

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. WUENSCHE, Capt., AC
Date MAR 18 1944

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 Berlin, Germany ; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LAST REPORTED: _____
10/10 Clouds
4. GIVE: (a) Date 9 Mar 44 Time 1357 ; and Location over Berlin, Germany
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; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (x) Other circumstances as follows Evidently bombs from high group dropped a little late and hit Lt. Reed's ship. Tail section fell off. Plane went down at steep angle.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-37781
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____ ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-006298
(b) 42-81111 ; (c) 41-56609 ; (d) SW-006251
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 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).

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
DED 1.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DED 2.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DED 3.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
DED 4.	3 Bombardier	Heiss, John L.	2nd Lt. 0-671434
DED 5.	8 Radio Operator	Wellman, Robert F.	T/Sgt. 36168236
DED 6.	5 Top Turret	Johnson, Robert O.	Sgt. 19080173
EVS 7.	Ball Turret	Osepchook, Arthur J.	S/Sgt. 11035742 RTD
DED 8.	2 Tail Gunner	Hardy, Emmet F.	Sgt. 39830126
EVS 9.	Right Flexible Gunner	Plotz, John J.	S/Sgt. 39837458 RTD
DED 10.	4 Left Flexible Gunner	Jacobson, Joseph (NMI)	S/Sgt. 39170552

11. IDENTIFY BELOW: USE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:
Contacted _____ Check Only One Column
by Last Saw Saw Forced
Radio Sighted Crash Landing
1. Corcoran, John Joseph 2nd Lt. 0-801546 x
2. Stewart, Gilman Carter 2nd Lt. 0-679135 x
3. Murphy, David Williams 2nd Lt. 0-688547 x
12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____ ; (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 EVIDENCE DESCRIBING 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 10 March 1944

Incl 1.

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
J. R. WYATT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't. Adjutant.

✕ 1st Lt. Merlin H. Reed

Mr. Claude S. Reed, (Father)
4318 Campbell Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

✓ ✕ 2nd Lt. Bruce M. Rininsland

Mrs. Ruth E. Rininsland, (Mother)
511½ Sycamore Street,
Muscatine, Iowa.

✕ 1st Lt. Peter Gudyka

Mrs. Victoria Gudyka, (Mother)
Pe Ell, Washington

✕ 2nd Lt. John L. Heiss

Mr. Anton Heiss, (Father)
442 East 134th Street,
Bronx, New York.

✓ ✕ T/Sgt. Robert F. Wellman

Mrs. Louise W. Lanshaw, (Sister)
Route Number 2,
Alma, Michigan.

✕ Sgt. Robert O. Johnson

Mrs. Rose S. Johnson, (Mother)
711 North Naomi Street,
Burbank, California.

✓ ✕ S/Sgt. Arthur J. Osepchook

Mrs. Catherine W. Osepchook, (Mother)
Star Route,
Dover, New Hampshire.

✕ Sgt. Emmet F. Hardy

Mrs. Pearl F. Hardy, (Wife)
1731½ East Eighty Fifth Street,
Los Angeles, California.

✓ ✕ S/Sgt. John J. Plotz

Mr. Joachin Plotz, (Father)
1710 Broadway,
Lincoln, Illinois.

✕ S/Sgt. Joseph Jacobson

Mr. Oluf Jacobson, (Father)
9424 36th Avenue Southwest,
Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. C. J. Thompson, (Sister)
New Rockford, North Dakota.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: JACOBSON, Joseph (NMI)
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 3917 6552
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~3917 6552~~ Left Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? —

If not, why not? —

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

None

Was he injured? I Do not think so

Where was he when last seen? lying on floor near his position

Any hearsay information: I talked to members of other crews

later on. they said they saw^{no} chutes open.

Plane fell through clouds at 10,000 ft.

We were hit at 24,000 ft. ball turret

Gunner and I got^{out} approximately 5,000 ft. this
was below cloud level

Source: —

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

Last seen lying on floor near position making no

effort to leave plane. believe fright or centrifical

force prevented his bailing out. plane was in a

very steep dive

Total number of missions of above crew member: around 10 or 12

Dates and destinations if possible: this was his only flight

with us

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Robert O.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 1908 0173
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~: Top turret

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? —

If not, why not? —

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

None

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? No Knowledge

Any hearsay information: —

See Jacobson questionnaire

Source: —

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

None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 17

Dates and destinations if possible: See service record

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: **WELLMAN, Robert F.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **3616 8236**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Radio Operator**

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

None

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? !!

