

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Col.
Date **MAR 15 1945**

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Lucera A/D No. 8, Italy Command or AF 15th AF
Group 301st Bomb (H) Squadron 353rd Bomb (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Lucera A/D No. 8, Italy Course Budapest, Hungary to
Target Budapest Rakos Type of Mission Bombing Lucera, Italy
M/Y, Hungary
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Overcast 18,000'. Undercast 26,000'. 10/10 cumulus
4. GIVE: (a) Date 27 June 1944 Time 1015B Location (47/40N, 19/40E)
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
() Forced 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 () Other circumstances as follows: Undeterminable due to clouds.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-17F AAF Serial No 42-3344
7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1820-97 AAF Serial No (a) SW 008190
(b) SW 013870 (c) SW 011034 (d) SW 005700
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number) All M2 Flex .50 Cal
(a) 502404 (b) 502772 (i) 396406
(c) 394206 (j) 470341
(e) 450723 (f) 299103 (k) 299750
(g) 229215 (h) 299273
9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers None Total 9
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach this form)

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO.	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIVE, SHIP, AND ADDRESS
1. Pilot	LYON, WALTER W. ✓	1st Lt	O-807476	Mrs. Fred W. Lyon, Mother, 2823 Corning St., Los Angeles, California.
2. Co-pilot	HAMEL, ROBERT L. ✓	1st Lt	O-680209	Mrs. R.L. Hamel, Wife, RTD Plainview, Nebraska.
3. Navigator	WILLOUGHBY, RICHARD H. ✓	2nd Lt	O-700192	Mrs. Jean M. Willoughby, Wife, 109 N. Irvine St., Warren, Penn.
4. Bombardier	MCCORMICK, JOHN F. ✓	1st Lt	O-669353	Mr. John F. McCormick Sr. RTD Father, 906 Hudson St., Hoboken, New Jersey.
5. Eng Gunner	NAEDER, JOSEPH J. ✓	S/Sgt	32711950	Mrs. Mary D. Naeder, Mother, 1711 Palmetto St., Ridgewood, Queens, N.Y.
6. Rad Opr Gnr	DEASON, BILLY S. ✓	S/Sgt	14162091	Mrs. W. R. Deason, Mother, RTD Polk Ave. & Murfreesboro Rd, Nashville, Tenn.
7. Lwr Trt Gnr	SENGER, JOSEPH B. ✓	S/Sgt	37096802	Mrs. Frances Senger, RTD 315 S. 10th St., Bismarck, N.D.
8. Waist Gnr	HOLLIBAUGH, JAMES H. ✓	Sgt	39410890	Mr. James H. Hollibaugh, RTD Father, 1116 Taylor Ave., Vellago, California.

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)

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

9. Tail Gnr HEINTZ, ROBERT J. ✓ S/Sgt 36808224 Mrs. Amanda M. Heintz,
Mother, 4116 N. 26th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	by Radio			Sighted	Crash	Forced Land
			Contacted	Last	Saw			
1. Foster, George L.	S/Sgt	15096509						X
2. Sittler, Stephen J.	Sgt	37472853						X
3. Wallan, Kenneth P.	S/Sgt	6566552						X
4. _____								
5. _____								
6. _____								

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
☐ Parachutes were used ☐ Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
☐ Any other reason (specify) Undeterminable due to clouds.

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search made as A/C was last seen over enemy territory.

Date of this Report: 30 June 1944.

2 Incls:
 Incl 1 - Witnesses' Statements.
 Incl 2 - Sketch.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

Leslie W. Holman
 LESLIE W. HOLMAN,
 Major, Air Corps,
 Operations Officer.

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

Staff Sergeant Joseph B. Senger RTD

Mrs. Francis Senger, (mother)
315 South 10th Street,
Bismarck, North Dakota.

Sergeant James H. Hollibaugh RTD

Mrs. Blanche E. Hollibaugh, (mother)
1116 Taylor Avenue,
Vallejo, California.

