

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13851

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by F. M. WENCH, Capt., AC

Date MAR 1 1948

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 544th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed  
Target or Intended Destination Leipzig, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
10:10 Undercast
4. GIVE: (a) Day 6 Month APR Year 1945; Time 1018; and Location 5115N-1250E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 100 miles SW of Frankfurt  
(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: A/C collided with A/C 39164 of same sq. A/C had tail destroyed and hole in right trailing edge of wing. Held control momentarily then went into steep dive
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 49-98801
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial Number (a) 43-65181; (b) SE-015448; (c) SE-024042; (d) SE-031434
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) 1477717 GMC; (b) 1477730 GMC; (c) 1482624 GMC; (d) 1477464 GMC; (e) 1477515 GMC; (f) 1482519 GMC; (g) 106606 Sav.; (h) 1031635 Colt; (i) 1031602 Colt; (j) 1031741 Colt; (k) 1031781 Colt; (l) 1031543 Colt; (m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty I  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
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.)

Crew Position	Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	ASN	Current Status
1. Pilot	Hastings, David Shove	2nd Lt	0-836778	NTA
2. Co Pilot	Martino, Dominick Thomas	2nd Lt	0-1054320	NTA
3. Navigator	Johnson, Thorsten Julius	2nd Lt	0-2075216	NTA
4. Bombardier	Crawford, Raymond Harold, Jr.	2nd Lt	0-783246	NTA
5. Radio Operator	Weeks, Thomas Clayton, Jr.	S/Sgt.	34355080	NTA
6. Top Turret	Gatto, Stephen Lawrence	Sgt.	12024483	NTA
7. Ball Turret	May, Frank Dean	Sgt.	14109468	NTA
8. Tail Gunner	Honacker, Marilyn R.	Sgt.	39473149	NTA RTD 22 APR 45
9.				
10.				
11.				

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



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 SAME

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Kowats, Daniel Frank	1st Lt	O-828195		X		
2. Hesko, Alfred Dominic	F/O	T-132935		X		
3. Moorcyk, Herbert Williams	S/Sgt	36901221		X		

13. 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) \_\_\_\_\_

1 chute seen to emerge

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 15 April 1945

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

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

**Incl 1:**



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



137516

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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 384th SQ 544th A/C # 43-38801 MISSION DATE 6 April, 1945

FIRST PILOT DAVID S. HASTINGS 2nd Lt. 0-836778 DESTINATION Leipzig, Germany  
NAME RANK SER#

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

(a) By coordinates 5115N-1250E

(b) Approximate altitude 24,500 feet

(c) Last noted heading unknown

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation crashed in formation and then went into dive.

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

Meager, inaccurate flak at target. No enemy aircraft encountered.

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

A/C 801 collided into A/C 164 (Lt. F. P. Gray, Pilot) of same squadron. A/C 801 had the tail destroyed and a hole in the right trailing edge of the wing. Held control for a minute and then went into steep dive. Lost sight when A/C went into undercast.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

See above

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



138510X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort? No If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

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

1 chute observed out.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

8. Date of report 14 April, 1945

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	D. E. Kowats	1st Lt.	<b>0-828195</b>	459
2.	H. W. Moerdyk	Sgt.	<b>36901221</b>	459
3.	R. J. Petrosky	Sgt.	<b>13111692</b>	459
4.	A. D. Hesko	F/O.	<b>7-132935</b>	459

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>John F. Meeth</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-874876</u>	<u>S-2 Officer</u>
JOHN F. MEETH 456	RANK	SER #	DUTY
NAME			

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.

Incl 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MAY, Frank, Dean  
Rank: Sgt.  
Serial number: 14109468  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: Ball Turret

Did he bail out? Not To My Knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I spoke to him just prior to dropping the bombs

Was he injured? Don't

Where was he when last seen? I assisted him into the

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Ball about an hour after takeoff.  
A German Major told me all of  
my crew were killed

Source: German Major investigator, Altendorf, Luftwaffe Base.

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

I can't see where he had any time to  
get from the ball turret. He did not  
have his chute in there with him.

Total number of missions of above crew member: (one)

Dates and destinations if possible: April 6, 1945 Leipzig  
Germany



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **G A T T O , Stephen Lawrence**  
Rank: **Sgt.**  
Serial number: **12024483**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) on ~~100th Bomb Group~~: **Top Turret**

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I spoke  
with him over intercom just before bombs were dropped

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? In his turret.

Any hearsay information: The same Major told me that  
Gatto was the only one not recognizable.

