

Classification changed

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
by S. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
by F. M. MUNCH, Capt., AC WASHINGTON

MAR 1945

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 111 ; Command or Air Force 8th
Group 306th ; Squadron 367th ; ~~Detachment~~
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Thurleigh, Eng. Course as prescribed
Target or Intended Destination Gunnery ; Type of Mission ~~Enemy~~ Nav-Oprl.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather conditions good
4. GIVE: (a) Day 9 Month Mar Year 45 ; Time 1604 ; and Location North Sea.
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted () ; Last contacted by radio () ; Forced down () ; Seen to Crash (x) ; 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: Probably mechanical difficulties
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G ; AAF Serial Number 43-38302
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any Hellcat Hattie
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97 ; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-019874A ; (b) SW-011653 ; (c) SW-016329 ; (d) SW-024468
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) GM-1283163 ; (b) GM-1289459 ; (c) GM-1289548 ; (d) B-1315152 ;
* (e) F-1755945 ; (f) F-1283268 ; (g) GM-1289562 ; (h) GM-1283519 ;
(i) _____ ; (j) _____ ; (k) _____ ; (l) _____ ;
(m) _____ ; (n) _____ ; (o) _____ ; (p) _____ ;
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) ~~Battle Casualty~~
or (b) Non Battle Casualty X
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 8 ; Passengers 0 ; Total : 8
(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.)

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RECEIVED

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot-Pilot	Missler, Wilfred E.	2nd Lt	60-715272	MISSING
2. Pilot-Co-Pilot	Burns, Stanley D.	2nd Lt	70-778714	RTD
3. Navigator-Navigator	Pappas, John S.	2nd Lt	70-2072856	MISSING
4. Bomb-Nose Gun	Johnson, William J.	2nd Lt	50-785196	RTD
5. Aer Eng-Top T Gun	Baughman, Mont D.	Sgt	13130650	MISSING
6. Radio Opr-Radio Opr	Searles, Walter E.	Sgt	32939817	MISSING
7. Arm Gun-Ball T Gun	Caserta, Carlo (NMI)	Sgt	32531579	MISSING
8. Arm Gun-Tail Gun	Harrison, Robert I.	Sgt	41469129	MISSING
9.				
10.				
11.				

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

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. Kingsley, Donald G. Jr.		0-777189	Radio			X
2.						

GROUP 300th Bomb Gp SQ 367th Sq A/C No. 43-33502 MISSION DATE 9/3/45

FIRST PILOT Wilfred B. Miessler, C-716272, 2nd Lt DESTINATION Gunnery mission
NAME RANK ASN

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

- (a) By coordinates 5309N - 0050E
- (b) Approximate altitude Not Applicable
- (c) Last noted heading Not Applicable
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation A/C crashed in North Sea.

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

Non-Operational mission

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

Explosion in right wing. Possibly No. 3 engine.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Plane dove into water.

(over)

2. 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.), _____

Not applicable

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

Eight parachutes observed to come from aircraft.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Aircraft left formation apparently under control. Then eight chutes were reported to come from aircraft. Explosion in right wing (possible No. 3 engine) was seen prior to plane's final dive. SOS and position immediately sent to Air Sea Rescue by formation leader and was acknowledged. 2nd Lt Donald G. Kingsley, Jr., left formation to conduct search and give aid. He dropped three dinghies, already inflated, in the area and fired flares. He then guided Air Sea Rescue launch to area of one dinghy with one man in it, and saw man rescued. ***

8. Date of report _____

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	Donald G. Kingsley, Jr.	2nd Lt	0-77769	44-6908
2.				
3.				
4.				

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and on copy):

<i>John M. Kavanaugh</i>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0-578133</u>	<u>S-2 Officer.</u>
JOHN M. KAVANAUGH,	RANK	ASN	DUTY

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***Lt Kingsley saw another dinghy with one man clinging to it and saw the third dinghy empty but with blue dye surrounding it. Lt Kingsley then searched area until 1500 hours, then returned to base. Launches and other aircraft were continuing search. Two men, 2nd Lt Stanley D. Burns, 0-773714, Co-Pilot, and 2nd Lt William J. Johnson, 0-765196, Bombardier were picked up by Air Sea Rescue. Lt Burns states that Pilot gave bail out signal after a fire appeared under the Top Turret and while the Pilot was setting up AFCE Lt Burns kicked out the forward escape hatch and bailed out. Lt Johnson, the Bombardier, states that the Navigator bailed out after the Co-Pilot and then Lt Johnson bailed out himself. While in the water Lt Burns states that he heard another man (who he thought was the Navigator) calling for help and that a Catalina landed and picked this man up. Lt Burns was then picked up by an Air Sea Rescue Launch. Lt Johnson got into one of the dinghies dropped by Lt Kingsley's aircraft and then was picked up by the same launch.

