

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
SECTION

1336

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

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

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG

Date **MAR 1 1948**

MISSING AIRCRAFT 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 AAF Station 106; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th; Squadron 547th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As Briefed
Intended Destination Solingen, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10:10 Overcast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 1 Dec 43 Time 1203; and Location Solingen, Germany
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or (X) 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 Went over target, but failed to return, separated from formation
No observations reported.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series BL7-F; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-29768
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-80825
(b) 43-63895; (c) 42-81015; (d) 43-64386
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a); (b); (c); (d)
(e); (f); (g); (h)
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10
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
EUS 1.	Pilot	Nelson, Darwin George	2nd Lt	0-738222
EUS 2.	Co Pilot	Smith, Elmer LeRoy	2nd Lt	0-680527
EUS 3.	Navigator	Harrison, Joseph Horatio	T/Sgt	10601396
EUS 4.	Bombardier	Drake, Sam Ellis	2nd Lt	0-676515
RTD 5.	Radio Operator	Easley, Curtis (NMI)	T/Sgt	38211105
EUS 6.	Top Turret - ENG	Gregorich, Vincent (NMI)	T/Sgt	39391674
EUS 7.	Ball Turret	Turner, John Harvey	S/Sgt	14068360
RTD 8.	Tail Gunner	Brewer, Albert (NMI)	S/Sgt	20434636
EUS 9.	Right Machine Gun	Seager, Francis Marvin	S/Sgt	37221170
EUS 10.	Left Machine Gun	Gomez, Antonio C., Jr.	S/Sgt	38114466

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

12. 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
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE

Date of Report 2 December 1943

Incl 3

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

J. R. WYATT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

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Incl 18

✓ 2nd Lt. Darwin G. Nelson

Mr. George W. Nelson, (Father)
Rural Free Delivery # 2,
Box 88,
Laverne, Minnesota.

✓ 2nd Lt. Elmer L. Smith

Mrs. Geneva C. Smith, (Wife)
1515 South 52nd Street,
Tacoma, Washington.

✓ 2nd Lt. Sam E. Drake

Mrs. Nell T. Drake, (Wife)
225 Featherston Street,
Cleburne, Texas.

✓ T/Sgt. Joseph H. Harrison

Mr. Marc M. Harrison, (Father)
67 Poplar Road,
Searsdale, New York.

✓ T/Sgt. Curtis Masley

Mrs. Evelyn E. Masley, (Wife)
Box # 275,
Ashdown, Arkansas.

✓ T/Sgt. Vincent Gregorich

Mrs. Winifred C. Gregorich, (Wife)
Post Office Box 301,
Stockton, California.

✓ S/Sgt. John H. Turner

Mrs. Winnie H. Turner, (Mother)
Pink Hill, North Carolina.

✓ S/Sgt. Albert Brewer

Mrs. Louise M. Valerio, (Sister)
1351 Northwest 75th Terrace,
Miami, Florida.

✓ S/Sgt. Frank M. Seager

Mrs. Elisa S. Seager, (Mother)
1406 Commercial Street,
Atchison, Kansas.

✓ C/Sgt. Antonio C. Gomez Jr.

Mrs. Maria C. Gomez, (Mother)
709 Sturbide,
Laredo, Texas.

MACR 1336
B-17
PIAF 42-29768
10 men

reason Darwin 2
0738272

REPORT

of Salvage Detachment 31/IV

APO No: L 52321 / Brussels

Post: New.... (No information available; upper
Date: 3 Jan .. right hand corner is torn off)

ON

SALVAGE OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Crashed at Westoutre

on: 1 Dec 1943, 1330

Type: Fortress B 17 F

Factory No: 229768

was found: on tail, in front of tail-assembly

Engines: No 1): 72592 A 096 P1 / No 2): 139822 A 17426
No 3): 18542 A 115523 / No 4): 139331 A 17510

Damage: cell: 100 %, engine No 1: 100 %, engine No 2: 100 %
engine No 3: 100 %, engine No 4: 100 %

Plane crashed; was downed by fighter

Plane was salvaged by: Salvage Detachment 31/IV, from 20 Dec to 29 Dec 1943

Loaded for shipment by: " " " " , on 30 Dec and 1 Jan 1943-44

at station: Poperinghe

Transport No: 06196475

Type and No of freight cars: O - 144419 (B) and 343172 (R) / R 152393 (F), 365 (D)
322 (D) and 94170 (D)

Cell was shipped to: Air Forces Center for Captured Equipment No:5, Paris

Engines were shipped to: --- ditto ---

Number of type-plates, turned in : 300

Armament: 13 machine-guns, 12.7mm Browning, condition: IV

Factory No's: 1) 579217 2) 214546 3) 214263
4) 213905 5) 214516 6) 214719
7) 289472 8) 214539 9) 214527
10) 214178 11) 150078 12) 214257 13) 291506

Ammunition: in belt, 4000 cartridges, copper bullets with black point

No other type of ammunition.

Bombs: none

(see next page)

(continued)

(No information available; serial No: 36187
this corner of original
page is torn off.) serial No: 15966
..... serial No: 32324
..... serial No: 52702

Propeller: material: metal
number of blades: 3
length of blade: 1700
width of blade: 340
distance from base of blade to widest point: 650
distance from hub center to base of blade: 260
diameter of propeller-disk area: 3400
diameter of blade-socket at connection with blade: 160

Type: MFG MONNX DRG No: 17999, 5624, 5732, 6026

Serial No: W 535 A 9 22235

Fuel: 100 ltr. shipped to: Air Base Command Mawelghem (A)

signed: Koch
SGT

Kommando Flughafenbereich:

Feldpost-Nr.:

Bergung-Nr.:

Meldung

des Bergungstrupps: 31/IV

Standort: We

Feldpost-Nr.: L 52 321/ Brüssel

O.U., 3. 1.