Any hearsay information: _____

See Jacobson questionnaire

Source: _____

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

None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: See service record

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: HEISS, John L
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-671 434
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? —

If not, why not? —

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

None

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? 11

Any hearsay information: —

Same as Jacobsen questionnaire

Source: —

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

None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18

Dates and destinations if possible: See Service Record

UNCLASSIFIED

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: GUDYKA, Peter (NMI)
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-669 278
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~max Brighton (Brighton)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No — Know ledge

Where was he when last seen? 1 /

Any hearsay information:

Samuel Jacobson questionnaire

Source : _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21

Dates and destinations if possible: S E E S E R V I C E R E C O R D

UNCLASSIFIED

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: RININSLAND, Bruce Martin
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-680 714
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Co-Pilot

Did he bail out?

No Knowledge

Where?

If not, why not?

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

N 0 17 E

Was he injured?

No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

11

Any hearsay information:

Same as Jacobson questionnaire

Source :

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

Done

Total number of missions of above crew member:

81

Dates and destinations if possible:

See Service Record

UNCLASSIFIED

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: **RIED, Merlin H.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **0-670 612**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Navigator (Bomber)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No K 120 W 1049e

Where was he when last seen?) /

Any hearsay information:

Same as Jacobsch questionnaire.

Source:

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

None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: See Service Record

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JOHN J. PLOTZ Rank S/SGT Serial No. 39837458
2. Organization A.A.F. Gp Commander Smith Rank Col Sqn CO Rank
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month March day 9 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Berlin, target, Berlin, target time, 14:30, altitude, 24000 route scheduled, Straight in
Straight out, route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? No. 2. Lead Group
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Saw one chute. 2 hours later
center ball turret gunner was brought same interrogation as I
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".
See above
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About half mile on southern outskirts of Berlin
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) believe all except ball turret gunner and myself
11. Where were they in aircraft? believe centrifical force held them in their positions
12. What was their condition? No Knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? No know I landed about 100 yds. from plane. Plane was completely demolished by impact and explosion. Saw one body. Identification impossible
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.
No Knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Robert O.

Rank: Sgt.

Serial number: 1908 0173

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Fighter (Fighter)~~: Top TurretDid he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 Timeof Oxygen check.Was he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? No KnowledgeAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Trapped in ShipTotal number of missions of above crew member: 17 MissionsDates and destinations if possible: Oct 14-193 - March 9-1944 Over
France and Europe

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: WELLMAN, Robert F.Rank: T/Sgt.Serial number: 3616 8236Position: Crew (Bomber) on ~~Flight~~ Radio OperatorDid he bail out? NoWhere? NIf not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 Timeof Oxygen Check. Warned crew THAT Bombs were falling on us.Was he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? IN Radio RoomAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: TRAPPED IN
Ship.Total number of missions of above crew member: 19 MISSIONSDates and destinations if possible: OCT. 14-1943 - MARCH-9-1944 OVER
FRANCE AND EUROPE.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: HEISS, John L
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-671 434
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot~~ (Pilot): Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 WhenHe gave Oxygen checkWas he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Just before Take offAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Trapped in
ShipTotal number of missions of above crew member: 18 MissionsDates and destinations if possible: Oct 14-1943 - March 9-1944 - Over
FRANCE AND Europe

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: GUDYKA, Peter (NMI)
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-669 278
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Navigator~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 Timeof Oxygen CheckWas he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Just before TakeoffAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Trapped inShipTotal number of missions of above crew member: 23 MissionsDates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: RININSLAND, Bruce Martin
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-680 714
Position: Crew (Bomber) on Flight (Fighter): Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 Timeof Oxygen check.Was he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Just before Take offAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Trappedin ShipTotal number of missions of above crew member: 18 MISSIONSDates and destinations if possible: OCT-14-1943 - MARCH 9-1944 - OVER
FRANCE AND EUROPE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: REED, Merlin H.
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-670 612
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KnowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 Timeof Oxygen CheckWas he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Just before Take offAny hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Trapped inShipTotal number of missions of above crew member: 19 MissionsDates and destinations if possible: OCT. 14 1943 - MARCH 9-1944 Over
FRANCE AND Europe.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 3005

Name of crew member: HARDY, Emmet F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 3983 0126
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? NoWhere? —If not, why not? No Knowledge.Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 13:10 - Time
of Oxygen Check.Was he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Going in Position over EnglandAny hearsay information: NoSource: —Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Tail came off
believed could not get Parachute.Total number of missions of above crew member: 17 MISSIONSDates and destinations if possible: OCT. 14 - 1943 - MARCH 9 - 1944 OVER
FRANCE AND EUROPE.

