

CONFIDENTIAL

12802

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

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. CIRCUMSTANCES: Location, by Name England; Command Crew or Air Force 8 AF
(Group 457th Bomb. Gp. (H) Squadron 751st A/C 150th; Detachment _____)
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Soest, Germany.; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
10/10ths - Good.
4. TIME: (a) Day 28 Month Feb. Year 1945; Time 1302; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 51-25N 03-31E.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to crash (X); 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: No. 3 engine caught fire; fire spread to rest of wing and to fuselage.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series 317G; AAF Serial Number 44-8255 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) SW-021702; (b) SW-021704; (c) SW-021714; (d) SW-021715
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, type and Serial Number):
(a) 1308997; (b) 1308980; (c) 6048; (d) 639517;
(e) 1308966; (f) 1308963; (g) 5055; (h) 628162;
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED: (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
Pilot	✓ Kirk, Roy H. Jr.	2nd Lt.	0826197	NTA
CP	✓ Gibbons, William F.	Capt.	0803183	SAFE
N	✓ Kajander, Arvo J.	1st Lt.	02062673	SAFE
B	* Stype, Valentine W.	1st Lt.	0765746	SAFE
RO	✓ Sawyer, Edward A. Jr.	T/Sgt.	12051229	NTA
TT	✓ Montano, Rocco V.	T/Sgt.	32708435	SAFE
RM	✓ Smith, Victor A.	2nd Lt.	0556688	SAFE
RG	✓ Krueger, Willard (MML)	3/Sgt.	16117493	NTA
IM	✓ Coleman, Charles W.	S/Sgt.	38483216	SAFE
			<u>74742234</u>	

12. LIST ONLY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SALE:

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Crash	Forced Landing	
1. Gibbons, William F.	Capt.	0803183		X (see remarks in			
2. Kajander, Arvo J.	1st Lt.	02062673		X S-2 Summary of			
3. Stype, Valentine W.	1st Lt.	0765746		X Eye-Witnesses! Accts.)			

(over)

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

Encl #1

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

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)

See par. 6 of S-2 Summary.

14. ATTACH MAP, PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH EYE 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 9 March 1945.

Gerald H. Galligan

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

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

17. REMARKS ON EYE WITNESS STATEMENTS:

See S-2 Summary.



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

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

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 AF
Group 457th Bth. Gr. (H) Squadron 151st A/C; Detachment _____
2. **SPECIFY:** Place of Departure Station 30 7500 ft; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Spain, Germany; Type of Mission _____
Objective Landing.
3. **WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:**
10/1000 - Good.
4. **TIME:** (a) Day 18 Month Feb. Year 1945; Time 1:32; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 51-02N 03-11E.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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: No. 3 engine caught fire; fire spread to rest of wing and to fuselage.
6. **AIRCRAFT:** Type, Model and Series B-24; AAF Serial Number 44-2355
7. **EQUIPMENT OF AIRCRAFT,** if any None
8. **ENGINES:** Type, Model and Series R-2400-9; AAF Serial Number
(a) 21702; (b) 021704; (c) 021714; (d) 021715
9. **EXHAUST VALVES** (Furnish below date, type and serial number):
(a) 130927; (b) 130930; (c) 130933; (d) 63937
(e) 130936; (f) 130939; (g) 130942; (h) 63942
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. **THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS:** (a) Battle Casualty
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
1. Pilot	<u>Ray, Roy H. Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>016517</u>	<u>MIA</u>
2. CP	<u>Gibbons, William F.</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>010313</u>	<u>SAFE</u>
3. N	<u>Rajander, Arvo J.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>020673</u>	<u>SAFE</u>
4. B	<u>* Stype, Valentine W.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>076516</u>	<u>SAFE</u>
5. NW	<u>Crover, Edward A. Jr.</u>	<u>7/5th</u>	<u>020673</u>	<u>MIA</u>
6. ET	<u>McIntyre, Jesse V.</u>	<u>7/5th</u>	<u>076516</u>	<u>SAFE</u>
7. NW	<u>Smith, Victor A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>050188</u>	<u>SAFE</u>
8. SW	<u>Brugnot, Willard (MIA)</u>	<u>8/5th</u>	<u>1017199</u>	<u>MIA</u>
9. LW	<u>Colman, Charles W.</u>	<u>8/5th</u>	<u>1017199</u>	<u>SAFE</u>

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)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>Gibbons, William F.</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>010313</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>(see remarks in</u>		
2. <u>Rajander, Arvo J.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>020673</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>on 2 Summary of</u>		
3. <u>Stype, Valentine W.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>076516</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>see filmstrip Accts.)</u>		

(Over)

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

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13. IF ANSWER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, A STAR YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)

See part 6 of 5-2 Summary.

14. ATTACH MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH EX-TEMPORIS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, GRADE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, TO WHOM YOU REPORTED THIS CRASH.