über

Bergung eines feindlichen Flugzeuges

Lageort: Westoutre

Absturz am: 1.12.43 um: 13,30 Uhr.

(In Übereinstimmung m. d. ersten Meldung, kleinster Ort auf Karte 1:300.000 in der Nähe;
Richtung und Entfernung dieses Ortes von nächster Grossstadt)

Muster: Fortress B 17 F

Kennzeichen:

Halter:

Werk-Nr.: 229768

Sitz:

Rumpffende vor Leitwerk

(z. B. Rumpffende vor Leitwerk, in Motorenverkleidung usw.)

1. Motor-Nr.: 1) 72592 A 096 P1 2) 139 822 A 17426
3) 18542 A 115523 4) 139331 A 17510

Muster:

2. Zelle: 100 %, Motore: 1. 100 %, 2. 100 %, 3. 100 %, 4. 100 % Bruch

3. Art. d. Landung: Absturz

3a. Art der Erbeutung: Jäger

(Absturz, Notlandung)

(z. B. I/Flak 1, I/N.J.G. 1)

4. Festgestellt bzw. gemeldet durch:

5. Besatzung: Mann. Nationalität: Davon tot: vermisst: verw.: unverl. gefangen:

6. Fernschr. an Beutepark 5 u. Sondering. GL am: durch

7. Geborgen durch: Bergetr. 31/IV

vom 20.12 bis 29.12. 1943

8. Verladen durch: " "

am: 30.12. bis 1.1.44.

9. Versandbahnhof: Poperinghe

Fahrtnummer: 06 196 475

10. Waggon-Nr. u. Art: O-Wag. 144419 (B) u. 343172 (B) R-Wag. 152393 (F), 365 (D)

11. Verbleib der Zelle: Beutep. d. Lw. 5, der Motore: 322 (D) u. 94170 (D)

12. Verbleib der Zubehöerteile: Paris, der Motore: wie Zelle. Eingesandte Schilder: 300 Stück

13. Fehlteile:

(z. B.: 1 Motor in See, oder: rechte Tragfläche verbrannt)

14. Bewaffnung: 13 M-G 12,7 mm Browning, Zust. IV

(Zahl, Art, Kaliber, Muster, Zustand)

Werk-Nr.: 1. 579217	2. 214546	3. 214263
4. 213905	5. 214516	6. 214719
7. 289472	8. 214539	9. 214527
10. 214178	11. 150078	12. 214257 u. 291506

15. Bordwaffenmunition: Gurt, 4000 Schuß, Kupfergeschoß mit schw. Spitze.

(Gurt oder Trommel, Menge, Kaliber, Zustand)

Mischung: keine.

(In Reihenfolge der Zuführung)

16. Abwurfmunition: keine.

(Zahl, Art, Muster, Zustand, Verbleib)

Anmerkung: Der Kopf des Formulars und Ziff. 4-6 werden von Kdo. Flgh. Bereich ausgefüllt.

Zu beachten: Auch das nicht ausgefüllte Formular ist N.f.D.!

Wenden!

Serial-Nr.

Zustand

36.187

15966

32324

52702

18. Bildgeräte: Verbleib:

Type:	Ref. Nr.:	Serial-Nr.:	Zustand:
Type:	Ref. Nr.:	Serial-Nr.:	Zustand:
Type:	Ref. Nr.:	Serial-Nr.:	Zustand:
Brennweite:	Öffnung:	Objektiv-Nr.:	

19. Luftschrauben: Material Met. Blattzahl: 3 Blattlänge ohne Wurzel 1700 Grösste Blattbreite: 340

Abstand gr. Breite v. Blattansatz: 650 Abstand Nabenmitte bis Blattansatz: 260
 Durchmesser Luftschraubenkreis: 3400 Wurzel-Ø bei Blattansatz: 150
 Type **MGMONNK** DRG-Nr.: 17999, 5684, 5732, 6026 Kontrakt-Nr.:
 Ser. Nr.: 1) W 535 A C 22255 3) 4)

20. Motore:

(Einschläge, Stempel u. Sitz der aufgefundenen Bezeichnungen)

21. Flugbetriebsstoff u. Hydraulik-Öle	Art:	Menge: 100 ltr.	Verbleib: Fl. Platz Kdo.
	Art:	Menge:	Verbleib: Wewelghem (A)
	Art:	Menge:	Verbleib:

22. Sonstiges:

(Panzerung, Sitz der Waffen u. a.)

(Weitere Feststellungen: unbedingt auf gesondertem Bogen einreichen, wie Beschriftungen auf Leitwerken, in Rumpfböden usw.)

F.d.R.d.A.

gezeichnet:
Koch, Uffz. u. Stellvertr.

Verteiler: 1 X Feuerwerker
 1 X Beutepark 5 über LOK, Qu/Qu 1
 1 X Kdo. Flgh. Bereich, LwB.
 1 X Akten.

Führer des Bergungstrupps

Kdo. Flgh. Ber. Ing. oder Qu