

Classification changed to RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON

by E. A. MADUNAS, 1st Col., AO by R. M. MUENCH, 1st Lt., AO Date MAR 25 1946

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

4355

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 544th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As Briefed Intended Destination Oberpfaffenhofen, Ger.; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Visibility 10 Miles
4. GIVE: (a) Date 24 April 1946; and Location 30 mi. East of Paris of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (X) Other circumstances as follows A/C received a direct hit by flak. Fire was observed with smoke coming out of cockpit
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-31346
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-002287 (b) 43-57254; (c) SW-002167; (d) SW-001950
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
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

Table with columns: Crew Position, Name in Full (Last Name First), Rank, Serial Number. Rows include Pilot (Harvey, Walter Lewis), Co-Pilot (Brown, Robert Harold), Navigator (Kule, Johnson William), Bombardier (Rader, Richard Eugene), Radio Operator (Sturak, Stanley John), Top Turret (Smith, Dewey Carlyle), Ball Turret (Roberson, Charles William), Tail Gunner (Vann, George Daniel, Jr.), Right Waist Gun (Atkins, James Asa), Left Waist Gun (McManus, Cornelius Patrick).

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Table with columns: Name in Full (Last Name First), Rank, Serial Number, Contacted by (Radio, Last Sighted, Saw, Saw Forced Landing). Row 1: Clayton, John Earl, 1st Lt, O-801246, Last Sighted 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) 4 chutes seen to emerge
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYE-WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EFFORT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE

Date of Report 28 April 1944

Incl 5

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT BY Lt. J. E. CLAYTON, PILOT A/C NO. 785, ON MISSION TO OBERPFAFFHOFEN, GERMANY, 24 APRIL 1944.

We were flying No. 6 Low Squadron, Lead Group. At 1201 hours, 30 miles East of Paris, A/C No. 346, Lt. HARVEY, Pilot, was struck by flak. A/C 346 turned around and headed for England. The aircraft was afire in the nose and smoke was coming out of the cockpit. Four chutes were observed emerging from the aircraft, but only three (3) were seen to open.

J. E. Clayton
J. E. CLAYTON,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot A/C No. 785.

Incl 6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Richard E RADER, 1st Lt, 0-734835

21 August 1944

(Name) (Rank) ASN

(Date)

Walter L HARVEY, 1st Lt, 0-672350

544 Bomb Sq, 384 Bomb Group

E&E #1102-1103

(Unit)

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-672350	1st Lt	Walter L HARVEY	RTD
CO-PILOT	0-521326	2d Lt	Robert H BROWN	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-704133	2d Lt	Johnson W RULE	RTD
BOMBARDIER	0-734835	1st Lt	Richard E RADER	RTD
RADIO OPERATOR	33419781	S/Sgt	Stanley J STURAK	POW
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18190125	S/Sgt	Dewey C SMITH	POW
BALL TURRET GUNNER	16052210	Sgt	Charles ROBERTSON	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	11057514	Sgt	Cornelius P McMANUS	RTD
WAIST GUNNER	34666456	Sgt	James H ATKINS	POW
TAIL GUNNER	18157650	Sgt	George D VANN	POW

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

24 April 1944; 1215 or 1230 hours; 20 mi north of Mery (near Romilly sur Seine) - RADER
Southeast of SEZANNE - HARVEYNature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
Cockpit and bomb-bay in flames.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? Approx. 20,000 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
NoWhat members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
All bailed out; 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? Pilot, co-pilot, navigator, ball turret gunner and L. waist gunner were together.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.
French source reported 4 of crew captured.Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?
No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by 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?

