

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AO
Date **MAR 15 1946**

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

7278-1

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 72 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th; Squadron 547th; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: POINT of departure AAF Station 106; Course As Briefed
Intended Destination Nordhausen, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 2-4/10 low cloud tops 5-6000 feet
- GIVE: (a) Date 20 July 44 Time 1115; and Location 51°50' N, 12°50' 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.
- 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 A/C dropped back to release bombs apparently unable to keep up with formation. A/C under attack by 6 E/A. Went down in glide under control.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-37974
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-608
(b) SW-619496; (c) 43-64839; (d) SW-001756
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) See attached; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) sheet; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(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	Grant, Walter Edward	2nd Lt.	0-818855 RTD
2. Co-Pilot	Grabon, Daniel Stanley	2nd Lt.	0-819797 RTD
3. Navigator	Wells, Benjamin Franklin	2nd Lt.	0-703544 Pow RTD
4. Toggler	Zipfel, Herbert Walter	S/Sgt.	35549231 Pow RTD
5. Radio Operator	Sexton, William Hiram	T/Sgt.	35132838 Pow RTD
6. Top Turret	Farrow, Thomas Chappell	T/Sgt.	32364054 Pow RTD
7. Ball Turret	Fulwider, Albert Clayton, Jr.	T/Sgt.	13090947 Pow RTD
8. Tail Gunner	Karcher, Norbert Raymond	S/Sgt.	13168238 KIA
9. Waist Gunner	Jablonski, Raymond Joseph	Sgt.	36321492 Pow RTD

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Last Seen	Check Only (See Column)	Saw	Saw Forced Landing
			Radio	Sighted	Crash		
1. Patella, Joseph David	Tx	E/O T-61621		x			
2.							
3.							

- 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
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, 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 TYPE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

SEP 1 1944
RECEIVED

Report 24 July 1944

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Reporting Officer)
J. R. WYATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't. Adjutant.

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8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
- a. 1051018 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - b. 1150631 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - c. 2650758 General Motors Co.
 - d. 1150582 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - e. 1151017 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - f. 650360 General Motors Co.
 - g. 1151870 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - h. 1151871 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - i. 1150712 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - j. 1151479 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - k. 1150917 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.
 - l. 1149338 Kelsey Hayes Wheel Co.

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7278-2X

STATEMENT BY E/O J. PATELIA, PILOT, A/C NO. 888, MISSION TO DESSAU, GERMANY,
20 JULY 1944.

We were flying in No. 2 position High Squadron, High Group. Lt. GRANT, in A/C No. 974, was flying in No. 5 position, Low Squadron, High Group. At 1115 hours, 51° 50' N, 12° 50' E, altitude 25,000 feet, A/C No. 974 dropped back to release its bombs, being unable to keep up with the formation. A/C 974 was, at the time, under attack by four (4) ME 109s and two (2) FW 190s. Four (4) chutes were seen emerging, as the aircraft went down in a glide, apparently under control.

/s/ J. PATELIA,
/t/ J. PATELIA,
E/O, Air Corps,
Pilot, A/C No. 888

A TRUE COPY

J. R. Wyatt
J. R. WYATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

Incl #8

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 7278

Name of crew member: BRABON, Daniel Stanley
 Rank: 2nd Lt
 Serial number: 0-819797
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Believed to have been killed by civilians

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

SOURCE: 1st Lt. Walter E. Grant, 0-818855

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File number 7278

Name of crew member: GRABON, Daniel Stanley
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-819797
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Do not know

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File number 7278

Name of crew member: KARCHER, Norbert Raymond
 Rank: S/Sgt
 Serial number: 13168238
 Position: Crew (Bomber) / ~~of Flight / (1st Lt)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? no

Where? _____

If not, why not? Wounded and collapsed over tail wheel bulkhead

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He said
he was shooting at Enemy aircraft on our tail. I counted two downed

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? Half in and out of tail section and

Any hearsay information: Waist Compartment. He had left his
position without parachute because of injuries. He tried to
crawl thru airplane but ~~only~~ collapsed just before
he emerged into waist comp. from tail. Wounded
from 200 M shells which I heard exploding in tail section

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: We bailed out
in the area of town of Chemnitz, Germany. Aircraft was
in that area as per German interrogators. I don't
know condition of aircraft because I did not see it after
I bailed out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2nd Mission 2nd Tour (27)

Dates and destinations if possible: July 20, 1944, Target Leipzig, Ger.
Oil refineries



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8



SUBJECT: Casualty Information of Crew Members

TO: JABLONSKI, Raymond Joseph Sgt.

1. You will be interested to know that there have been formed here in Washington and in the theaters overseas, Missing Aircrew Research and Investigation Offices to collect all information from our own and enemy sources, correlate this information and furnish it to search teams in the theaters who will go to the scene of the casualty incident and investigate. These teams will question those in the area who have knowledge of the incident and trace all leads down until they have the story. The German records we have translated are excellent. We have just received the Japanese records. By combining all this data with the story available in your memory, we can tell next of kin the things that mean so much to them.

2. You may or may not have been questioned in this manner before concerning the mission on which you were shot down and the events that followed. Regardless of previous questionnaires, it is important that we have the information requested here to complete our records concerning combat crewmen remaining in a casualty status.

3. If you have been sworn to secrecy as a result of your escape, evasion or internment, you may consider yourself released from all restrictions as to disclosure or publication of experiences except:

- a. Secret intelligence activities and methods developed for use, or actually used, in prison camps.
 - b. Details of techniques employed by military intelligence organizations operating behind enemy lines to assist evasion and escape.
 - c. Negotiations conducted on high government or military level to secure release from internment in a neutral country. (See AAF Reg 46-8 dated 30 October 1945)
4. Please answer all the questions you can promptly and accurately. Re-

6-3842, AF

quest that, if possible, answers be typewritten; if not, printed. Mail the reply to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Attention: AFPPA-8, Washington 25, D. C.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:



JOHN J. SMITH
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personnel Services Division, AC/AS-1

Incls

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Raymond J. Johnson Rank Sgt. Serial No. 3637149
2. Organization 384 B. Gp Commander Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO _____ Rank LT Col
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Seizing Gen., target, Oil Refineries, target
time, App 11:30 Altitude, 26,000 route scheduled, South
of target, route flown West
5. Where were you when you left formation? Straggling 1/2 mile behind Gp.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes. Except R. N. Karcher
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". R. N. Karcher was left in aircraft. No knowledge of P. S. Graber
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Don't know
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Don't know.
Plane was reported exploded in mid air by other members of group who were shot down shortly after on July 29, 1944
11. Where were they in aircraft? Tail gunner
12. What was their condition? Bleeding very much from ²⁰⁴⁴ wounds
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Tail gunner crawled midway into waist compartment without parachute. Bleeding from wounds in head and body. Collapsed over tail wheel bulkhead and remained in that position when I last saw him as I stepped out of the aircraft in parachuting
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)