

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG
Date 1 Dec 43

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106 ; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th ; Squadron 546th ; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106 ; Course As briefed
Intended Destination Romilly/Sur/Seine ; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear
4. GIVE: (a) Date 3 Sept 43 Time 1024 ; and Location 49°50'N, 00°32'W
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (☒) 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 Enemy fighters followed him all the way out and circled over him after he ditched. No dinghies seen.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17F; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-29914
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 43-57035
(b) 43-57436 ; (c) 41-55516 (d) 43-57414
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 ; 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
EUS1.	Pilot	Jones, Justin R.	2nd Lt.	0-797139
EUS2.	Co-Pilot	McManus, Edward J.	2nd Lt.	0-601711
EUS3.	Navigator	Peters, Harold D.	2nd Lt.	0-670234
EUS4.	Bombardier	Holfrom, Charles J.	2nd Lt.	0-739139
EUS5.	Radio Operator	Reilly, John V.	S/Sgt.	12128945
EUS6.	Top Turret	Shemanski, Aloysius B.	S/Sgt.	33185921
EUS7.	Ball Turret	Kuhl, Ernest E.	Sgt.	37461797
EUS8.	Tail Gunner	Leith, Francis (NIT)	Sgt.	18188767
EUS9.	Flexible Gunner	Smith, Linsfield B.	Sgt.	37375186
EUS10.	Flexible Gunner	Gitzeroth, Franklin C.	Sgt.	36706840

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			
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Harris, George W. Jr.	Capt.	0-736503				X
2. Frink, Horace E.	1st Lt.	0-797948				X
3. Ashcraft, Archie B. Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-399610				X

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) Ditching under control
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

W. M. Madras
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

743

1. Your name JUSTIN R. JONES Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-797139
2. Organization 384th Gp Col. Budd J. Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn CO Harris Rank CAPT.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month September day 3 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Air Field ^{in France}, target, Romilly sur Seine, target time, _____, altitude, 28,000 route scheduled, South over WATER THEN IN To, route flown Cloud cover over Primary Target went to secondary TARGET
5. Where were you when you left formation? On way to secondary Target
6. Did you bail out? No. Ditched in Channel
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Ditched in English Channel
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". All crew members SAFELY boarded dinghies
(no crew list attached)
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ^{water} ground? English Channel, 10 miles off coast of FRANCE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) All were in aircraft when plane hit water.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot and Co-pilot at controls. All others in Radio room
12. What was their condition? Two were injured slightly when ship hit water
ALL OTHERS WERE ALLRIGHT.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I SAW ALL CREW MEMBERS AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE LE HAVRE, FRANCE IN MAY 1945
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: LEITH Francis (NMI)
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 18188767
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on engine~~ Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? No.

Where? _____

If not, why not? Ditched ship in English Channel September 3, 1943

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Camp Lucky Strike, LE HAVER, FRANCE
May 1945

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

- 743
1. Your name Linsfield Burke Smith 9501 Serial No 37375186
 2. Organization 5468th Sq Co Commander ? Rank ? Sqd CO Harmon Rank Col
(full name) (full name)
 3. What year 1943 month September day 3rd did you go down?
German Air Field
 4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Bombing Gun-Site target
time, 10:00 PM, altitude, 28000 ft route scheduled, ✓
route flown
 5. Where were you when you left formation? Rouley
 6. Did you bail out? No
 7. Did other members of crew bail out? No
 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". Each crew member crashed with plane & managed to get into the life raft.
 9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? near Gray Havre France
crashed in English Channel
water
 10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) All members were in Aircraft at time of crash
 11. Where were they in aircraft? exception of Pilot & Co-Pilot, who were in normal pos.
All members in Radio Room with
injured, others suffered from shock.
 12. What was their condition? Co-Pilot, Bombardier & Assistant Engineer
 13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Described above
 14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No definite information

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: LEITE Francis (RMC)
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 10122167
Position: Crew (Bomber) on Flight: (Fighter) 2nd Bombardier

Did he bail out? no

Where? ✓

If not, why not? The Pilot did not order anyone to bail out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: We were
in radio contact together at time of crash

Was he injured? not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Camp "Lucky Strike" France

Any hearsay information: no

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: no.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3 combat missions

Dates and destinations if possible: ✓

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

743

1. Your name Alloysius B. Sherman Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 3315591
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Col Budd Rank Col Sqn CO HARRIS Rank Capt
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Sept day 3 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Air field, France, target time, Between 2-9 PM, altitude, 28,000 route scheduled, not known, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER Paris France
6. Did you bail out? NO
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NO
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". CREW Ditched
in English Channel, All were in PLANE
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ^{WATER} ~~ground~~? 10 miles from LA HARVE, FRANCE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ALL CREW WAS
in PLANE
11. Where were they in aircraft? Radio Room, Pilot + co-pilot were ^{Control}
12. What was their condition? BRUISED
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. We were taken P.O.W
By Germans About 12 hours After We ditched, Everyone
was Sick from Exposure.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: LEITH Francis (~~LEE~~)
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 18183767
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Eighteen) Tail Gunner~~