See above; also BROWN and ROBERTSON were free 20 June 1944

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICEJohnson W. Rule, 2nd Lt, O-7041337 Sep 1944

(Name)

(Rank)

ASN

(Date)

544 Sqn, 384 Bomb Grp

(Unit)

E&E 1696

(IE9(WEA)6/62/708)

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-521326	2nd Lt	Robert H. Brown	MIA ✓
CO-PILOT	0-672350	1st Lt	Walter Harvey	RTD
NAVIGATOR	0-704133	2nd Lt	Johnson W. Rule	RTD
BOMBARDIER	0-734835	1st Lt	Richard E. Rader	RTD
RADIO OPERATOR	33419781	S/Sgt	Stanley Sturak	PW
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18190125	S/Sgt	Dewey Smith	PW
BALL TURRET GUNNER	16052210	Sgt	Charles Roberson	MIA ✓
WAIST GUNNER	11057514	Sgt	Cornelius P. McManus	RTD
WAIST GUNNER	34705188	S/Sgt	Robert V. Atkinson	PW
TAIL GUNNER	18157650	Sgt	Vana, George D.	MIA ✓

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
24 Apr 1944, near Angura (Marne), France.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
On fire and out of control.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?
20,000 feet.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
All - yes.

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?
Yes

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.
Yes received information about those taken prisoner.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?
No

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

No

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

**Four captured - seen by the French.
Other four believed to be evaders.**

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**Cornelius P. McManus, Sgt, 11057514****8 Sep 1944**

(Name) (Rank) ASN

(Date)

544 Bomb Sqn, 384 Bomb Grp**E&E 1757**

(Unit)

(IS9 (WEA) 6/60/706)

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-521326	2nd Lt	Robert H. Brown	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-672350	1st Lt	Walter Harvey	RTD
NAVIGATOR	0-704133	2nd Lt	Johnson W. Rule	RTD
BOMBARDIER	0-734835	1st Lt	Richard E. Rader	RTD
RADIO OPERATOR	33419781	S/Sgt	Stanley Sturak	PW
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18190125	S/Sgt	Dewey Smith	PW
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18052210	Sgt	Charles Roberson	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	11057514	Sgt	Cornelius P. McManus	RTD
WAIST GUNNER	34705188	S/Sgt	Robert V. Atkinson	PW
TAIL GUNNER	18157650	Sgt	George D. Vann	MIA

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

24 April 1944, 1200 hrs, Angura, France.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?

Left waist window broken, fire through to radio room.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

20,000 feet.

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

No

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

All - yes.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Apparently (not seen crashing)

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Saw six on ground, all OK.

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

Four taken PW soon after landing.

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

Nothing given.

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

Nothing given.

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

Nothing given.

1st Lt. Walter L. Harvey

Mrs. Glenn H. Harvey, (Mother)
2022 Gratiot Avenue,
Saginaw, Michigan.

1st Lt. Richard E. Rader

Mrs. Harriet J. Rader, (Wife)
1818 Sierra,
Bonita, California.

2nd Lt. Robert H. Brown

Mrs. Marion J. Ebsaten, (Mother)
314 East Elm Street,
East Rochester, New York.

2nd Lt. Johnson W. Rale

Mrs. Jeanette H. Rale, (Mother)
1560 Laurel Avenue,
Bridgport, Connecticut.

3/Zgt. Dewey C. Smith

Mrs. Gladys M. Smith, (Mother)
726 Thomas Boulevard,
Port Arthur, Texas.

S/Sgt. Stanley J. Sturak

Mrs. Josephine Sturak, (Mother)
133 South 16th Street,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sgt. Charles W. Roberson

Mrs. Verrona Roberson, (Wife)
2622 Lafayette,
Saint Louis, Missouri.

Sgt. George D. Vann, Jr.

Mrs. Velia G. Vann, (Wife)
2301 Saunders Avenue,
San Antonio, Texas.

Sgt. James A. Atkins

Mrs. Lily M. Atkins, (Mother)
1325 Laidlaw,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sgt. Cornelius P. McManus

Mrs. Rose McManus, (Mother)
1 Wayne Terrace,
Worcester, Massachusetts.