

10344

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by **W. J. HARRIS, Lt. Col., AC**
by **S. S. MURPHY, Capt., AC**
Date **15 FEB 1954**

152688
-8109257

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

REPORT: 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 England; Command or Air Force 8 A.F.
Group 457 Bomb. Gr. (H); Squadron 749th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIES: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Merseburg, Germany; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
Poor - 1/10ths to 2/10ths cloud cover
4. DATE: (a) Day 8 Month Nov. Year 1944; Time 1142; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Approx. 52-42N 03-55E.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (x); 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: A/C ditched after collision with A/C 44-8418.
(Channel)
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 42-38064 ✓
7. ENGINE(S) OF AIRCRAFT, if any "Marf and Marf"
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) SN-011158; (b) SN-015834; (c) 41-11093; (d) SN-504
9. IDENTIFIED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1074388; (b) 1074148; (c) 779629; (d) 773852;
(e) 1074926; (f) 1074587; (g) 1074761; (h) 1074602;
(i) 1074850; (j) 1074809; (k) 1074050; (l) 1074959;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. FOR 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	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
DED	1. Pilot	<u>Furr, Arnet E.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0812789</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	2. CP	<u>Book, Sterling J. Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0714630</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	3. W	<u>Andrews, Joseph W. Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0723260</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	4. B	<u>Flagianos, Leon M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0708040</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	5. TFG	<u>Brunsvold, Donald D.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>17071215</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	6. RO	<u>Weaver, Richard G.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>13109751</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	7. BTG	<u>Rankin, Warren M.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>33172792</u>	<u>MIA</u>
DED	8. WE	<u>Wisdon, Glenn M.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>35123338</u>	<u>MIA</u>
MIA	9. TR	<u>Matual, Leroy E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>35235299</u>	<u>MIA</u>
	10.				
	11.				

12. FURNISH 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)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>Coleman, Joe D.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0750991</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Crowley, Thomas S.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0771901</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>X</u>		
3. <u>Wright, William C.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>10675366</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>X</u>		

(Over)

Serial 191

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

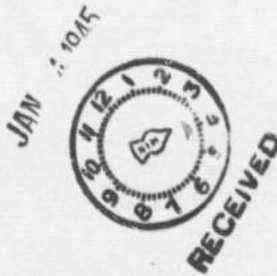
13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used no; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
14. No parachutes were seen
ATTACH PHOTO, PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, or SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH WITNESS 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 16 November 1944.

Gerald H. Calligan
(Signature of Preparing Office)

GERALD H. CALLIGAN,
Capt., A. C.,
Air Statistical Officer.

17. REFERS OR LND WITNESS STATEMENTS:



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(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 457th Sqdn. 749th A/C No. 42-38064

MISSION DATE 8 November 1944 FIRST PILOT Arnet L. Furr
(Name)

1st Lt. O-819789 DESTINATION Merseberg
(Rank) (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates About 5237-0410 E

(b) Approximate altitude Unknown

(c) Last noted heading Unknown

(d) If out-of formation, approximate distance from formation
Unknown

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing A/C):

There was no enemy opposition.

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

Propellers of another aircraft chewed into fuselage of A/C 42-38064 from under side, and A/C 42-38064 broke in two pieces, apparently just back of the radio room.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

The forward part went down in a steep glide for upwards of two minutes, then went into a spin and disappeared in the clouds. Tail part went down not in a glide. No fires were seen.

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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

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

No parachutes were seen

7. Any other remarks not covered by above: At 1142 hours at 18000 feet at about 5237-0410 E, en route back to England from an abortive sortie which the low squadron had made alone into Germany, A/C 42-38064 and A/C 44-8418 collided in thick haze. A/C 42-38064 was flying number one, low section, and A/C 44-8418 was flying number three, low section. After the collision and the subsequent break-up of A/C 42-38064, A/C 43-38537, flying no. six, low section, descended to the deck in search of the broken plane and spotted one man floating in a Mae West at 5242-0355 E. A/C 43-38537 made three successive passes over him, the crew members dropping three successive "K" dinghies (the small seat-type dinghies) after

8. Date of report 15 November 1944

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
* 1.	<u>Joe D. Coleman</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-760991</u>	<u>43-38537</u>
* 2.	<u>Thomas S. Crowley</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-771901</u>	<u>43-38537</u>
* 3.	<u>William C. Wright</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>10675366</u>	<u>43-38537</u>
* 4.	<u>Robert G. Smith</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>33511600</u>	<u>43-38537</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill

HUGH M. HAMILL
(Name)

1st Lt.
(Rank)

0-571919
A.S.N.