Date of Report 9 March 1946

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

GERALD H. GALLIOM,
Major, A-1,
Air Statistical Officer

17. REPORTS OF WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

See 5-2 Summary.

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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 _____; Command or Air Force _____
Group _____; Squadron _____; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure _____; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination _____; Type of Mission _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Day _____ Month _____ Year _____; Time _____; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number _____
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew _____; Passengers _____; Total _____
(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
1. Pilot	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Over)

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13. IF PERSONNEL 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 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH EYE 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 9 Mar 1945

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REPORTS ON EYE WITNESS STATEMENTS:

Just before leaving the English Coast #3 engine exploded and fire broke out. The only warning we had of engine failure was a slow drop in oil pressure to 55 pounds. The oil temperature and cylinder head temperature were normal. The fact that the oil from the top of the cowling was very light was explained by the crew chief before take-off as due to a slow oil leak.

The order to bail out was given and the ship was turned back again towards the English coast. The order of bail out was as follows: from the nose, the engineer, the Air Commander, the Navigator, the Bombardier, and the Pilot; from the waist, the waist gunner, the Mikey Navigator and the radio operator; from the tail, the tail gunner. Eight chutes were seen to open, but it is not definitely known whether or not the tail gunner bailed out.

At the time that I left the ship, the fire was going into the wing section. An effort to put out the fire was made but it was too bad. Cowling and nacelle were burned almost completely away. Parts of the ship were seen to be falling by the men after bail out.

Before the aircraft hit the water, the entire right wing and fuselage were burning.

Naval and A/S rescue vessels picked up six men, the fate of the other three men remaining unknown. Those picked up experienced extreme cold. The bombardier suffered a fractured foot and lacerations of the head.

s/William J. Gibbons

WILLIAM J. GIBBONS
Captain, Air Corps,
Air Commander.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald H. Calligan
GERALD H. CALLIGAN,
Captain, Air Corps
Air Statistical Officer.

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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 _____; Command or Air Force _____
Group _____; Squadron _____; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure _____; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination _____; Type of Mission _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Day _____ Month _____ Year _____; Time _____; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number _____
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, Type and Serial Number):
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED U.S.: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew _____; Passengers _____; Total _____
(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
1. Pilot	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SALE:
Check Only One Column
- | Name in Full
(Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Contacted by Radio | Last Sighted | Saw Crash | Forced Landing |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

(Over)

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13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, A STATE AS 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 RELEVANT PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH ANY 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 RATION _____

Date of Report 9 Mar 1945

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. DETAILS OF WITNESS STATEMENTS:

Just before leaving the English Coast #3 engine exploded and fire broke out. The only warning we had of engine failure was a slow drop in oil pressure to 55 pounds. The oil temperature and cylinder head temperature were normal. The fact that the oil from the top of the cooling was very light was explained by the crew chief before take-off as due to a slow oil leak.

The order to bail out was given and the ship was turned back again towards the English coast. The order of bail out was as follows: from the nose, the engineer, the Air Commander, the Navigator, the Bombardier, and the Pilot; from the waist, the waist gunner, the wing navigator and the radio operator; from the tail, the tail gunner. Eight hutes were seen to open, but it is not definitely known whether or not the tail gunner bailed out.

At the time that I left the ship, the fire was going into the wing section. An effort to put out the fire was made but it was too bad. Cooling and nacelle were burned almost completely away. Parts of the ship were seen to be falling by the men after bail out.

Before the aircraft hit the water, the entire right wing and fuselage were burning.

Naval and A/B rescue vessels picked up six men, the fate of the other three men remaining unknown. Three picked up experienced engine oiler. The bombardier suffered a fractured foot and lacerations of the head.

s/William L. Gibbons

WILLIAM L. GIBBONS
Captain, Air Corps,
Air Commander.

A TRUE COPY:

Gerald H. DeLigan
GERALD H. DE LIGAN
Captain, Air Corps
Air Statistical Officer.

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(S-2 Summary of Eye-Witness Accounts)

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

(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 A/C No. 255
750th CW

MISSION DATE 28 February 1945 PILOT Roy E. Kirk
(Name)

2nd Lt. 0-526197 DESTINATION Scost
(Rank) (Serial No.)

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:
 - (a) By coordinates 5128-0131E
 - (b) Approximate altitude Zero
 - (c) Last noted heading Inapplicable
 - (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Inapplicable
2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing A/C):
Nil

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):
Number 3 engine caught fire. Fire spread to rest of wing and to fuselage.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:
Aircraft dropped out of formation and went into a steep dive from an altitude of about 13,000 feet. It was burning when it plunged into clouds at about 6,500 feet. It was apparently out of control then. Shortly afterward it hit the water, exploding just as it did so.

(Over)

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

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? Inapplicable 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.):

Six of the nine crew members parachuted to the water and were rescued. What happened to the other three is not known.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above: The three missing crew members are the pilot, radio operator and tail gunner. The co-pilot, navigator, bombardier and engineer, who leaped from the escape hatch in the nose believe the pilot went out that way with them. The radar navigator, who leaped from the main door, believes that the tail gunner leaped from the tail escape hatch about the same time he jumped from the main waist door, and that the radio operator followed him (the radar navigator) out the main waist door.

