

Classification changed to

RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG
Date 1 MAR 1 1948

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 544th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As briefed
Intended Destination Stuttgart, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Not known
4. GIVE: (a) Date Sept. 4 Time not known; and Location not known
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or (X) 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 Ship believed to have been forced down by fuel exhaustion
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17F; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-5720
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series: A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 41-57181
(b) 41-58729; (c) 41-58071; (d) 41-58758
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
EUS 1.	Pilot	<u>Pilot - Aufmuth, Lester H.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-524542</u>
RTD 2.	Co-Pilot	<u>McMath, James G.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-686668</u>
PMC 3.	Navigator	<u>Downe, Charles O.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-678624</u>
PMC 4.	Bombardier	<u>Jensen, J. J.</u>	<u>2/Lt.</u>	<u>0-671365</u>
RTD 5.	Radio Operator	<u>Heatherford, Louis F.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>34337979</u>
PMC 6.	Top Turret	<u>Price, Robert E.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>15111188</u>
RTD 7.	Ball Turret	<u>Wagner, James L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>18160097</u>
EUS 8.	Tail Gunner	<u>Smith, Joseph H.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>14052781</u>
RTD 9.	Flexible Gunner	<u>Fisher, Charles A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>13041301</u>
RTD 10.	T.G. - Flexible Gunner	<u>Bachmann, Capt. E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>32462898</u>

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				Check Only One Column	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw For ced Landing		

1. _____
2. No one able to identify aircraft number
3. _____
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) _____
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 8 September 1943

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

W. J. McNEILL,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Station S-2 Officer.

SECRET

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 776.

Name of crew member: JENSEN, Jr., James C.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-571365
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxx~~ Bombardier.

Did he bail out? NO

Where? NEAR BOLVAIRE NORTH OF PARIS

If not, why not? LOST ALTITUDE TO QUICK (POWER DIVE)

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: TALKING
IN A WOODS WITH THE FULL CREW

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? WITH ROBERT K. PRICE OUR ENGINEER
RUNNING ACROSS A FIELD NEAR BOLVAIRE

Any hearsay information: HE WAS CAPTURED
WITH PRICE, ROBERT K.

Source: FRENCH + DUTCH UNDER GROUND.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: RUMOR WAS
THAT FRENCH FARMERS TURNED THEM
OVER TO THE GERMANS

Total number of missions of above crew member: APP. 4 MISSIONS

Dates and destinations if possible: ?

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 776.

Name crew member: JENSEN, Jr., James C.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-671365
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Pilot): Bombardier.

Did he bail out? NO, CRASH LANDED

Where? ST. GERVAIS, FRANCE

If not, why not?

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

AFTER LANDING

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? AT END OF THE WAR

Any hearsay information: WE WERE TOGETHER IN THE
 UNDERGROUND AND CAUGHT IN DIFFERENT STALAGS
 BUT MET AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE, FRANCE
 AT END OF WAR.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: WATTEN, FRANCE Aug. 1943;
 POMILLY - sur - SEINE, FRANCE Aug. 1943; STUTTGART,
 GERMANY, SEPT. 6, 1943.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ROBERT K. PRICE Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 15H1188
2. Organization 384 Bomb. Gr. Sq. B. Sq. Op Commander PEASLEE Rank COL Sqn CO GILMORE Rank CAPTAIN
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month SEPT. day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, STUTTGART GER. target, BOSCH MAGNETO PLANT target time, 10- A.M. , altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? N.W. of PARIS
6. Did you bail out? NO CRASH LANDED
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NO
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". AUFMUTH, PILOT, OK;
McMATH, CO-PILOT, OK; DOWNE, NAV. OK; WAGNER, BALL TURPINE, OK;
FISHER, R. WAIST, OK; SMITH, L. WAIST, OK. BALHMANN, TAIL, OK.
AT THAT TIME. NO KNOWLEDGE NOW BELIEVED OK - BAIL MAN IS OK.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? ST. GERVAIS, FRANCE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ALL
11. Where were they in aircraft? DITCHING POSITIONS
12. What was their condition? GOOD
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____

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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JENSEN Jr., James C.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-671365
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxx~~ Bombardier.

