

C O N F I D E N T I A L

8902

WAR DEPARTMENT
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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England; Command or Air Force VIII; Group 384th; Squadron 544th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed
Target or Intended Destination Merseburg, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
1-2/10 small cumulus tops 4-5000 feet. Vertical visibility 10-15 miles.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 13 Month Sept Year 1944; Time 1124; and Location 5120 N - 1155 E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (x); last contacted by
radio (); Force 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 (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (x); Other Circumstances as Follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AF Serial Number 43-38213
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AF Serial Number (a) SN-019255; (b) SN-019266; (c) SN-019053; (d) SN-018924
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) See attached; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____;
(e) sheet; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____;
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	ASN	Current Stat
1. Pilot	Dodson, Lee White	1st Lt.	0-706037	MIA
2. Co-Pilot	Carion, Bill Eimer	2nd Lt.	0-820713	MIA RTD
3. Navigator	Koch, William Conrad	2nd Lt.	0-2058196	MIA
4. Bombardier	Weicher, Alvin Anthony	2nd Lt.	0-701559	MIA RTD
5. Radio Operator	Friedman, Jack Kenyon	Sgt.	15112824	MIA RTD
6. Top Turret	McAneer, Carlton S.	Sgt.	18182702	MIA RTD
7. Ball Turret	Kulis, Peter William	Sgt.	31335569	MIA RTD
8. Tail Gunner	Filkhorn, John George	Sgt.	35913884	MIA - M-2-1950 Tag
9. Waist Gunner	Martin, Leonard N.	Sgt.	35872889	MIA - M-3-1955 Tag
10.				ST G-100
11.				

C O N F I D E N T I A L

INCL 23

3410 3X1A 1

1st Lt Lee W. Dodson

Mrs. Aileen J. Dodson, (Wife)
517 N. Madison,
Silcox Springs, Arkansas.

Mrs. R. L. Dodson, (Mother)
408 E Third,
Carthage, Missouri.

2nd Lt William C. Koch

Mrs. Margaret P. Koch, (Mother)
797 Goodrich Avenue,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

2nd Lt Alvin A. Eicher

Mr. Mathew F. Eicher, (Father)
Saint Michael, Minnesota.

2nd Lt Bill E. Canion

Mrs. Nancy Canion, (Wife)
313 South 5th,
Salina, Kansas.

Sgt Peter W. Kulis

Mrs. Rita M. Kulis, (Wife)
49 Cornwall Street,
Stratford, Connecticut.

Sgt John G. Filkorn

Mrs. Ida N. Filkorn, (Mother)
2049 North Park Avenue,
Warren, Ohio.

Sgt Jack K. Friedman

Mrs. Emma L. Friedman, (Wife)
Box 25,
Hazel Green, Kentucky.

Sgt Leonard N. Martin

Mr. Clifton R. Martin, (Father)
Pensacola, Kentucky.

Sgt Carlton S. McAnear

Mrs. Mary S. Loftis, (Sister)
1004 Roosevelt Street,
Seminole, Oklahoma.

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

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Rank Number	Contacted		Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
		by Radio	Last Sighted		
1. <u>Moran, Richard David</u>	<u>S/Sgt 32392427</u>		<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Blaker, Bernard (NMI)</u>	<u>S/Sgt 32905363</u>		<u>X</u>		
3. <u>Anderson, Gerald Lee</u>	<u>S/Sgt 37479451</u>		<u>X</u>		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used No; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEAR FROM.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT _____

Date of Report 21 September 1944

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

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

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S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 384th SQ 544th A/C 43-38213 MISSION DATE 13 Sept, 1944
FIRST PILOT Lee W. Dodson RANK 1st Lt. ASN 0-706037 DESTINATION Merseburg/Leuna, Germany
NAME RANK ASN

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

- (a) By coordinates 5120N-1155E approx.
- (b) Approximate altitude 27,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading unknown
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation
To left and below formation

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft):
A/C 8213 hit by flak in the Merseburg/Leuna area. The AA fire was intense and accurate. Continuously pointed fire and barrage employed.
No E/A encountered

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

The A/C was reported going down in flames. Later the A/C was noted to fall apart into 3 sections.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

The A/C was afire and the pilot and co-pilot were observed slumped over in their seats. A/C was in steep dive. Left wing and tail snapped off.

5. If distress aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort?
No If, so, give distinguishing markins of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.).

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6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

No chutes observed.

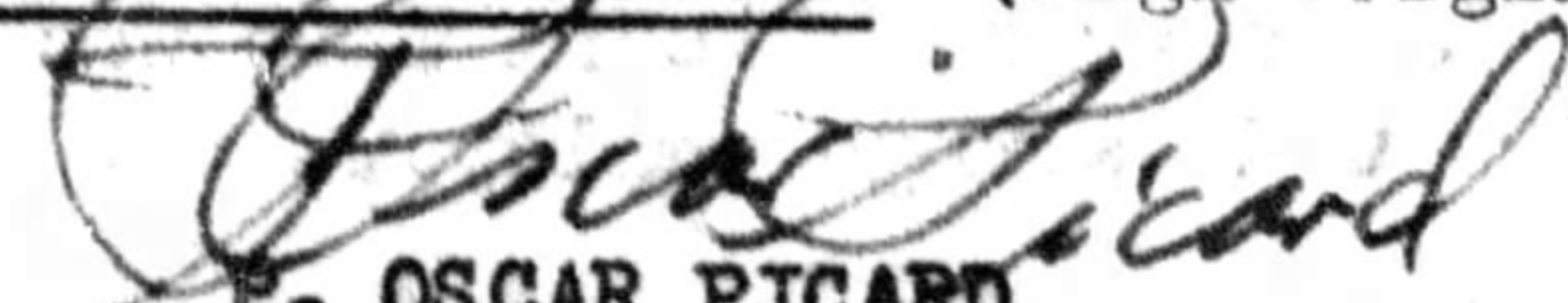
7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

8. Date of report 13 September, 1944.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	Richard D. Moran	S/Sgt.	32392427	7824
2.	Bernard Blaker	S/Sgt.	32905363	7824
3.	Gerald L. Anderson	S/Sgt.	37479451	8000
4.	Charles W. Ford, Jr.	S/Sgt.	34605462	8000

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

				
<u>F. OSCAR PICARD</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-569761</u>	<u>S-2 Officer</u>	
NAME	RANK	ASN	DUTY	

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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CONFIDENTIAL

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS

- a. General Motors 1288947
- b. General Motors 1279808
- c. General Motors 1182910
- d. General Motors 1278738
- e. General Motors 1279250
- f. General Motors 1279153
- g. General Motors 1278124
- h. General Motors 1279288
- i. High Standard 1065678
- j. Buffalo Arms 869182
- k. General Motors 1279397
- l. General Motors 1278348

All guns were Cal .50 Aerial Machine Guns.

CONFIDENTIAL

Fickhorn, John G. - M-2-1750 Staved

Id. by Id tag.

Prev. disinterred from civilian
Cemetery, Atzendorf, Germany

Martin, Leonard N. - M-3-1755
staved

Id. by Id. Tag

Disinterred from Civ. Cem.
Atzendorf, Germany