

384TH BOMB GROUP
545TH BOMB SQUADRON

MACR

294

DATE 1943-08-17
8TH AF MISSION 84
384TH BG MISSION..... 17
CRASH LOCATION Kissingen, Germany
B-17F AIRCRAFT SERIAL #.....42-30139

Position	Rank and Name	Condition
Pilot	2 nd Lt Oliver Sweningsen, Jr	POW
Co-Pilot	2 nd Lt Carlos P Stewart	POW
Navigator	2 nd Lt Robert M Koenig	POW
Bombardier	2 nd Lt Victor T Kelly	KIA
Radio Operator	T/Sgt Joseph E Barta	POW
Engineer/Top Turret Gunner	Sgt Wallace B Dawson	POW
Ball Turret Gunner	S/Sgt Leon Svirsky	POW
Tail Gunner	S/Sgt Charles F Tata, Jr	POW
Waist Gunner	S/Sgt Richard F Grover	KIA
Left Waist Gunner	S/Sgt Alfred NMI Meyer	POW

POW – Prisoner Of War: KIA – Killed In Action

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classified by
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUEHNER, Capt., AG
Date MAR 1 1948

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAP Station No 106; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment
- SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAP Station 106th; Course As briefed
Intended Destination Subway Curt; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
- GIVE: (a) Date 3/10 Overcast and Location Over target
17 Aug 47 Time 1508
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.
- 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 Engines running but aircraft on fire. Aircraft losing altitude!
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-30139
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-78447
(b) 43-61874; (c) 43-58814; (d) 43-61958
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) ; (b) ; (c) ; (d)
(e) ; (f) ; (g) ; (h)
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
- 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	Sveiningsen, Oliver Jr.	POW 2/Lt	0738047	RTD
2.	Co-Pilot	Stewart, Carlos P.	POW 2/Lt	0-743123	RTD
3.	Navigator	Koenig, Robert M.	POW 2/Lt	0-795264	RTD
4.	Bombardier	Kelly, Victor T.	KIA 2/Lt	0-734469	KIA
5.	Radio Operator	Barta, Joseph E.	POW 7/Sgt	31148958	RTD
6.	Top Turret	Dawson, Wallace W.	POW 8/Sgt	1608484	RTD
7.	Ball Turret	Svirsky, Leon	POW 8/Sgt	31168482	RTD
8.	Tail Gunner	Tata, Charles P. Jr.	POW 8/Sgt	35478363	RTD
9.	Flexible Gunner	Grover, Richard F.	KIA 8/Sgt	32477010	KIA
10.	Flexible Gunner	Mayer, Alfred W.	POW 8/Sgt	6979869	RTD

- IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LOST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:
- | Name in Full
(Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Contacted by | Check Only One Column | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| | | | | Last Sighted | Saw Crash | Saw Proceed Landing |
| 1. <u>Armstrong, Lloyd R</u> | <u>1/Lt</u> | <u>0-65266</u> | <u>Radio</u> | <u>X</u> | | |
| 2. <u> </u> | | | | | | |
| 3. <u> </u> | | | | | | |

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used 2; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- 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 18 August 1943

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

Staff Sergeant Alfred Meyer,

#294
Mrs. Alfred Meyer, (WIFE)
61 Wayne Avenue,
River Edge, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant Richard S. Grover,

Mrs. Esther K. Grover, (MOTHER)
Rural Delivery No. 2,
Erin, New York.

Staff Sergeant Charles F. Tate, Jr.,

Mr. Charles F. Tate, (FATHER)
Drakesboro, Kentucky.

Staff Sergeant Leon Svirsky,

Mr. Sidney O. Svirsky, (BROTHER)
Amity Rd.,
Bethany, Connecticut.

Sergeant Wallace B. Dawson,

Mrs. Florence Dawson, (MOTHER)
General Delivery,
Blanchard, Michigan.

Technical Sergeant Joseph F. Barta,

Mrs. Elisabeth Barta, (MOTHER)
631 Huntington Avenue,
Providence, Rhode Island.

