

CONFIDENTIAL

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106; Command or Air Force VIII  
Group 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As Briefed  
Intended Destination Gelsenkirchen, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
5/10 - 7/10 overcast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 12-8-43 Time \_\_\_\_\_; and Location Over enemy territory  
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 (x) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows When last seen was engaged with six or seven enemy fighters; plane was still under control and pilot seemed to know exactly what he was doing.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-3231
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 41-57129  
(b) 41-57690; (c) 41-58082; (d) 41-57194
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	
Pilot	Carrington, Richard T.	Capt.	0-728581	RTD
Co-Pilot	Esty, Harvey C.	2/Lt.	0-672340	RTD
Bombardier	Smithwick, M. H.	Capt.	0-729511	RTD
Navigator	Taber, Robin E.	1/Lt.	0-663429	RTD
Radio Operator	Brittain, Arthur E.	T/Sgt.	13096046	
Top Turret	Schmidlapp, Philip E.	T/Sgt.	35110121	RTD
Ball Turret	Smalley, Win R.	S/Sgt.	37418175	
Tail Gunner	Parkins, Walter C.	S/Sgt.	34124122	
Flexible Gunner	Wingate, Floyd M.	S/Sgt.	37369181	
Flexible Gunner	Scholand, Joseph A.	S/Sgt.	37280903	RTD

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	Check Only One Column		
				Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
Hansenfluck, Jesse D.	1/Lt.	0-665305	Radio	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) \_\_\_\_\_
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 15 August 1943.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS  
AAF STATION NO. 106  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APO 634  
12 August 1943

SUBJECT: Report of Mission flown on 12 August 1943.

TO : Commanding Officer, AAF Station No. 106, APO 634

1. The following is a statement of 1st Lt. JESSE D. MAUSENPLUCK, Pilot of Ship No. 142 on Mission flown 12 August 1943:

"Capt. Carrington was flying the No. 2 position in Lt. Mattes's wing. I was flying the No. 3 position. I observed him sliding toward and under my ship. I could not tell whether he was hit, but the ship was still under control at the time. I saw him pass under the ship on the left hand side and then he started dropping back. The next time I looked around he was approximately 500 feet below me and about a quarter of a mile back. About six or seven enemy fighters were converging on him, mainly from 9, 10 and 11 o'clock, level. He turned into the formation of enemy fighters, pulled his nose up so that the ball turret could let them have it. He did not swerve from his course. All guns which were available and could be brought to bear on the fighters were brought to bear. The nose guns, the ball turret, and, when nose down, the top turret. At that time the formation made a slight turn which put him behind me and out of my line of vision. I called my tail gunner to watch him, not knowing that he had been hit with a 20-mm shell. I got no answer from him. I called the ball turret operator to watch him, but he was too busy to watch him. At the time I last saw Capt. Carrington he was still under control and knew exactly what he was doing. I think it was one of the most outstanding feats of personal bravery I have ever witnessed."



W. E. DOLAN,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Station S-2 Officer.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Your name ESTY, HARVEY C. Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-622346
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Est. Peaske Rank Col. Sqn CO Rank Capt.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month AUGUST day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, \_\_\_\_\_, target, \_\_\_\_\_, target  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, 29,000 Ft. route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Rt. Wing 3rd Sqn.
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". All crew members forward of bomb-bay of airplane bailed out through the hatch in forward part of airplane due to force in the bomb-bay
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Unknown?
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Unknown? No Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? No Knowledge
12. What was their condition? No Knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw S/Sgt. Scholand unconscious from wounds in a building in a small unknown village approximately 50 miles north west of Calogne. Was unable to get to speak to him or find out his 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)

In explanation to lack of information, the radio failed prior to signal for bailing out. There was no contact with any crew members by interphone. No complaints were received in the cockpit of members being wounded. Nor could the rear of plane be reached due to an intense fire in the bomb-bay.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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Name of crew member: **BRITTAIN, Arthur E.**  
Rank: **T/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **13 096 046**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of flight (pilot)~~: **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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ground briefing prior to take-off

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? Ground briefing prior to take-off  
(enlisted)

Any hearsay information: A member of the 384th who was returned aboard the Gripsholm same time remarked that three of my crew-men had evaded, one had died in the ship, and that two were in the hands of the Germans.

Source: Can't recall his name, crosscheck against the October, 44. lead of some 200 Americans on the Gripsholm.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: As I recall he was new to the crew (So was I), and this was his second mission.

Dates and destinations if possible: Last two of the Inferno crew.. Record not at hand.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SMALLER, Wm R.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 97 418 175  
Position: Crew (Bomber) on flight (Fighter): Ball 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Ground briefing at take-off.