Asst Gp S-2
Duty

* Crew members of aircraft that dropped dinghies.

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704

(5 July 44) OS-S-44F-44, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

(No. 7 Cont'd) partially inflating them. The crew members said he clambered aboard the last dinghy dropped and they identified him as the tail gunner of A/C 42-38064. Three or 4 P-51's and one or two P-47's were circling in the vicinity when shore batteries opened fire, then A/C 43-38537 departed, and the pilot believes the fighters departed then also.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer
AAF STATION 130

P-A-2

A P O 557
22 December 1944.

313.3

4481

SUBJECT: Transmittal of additional information regarding A/C 42-38064,
missing on the mission 8 November 1944 - Merseburg, Germany.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, A.P.O. 634.
(THRU: Channels). Attn: Statistical Control.

Transmitted herewith is letter containing additional information
on A/C 42-38064, missing on the mission 8 November 1944 - Merseburg, Germany.

For the Commanding Officer:



Joseph T. Stehle
JOSEPH T. STEHLE, JR.
MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
ADJUTANT.

1 Incl. - Letter "Eye-Witness" Account (in trip).

313.3

1st Ind.

P-L-5

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 23 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.
(Att: 21st Statistical Control Unit).

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:



Roberts P. Johnson Jr

ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, Jr.
Lieut. Colonel, AGD.
Adjutant General

1 Incl:

Incl 1- Letter "Eye-Witness" Account" (in trip).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

(Ltr, Hq AAF Sta 130, dtd 22 Dec 44, 313.3, subj: "Transmittal of Additional Information Regarding A/C 42-38064, Missing in the Mission 8 November 1944 - Merseburg, Germany.")

319.1
x 313.3

2nd Ind.

SCU-D-17

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U. S. ARMY.

30 DEC 1944

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, U. S. Army.

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:

H. S. WILSON, Jr
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.



1 Incl:
n/c (1 cy w/d)

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCE STATION 130
Office of the Intelligence Officer
A.P.O. 557, U. S. Army

D-G-2

21 December 1944

SUBJECT: A/C 42-38064 (Pilot, 1st Lt. Arnet L. Furr), Missing in Action
8 November 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634
(THRU: Channels), Attn: Statistical Control.

st.
1. The following addition to our "Summary of Eyewitness Accounts" concerning A/C 42-38064 is submitted for what it is worth.

a. 1st Lt. Thomas S. Crowley, navigator on A/C 43-38537, which dropped the dinghies to the man in the water with the Mae West, related on 19 November that after dropping the last dinghy, the aircraft returned and flew over the dinghy once. The man with the Mae West was then on or in, but more on than in, the dinghy and it appeared to be still partially inflated. Other objects from the plane were seen floating in the vicinity. These included two large oxygen bottles and a large-size dinghy. They were not very near the man with the Mae West; the large-size dinghy was about a half mile away.

2. Attention is called to a telephone conversation between this headquarters and Air Sea Rescue, 1st Bomb Division, concerning A/C 42-38064. The Air Sea Rescue account of the fate of A/C 42-38064, as given in this conversation, is understood here as follows:

a. An Air Sea Rescue Spitfire was flying in the vicinity. Two parachutes were seen from an airplane believed to be A/C 42-38064. One dropped in the water and the parachutist disappeared immediately. The other dropped into the water and the parachutist was seen to float with a Mae West. An airplane flew over him and dropped him a dinghy. He got hold of this and clung to it but did not appear to have strength enough to get into it. When an Air Sea Rescue launch arrived, the dinghy and Mae West were found, but not the man.

For the Group Intelligence Officer:

Hugh M. Hamill

HUGH M. HAMILL,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Gp. S-2 Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

457

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

S: 14 January 1945
APO 887
JFR/lr
20 December 1944

AG 319.1 Cas.

SUBJECT: Clarification of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.
Attention: Battle Casualty Section.

1. The following discrepancy was noted between Missing Air Crew Report concerning aircraft number 42-38064 and your Battle Casualty Report.

MACR

BCR

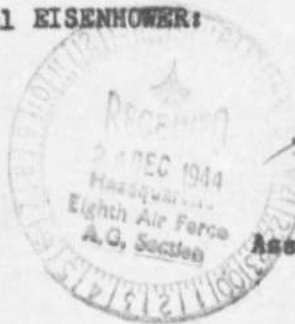
Co-Pilot 2nd Lt Sterling H. Book, Jr O-714630

2nd Lt Sterling H. Book, Jr O-714630

2. Request clarification of above discrepancy be forwarded to this headquarters in duplicate as a supplement to the Missing Air Crew Report.

