

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11764

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

Date JAN 15 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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England; Command or Air Force VIII; Group 384th; Squadron 54th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed
Target or Intended Destination Sterkrade, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
C.A.V.U.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month JAN Year 45; Time 1333; and Location 5134N 0642E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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 (☐); Other Circumstances as Follows: Flak intense, accurate and tracking. Aircraft was not out of control
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 43-37703
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any "Tremblin Gremlin"
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number (a) 42-78522; (b) SW-030561; (c) SW-023408; (d) SW-018956
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) 1211972 Sav.; (b) 1211796 Sav.; (c) 1211623 Sav.; (d) 1211731 Sav.; (e) 1211537 Sav.; (f) 1211722 Sav.; (g) 1211760 Sav.; (h) 1211755 Sav.; (i) 1211493 Sav.; (j) 1211556 Sav.; (k) 1211635 Sav.; (l) 1211510 Sav.; (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (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	Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	ASN	Current Status
EVS	1. Pilot	Birder, Rodney Hugh	2nd Lt	0-774490	MTA RTD
EVS	2. Co Pilot	Clyde, Edward C., Jr.	2nd Lt	0-780520	MTA RTD
EVS	3. Navigator	Dickinson, Ezra Roger	2nd Lt	0-2068266	MTA RTD
RMC	4. Bombardier	Bentley, William Lincoln	2nd Lt	0-2068174	MTA RTD
EVS	5. Radio Operator	Dean, Donald Lloyd	S/Sgt.	15382131	MTA RTD
EVS	6. Top Turret	Biera, Manuel A.	S/Sgt.	38372927	MTA RTD
EVS	7. Ball Turret	Blanford, Glenn O.	Sgt.	39467910	MTA RTD
EVS	8. Tail Gunner	Cato, William H.	Sgt.	38603832	MTA RTD
EVS	9. Waist Gunner	MacMillan, Chester A.	S/Sgt.	20510009	MTA RTD
	10.				
	11.				

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Serial 14'

2nd Lt. Rodney H. Birder ✓

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Birder (Parents)
436 9th Avenue
San Francisco, California

2nd Lt. Edward C. Clyde Jr. ✓

Mrs. Alice G. Clyde (Wife)
Effingham, South Carolina

2nd Lt. Ezra R. Dickinson Jr. ✓

Mr. Ezra R. Dickinson Sr. (Father)
92 Oak Street
Hudson Falls, New York

2nd Lt. William L. Bentley ✓

Mrs. Bertha Bentley (Mother)
356 Lincoln Street
Woodburn, Oregon

S/Sgt. Donald L. Dean ✓

Mrs. Della Olive Dean (Mother)
Rural Route Number 2
Charlestown, Indiana

S/Sgt. Manuel A. Biera ✓

Mrs. Lucia Biera (Mother)
318 East 5th Street
San Angelo, Texas

Sgt. Glenn O. Blanford ✓

Mrs. Agnes E. Blanford (Mother)
Post Office Box 243
Post Falls, Idaho

Sgt. William H. Cato ✓

Mrs. Norma J. Cato (Wife) ✓
Greenbrier, Arkansas

S/Sgt. Chester A. Mac Millan ✓

Mrs. Helen J. Mac Millan (Wife)
58 West Lincoln Avenue
Post Office Box 226
Delaware, Ohio

gone

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

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR ~~Report~~ Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Rice, Robert Eugene	1st Lt	0-757282		X	
2. Dabney, William Lee	2nd Lt	0-817822		X	
3. Ginder, John P.	S/Sgt.	33591643		X	

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) Unknown.

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

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT

Date of Report 29 January 1945

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
J. R. WYATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

Incl 1



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

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 384 SQ 544 A/C # 413-31 703 MISSION DATE 22/1/45

FIRST PILOT Birder, Redney H. 2nd Lt. 0-774490 DESTINATION Sterkrade, Germany.
NAME RANK ASN

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

(a) By coordinates 51 34 N. 06 42 E

(b) Approximate altitude 26,500 ft.

(c) Last noted heading 145°

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation
Not out of formation.

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

No enemy fighter opposition

Flak was intense, accurate and tracking.

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

Extent of damage to aircraft is unknown.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft not out of control.

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.).

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

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

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

Unobserved.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Flak and weather scattered formation after group left the target area and Lt. Birdier was not seen again.

8. Date of report 26 January, 1945

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>Robert E. Rice</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-757282</u>	<u>401</u>
2.	<u>William L. Dabney</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-817822</u>	<u>620</u>
3.	<u>Ellis W. Gline</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>39145669</u>	<u>620</u>
4.	<u>John P. Ginder</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>33591643</u>	<u>590</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

Samuel F. Arauz

S. F. ARAUZ

NAME

Capt.

RANK

O-569672

ASN

S-2 Officer.

DUTY

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

Downing No: KU 3626

Report on Downing of an American Plane:

Date of Shot-down....: 22 January 1945 - 1405
Place of Downing....: Kervenheim near Geldern
Type of Plane.....: Fortress
Reporting Office....: Air Base Headquarters
Duesseldorf.