Berlin 8 July 1944

384thBombGroup.com

UNCLASSIFIED

To: 4./Heavy Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion 662

4./ Heavy Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion 662, together with Turret
AA Artillery Bn 123 (Batteries 2 and _) and Heavy AA Artillery Bn 307
are hereby acknowledged as downing their first enemy airplane on the 9th
of March 1944 at about 1 1/4 hours, and receiving credit therefore.

I.A.
R1 8/7

On the 9th of March 1944 I heard the roar of motors and saw a group of enemy planes come from the North East and fly in a southwest direction.

The Heavy Antiaircraft Artillery Battalions of Tempelhof engaged these planes in combat shortly before 14 hours.

I was in the Headquarters of the German Air Transport Co. in the control tower.

signed W Boode

Engineer German Air Transport Co.

10 March 1944

4./ Hvy Antiaircraft Artillery Bn 662
Subdivision Marienfelde

COMBAT REPORT

On 9 March 1944 at 13.56 o'clock, the Radar 41 T of 4./662 located an enemy formation in the direction of Electric 3. The Battery opened fire with the greatest fuze range and engaged the formation in combat while in passing, until the group flew away in direction 7, because of the wide range. The Radar then detected one plane that flew apart from the rest of the group, and thus could be readily spotted. According to the report of approximately 10 groups, the plane suddenly lost altitude, from a height of 6400 meters, it dropped to 4600 meters. From the Radar, which had continued sighting the plane still farther came the report, after the batteries firing, "Object plunging violently" then "Object Lost". Upon receiving this report the Batteries were questioned and reported that the plane had crashed in Berlin-Osdorf grids (R 45 91800, H 58 08150).

Six men were found in the wreckage of the aircraft. The type of the aircraft was a Fortress II which was hit by heavy anti aircraft fire and crashed in a spiral line. The plane burned when it crashed. The battery combatted the airforce unit with 21 groups and 76 round of antiaircraft ammunition. The velocity of the machine was decreased, probably about 110 - 130 meters per second. Just how much the other battery had participated, it couldn't be ascertained inasmuch as it was so cloudy. The battery had no losses and casualties.

Signed/ Hoefer
Captain and Battery Chief

C O P Y

Translation of

1

German Reports on Crashed American Aircraft

Date	Time	Place	Height
9 Mar 44	1400	Berlin-Osdorf	6400-4600 m

Aircraft type	Identification markings	Serial No.
Fortress II	USA	None

How Aircraft Landed	Airframe % Destroyed
Crashed on fire, single parts flew off, went down in a spin	

Fate of the crewmembers

6 men dead, 2 men bailed out

Cause of loss

The a/c was one of a unit. The a/c was hit, went on fire. It lost altitude and went down in a spiral. 6 men were found dead in the wreckage. The a/c was completely burned.

Witnesses W.Boode, Engineer
German Air Transport Co.

Wm Bandikow 2./307

Lt Hoffman, Staff /307

MACR 3005

signed/ Hoefer
Captain and Battery Commander

German Reports on Crashed American Aircraft

Date	Time	Place	Hight
9 Mar 44	1400	Osdorf, vicinity of Berlin	6400-4600 m.

Aircraft type	Identification markings	Serial No.
4 engine a/c presumably Fortress II	USA	None

How Aircraft Landed	Airframe % Destroyed
Crashed	

Fate of the crewmembers

6 men dead, 2 bailed out

Cause of loss

The a/c was in a formation. It was hit and went down in a spiral-line,
and crashed near Osdorf.

Subdivision of the Anti Aircraft Group Marienfelde

Headquarters
11 March 1944

Heavy Anti Aircraft Section 307(0)

Subject: Downing at Osdorf on 9 March 1944 at 14 o'clock

Commentaries of Battalion Commander

The Air attack in the early morning hour of 9 March 1944 came particularly from the Northeast direction. Around 13:56 hours, a strong enemy unit, which could not be seen, inasmuch, as it was completely covered by clouds, came from direction 1 to direction 7 in the area of the subgroup. By radar all the batteries of the subgroup had established that the enemy unit had without a doubt taken position at some distance, and on the basis of radar had been notified to search particularly sectors 12-5 and the airbase for purpose of orientation. There the large batteries could open fire at great fuze range. Around 13:59 o'clock I heard a great noise of motors, just as though a machine had come down.

