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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

11586

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name England; Command or Air Force 8 AF
Crew: 457th EG (H); Squadron 751st; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Maximiliansau, Ger.; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
CAVU 7/10ths to 8/10ths clouds
- GIVE: (a) Day 13 Month Jan Year 1945; Time 1404; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 49-05N 08-20E.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to crash (); or 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: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B 17D; AAF Serial Number 43-38795
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None.
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) SW-029488; (b) SW-029300; (c) SW-011980; (d) SW-029102
- ENGINE IDENTIFIERS (Furnish below date, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1477630; (b) 1477589; (c) 1477635; (d) 1477704
(e) 1031627; (f) 1477720; (g) 1477836; (h) 1477191
(i) 1236333; (j) 1236409; (k) 1477623; (l) 210105
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- 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	Rogham, Irwin C.	2nd Lt.	0826282	
DED 2. CP	Dickinson, Robert H.	F/O	T62525	
DED 3. N	Skalski, Gus S.	2nd Lt.	06024728	
DED 4. CTG	Jones, Joseph H.	S/Sgt.	16113650	
DED 5. TTG	Shumite, Donald D.	Sgt.	18166991	
DED 6. RO	Hill, Keith W.	T/Sgt.	35217947	
DED 7. BTG	Hamer, Robert E.	SGT.	32215385	
DED 8. TG	Marion, William A.	Sgt.	38412553	
DED 9. WG	Gifford, Bruno M.	Sgt.	13195100	

- 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)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landin
1.			Radio			
2.						
3.						

(over)

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13. IF PERSONS 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) _____
14. ATTACH RECENT PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, or SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH BRIEF 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 24 January 1945

Gerald H. Gallygan
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
GERALD H. GALLYGAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Air Statistical Officer.

FFR 20 1065



17. RESEARCH AND STATEMENTS:

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(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

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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 457th Sqdn. 751st A/C No. 43-38795

MISSION DATE 13 Jan. 1945 FIRST PILOT Erwin C. Popham
(Name)

End Lt. 0-826231 DESTINATION Maximiliansau, Germany
(Rank) (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates 4905 - 0820 E.

(b) Approximate altitude 28,500

(c) Last noted heading 15 degrees true course

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation
not out of formation

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

Moderate, accurate flak encountered at target.

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

Aircraft blew up. No witness noticed it in distress before this. One witness, however, noticed a yellowish color on the right wing just before the explosion. The explosion was seen "as one big sheet of flame" and "one big ball of fire". The aircraft disintegrated and disappeared immediately in smoke. No parts or pieces were seen.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

See paragraph #3.

(Over)

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5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation, was it last seen with escort? _____ 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 parachute was seen.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Cause of explosion is unknown. It occurred about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 minute after bombs away, as squadron was turning off target. One witness thought four of the aircraft's M-65 1,000 lb. G.P. bombs hung up and were in the aircraft when it exploded. Another witness thought aircraft was hit by several bombs falling from another aircraft. Whatever the cause, all witnesses agree that the aircraft exploded and disintegrated and that they saw no chutes.

8. Date of report 23 January 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
1.	<u>Ronald P. Straus</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-767681</u>	<u>42-97827</u>
2.	<u>Willmore (M1) Pluman</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-828137</u>	<u>42-38113</u>
3.	<u>George W. Bobbitt</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-823809</u>	<u>43-38749</u>
4.	<u>Frank J. Kichenlaub</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>13104958</u>	<u>42-97123</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill 1st Lt. 0-571919 Ass't. Co. S-2.
(Name) (Rank) A.S.N. Duty

HUGH M. HAMILL

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-44F-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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Palisades Park, New Jersey

2nd Lt. Irwin G. Popham 0826281

Mr. Irwin W. Popham (father)
4806 Red River Street
Austin Texas

F/O Robert H. Dickinson

J-62625

Mr. Hugh C. Dickinson (father)
5165 South West 7th Street

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Mrs. Merle R. Hill (mother)
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S/Sgt. Joseph H. Jones 16113650

Mrs. Juanita R. Jones (wife)
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Sgt. Donald D. Shumate 18166991

Mrs. Ella A. Shumate (wife)
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Sgt. Robert E. Hamer 39215385

Mr. Ernest W. Hamer (father)
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Port Orchard, Washington

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Sgt. Bruno M. Gifford 13195100

Mr. Maurice Gifford (father)
108 Wellwood Avenue
Hawley, Pennsylvania



1350-4

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