

Classification changed to Restricted
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Colonel
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 15 Oct 45

CONFIDENTIAL
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

2497

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 8th Air Force VIII
Group 384th; Squadron 547th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As Briefed
Intended Destination Le Meillard, France; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
C. A. V. U.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 11 Jan 45 Time 1521.15; and Location 50°22'N 0°59'E
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; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows Number 1 engine was smoking, when the 10 chutes were seen to appear from the plane, but the plane was under control.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-31246
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-850
(b) SW-644; (c) SW-968; (d) 43-138485
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).

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	Pilot	Britt, Neill Lasane	2nd Lt	0-804606
2. Co-Pilot	Co-Pilot	Waley, Raymond John	2nd Lt	0-751963
3. Navigator	Navigator	Lindell, Ernest Vivian	2nd Lt	0-753009
4. Bombardier	Bombardier	Richard, Oscar Gabriel, III	2nd Lt	0-746610
5. Radio Operator	Radio Operator	Harris, Morton George	T/Sgt	12057490
6. Top Turret	Top Turret	Tucker, Donald Peter	S/Sgt	32444729
7. Ball Turret	Ball Turret	Argenbright, William David	Sgt	35497409
8. Tail Gunner	Tail Gunner	Wolfe, Clarence Leo	Sgt	39277903
9. Right Flexible Gun	Right Flexible Gun	Nichols, Conway Bruce	S/Sgt	14108388
10. Left Flexible Gun	Left Flexible Gun	Nason, Morton Cook, Jr.	Sgt	14140282

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	
				Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing	
1.	Smith, Dale Orville	Colonel	0-19465		X			
2.	Daskey, Kendall (NMI)	2nd Lt	0-804622		X			
3.	Stearns, Clarence Grover	1st Lt	0-738045		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) 10 Chutes seen to come out of plane
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 16 January 1944

Incl 1:

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
J. R. WYATT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

Second Lieutenant Neill L. Britt

Mrs. Neill L. Britt, (Wife)
C/O Mr. W. G. Prevatte,
Whiteville, North Carolina.

Second Lieutenant Raymond J. Haley

Mrs. Theresa Helfenbein, (Mother)
534 Inca Street,
Denver, Colorado.

Second Lieutenant Ernest V. Lindell

Mr. Ernest V. Lindell, (Father)
Route One,
Grandview, Washington.

Second Lieutenant Oscar G. Richard, III

Mrs. Abigail Richard, (Mother)
Sunshine, Louisiana.

Technical Sergeant Morton G. Harris

Mrs. Sylvia R. Harris, (Mother)
650 Ocean Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Staff Sergeant Donald P. Tucker

Mrs. Elizabeth Tucker, (Mother)
208 3rd Avenue,
Kingston, New York.

Sergeant William D. Argenbright

Mrs. Roberta R. Argenbright, (Wife)
3806 Dixie Highway,
Shively, Kentucky.

Sergeant Clarence L. Wolfe

Mrs. Margaret L. Wolfe, (Wife)
Box 282,
Del Mar, California.

Staff Sergeant Conway B. Nichols

Mrs. Betty Coats Nichols, (Mother)
121 North 60th Street,
Birmingham, Alabama.

Sergeant Morton C. Mason, Jr.

Mrs. Gladys W. Mason, (Mother)
Minosa Drive,
Dublin, Georgia.

MACR 2497

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

SOURCE: ERNEST V LINDELL, 2d Lt, O-753009

E&E #730

DATE: 8 June 1944

MIA: 14 January 1944

UNIT: 547 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRIB RECORDS

PILOT	O-804606	2d Lt	Neill L BRITT	P/W
CO-PILOT	O-751963	2d Lt	Raymond J HALEY	P/W
NAVIGATOR	O-753009	2d Lt	Ernest V LINDELL	RD
BOMBARDIER	O-746610	2d Lt	Oscar G RICHARD, III	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	12057490	T/Sgt	Morton G HARRIS	P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER	32444729	S/Sgt	Donald P TUCKER	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	32497409	Sgt	William D ARGENTBRIGHT	P/W
WASIT GUNNER	14140282	Sgt	Morton C MASON, JR	P/W
WASIT GUNNER	14108388	S/Sgt	Conway B NICHOLS	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	39277903	Sgt	Clarence L WOLFE	P/W

KNOWN INFORMATION:

10 chutes.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

None

SECRET

By authority A.C. of S., G-2

Date 29 June 44 (RHS)
E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Ernest V LINDELL, 2d Lt, O-753009

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

8 June 1944

(Date)

E&E #730

547 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

14 January 1944; about 1510 hours; North of ABBEVILLE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc? **We had been hit by flak; No. 3 Engine was feathered and #4 had run away prop.**

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **10,500 feet**

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

Yes - I had a flak wound in my left arm.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

All members bailed out; all chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **Yes**

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? **No**

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

I heard that 4 men were captured by Germans.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

Heard that 4 were P/W.