WAR DEPARTMENT
HIGH COMMISSION FOR AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IDENTIFICATION: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew number is officially reported missing.

1. IDENTIFICATION: Location, by Name: England; Command or Air Force: 8 AF; Group: 157th GF (H); Squadron: 751st; Detachment: 

2. PURPOSE: Time of Departure: Station 130; Course: Target or Intended Destination: Martinlansaa, S.R.; Type of Mission: Objective Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH: [Note: This section is not legible.]

4. CRASH: 7/10ths to 8/10ths clouds

5. CRASH: 12/30th March, Jan 1945; Time 1100 hrs.; and location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model, and Series: B-17G;AAF Serial Number: 41-28795

7. HAPPENING OF AIRCRAFT, if any: None.

8. IDENTIFIES: Type, Model, and Series: B-17C-25; AAF Serial Number: (a) 41-209302; (b) 41-209700; (c) 41-209300; (d) 41-209318

9. DETAILS OF CRASH (Paragraph below state, Type and Serial Number):

   a. 11777639; b. 11777659; c. 11777609; d. 11777619
   e. 11777629; f. 11777639; g. 11777649; h. 11777609
   i. 11777629; j. 11777639; k. 11777609; l. 11777619
   m. 11777629; n. 11777639; o. 11777609; p. 11777619

10. THE AIRCRAFT LOSS REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X or (b) Non-Battle Casualty

11. NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ABROAD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9

   (Adding, with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 6 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

   Name in Full          Rank          Serial Number          Current Status
   ------------------------------------------
   Dec 4th, 1945

   DEBordeau, Irwin C.  2nd Lt.  0824287
   DETomlinson, Robert H.  2nd Lt.  2661662
   DIBaker, Gus S.  2nd Lt.  06624128
   DITokarski, Joseph A.  2nd Lt.  0613285
   DITamaya, Donald D.  2nd Lt.  13195100
   DITull, Keith M.  2nd Lt.  0952712
   DITonn, Robert R.  2nd Lt.  10251365
   DIFTarlow, William A.  2nd Lt.  3925593
   DITriffner, Bruno M.  2nd Lt.  0613285

12. IDENTIFY EACH PERSON LOST AND MENTION TO HAVE LOST KNOWN DEATH OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR LOSS:

   Check Only One Column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name in Full</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Serial Number</th>
<th>Last Seen</th>
<th>Forced Crash, Lost, or Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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   (Note: This section is not legible.)
CONFIDENTIAL

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSE I 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 TELEGRAPHIC, TEM, CAVAN, OR BULLET, DENONING APPEARANCE LOCATIONS WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HAD FROM.

15. ATTACH DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO DISASTER INCIDENT.

16. OVERALL, AND ANY ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT

Date of Report 24 January 1945

[Signature]

GERALD H. GAILLARD,
Captain, Air Corps,
Air Statistical Officer.
(3-2 Summary of Eyewitness Accounts)

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to fighter groups.

GROUP 437th  Sqn., 751st  A/C No. b3-38795

MISSION DATE 13 Jan. 1945  FIRST PILOT Ewin C. Fosham

2-264231  DESTINATION Nuremberg, Germany

Ranks (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates 4905 - 0320 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 witnesses reported it in distress before this. The explosion, however, noticed a yellowish flash on the right wing just before the explosion. The explosion was seen as "one big sheet of flak" 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)
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 2 to 1 minute after bombs away, as squadron was turning off target. One witness thought four of the aircraft's N-65 4,000 lb. C.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 parachutes.

8. Date of report: 23 January 1945

EYEWITNESSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>A/S.N.</th>
<th>A/C No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronald P. Serrau</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-767661</td>
<td>42-37327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fillmore (Bk) Hill</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-929437</td>
<td>42-36132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Robbitt</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-823054</td>
<td>42-337849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank J. Michenlaub</td>
<td>S/Sgt.</td>
<td>13108558</td>
<td>42-91253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hammill
1st Lt.  
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, A9, 70th (5 July 44) No-3-44-P-45, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>I.D. No.</th>
<th>Parent</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>Gus S. Skalaski</td>
<td>06024728</td>
<td>Mrs. Josephine Skalaski (mother)</td>
<td>229 7th Street, Palisades Park, New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>Irwin C. Popham</td>
<td>0826281</td>
<td>Mr. Irwin W. Popham (father)</td>
<td>4306 Red River Street, Austin, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/O</td>
<td>Robert H. Dickinson</td>
<td>T-62625</td>
<td>Mr. Hugh C. Dickinson (father)</td>
<td>5265 South West 7th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T/Sgt.</td>
<td>Keith W. Hill</td>
<td>35217947</td>
<td>Mrs. Merle R. Hill (mother)</td>
<td>244 Illinois Avenue, Wellston, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/Sgt.</td>
<td>Joseph H. Jones</td>
<td>16113650</td>
<td>Mrs. Juanita R. Jones (wife)</td>
<td>4230 Greenwood, Louisville, Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>Donald E. Shumate</td>
<td>18166991</td>
<td>Mrs. Ella A. Shumate (wife)</td>
<td>Greenbrier, Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>Robert E. Hamer</td>
<td>39215385</td>
<td>Mr. Ernest W. Hamer (father)</td>
<td>815 Division Street, Fort Orchard, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>William A. Marion</td>
<td>28442553</td>
<td>Mrs. Lydie R. Marion (mother)</td>
<td>557 Harvard Avenue, Barberton, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>Bruno H. Gifford</td>
<td>13195100</td>
<td>Mr. Maurice Gifford (father)</td>
<td>109 Wellwood Avenue, Hawley, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2nd Lt. Gus S. Skalski

2nd Lt. Irwin C. Popham

F/O Robert H. Dickinson

T/Sgt. Keith W. Hill

5/Sgt. Joseph H. Jones

Sgt. Donald D. Shumate

Sgt. Robert E. Kover

Sgt. William A. Marion

Sgt. Bruno M. Gifford

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Austin, Texas

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Miami, Florida

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Louisville, Kentucky

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Greenbrier, Arkansas

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Barberton, Ohio

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Hershey, Pennsylvania
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