I was during the combat near the large battery at Heinersdorf. The machine came down in a spiral form. I had the impression that it was flying at low altitude. Lt. Hoffmann, the training officer at the large battery at Marienfelde, had the same impression. I then saw that the aircraft had shot down from the clouds and crashed heavily on the ground, in the heights of Osdorf. There was a dark cloud of smoke at the place of crash, which I inspected.

The aircraft crashed as a result of concentrated ^{fire} from the large battery.

/s/ de Cuvrè ? (illegible)
Captain

C
O
P
Y

The Large Battery at Marienfelde
2./307(0) 6./307(0)

Field Base Communications Zone
9 March 1944

Combat Report:

On 9 March 1944, there was picked up by radar of 6./307 that an enemy airforce unit was in Direction 1. After the change of targets, the transmitting had been disturbed, before this, the reception had been good, but now reception was only possible within a range of 20 Kilometers. Around 13:57 hours, the battery opened fire at very high fuze range on the airforce unit. Double disturbance, however at this moment, was not noticeable. The target altitude of the airforce unit was 6400 meters, the velocity 120 meters per second. It was very plainly seen that a four motored enemy aircraft broke off from the formation and came down to the ground in a spiral line. It pierced through the thickly concealed clouds, it was now at about 800 meters altitude. The machine burst forth with a great noise, and it was very noticeable that it was without tail and tail assembly. The aircraft crashed at 1400 hours, 600 meters west of the highway junction out of Osdorf and National Highway 101. After the crash, the plane burned with a dark red flame and it generated a trail of very dark smoke. The men who went to the place of the crash, confirmed that the machine was completely demolished and that they found six men dead in the aircraft. The total amount of ammunition expended by the enemy was 374 rounds.

Signature

Leesch,
First Lieutenant and
Battery Chief

C
O
P
Y

Lieutenant Horst Wolfgang Schlitz

Field Base Communication Zone
9 March 1944

11 Antiaircraft Section 128(0)

Witness Statements

In the air attack of 9 March 1944, I made the following observation:

Around 13:56 hours there was a great noise from a strong group of 4 motored machines which flew over the large battery at Marienfelde. They flew from direction 1 to 7-8. The large battery at Marienfelde became engaged in combat with this group with heavy group fire. About 13:58 hours I had the impression that one or several of these machines was very low in the hanging clouds, then in a few moments, I saw in the clouds a four motored machine. A few moments later, I heard a machine crash on the other side. I had a very good view of the place of crash. It could clearly be seen that the hind part of the fuselage and rudder assembly were missing. From the wing assembly, I could tell that the machine was a Liberator. The place of the crash was about 600 meters west of the National Highway 101 on the line of communication to Osdorf (400 meters southwest of the settlement of Marienfelde.) The machine was destroyed through the crash and fire. It was not possible for me to go there to search until after the combat, however, the type of the machine was readily identified.

Signed:
Schlitz
Lieutenant

C
O
P
Y

Field Base of Communications Zone
9 March 1944

Witness Statements

On 9 March 1944 I participated as a security non-commissioned officer. The battery shot down at 13:57 hours shortly before 1400 hours a ^{unit} group of one to nine fliers. From the group, there came down a machine, a heavy motored bomber. I had the impression that the air craft had fallen from formation. I noticed that it was a four motored machine and was within 800 meter range. It flew low and was covered with clouds. The machine crashed to pieces, the body was without tail and tail assembly and crashed on the ground. After the crash, it burned with a dark red flame and generated a trail of very dark smoke.

Signed Paul Greilich
Non-commissioned officer (Sgt.)

C
O
P
Y

MAJOR 3005
 MAJOR 3005
 10 Man Crew

On 9 March 1944 at 1400

RANK

NAME

KV 1190

PLACE: BERLIN-MARIENFELDE

TYPE: FORTRESS

TARGET: AIR BASE TEMPELHOF

RINISLAND, B.M.

ASN- -

dead 8.

S/Sgt.

WELLMAN, ROBERT F.

