, Reginald (NEI)

2nd Lt

C 19306

3-3048, AF

Missing Air Crew Report No. 5938

Date _____ Theatre _____

Involves

ARAGONA, Reginald (MIA)

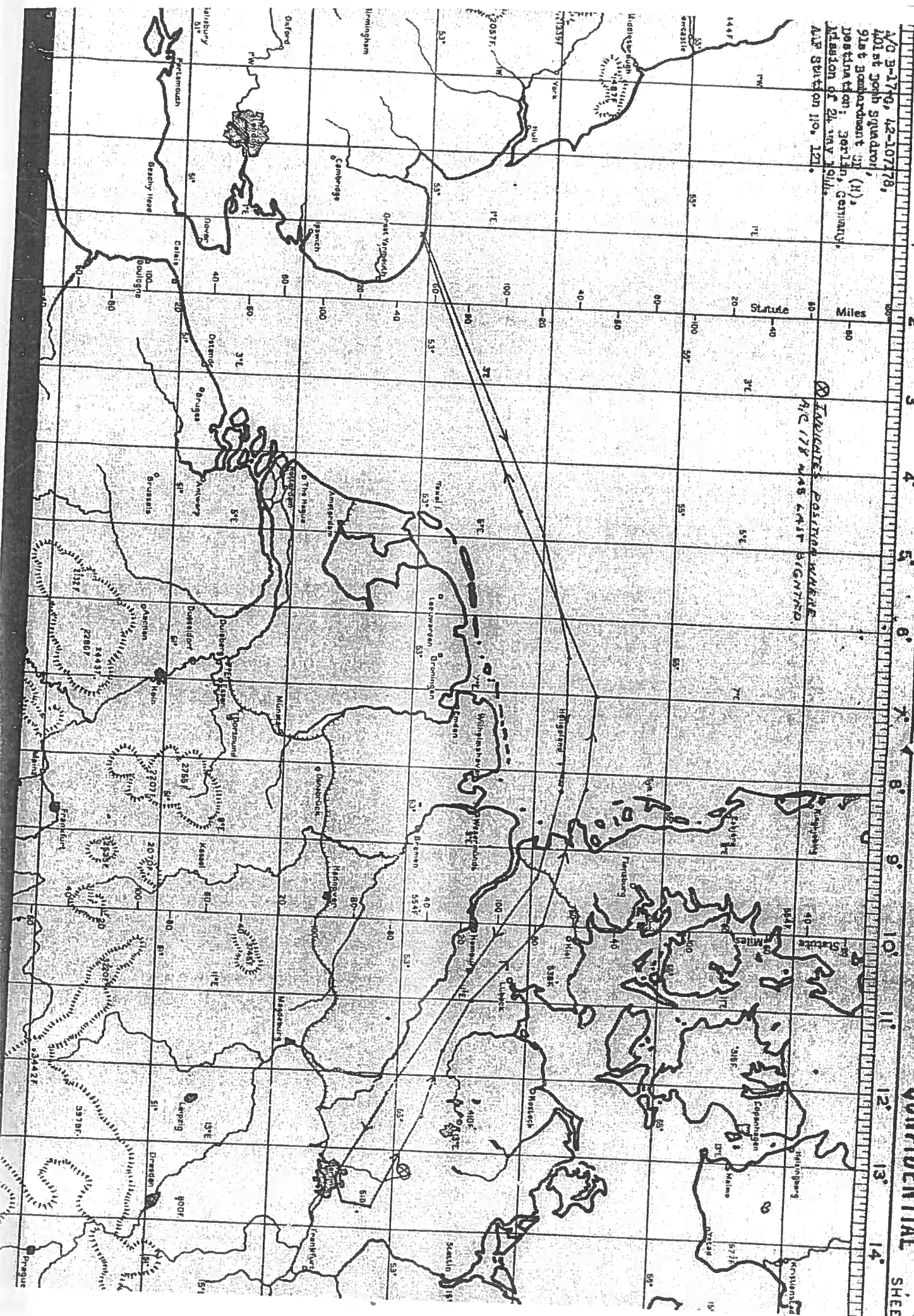
2nd Lt

C-19306

3-20-68, AF

A/C 3-1770, 42-107778,
1st Bombardment Squadron,
1st Bombardment Group (H),
Destination: Berlin, Germany.
Mission of 24 May 1944.
A/C Station No. 121.

INDICATE POSITION WHERE
A/C 178 WAS LAST SIGHTED



CONFIDENTIAL

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: crew 9; passengers 0; total 9.

crew position	name in full (last name first)	rank	serial number
1. Pilot	(1091) <u>NEE, WILLIAM E.</u>	1st Lt.	0-803853 RTD
2. Co-pilot	(1091) <u>KARAGOMA, REGINALD (NMI)</u>	2nd Lt.	0-755762 RTD
3. Navigator	(1035) <u>NEEL, FREDERIC T. JR.</u>	2nd Lt.	0-688506
4. Bombardier	(1035) <u>HARKLEY, RICHARD (NMI) ✓</u>	2nd Lt.	0-75151 RTD
5. Top turret gunner	(748) <u>SCIDA, CANTANO A. ✓</u>	T/Sgt.	32197416 RTD
6. Radio operator	(727) <u>BRANZER, PHILIP J. ✓</u>	T/Sgt.	32109526 RTD
7. Tail gunner	(748) <u>SEABRING, DONALD E. ✓</u>	1st Sgt.	39382615 RTD
8. Ball turret gunner	(612) <u>BIELANSKI, LEONARD A. ✓</u>	S/Sgt.	15374221 RTD
9. I & R waist gun	(748) <u>HEILBRACH, ROBERT (NMI) ✓</u>		17154809