C R E W

BENTLEY	William L.	2nd.Lt.	O-2068174	captured	Dulag Luft West
BIRDER	Rodney Hugh	2nd.Lt.	O-774490	captured	Dulag Luft West
CLYDE 8 January 1922	Edward C. Wachapreague, Va.	2nd.Lt.	O-780520	captured	Dulag Luft West
DICKINSON	Esra Rodger	2nd.Lt.	O-2068266	captured	Dulag Luft West
Mc MILLAN 26 May 1921	Chaster Abram Delaware, Ohio	S/Sgt.	20510009	captured	Dulag Luft West
DEAN 21 March 1924	Donald Lloyd USA	S/Sgt.	15382131	captured	Dulag Luft West
CATO 10 January 1923	William H. Greenbier, Arkans.	Sgt.	38603832	captured	Dulag Luft West
STANFORD 25 July 1925	Glenn Ora Idah.	Sgt.	39467910	captured	Dulag Luft West
BIERA	Manuel Antonio	S/Sgt.	38372927	captured	Dulag Luft West

Dulag Luft, 9 February 1945 No.

Date: 22 Jan 45, at 1330

Place: Xanten

Type of
craft: Fortress

Markings: --

544 (MBo) Sqd.
384 Group

Rank: Name:

KU 1243 a

2nd Lt. BINDER, Rodney Hugh

ASN: 0-774490

2nd Lt. CLYDE, Edward C.

ASN: 0-780520

2nd Lt. DICKINSON, Ezra Rodger

ASN: 0-2068266

2nd Lt. BENTLEY, William L.

ASN: 0-2068174

S/Sgt. DEAN, Donald Lloyd

ASN: 15382131

S/Sgt. BLANFORD, Glenn Ora

ASN: 39467910

S/Sgt. McMILLAN, Chester Abram

ASN: 20510009

S/Sgt. BIERA,

S/Sgt. CATO,

(Remarks: Crossed out and with the remark: "will be 3626")

MACR 11764
 10-17
 AAF 43-37703
 9 men

22 Jan. 1945 1405

Kervenheim b/Geldern

Type: Fortress

Markings: 337703

544 HBo Sqd.

384 Group

Target: Airbase Dueseldorff

Former 3626

7 Febr.

2nd Lt. BIRDER

2nd Lt. DICKINSON

2nd Lt. BENTLEY

2nd Lt. CLYDE

Sgt. CATO

S/Sgt. BIEARA

S/Sgt. DEAN

S/Sgt. McWILLIAN

S/Sgt. BLANFORD

Reinney Hugh

Esner Rodger

William L.

Edward C. Jr.

William H.

Manuel Antonio

Ronald Lloyd

Chester Abram

Glenn Ora

KU 3626

0-774490 capt

0-2068266 capt

0-2068174 capt

0-780520 capt

38603832 capt

38372927 capt

15382131 capt

20510009 capt

39467910 capt

To Computing Station West Oberursel

On 22 Jan 45, at 1405 hours, Boeing crashed (Fortress) downing by flak at
the exit of Kervenheim, 13 km north of Geldern, KN 2. Crashed on fire,
98% destruction, identification P Star S O, engine No. P 337703.

6 men captured: Lt Rodney, Birder H., O 774490
Lt Dickinson Ezra Rorer, O 2068266
Lt Bentley, William L., O 2068174
Off Clyde, Edward C., O 780530
Sgt Cato Illiam, 38603832
Sgt Biera, Maunel, A 38372927

KU3626

Subject: Captured of Air Forces Personnel

To: Distributor

Airbase Command reports the captured of enemy Air Forces Personnel

Name: Ezra R. Dickinson, Lt., O 2068266
Manuel A. Biera, Sgt., 38372927
Edward C. Clyde Jr. Lt., O 78520
Cate, William H., Sgt., 38603832
Bentley Wm., Lt., O 2068174
Redney H. Birder, Lt., O 77449

Disposition: Captured by 1. Flak 881, 22 Jan 45
Captured near Sonsbeck
North American

Name: Blanford, Glenn, Sgt., 39467910
Dean, Donald, Sgt. 5382131

Disposition: Captured Balbarg near Sonsbeck, on 22 Jan 45, at 1320 hours
Captured by: 1 Battery Flak Sec. 881

KU 3626

Identification Tags
Rodney H. Birder, O 774490
and miscellaneous, certificate of birth

Cato, William H., 38603832 Soldier's Individual Pay record and others

Mac Millan, Chester A., 20510009 Soldier's Individual Pay record

Blanford, Glenn C, 39467910 Soldier's Individual Pay record and Crew Member
Physical Record Card.

**Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

Abschuß-Nr. KU 3626

Abschußtag und Zeit: 22.1.45 - 14.05

Abschußort: Kervenheim b. Geldern

Flugzeugtyp: Fortress

Meldende Dienststelle: Fl. H. Düsseldorf

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:		Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	gef.: verw.: tot:	Verbleib: welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
BENTLEY	William L.	2.Lt.	0-2068174	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
BIRDER	Rodney Hugh	2.Lt.	0-774490	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
CLYDE	Edward G.	2.Lt.	0-780520	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
8.1.22	Wachapreague, Va.				
DICKINSON	Esra Rodger	2.Lt.	0-2068266	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
MAG MILLAN	Chaester Abram	S/Sgt.	20510009	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
26.5.21	Delaware, Ohio				
DEAN	Donald Lloyd	S/Sgt.	15382131	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
21.3.24	USA				
CATO	William H.	Sgt.	38603832	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
10.1.23	Greenbier, Arkans.				
BLANFORD	Glenn Ora	Sgt.	39467910	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
25.7.25	Idah.				
BIERA	Manuel Antonio	S/Sgt.	38372927	gef.	Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen: 11264

DULAG-LUFT, den 9.2.45 **Wo.**