Second Lieutenant Victor T. Kelly,

Mr. Thomas Kelly, (FATHER)
803 Hudson Street,
Hoboken, New Jersey.

First Lieutenant Robert W. Koenig,

Mrs. Betty J. Koenig, (WIFE)
626 Centra Avenue,
La Mars, Iowa.

Second Lieutenant Carlos P. Stewart,

Mrs. Hazel I. Stewart, (MOTHER)
1713 Ewing Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Second Lieutenant Oliver Sweningsen, Jr.,

Mr. Oliver Sweningsen, Sr., (FATHER)
3819 Chestnut Avenue,
Long Beach, California.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Kelly, Victor Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: O-734469
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Bombardier

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Did he bail out? YES

Where? Approx 30 miles NORTH of SCHWEINFURT

If not, why not? _____

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

INTERPHONE COMMUNICATION REGARDING BOMB BAY DOORS APPROX 3 MINUTES BEFORE BAIL OUT

Was he injured? NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO

Where was he when last seen? DROPPING FROM NAVIGATORS HATCH

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

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

OUT OF HATCH I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE HELD ON TO HATCH
RATHER THAN DROP OUT IMMEDIATELY. I THINK THAT WHEN HE LET
GO HE HIT THE BOMB BAY DOORS WHICH WERE THEN OPEN

Total number of missions of above crew member: 11

Dates and destinations if possible: ANTWERP, VILLALOUBLEY, HE MAN

HEROYA, NORWAY, HAMBURG, ETC.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ROVER, Richard F.
 Rank: S/sgt.
 Serial number: 32 477 020
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Near KISSINGEN (?) Germany. In the Schweinfurt area.

If not, why not? -----

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After plane
was struck by flak he said he had been struck in the leg. Not seriously.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Seen by writer in forest near Kissengen. Dead.

Any hearsay information: ----

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He either failed
to open parachute (or it failed) or he tried to guide his fall over the
forest area and spilled the air from his chute. When seen his parachute
harness was still on and he had obviously hit the ground with force.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3 (?)

Dates and destinations if possible: Le Bourget, France, August 16, 1943.

Schweinfurt, Germany, Aug. 17, 1943.

Completed by Carlos P. Stewart, 2nd Lt. U.S.A.A.P. O-743123

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: KELLY, Victor T.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-734 469
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Near Kissingen (?) Germany. In the Schweinfurt area.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just prior
to bailing out.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? In the plane.

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8 (eight)

Dates and destinations if possible: Last two: Le Bourget, France, Aug. 16, 1943.
Schweinfurt, Germany, Aug. 17, 1943.

Completed by Carlos P. Stewart, 2nd Lt. U.S.A.A.P. (0-743123)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CARLOS PENFIELD STEWART Rank 2nd Lt Serial No. 0-743123
2. Organization 384th Gp Commander Col. Bud Pesslee Rank Sqn CO Rank
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month August day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Schweinfurt, target, Ball-bearing works, target time, 1500 (approx.), altitude, 20,000 ft. route scheduled, direct, route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? over the target
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
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".
Entire crew, except for the two listed in questionnaires, bailed out safely. All were seen and have since been accounted for.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Kissingen, in Schweinfurt
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? ^{area,} (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
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? Bombardier last seen in nose of plane, tail-gunner seen on ground, dead.
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)

Sample

HEADQUARTERS
515th Bombardment Squadron (H) AAF
376th Bombardment Group (H) AAF

17 August 1943.

Additional Data: Missing Air Crew Report.

Statement of 2nd Lt. Stanley Wojciechowski concerning A/C 100:

1. I saw A/C 100 crash at 1053 hrs. GMT at 41°00'-15°35'.
Fire was seen between bombay and No. 2 engine. Damage thought
to be due to enemy anti-aircraft. Saw (2) men bail out of ship.

Stanley Wojciechowski
STANLEY WOJCIECHOWSKI,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.