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF THE CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES TO INDICATE BASIS FOR ENTRY:

Name in full (last name first)	Rank	Serial number	Contacted BY radio	Last sighted	Saw crash	Forced landing
1. <u>LANGFORD, WALTER E.</u>	1st Lt.	0-808856				
2. <u>GALLAGHER, EDWARD J.</u>	S/Sgt.	33580378				

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) parachutes were used 0; (b) persons were seen walking away from scene of crash --; or (c) any other reason (specify) see par 14.

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

"Aircraft B-17-G, 42-107178, could have been hit by flak or fighters as it left the formation about 8 minutes after target had been reached. Aircraft was under control, was not on fire, and had no engines knocked out. It went down to about 8,000 feet and flew along below and behind the formation for about ten minutes before disappearing from view. This aircraft was seen to have fighter escort when last observed. No parachutes were seen.

/s/ Walter E. Langford,
WALTER E. LANGFORD,
0-808856, 1st Lt.,
401st Bomb Squadron,
91st Bomb Group (H)

/s/ Edward J. Gallagher,
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, 33580378,
401st Bomb Squadron, S/Sgt.,
91st Bomb Group.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE NO search

Date of Report 26 May 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

Edward J. Gallagher
(Signature of Reporting Officer)
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, 1st Lt.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

5358

MISSING AIR FORCE REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Air Station No. 121; Command or Air Force 8th Air Force; Group 91st Bomb GP (H); Squadron 101st Bomb Sq.; Detachment ---
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Air Station No. 121; Destination Berlin, Germany; Type of Mission Bombardment
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: scattered cloud and slight haze.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 24 MAY 44 Time 1124; and location 5200 N - 1310 E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (x) 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; (x) other circumstances as follows aircraft may have been hit by either enemy aircraft or anti-aircraft fire. No visible damage was apparent when subject aircraft left the formation.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-2; A-1-F. Serial Number 42-107178 X
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series 1820-27; A-1-F. Serial Number (a) SR-013650
(b) SR-015525; (c) SR-013672; (d) SR-013654
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below table, type and serial number)

MAKE	TYPE	SERIAL NUMBER
(a) High standard mfg. co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	716522
(b) High standard mfg. co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	156595
(c) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1191775
(d) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1295476
(e) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1295486
(f) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1296284
(g) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1296004
(h) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1295485
(i) Buffalo Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1192500
(j) Savage Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1191969
(k) Savage Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1191720
(l) Savage Arms Co.	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1295475
(m)		
(n)		
(o)		
(p)		
(q)		
(r)		
(s)		
(t)		

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle casualty 1
or (b) Non-Battle casualty ---

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 1

Ac 1444

Of these two clippings, the first describes the bailout of we three crew members and the crashing of the plane off-shore of Simrishamn, South Sweden. It was the following days news account.

I remember hearing that the plane had been found some distance away from what I would have thought.

Gislövshamn is to the West near Malmö on the coast and it is there that the second clipping says Lt. Neel was found in the water a considerable time later by a boy out rowing in a boat and I believe this to be the scene of the crash.

The Military Air Attache in Stockholm would have an accurate report.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

JMP/jh

AG 360.33

APD 871
13 June 44

Subject: Missing Air Crew Reports.

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

Forwarded herewith Missing Air Crew Reports of the Ninth Air Force.

For the Theater Commander:

H. M. Rund
H. M. RUND, *enc*
Lt. Col, AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

1 Incls:

Missing Air Crew Report, 91st Bomb Gp.
B-17-G, 42-107178, 24 May 44.

mc 9008
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5358

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. F. BRADONAL, Lt. Col., AG
by F. H. KENNEDY, Capt., AG
Date 15 MAR 1946

~~RESTRICTED~~

Crashed in water

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY-FIRST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 557

P-4-1

25 MAY 1944.

ATTACHMENT to Missing Air-crew report; A/C B-17-G, 42-107178, 91st Bombardment Group (H), 401st Bombardment Squadron, AAF Station No. 121.

Mission of 24 May 1944.

Destination - Berlin, Germany.

STATEMENT OF EYEWITNESS

Aircraft B-17-G, 42-107178, could have been hit by flak or fighters as it left the formation about 8 minutes after target had been reached. Aircraft was under control, was not on fire, and had no engines knocked out. It went down to about 8,000 feet and flew along below and behind the formation for about ten minutes before disappearing from view. This aircraft was seen to have fighter escort when last observed. No parachutes were seen.

Walter R. Langford
WALTER R. LANGFORD,
O-808856, 1st Lt.,
401st Bomb Squadron,
91st Bomb Group (H).

Robert J. Galloway
ROBERT J. GALLOWAY,
33580378, S/Sgt.,
401st Bomb Squadron,
91st Bomb Group (H).

CONFIDENTIAL