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? We were crash-landing. he agreed to stay with the ship.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After crash,
we all met in woods nearby, then split in two's. All were uninjured.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In woods half mile from plane. Near Gisors, France.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: His capture was
evidently due to a stool undoubtedly attached to the French underground.
This is wholly supposition and I cannot assure that even this is true.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three (3)

Dates and destinations if possible: Approximate: Watten, France; August 21, 1943.
Rommely-Sur-Seine, France; August 30, 1943. Stuttgart, Germany; September
6, 1943.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Lester H. Aufmuth Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-524542
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Paul Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn CO Gillmore Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Sept. day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ? target, Stuttgart, Germany target time, 10:30 ? altitude, 23,000 ft. route scheduled, From Eng to SW of Paris route flown same as scheduled. & straight S. into target, returned same route.
5. Where were you when you left formation? North of Paris, approx. 35 miles.
6. Did you bail out? No
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No
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". No crew member bailed out, all stayed with ship as we found a good hay field for crash-landing and effected such a landing. No one was injured and we then burned the complete airplane.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? A few miles from the town of Gisors France
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) All
11. Where were they in aircraft? In ditching positions. (Radio room).
12. What was their condition? All O. K. and uninjured.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Saw all crew members in woods a few minutes after crash. none were hurt and all were quite well both physically and mentally.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I have no definite knowledge about anyone other than those who returned to the U.S. approximately the same date as I.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Charles A. Fisher Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 13041301
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Budd J. Pensloe Rank Col. Sqn CO Alfred Nuttall Rank Maj.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Sept. day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Stuttgart, Ger., target, Electrical Plants, target time, _____, altitude, 10,000 ft. to Germany, route scheduled, France Germany, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? North of Paris.
6. Did you bail out? No
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No
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". _____
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Somewhere Between Amiens and Clermont about 50 mi. North of Paris.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Everyone of the crew. Was in the aircraft when it struck the ground; No one was injured
11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot and Co-Pilot in the Cockpit all the rest in Radio Room
12. What was their condition? All were uninjured
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? After burning the plane and hiding in some woods. We separated in pairs. James Wagner and myself; Robert Price and James Jensen; Charles Downe and Carl Beckmann; Weatherford and Joseph Smith were not present at the time, Lester Rufmuth and James E. McMath were together and later were joined by Weatherford. Talked with McMath in London after my return and Weatherford in Tampa, Fla. (over)
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)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CALL E. BACHMANN Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 32462898
2. Organization 384TH Gp Commander Budd J. Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn CO ALFRED NOTHAL CAPT.
(full name) (full name)
3. That year 1943 month September day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, _____, target, STUTTGART GERMANY,
time, _____, altitude, 21,000 FT route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? TAIL END CHALKY
(NEAR PARIS)
6. Did you bail out? NO
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NO
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft (or whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". None Bailed Out
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NORTH OF PARIS
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Full Crew
11. Where were they in aircraft? IN Radio Room, same as ditching
12. What was their condition? JITTERY + NERVOUS
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. WE WERE FORCED TO ESCAPE THREE TIMES FROM GESTAPO, WHO GOT INFORMATION ABOUT UNDERGROUND, I WAS WITH SIX FELLOWS FROM RAF & ONE FELLOW FROM RAAF, & ALSO FROM THE POLISH AIR FORCE, WHICH LATER MANY OF THEM GOT CAPTURED, BY GESTO, AT ONE TIME THERE WERE ABOUT 30 OF US IN ONE
(Any additional information may be written on the back)

<u>Job</u>	<u>Coow</u>	<u>Last Report</u>	<u>Source</u>
Pilot - Lester Aufmuth		Last heard. he was P.W.	his Father
Co-Pilot - James McMath		Returned Safe	saw him in London.
Bomb. - James Jensen		P.W.	his Wife and James Wagner.
Navi. - Chas. Downe		Safe Return	wrote to him.
Eng. - Robert Price		P.W. but now safe	James Wagner.
Radio. - Weatherford		Safe	saw him in Fla.
Ball Turret - James Wagner		Safe	Returned with me.
Left Waist - Joseph Smith		P.W.	his Mother.
Tail Gun. - Carl Bachmann		Safe	Chas. Downe.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 776.

Name of crew member: JENSEN, Jr., James C.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-471365
 Position: Crew (Bomber) Bombardier.