ASN- 36168236

dead 6.

S/Sgt.

PLOTZ, JOHN J.

ASN- 39837458

S/Sgt.

OSKOPCHOK, ARTHUR J.

ASN- 11035742

8 dead, WAR CEMETERY ELSOUND

ARMY CEMETERY DONBERITZ, unknown at Grave 5 - 2 men

Grave 6 - 2 men

Grave 8 - 1 man

Grave 14 - 1 man

R.E. T.S.A. 60

U.S.A. 69

Postal receipt slip on RM .60

Sender : Field Post No. 23746

Residual property of Robert Snedden, American

3. Report.
REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

Distribution:
Dulag - Air

POST: Air Field Headquarters, Tempelhof (charge-detail)

LOCATION: Berlin SW 27, air - port - new - Building

DATE: 10. March 1944 0800

DATE AND TIME: 9 March 1944 about 1400
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Gsdorf
(NEAREST TOWN)

KIND OF CAPTURE: Flak
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing - Fortress

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: not to ascertain, destroyed without reminder
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: not to ascertain, destroyed without reminder

STATEMENT: destroyed without reminder

F.T. FREQUENCIES: destroyed without reminder

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: through crash fire destroyed without reminder

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
(DULOG -LUFT, ETC.)

Sig.: Boettiger
Lieut. Colonel and Air Field
Commander

MACR 3005

8. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

Distribution:

Dulag - Air

PLACE: Berlin SW 29, Air port - new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0800

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing - Fortress~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Rininsland

FIRST NAME: ^{Bruce}
B.M.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not to ascertain.

Rank: not to ascertain

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf 9 March 1944
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Will be reported later

Sig.: BoettigerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

MACR 3005

FORM 1

KV 1190

8. Report**REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES****Distribution :
Dul ag - Air****POST: Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)****PLACE: Berlin SW 29, Air port - new building****DATE: 10 March 1944 0800****REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - Fortress****EM. LANDING: AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf****NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Wellmann****FIRST NAME: Robert****Rank: Sgt.****SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 36164236****RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead****PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf, 9 March 1944
about 1400****NAME OF HOSPITAL:****PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later****Sig.: Boettiger
Lieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander****MACR 3005**

FORM 1

KV 1190

S. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution:
Dulag - Air

POST: Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

PLACE: Berlin SW 29, Air port - new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0800

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - FortressEM. LANDING: AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) unknown dead

FIRST NAME: Not to ascertain

Rank: not to ascertain

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not present

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf 9 March 1944
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later

Sig.: ReuttigerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

5. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution:
Dulag - Air

POST: Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

PLACE: Berlin SW 29 Air port - new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0650

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - FortressSECOND-PASSENGER AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Odorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) unknown dead

FIRST NAME: not to ascertain

Rank: not to ascertain

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not present

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Odorf 9 March 1944
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later

Sig.: BoettigerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

S. ReportREPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution :
Dulag - Air

POST: Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

PLACE: Berlin SW 29 Air port - new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0800

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - FortressEM. LANDING: AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) unknown dead

FIRST NAME: not to ascertain

Rank: not to ascertain

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not present

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf 9 March 1944
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later

Sig.: PosttiggerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

FORM 1

4. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution:
Dulag - Air

POST: Airfield Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

PLACE: Berlin SW 29, Air port - new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0800

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - FortressXXXXXXXXXX AT: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) unknown dead

FIRST NAME: not to ascertain

Rank: not to ascertain

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not present

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf, 9 March 1944
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later.

Sign.: BoettigerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

FORM 1

KU 1190

G. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution:
Dulag - Air

POST: Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)

PLACE: Berlin SW 29, Air post -/ new building

DATE: 10 March 1944 0800

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - FortressEMERGENCY LANDING AT: Berlin Marienfelde, Field mark Osdorf

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) unknown dead

FIRST NAME: not to ascertain

Rank: not to ascertain

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) not present

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf 9 March 1944

about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: will be reported later

Sigs.: BeuttigerLieut. Colonel and
Air Field Commander

FORM 1

EU 1190

S. Report.REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESDistribution:
Dulag - LuftPOST: **Air Field Headquarters Tempelhof (Receiving detachment)**PLACE: **Berlin SE 29 Air port - new building**DATE: **10 March 1944 0900**REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, **a Boeing - Fortress**FM. LANDING:AT: **Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf**NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **unknown dead**FIRST NAME: **not to ascertain**Rank: **not to ascertain**SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **not present**RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **dead**PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: **Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf, 9 March 1944**
about 1400