Source: SAME AS REST

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

I was told the plane we collided with  
hit the upper local turret (Gatto turret) with  
its propellers

Total number of missions of above crew member: (one)

Dates and destinations if possible: April 6, 1945 FIEPZIEG  
GERMANY



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WEEKS, Thomas, Clayben, Jr.**  
Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **34355080**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer/Navigator~~: **Radio Operator**

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? In the ~~air~~ waist with  
A gun

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

He was killed

Source: Same as rest

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

THE REST HAD ON FLAK SUITS AND DID  
NOT HAVE TIME TO REMOVE THEM BEFORE  
PLANE BLEW UP. I DID NOT HAVE MINE  
ON AT THE TIME

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21 in B-24 in A/C

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

ISLANDS (ONE) OVER LIEPZIG, GERMANY  
APRIL 6 1945



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **C R A W F O R D , Rzymond Harold , Jr,**  
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**  
Serial number: **0-783246**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

SAME AS REST

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE OF SHIP

Any hearsay information: SAME AS REST

Source: SAME AS REST

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

HAD ON HIS FLAK SUIT AND DID NOT  
HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO REMOVE IT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: (ONE)

Dates and destinations if possible: APRIL 6/1945 LIEPZIG  
GERMANY



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: J O H N S O N , Thoratøn Julius  
Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
Serial number: 0-2075216  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Navigator~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Prior to dropping of bombs

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE OF SHIP

Any hearsay information: SAME AS REST

Source: SAME AS REST

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

PROBABLY WAS UNABLE TO REMOVE HIS  
FLAK SCUT IN TIME.

Total number of missions of above crew member: (ONE)

Dates and destinations if possible: April 6, 1945 LIEPZIG  
GERMANY



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **M A R T I N O , Dominick Thomas**  
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**  
Serial number: **O-1054320**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Navigator~~: **Co Pilot**

Did he bail out? Not To My Knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Just Before Dropping Of Bombs

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? In His Position

Any hearsay information: Same As Rest

Source: Same As Rest

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

Plane Blew Up A Few Seconds After Collision

Total number of missions of above crew member: (ONE)

Dates and destinations if possible: April 6, 1945 Leipzig

Germany



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 13851

Name of crew member: **HASTINGS, David Shove**  
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**  
Serial number: **O-836778**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Pilot (Fighter)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

PRIOR TO DROPPING BOMBS

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? IN HIS POSITION

Any hearsay information: SAME AS REST

Source: SAME AS REST

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

SAME AS REST

Total number of missions of above crew member: NOT SURE BUT BELIEVE 29

Dates and destinations if possible: HE WAS TEMPORARY PILOT  
AND DID NOT KNOW HIM WELL, SO DO NOT KNOW  
WHAT MISSIONS HE WAS ON PRIOR TO THIS ONE



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BONACKER, MARLYN R. Rank SGT Serial No. 39473149
2. Organization 3848 Gp Commander HILTON Rank Col Sqn CO X Rank X  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month April day 6TH did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, LIEPZIG, GERMANY target  
time, ABOUT 1011, altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, X  
X, route flown X
5. Where were you when you left formation? EAST LIEPZIG ABOUT 5 MILES
6. Did you bail out? WAS BLOWN OUT AND PARACHUTED TO GROUND
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE
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".  
X  
X  
X
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? LIEPSNIG, GERMANY
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  
TO MY KNOWLEDGE
11. Where were they in aircraft? DO NOT KNOW
12. What was their condition? DO NOT KNOW
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
X  
X  
X  
X
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.  
X  
X  
X  
X

(Any additional information may be written on the back)



**2nd Lt. Raymond H. Crawford, Jr.**

**Mrs. Louise J. Crawford (wife)**  
**Route Number Three, Box 386**  
**Whittier, California**

**2nd Lt. David S. Hastings**

**Mr. John M. Hastings (father)**  
**105 Seabrook Drive**  
**Syracuse, New York**

**2nd Lt. Thorsten J. Johnson**

**Mrs. Ida E. Johnson (mother)**  
**2221 South Catalina Street**  
**Los Angeles, California**

**2nd Lt. Dominick T. Martino**

**Mrs. Ruth Helen Martino (wife)**  
**2740 De Soto Street**  
**Long Beach, California**

**S/Sgt. Thomas C. Weeks, Jr.**

**Mrs. Geneva Weeks (wife)**  
**Route Two**  
**Hephzibah, Georgia**

**Sgt. Marilyn R. Bonacker**

**Mr. Amos H. Bonacker (father)**  
**Route One**  
**Woodburn, Oregon**

**Sgt. Stephen L. Gatto**

**Father Cann (friend)**  
**Catholic Rectory**  
**Lakeworth, Florida**

**Sgt. Frank D. May**

**Mrs. Velonda H. May (wife)**  
**213 Dorian**  
**Durham, North Carolina**