First Lieutenant Robert L. Hamel RTD

Mrs. Dorothy M. Hamel, (wife)
Plainview, Nebraska.

Staff Sergeant Robert J. Heintz KIA

Mrs. Amanda M. Heintz, (mother)
4116 North 26th Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

First Lieutenant Walter W. Lyon KIA

Mrs. Fred W. Lyon, (mother)
2823 Corning Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Second Lieutenant Richard H. Willoughby KIA

Mrs. Jean M. Willoughby, (wife)
109 North Irvine Street,
Warren, Pennsylvania.

First Lieutenant John F. McCormick, Jr. RTD

Mr. John F. McCormick, (father)
906 Hudson Street,
Hoboken, New Jersey.

Staff Sergeant Joseph J. Naeder KIA

Mrs. Mary D. Naeder, (mother)
1711 Palmetto Street,
New York, New York.

Staff Sergeant Billy S. Deason RTD

Mrs. Drucilla S. Deason, (mother)
Polk Avenue,
Murfreesboro Road,
Nashville, Tennessee.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

353RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), AAF
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 520

E-1/erw

27 June 1944

SUBJECT: Witnesses' Statements to Accompany Missing Air Crew Report on
B-17F - A/C # 42-3344

TO: Commanding Officer, 301st Bombardment Group (H), AAF, APO 520

1. In compliance with Letter, Headquarters, 301st Bombardment Group (H), AAF, dated 19 May 1944, Subject: Statements to Accompany Missing Air Crew Reports, subject statements follow:- on B-17F - A/C # 42-3344, and crew, which went down over the target on the mission of 27 June 1944 to Budapest M/Y, Hungary. (Co-ordinates: 47° 40' N, 19° 40' E, Time: 1015 hours).

a. Witnesses' Statements:

(1) I was flying tail gunner in the lead ship of the group. A/C # 344 was flying right behind me in 21 position. We went into a cloud bank. At times the second element was clouded out. As I recall I last saw 344 a minute or two before the fighters hit us from the front. At three o'clock from my position, I saw a ship peeling off with number three (3) engine on fire. It vanished in the clouds. I couldn't say what ship it was.

George L. Foster
S/Sgt. GEORGE L. FOSTER,
(1509609), Tail Gunner
on B-17G A/C # 42-97642,
Piloted by Major Leslie W.
Holman, Flying in 10 Position.

(2) I was in A/C # 7134 flying 23 position. We were on our I.P. and the bomb bay doors were open. We were in clouds at the time. Fighters hit us when some one called to my attention that a ship was hit off of our right wing. I glanced over and noticed 344's number two (2) engine on fire. I thought I saw the numbers 34 on the tail but didn't get the last number. It vanished in a cloud and I did not see any chutes get out.

Stephen J. Sittler
Sgt. STEPHEN J. SITTLER,
(37472853), Tail Gunner
on B-17G A/C # 42-97134,
Piloted by Major R. Bloch,
Flying in 23 Position.

Witnesses' Statements on A/C # 42-3344 and Crew - Missing in Action, (Cont'd.)

(3) I flew right-waist in A/C # 42-3344 in the 23 position. We were in the clouds, on the bomb run. Shortly after, we were jumped by fighters from the front, (at 12 o'clock). A B-17 slid back to three o'clock level. At once I noticed that number two (2) engine was on fire. In fact it was a rather large fire. I reported over the interphone, that a "17" was on fire at three o'clock level. No sooner had I reported it, than the "17" went off into a steep dive on its right wing. I believe that it was A/C # 344. But it happened so fast, I am not positive. It was soon lost in the clouds. I saw not crates or anything that looked like one leave the ship.

Sgt Kenneth P. Wallan
S/Sgt. KENNETH P. WALLAN,
(656022), Waist Gunner on
B-17G A/C # 42-3344, Pilot-
ed by Major R. Bloch, Jr.,
Flying in 23 Position.

2. Completed War Department Form inclosed herewith.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl:
Incl- 1 - WD Form (orig)

Raymond W. Long
RAYMOND W. LONG,
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.