

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**
 by E. A. BRADURAS, Lt. Col., AO
 by F. M. MURCH, Capt., AO
 Date MAR 15 1964

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

8466

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.

- 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 Gelsenkirchen, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 2/10 Cumulus tops 5-6,000 feet. Visibility 10-15 miles.
- TIME: (a) Date 26 Aug 44 Time Unknown; and Location Near Gelsenkirchen, Ger.
 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.
- 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 A/C bombed target but was unobserved after that time.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-97204 ✓
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-011519
 (b) SW-001627; (c) SW-012431; (d) SW-006194
- 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 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	<u>Rainey, Harry Wesley, Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-817523</u>	<u>RTD</u>
2.	Co-Pilot	<u>Rowe, J. Z.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-714188</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3.	Navigator	<u>Francis, Charles Dean, III</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-717645</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4.	Bombardier	<u>Kendall, Walter Selium, Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-732857</u>	<u>RTD</u>
5.	Radio Operator	<u>Sturdivant, Donald Barrett</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>19097547</u>	<u>RTD</u>
6.	Top Turret	<u>Evans, Jack Clifton</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>18192565</u>	<u>RTD</u>
7.	Ball Turret	<u>Mosier, Richard Nelson</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>34826568</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8.	Tail Gunner	<u>Gordon, Norman J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>36811163</u>	<u>KIA</u>
9.	Right Waist Gun	<u>Knowlton, Alfred Bachelor</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>31384535</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10.	Left Waist Gun	<u>Thornhill, John G.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>37621179</u>	<u>RTD</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	Last	Saw	Saw Forced		
			Radio	Sighted	Crash	Landing		
1.								
2.								
3.								

- 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) Unknown
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYE-WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- 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 29 August 1944

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCL 71

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8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

- a. 607904 High Standard
- b. 722336 Brown Lipe Chapin
- c. 648998 Frigidaire
- d. 649033 Frigidaire
- e. 648954 Frigidaire
- f. 650067 Frigidaire
- g. 649065 Frigidaire
- h. 650204 Frigidaire
- i. 607911 High Standard
- j. 136003 Kelsay Hayes Wheel
- k. 651110 Frigidaire
- l. 649261 Frigidaire

All guns were Cal. 50 Aerial Machine Guns.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2nd Lt. Harry W. Rainey Jr.

Mrs. Edna M. Rainey, (Mother)
Eighteen Smith Avenue,
Westfield, Massachusetts.

- 2nd Lt. J. Z. Rowe

Mr. George V. Rowe, (Father)
Rural Free Delivery Number One,
Moody, Texas.

- 2nd Lt. Charles D. Francis III

Mr. Charles D. Francis Jr., (Father)
1504 West Glenwood Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- 2nd Lt. Walter S. Kendall Jr.

Mrs. Naomi G. Kendall Jr., (Wife)
3210 Palma,
Tampa, Florida.

- S/Sgt. Donald B. Sturdivant

Mrs. Beverly G. Sturdivant, (Wife)
257 East 6th Street,
Downey, California.

- T/Sgt. Jack C. Evans

Mrs. Nell I. Evans, (Mother)
627 East Maine Street,
Enid, Oklahoma.

- S/Sgt. Richard N. Mosier

Mrs. Jackie Mosier, (Wife)
Route Number One,
Ranhurst, Georgia.

- S/Sgt. Alfred B. Knowlton

Mrs. Margaret Knowlton, (Wife)
164 Hamilton Street,
Providence, Rhode Island.

- S/Sgt. John G. Thornhill

Mrs. Vivian R. Thornhill, (Mother)
Gray Summit, Missouri.

- S/Sgt. Norman H. Gordon

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gordon, (Parents)
2914 North Main Street,
Racine, Wisconsin.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Gordon, Norman H.** File **8466**
 Rank: **S/Sgt**
 Serial number: **36819163**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Holland--Approx. 30 miles from the Zuider Zee (Estimate)

If not, why not? _____

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

Prepared to bail and O. K. in every respect

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? On the ground.

Any hearsay information: Was shot by SS troopers in whose camp he landed.

His body carried by other members of the crew at the direction of
the Germans and put on a vehicle of some kind. This was last seen
of his body.

Source: Lt. Harry W. Rainey -Pilot

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Germans said he
was resisting capture, ran when ordered to stop, that he was carrying
firearms (This I know is untrue), and that he happened to step in the
line of fire from a tank which was in the field (this is untrue also
since I was captured by the tank crewmen) True reason unknown to me.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 7

Dates and destinations if possible: Not certain

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name J. Z. Rowe Rank 1st Lt Serial No. O-714188
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Buck Rank Lt. Col CO Robt Thatcher Lt col
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ninth, target, Geilenkirchen, target
time, Unknown, altitude, 29000 route scheduled, Unknown
, route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Immediately after bombs away
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 members bailed from the waist except pilot, co-pilot, engineer, navigator and Bombardier who bailed through the nose hatch. All crew landed in approx. area in SS training camp. All members were accounted for in the air before they hit the ground so all got out of plane.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Quite near training camp in Holland
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All members except tail gunner were captured by SS and later sent to prisoner of war camps
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____
Unknown

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Gordon, Norman H. File 8466
 Rank: S/Sgt
 Serial number: 36819163
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? S.S. Training Camp, Oldebroeke, Geldeland, Netherlands

If not, why not? _____

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

Oxygen check before bailing out

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? When he was on the ground by the rest of the crew

Any hearsay information: A fellow by the name of Henk of the Dornspijk, Underground

Organization, was there when he landed and saw the Germans take him away and bury his
reason
body. The I, dont know the fellows name is because of the safety of himself and I only
him ,
met once, and he gave me that information , that was his first name.

Source: _____

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

He was fired on and killed by S S Troops while descending to the earth

Total number of missions of above crew member: Eight (8)

Dates and destinations if possible: They were made from August 1st, 1944 to August 25th

Four Bombing missions over France, And Four over Germany