8. Date of report 7 March 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>William F. Gibbons</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0-803183</u>	<u>255</u>
2.	<u>Arvo J. Kajander</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-2062673</u>	<u>255</u>
3.	<u>Valentine W. Stype</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-765746</u>	<u>255</u>
4.	<u>Victor A. Smith</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-556688</u>	<u>255</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

<u>Hugh M. Hamill</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-577519</u>	<u>Asst Gp S-2</u>
<u>HUGH M. HAMILL</u>	<u>(Rank)</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>Duty</u>
<u>(Name)</u>			

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-3-44P-1, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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

(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

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

(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 157th Sqdn. 751st A/C A/C No. 255
750th (view)

MISSION DATE 28 February 1945 FIRST PILOT Ray E. Kirk
(Name)

2nd Lt. O-326197 DESTINATION Soest
(Rank) (Serial No.)

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:
 - (a) By coordinates 5128-2131E
 - (b) Approximate altitude Zero
 - (c) Last noted heading Inapplicable
 - (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Inapplicable
2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing A/C):
Nil
3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):
Number 3 engine caught fire. Fire spread to rest of wing and to fuselage.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft dropped out of formation and went into a steep dive from an altitude of about 13,000 feet. It was banking when it plunged into clouds at about 6,500 feet. It was apparently out of control then. Shortly afterward it hit the water, exploding just as it did so.

(Over)

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

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? Inapplicable 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.):

Six of the nine crew members parachuted to the water and were rescued. What happened to the other three is not known.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:
The three missing crew members are the pilot, radio operator and tail gunner. The co-pilot, navigator, bombardier and engineer, who leaped from the escape hatch in the nose believe the pilot went out that way with them. The radar navigator, who leaped from the main door, believes that the tail gunner leaped from the tail escape hatch about the same time he jumped from the main waist door, and that the radio operator followed him (the radar navigator) out the main waist door.

8. Date of report 7 March 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
1.	<u>William F. Gibbons</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>O-803353</u>	<u>255</u>
2.	<u>Arvo J. Kajander</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-2072673</u>	<u>255</u>
3.	<u>Valentia W. Stype</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-765746</u>	<u>255</u>
4.	<u>Victor A. Smith</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-556083</u>	<u>255</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

<u>HUGH M. HAMIL</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-571919</u>	<u>Asst Op 8-2</u>
(Name)	(Rank)	A.S.N.	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) OS-8-44F-1, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

JWP/JFR,
APO 887,
7 April 1945.

A3 360.23 Gao

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, 25, D.C.
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded herewith Missing Air Crew Report of the Eighth Air Force.
2. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of the crew members of subject aircraft to be as shown below:

2nd Lt.	Roy H. Kirk, Jr.,	0-826197	MIA	28 February 1945.
Captain	William F. Gibbons,	0-803183	RTD	30 August 1944.
1st Lt.	Arvo J. Kajander,	0-2062673	Not reported	casualty.
1st Lt.	Valentine W. Stype,	0-765746	Not reported	casualty.
T/Sgt.	Edward A. Grover, Jr.,	12054329	MIA	28 February 1945.
T/Sgt.	Rocco V. Montagne,	32708435	LWA	19 March 1945.
2nd Lt.	Victor A. Smith,	0-556688	Not reported	casualty.
S/Sgt.	Willard (NWI) Krueger,	26117493	MIA	28 February 1945.
S/Sgt.	Charles W. Coleman,	38483216	Not reported	casualty.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

Preacy, Joseph

Hm Ruml

H. M. RUMD, W
Colonel, PGO,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Incl: Missing Air Crew Report, 457th Bomb Gp, (H),
B-17G, 44-8255, 28 February 1945.



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P-17-28712

2nd Lt. Roy H. Kirk, Jr.

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T/Sgt. Edward A. Grover, Jr.

Mr. Edward A. Grover, Sr. (father)
P. O. Box Number 58
West Trenton, New Jersey

S/Sgt. Willard Krueger

Mrs. Colette C. Krueger (wife)
2308 North 74th Avenue
Elmwood, Illinois

#1

2nd Lt. Roy H. Kirk, Jr.

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1/Sgt. Rocco V. Montegano

Mr. Anthony M. Montegano
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Manhasset, New York

1st Lt. Bruno J. Kajander

Mr. K. Kajander (mother)
75 East Side Street
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1st Lt. Valentine W. Lyppe

Mrs. Howard Lyppe (mother)
Center Moriches
New York

2nd Lt. Victor A. Smith

Mr. George Smith (father)
43 1/2 East Park St.
Butte, Montana

S/1st Lt. Charles W. Coleman

Mrs. Annie Coleman (mother)
Lalaha, South Carolina