Did he bail out? no

Where? Ditched in English Channel

If not, why not? Ditched in English Channel

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

Was he injured? no knowledge, got shot badly

Where was he when last seen? Camp Lucky Strike, France

Any hearsay information: no knowledge

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3 or 4

Dates and destinations if possible: 30 Aug. 1943 France 31 Aug. 1943
France, 2-Sept 1943, France, 3-Sept 1943 France, P.O.W

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

743

1. Your name Franklin C. Hitzeroth Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 36706840
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Peasley Rank Col. Sqn CO Harris Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month September day 3 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Second, target, Rommly-Sur-Seine, France
time, Unknown, altitude, Unknown route scheduled, Unknown
Unknown, route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Between Rommly-Sur-Seine and Paris, France
6. Did you bail out? No (We ditched in the Channel.)
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No (All ditched.)
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". Each member of the crew ditched in the plane in the English Channel. Names are: 2nd Lt. J.R. Jones, 2nd Lt. E. McManus, 2nd Lt. H.E. Peters, 2nd Lt. Wolfrom, S/Sgt. A.B. Shemanski, S/Sgt. J.V. Reilly, Sgt. L.B. Smith, Sgt. E.E. Kuhl, Sgt. F. Leith, myself.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ~~ground~~ water? 25 mi. from French coast.
water?
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ~~ground~~ water? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 2nd Lt. J.R. Jones, 2nd Lt. E. McManus, 2nd Lt. H.E. Peters, 2nd Lt. Wolfrom, S/Sgt. A.B. Shemanski, S/Sgt. J.V. Reilly, Sgt. L.B. Smith, Sgt. E.E. Kuhl, Sgt. F. Leith, myself.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Lt. Jones & Lt. McManus in Pilots' position the other 8 men were in "ditching" positions in the radio room.
12. What was their condition? Lt. Wolfrom received a cut in the scalp, Sgt. Smith received a big bruise on his left arm.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? In fair condition.
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: LEVIN Francis (322)
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 10156797
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Pilot (Fighter) Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? No. He ditched.

Where? He ditched in the English Channel

If not, why not? He Ditched

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

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? I saw him in Camp Shanks, New York, June 1945 .

Any hearsay information: Prior to going to Fort Dix to get his 60 day P.W. leave.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Two

Dates and destinations if possible: Rommly-sur-Siene, France. (Date unknown)

2nd mission. Rommly-sur-Siene, France . 3 September 1943.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

743

1. Your name Ernest E. Kuhl Rank Sgt. Serial No. 37461797
2. Organization AC Gp Commander _____ Rank _____ 3qn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Sept. day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 3, target, Rommel's Ser Seine, target time, 9:30, altitude, 28,000 route scheduled, unknown, route flown unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Paris
6. Did you bail out? no
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No
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".

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? _____
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) _____

11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All crew members safe

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: LEITH Francis (NMI)
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 18128767
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~ Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where?

If not, why not? PILOT'S ORDERS WHERE TO STAY SHIP

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

IN SAME DINGHY AFTER DITCHING

Was he injured? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? CAMP LUCKY STRIKE? WAITING TO COME HOME

Any hearsay information: LEITH WAS LAST SEEN BY ME AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE

NEAR LA HARVE, FRANCE IN JUNE OF 1945 WAITING FOR A BOAT TO COME
TO THE UNITED STATES IN.

Source:

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

ALL OF THE ABOVE WAS PERSONALLY SEEN BY ME.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: ROMMEL SER SEINE, FRANCE WAS LAST MISSION

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

SOURCE: CLIFFORD (NMI) HAMMOCK, S/Sgt, 11120019 ERE # DATE: 1 February 1944
391

UNIT: 516 Bomb Sq., 384 Bomb Group

172

MEMBERS OF CREW

PWID RECORDS

PILOT	0-794606	2d Lt	James E ARMSTRONG	RD
CO-PILOT	0-67706	2d Lt	Robert L STONER	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-738819	2d Lt	Charles C CARLIN	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-795224	2d Lt	Wilbert Y K YEE	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	35481983	T/Sgt	Walter L HOUSE	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	36198223	T/Sgt	Bruno E KIMAN	MIA
MID TURRET GUNNER	35474320	S/Sgt	James H REDWING	MIA
WING GUNNER	11120019	S/Sgt	Clifford (NMI) HAMMOCK	RD
WING GUNNER	18135561	Sgt	Olen (NMI) GRANT	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	11068163	S/Sgt	Eleore L DAUDLIN	MIA

KNOWN INFORMATION:

None.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

