

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

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

by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AO

Date MAR 15 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

3485

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 Oberpfaffenhofen, Ger.; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
5-6/10 Cumulus
4. GIVE: (a) Date 18 March 1946 Time 1140; and Location 48°05'N. 09°15'E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (X) last Sighted; () last contacted by Radio;
() Forces 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; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other circumstances as follows Two engines out, believed due to anti-aircraft fire.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-4333 31871 *AMS*
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 41-57436
(b) 43-65785; (c) 43-63017; (d) 43-65248
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Mark, 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	
1. Pilot	<u>La Seur, William Vervle</u>	2nd Lt	0-670571	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Lessig, Joseph Watson</u>	2nd Lt	0-804355	RTD
3. Navigator	<u>Howell, William Wright</u>	2nd Lt	0-692405	RTD
4. Bombardier	<u>Loch, Phillip Henry, III</u>	2nd Lt	0-754969	RTD
5. Radio Operator	<u>Hay, James Franklin</u>	S/Sgt.	35574933	RTD
6. Top Turret	<u>O'Brien, John Gerald</u>	S/Sgt.	11085052	RTD
7. Ball Turret	<u>Gornley, Edward Oliver</u>	Sgt.	39565054	RTD
8. Tail Gunner	<u>Gardner, Eugene Frederick</u>	Sgt.	15108459	RTD
9. Right Flexible Gun	<u>Froment, Dorrance Verl</u>	Sgt.	16176043	RTD
10. Left Flexible Gun	<u>Harper, Richard Wight</u>	Sgt.	39832430	RTD

11. 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	Contacted			Check Only One Column	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing	
1. <u>Morrison, Donald S.</u>	1st Lt.	0-735632		X			
2. <u>Decker, Charles Edgar</u>	2nd Lt.	0-671901		X			
3. <u>Courtemanche, Ralph Eudor</u>	2nd Lt.	0-802730		X			

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used No; (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 EYE-WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report 19 March 1946

2nd Lt. William V. LaBour

Mrs. William V. LaBour, (Wife)
341 Fairview,
Houston, Texas.

2nd Lt. Joseph W. Leasing

Mr. Joe W. Leasing, (Father)
3119 Alma Vista Drive,
Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2nd Lt. William B. Russell

Mrs. Ada B. Russell, (Mother)
42 Fifth Avenue,
Schuylady, New York.

2nd Lt. Phillip B. Leh, III

Mrs. Clara B. Leh, III, (Wife)
Morrilton, Arkansas.

Staff Sergeant James F. Ray

Mr. Louis A. Ray, (Father)
512 South Savannah Street,
Bloomington, Indiana.

Staff Sergeant John B. O'Brien

Mr. John B. O'Brien, (Father)
577 Lake Street,
St. Albans, Vermont.

Sergeant Edward A. Gansley

Mrs. Edna C. Gansley, (Mother)
2403 San Luis,
South Gate, California.

Sergeant Eugene F. Gardner

Mrs. Bertha M. Gardner, (Mother)
2113 South E Street,
Elmwood, Indiana.

Sergeant Lawrence V. Fremont

Mrs. Lorraine Fremont, (Wife)
2157 Tyson Street,
Jackson, Michigan.

Sergeant William B. Harper

Mr. James B. Harper, (Father)
Route Number One,
Bridgman, Utah.