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? Plane was out of gas and Pilot was attempting a Belly Landing

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Approximately 50mi N. Paris Between Amiens and Clermont, Was with Robert Price heading North.

Any hearsay information: Robert Price was Taken P.W. and I was under The impression Jensen was also P.W.

Source: Through Correspondence with James Wagner

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: No explanation of his fate have been under The impression he was a P.W. and returned By none.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three.

Dates and destinations if possible: 1st Watten, France - Aug 27, 1943
2nd Romilly Sur Seine, France - Sept 3, 1943 3rd Stuttgart, Ger
Sept. 6, 1943

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name McMath, James G. Rank Capt. Serial No. O-680668
2. Organization 384 th Gp Commander Peasly Rank Col. Sqn CO Gilmore Rank Maj.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Sept. day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Stuttgart, Ger., target, Railroad yards, target
time, 1100, altitude, 27,000 route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Northeast of Paris
6. Did you bail out? No
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No
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". No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About 60 miles North of Paris
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) All members remained for a crash landing.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Radio room
12. What was their condition? No injuries
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Louis F. Weatherford in Spain just before he was picked up by the Spanish Police.
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

Name of crew member: JENSEN, jr., James C.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-671365
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~as Flight Lieutenant~~: Lombardier.

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? A crash landing was made

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Thirty miles North of Paris

Any hearsay information: Reported to have been a prisoner of war.

Source: Captain R.L. McGalliard who was a PW in the same Camp.

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

Have returned to the States By Capt. McGalliard on a shipment just ahead of him.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three (3)

Dates and destinations if possible: Watten, France 27 Aug. 1943 --

Romely Sursiene, France 3 Sept. 1943 --- Stuttgart, Germany 6 Sept. 1943

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REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

SOURCE: CHARLES O DOWNE, 2d LT, O-678624

FAK #411 DATE: 25 February 1944
MIA: 6 September 1943

UNIT: 544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW.

PWIS RECORDS

PILOT	O-524542	2d Lt	Lester H AUFMUTH	MIA
CO PILOT	O-680668	2d Lt	James G McMATH	ED
NAVIGATOR	O-678624	2d Lt	Charles C DOWNE	ED
BOMBARDIER	O-671365	2d Lt	James C JENSEN, JR	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	34357979	S/Sgt	Louis F WEATHERFORD	ED
TOP TURRET GUNNER	15111188	T/Sgt	Robert E PRICE	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	18160097	S/Sgt	James L WAGNER	ED
WAIST GUNNER	13041301	S/Sgt	Charles A FISHER	ED
WAIST GUNNER	14052781	S/Sgt	Joseph H SMITH	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	32462898	S/Sgt	Carl D RACHMANN	IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All crew landed safely.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

None.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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REPORT FOR THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE

SOURCE: CARL E BACHMANN, S/SGT, 32462898 BAE #631 DATE: 11 May 1944
MIA: 6 September 1943

UNIT: 544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW

PRIB RECORDS

PILOT	O-524542	2d Lt	Lester H AUFMUTH	P/W
CO-PILOT	O-680668	2d Lt	James O McMATH	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-678624	2d Lt	Charles C DOWNE	RD
BOMBARDIER	O-671365	2d Lt	James C JENSEN, JR	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	15111188	S/Sgt	Louie F WEATHERFORD	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	18160097	S/Sgt	Robert E PRICE	MIA
MID TURRET GUNNER	18160097	E/Sgt	James I WAGNER	RD
WING GUNNER	13041301	S/Sgt	Charles A FISHER	RD
WING GUNNER	14052781	S/Sgt	Joseph H SMITH	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	32462898	S/Sgt	Carl E BACHMANN	RD

KNOWN INFORMATION:

Crash landed; all alive on ground.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

None

~~SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Carl E BACHMANN, 3/SOT, 32462898
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

11 May 1944
(Date)
EAK #631

544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group
(Unit)

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

6 September 1943; 1130 hours; crashed landed around BEAUVAIS

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

No gas; plane was not damaged.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **Crash landed**

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

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

None

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **No.**

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

All alive on ground

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.

No

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions? **Source did examine plane, but we had time to set plane on fire.**

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?

None.