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: **will be reported later**Sign.: Roettiger
Lieut. Colonel and
Air field Commander

FORM 1

Restricted:**REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES****Distribution :****Dulag - Air****POST: Air - Field District Headquarters 4/III****PLACE: Berlin - Staaken****DATE: 9 March 44**

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing - Fortress
EM. LANDING: AT: unknown

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Flots**FIRST NAME: John**

Rank: S./Sgt.
SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) A.S.N. 39837458

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured**PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: on a farm Berlin - Osdorf, 9. March 1944****NAME OF HOSPITAL:****PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:****Sgt Sign.: (illegible)****Capt.**

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER: **Pen**Sequence No.: 533ACCEPTED: **17 March 44**

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE: **17 March 44**

THROUGH:

TIME: **2206**

ROLL:

FROM: **LTM**THROUGH: **Pass**

REMARKS:

Q E, M**Very very urgent LBLM No.:2002 17/3 1500****To Evaluation Center West, Oberursel****Subject: Crash points in Camp III on 9 March. ⁴⁴ day raid Berlin.**

- 1) GG 1400 Boeing Berlin - Marienfelde GG 6**
- 2) 1400 4 engined Proetse B, Liebenthal EG 6**
- *3) 1310 Boeing Air Field GG 2 16/2 km west-south-west Gardelegen**

Camp Headquarters III-I*** Air Field Gardelegen requested details be sent.**

6-3224, AF(5)

- 79 -

Air Field Headquarters A (e) 15/III
Local Headquarters Tempelhof
Flight Management

KU 1922 1190

File No.: -52 + 50-(Flight Management)

Subject: Delayed report about the grave location of dead members of enemy plane crews.

Reference: Place of crash, Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf on 9 March 44.
Type of Plane: Boeing - Fortress II

To: Evaluation Center West, Oberursel / Taunus.

Local Headquarters Tempelhof hand over for information following location of graves of dead members of enemy air forces.

Place of crash: Berlin - Marienfelde, Fieldmark Osdorf
Time of crash: 9 March 44 1400
Type of plane: Boeing - Fortress II B-17 F
Ident. marking: not to be determined

- 1) Name: B.M. Rininsland *+ Jackson identified as G.B. 390*
Ser.No.: not present
Date and time of burial: 15 March 44 1000
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery, Elsgrund, Field 1 row 7, grave 2 No. 8.
- 2) Name: Robert F. Wellmann
Ser.No.: 36168236
Date and time of burial: 15 March 1944 1000
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgrund, Field 1, row 7, grave No. 7.
- 3) Name: unknown dead
Ser.No. not present
Date and time of burial: 15 March 1944 1000
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgrund, Field 1, row 7, grave no. 5
- 4) Name: unknown dead
Ser.No. not present
Date and time of burial: 15 March 44
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgrund, Field 1, row 7, grave No. 5
- 5) Name: unknown dead
Ser.No. not present
Date and time of burial: 15 March 44 1000
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgrund, Field 1 row 7, grave No. 6
- 6) Name: unknown dead
Ser.No. not present
Date and time of burial: 15 March 44 1000
Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgrund, Field 1, row 7, grave No. 6

- 67 - continued

MACR 3005

continued

KU 1190

7) Name: unknown dead - *Jaeshon + Rininsland Identified as*Ser. No.: not Present *GB 890*

Date and time of burial: 15 March 44 1000

Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgund, Field 1, row 7, grave No. 8

8) Name: unknown dead

Ser. No.: not present

Date and time of burial: 15 March 1944

Grave location: Warrior Cemetery Elsgund, Field 1, row 8, grave No. 14

Sig.: Blank
Major

Ku 1190

March 9, 1944 - Fortress

Platz, John James, S/Lt.
Ident. Tag: 34, 837 458
Prisoner

Osepchuk, Arthur John, S/Lt.
Ident. Tag: 11 035-743
Taken prisoner

✓
Eight

unknown

Dead

Information Bureau Armed Forces (copy) 1

High Command Armed Forces (2nd div.) 1
Draft L.P. (A) 30 1

By order of
(Signature illegible)

High Command
Armed Forces
March 13, 1944

Red cross
stamp on
package