3. Battle Casualty Report C 179, your headquarters indicates the spelling of subject officer's name as "Book". If necessary request appropriate correction of Battle Casualty Report be initiated by your headquarters.

By command of General EISENHOWER:



George R. Fenn
GEORGE R. FENN,
1st Lt., A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

319.1

1st Ind.

(S: 9 Jan 45)

G-G-8

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634, U.S. Army. 26 DEC 1944

TO: Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557.

1. For compliance with basic communication and return through this headquarters.

2. Attention invited to suspense date.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:



H.S. Wilson, Jr.

H.S. WILSON, JR.,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

Basic: Ltr, Hq. ETOUSA, 20 Dec '44, SAC 319.1 CAS. subj: Clarification of Missing Air Crew Report, re: 2d Lt. Sterling H. Book, Jr.

319.1

2d Ind.

(S: 7 Jan. 44) (G/D/19)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 27 December 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, AAF Station 130, APO 557.

1. For compliance with basic communication and return through this headquarters.

2. Attention is invited to suspense date.

By command of Brigadier General TURNER:



Charles E. Garvin

CHARLES E. GARVIN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

319.1

3d Ind.

P-A-1

(4613)

HEADQUARTERS, 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, AAF STATION 130, APO 557, 3 Jan 45.

TO: Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557.

In compliance with basic communication the following clarification is submitted:

2nd Lt. Sterling H. Book, Jr - 0714630.

For the Commanding Officer:



Joseph T. Stehle, Jr.
JOSEPH T. STEHLE, JR.
MAJOR, AIR CORPS.
ADJUTANT.

Basic: Ltr, Hq ETOUSA, 20 Dec 44, AG 319.1 Cas, subj: Clarification of Missing Air Crew Report.

319.

4th Ind.

(G/D/19)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AIR DIVISION, APO 557, 5 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.

Attention is invited to 3rd Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:



Charles E. Garvin
CHARLES E. GARVIN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL.

319.1

5th Ind.

G-G-8

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634, U.S. Army. - 7 JAN 1945

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, U.S. Army.

Information requested in basic communication is contained in 3rd indorsement.

For the Commanding General:



Burnis Archer
BURNIS ARCHER,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

CONFIDENTIAL.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUPPLEMENT

PPA-8
22

AG 319.1 Cas 6th Ind. JWP/JFR
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887, U S ARMY, 18 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded herewith supplement to Missing Air Crew Report concerning aircraft number 42-38064, piloted by 1st Lt. Arnet L. Furr, O-819789.
2. Original Missing Air Crew Report was forwarded to your headquarters by 1st indorsement this headquarters AG 360.33 Cas, dated 20 December 1944.
3. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of co-pilot 2nd Lt. Sterling H. Book, Jr., O-714630 to be missing in action, 8 November 1944.

For the Theater Commander:

H. M. Rund
H. M. RUND,
Colonel, AGD, 2
Assistant Adjutant General.

10,344

ca ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACAPAR-5064

371 1st Lt. Arnet L. Furr- 8

Mrs. Nora E. Furr, (Mother)
211 East Fifth Street,
Veedersburg, Indiana.

2nd Lt. Leon M. Flagianos 5

Mrs. Kalliope Flagianos, (Mother)
678 Sheridan Avenue,
Plainfield, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. Joseph W. Andrews Jr. 1

Mrs. Dorothy C. Andrews, (Mother)
17324 Mendota Street,
Detroit, Michigan.

2nd Lt. Sterling H. Book Jr. 6

Mr. Sterling H. Book, (Father)
Rural Route Number Two,
Robards, Kentucky.

S/Sgt. Leroy E. Wetsel 8

Mrs. Marie A. Wetsel, (Mother)
850 1/2 Boardway Street,
Akron, Ohio.

S/Sgt. Warren H. Rankin 6

Mrs. Rita Rankin, (Mother)
110 Nelson Street,
Clarks, Green, Pennsylvania.

S/Sgt. Glenn H. Wieden 9

Mrs. Mildred H. Wieden, (Wife)
C/O G. A. Kellaly,
Red Bud, Illinois.

S/Sgt. Richard C. Weaver 7

Mr. Charles L. Weaver, (Father)
Route Number Seven,
Butler, Pennsylvania.

T/Sgt. Donald D. Brunsvold 3

Mrs. Josephine G. Brunsvold, (Mother)
Manly, Iowa.

MACR 10344