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? Ground briefing before take-off

Any hearsay information: See Brittain

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6

Dates and destinations if possible: Identical with mine, record not at hand.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **PARKINS, Walter C.**  
Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **34 124 122**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Stinson/Stinson~~: **Tail 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Ground briefing prior to take-off

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

No knowledge

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Ground briefing prior to take off

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

See report for Brittain

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: \_\_\_\_\_

6

Dates and destinations if possible: See report for Smalley

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIREName of crew member: WINGATE, Floyd M.Rank: S/Sgt.Serial number: 37 369 181Position: Crew (Bomber) 2nd Flight (F-105) Flexible GunnerDid he bail out? No knowledge

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

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

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

Ground briefing prior to take offWas he injured? No knowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Ground briefing prior to take off

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

See report for Brittain

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6Dates and destinations if possible: See report for Smalley

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name TABER, Robin Everett Rank 1st Lt Serial No. O-663429
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander PEASLEE, Budd J Rank Col Sqn CO DILLINGHAM, Maurice Rank Capt  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month August day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing target, Gelsenkirchen target  
time, about 9:30AM altitude, about 22,000 ft route scheduled, Don't  
recall route flown with formation
5. Where were you when you left formation? South of Ahr, near Holland &  
Belgium
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Apparently pilot, co-pilot, bombardier  
& engineer. Met them on ground.
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". Above men were right behind me at forward escape hatch, and no doubt followed immediately. Clouds and distance obscured observation. No information on balance of crew.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No knowledge.
11. Where were they in aircraft? No knowledge.
12. What was their condition? No knowledge.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? On ground in England, just prior to take-off. All crew members in good shape.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. See records of Stalag Luft III, Landsdorf Lazaretto & Loben Heil & Pflegeanstalt.

NOTE: Due to interphone failure shortly after take-off, I have no record of condition of ship, or of other personnel of the ship.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

ROBIN EVERETT TABER  
403 FRANKLIN AVENUE  
SILVER SPRING  
MARYLAND

27 Ap 46

Commanding General  
Army Air Forces  
Attention AFPPA-8  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Since I landed at the German town of Liblar, and the engineer about 4 miles east (Or at least that is where I first saw him, some two hours later) about 10 AM on August 12, 1943, I would suppose that our plane had been heading south-east at the time we abandoned ship.

There was too much fighting going on to worry about which direction we were traveling. Captain Carrington may have noted the direction when he put the ship on automatic pilot.

Being out of communication with the crew due to an inoperative interphone, I can only say it was a normal flight, with the formation, up to the time we hit the flak over the Ruhr. After that a small fire in the aluminum skin and plenty of fighters kept us busy in the nose, up to the time we jumped.

*Robin Everett Taber*  
1st Lt, USAAF, Ret.

*12 miles SW of  
Cologne*

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BRITTAIN, Arthur E.  
Rank: T/Sgt.  
Serial number: 13 046 046  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Radio Operator~~ Radio Operator

Did he bail out? Unknown

Where?                     

If not, why not?                     

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

No recollection

Was he injured? Assumed wounded or killed

Where was he when last seen? In radio Room

Any hearsay information: Sgt. Schmidlapp, Top turret  
gunner saw him go down from his position  
at his gun and he did not reappear

Source: Sgt. Schmidlapp, Top turret gunner

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: appr. 8

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SMALLEY, Win R.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 37 418 175  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~assigned to~~ Ball Turret

Did he bail out? Unknown

Where? Unknown

If not, why not?                     

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

No recollection

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? ~~Unknown~~ Ball turret

Any hearsay information:                     

Source:                     

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Appx. 8

Dates and destinations if possible:

# INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **PARKINS, Walter C.**

Rank: E/SGT.

Serial number: 34 124 122

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Fighter (Fighter)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out?

Unknown

## Where?

Unknown

**If not, why not?**

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

He was

calling positions of enemy planes attacking

Was he injured?

Unknown

Where was he when last seen?

In tail gun position

**Any hearsay information:**

**Source:**

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

**Total number of missions of above crew member:**

Approximately 8

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIREName of crew member: **WINGATE, Floyd M.**Rank: **S/Sgt.**Serial number: **37 369 181**Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxlightxx(Fighter)~~: **Flexible Gunner**Did he bail out? UnknownWhere? Unknown

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Calling  
Planes from his position at waist gunWas he injured? UnknownWhere was he when last seen? In Waist of PlaneAny hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 8Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ku 27  
1312  
1325-

Aug 12, 1943

Fortress

Confirmation of

J.P. No. 103 700/80  
Aug. 27, 1943

<sup>Ku 1719</sup>  
Parkins, Walter C., 2/Sgt.

Ident. Tag: 34124122  
Dead

✓  
Brittain, Arthur C., T/Sgt.

Ident. Tag: 13096 046  
Dead

Completed

RESTRICTED

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by R. A. HUNAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by P. M. BUCHER, Capt., AG  
Date **DEC 1 1962**

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TYP

RESTRICTED

8/30:21-5  
454-233