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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

52.45H
13.16E

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name England; Command or Air Force 8AF
Group 457th Bomb Gp (H); Squadron 749th; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Oranienburg, Ger.; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
Good
- GIVE: (a) Day 10 Month Apr Year 1945; Time 1455; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 64 mi NW of Frankfurt
52-45N 13-40E no of Berlin
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); 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 (); Other Circumstances as follows: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G(FF) AAF Serial Number 44-6366
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) SW-039365; (b) SW-039066; (c) SW-040173; (d) SW-036778
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1308206; (b) 1308272; (c) 1264505; (d) 1183468;
(e) 1308121; (f) 1307982; (g) 1303155; (h) 1308200;
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
(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	Fox, Melvin M.	Capt	0822900	MIA <i>JAN RMC RTD</i>
2. CP	Francis, Roderick L.	Lt. Col	0438016	MIA <i>INT RTD</i>
3. N	Robertson, Beverly C.	1st Lt.	0723746	MIA <i>RMC RTD</i>
4. N	Hertenstein, Paul L.	2nd Lt.	0514856	MIA <i>INT RTD</i>
5. Mickey	Zelikofsky, Gerald (NMI)	2nd Lt.	02009085	MIA <i>RMC RTD</i>
6. B	Musgrove, Charles E.	Capt	0663651	MIA <i>RMC RTD</i>
7. TTG	Belanger, Adrien A.	T/Sgt	31072000	MIA <i>RMC RTD</i>
8. RO	Blood, Lloyd J.	T/Sgt	32856964	MIA
9. WG	Frukon, Alvin B.	S/Sgt	38458969	MIA <i>RMC RTD</i>
10. TG	Hotaling, Monroe J.	Capt	0563353	MIA <i>INT</i>
11.				

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check Only One Column			
			Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landin
1. <u>Winters, Craig K.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>02071852</u>		<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Grimm, Preston C. Jr.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>14149261</u>		<u>X</u>		
3. <u>Swain, Warren E. Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>34762457</u>		<u>X</u>		

(Over)

Incl 46

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 _____; (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 18 April 1945

Gerald H. Galligan

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

GERALD H. GALLIGAN,
Captain, Air Corps.
Air Statistical Officer

17. REPAIRS AND EYE WITNESS STATEMENTS:

MAY 19 1945



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 457th Sqdn. 749th A/C No. 44-8368

MISSION DATE 10 April 1945 FIRST PILOT Melvin M. Fox
(Name)

Capt. 9822900 DESTINATION Oranienburg
(Rank) (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates 5245-1340E

(b) Approximate altitude 10,000 feet.

(c) Last noted heading In spin.

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Ten miles

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

**Three to four ME-262's attacked the group from the tail just after the turn off the target.
No flak was encountered.**

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

A slit four or five feet long and parallel to the air vents (Louvres) was torn in the top of the left wing. The slit was two or three feet ahead of the air vents and between number 1 and number 2 engines, but closer to number 1 engine. There was a glowing fire visible inside the wing through this slit.* Smoke was seen to come from this part of the wing as the A/C left the formation. The smoke did not appear to increase but rather to decrease as the A/C got farther away.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

A/C 368 was under control until about 10 miles from the formation. Up to that point it had been heading in an easterly direction. It then began to circle to the left back toward the formation. It had completed about a half circle when it suddenly went into a spin smoking heavily, and blew up either in the air or on hitting the ground.

* Seen by the DR navigator of the deputy lead A/C. A/C 368 passed right under the deputy lead A/C and the DR navigator looked out his window and saw the top of A/C 368's left wing.

(Over)

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

- 1 -

Incls!

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:

A/C 368 was the lead A/C in the lead squadron. After another A/C called the leader on VHF and told him of the fire, A/C 368 lowered its wheels and left the formation. This was at 1457 hours, four minutes after bombs away. A/C 368 raised its wheels again after leaving the formation.

8. Date of report 16 April 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
1.	<u>Warren E. Swain Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>34762457</u>	<u>44-6518</u>
2.	<u>Preston C. Grimm Jr.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>14149261</u>	<u>44-6518</u>
	<u>Craig K. Winters</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2071852</u>	<u>44-8219</u>
4.	<u>Ralph D. Ice</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>35847959</u>	<u>43-38506</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

<u>Hugh M. Hamill</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-571919</u>	<u>Ass't Group 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) OB-S-44F-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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

13882

Capt. Melvin M. Fox	O-822900	Frank E. Fox (Father) 217 West Washington Ottawa, Illinois
Lt. Col. Roderick L. Francis	O-438016	Mrs. Roderick L. Francis (Wife) 1201 Popular Jackson, Mississippi
1st Lt. Beverly C. Robertson	O-723746	Mrs. Luda B. Robertson (Mother) 1010 East 12th. Street Texarkana, Arkansas
2d Lt. Paul L. Hertenstein	O-514856	Mrs. Janet K. Hertenstein (Wife) 17 South 88th Street Belleville, Ill.
2d Lt. Gerald Zelikofsky	O-2009085	Mrs. Freda J. Zelikofsky (Mother) 139 Nelson Avenue, Saratoga Springs, New York
Capt. Charles E. Musgrove	O-663651	Mrs. Dorothy J. Musgrove (Wife) 1625 Harvard Street Huston Texas
T/Sgt. Adrien A. Belanger	31072000	Mrs. Josephine Belanger - Mother 127 Lafayette St. Fall River, Massachusetts.
T/Sgt. Lloyd J. Blood	32856964	Mrs. Marjorie Blood - Mother East Pembroke, New York.
S/Sgt. Alvin B. Prukop	38458969	Mr. John Prukop (Father) Telferner, Texas
Capt. Monroe J. Hotaling	O-563353	Mrs. Lorene Hotaling (Wife) 1922 Grainville Ave. Los Angeles California

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 13882

Name of crew member:

HOTALLING, Monroe J.

Rank:

Capt.

Serial number:

0563353

Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~FLIGHT~~ ~~FLIGHT~~ ~~FLIGHT~~ ~~FLIGHT~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YESWhere? 20 MILES NORTH OF ORANIENBURG, GERMANY.If not, why not? —Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE INFORMED CREW OF APPROACHING ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND ANSWERED WHEN TOLD TO BAIL OUT.Was he injured? NO INJURY APPARENT WHEN I SAW HIM.Where was he when last seen? AT GERMAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS (ABOUT 35 MILES N. BERLIN)Any hearsay information: I HEARD SOME CONFLICTING STORIES ABOUT HIM AT OUR FORMER HOME BASE (457th Bomb Gp, ENGLAN) — ONE THAT HE HAD BEEN LIBERATED AND TOLD A STORY OF HAVING HAD LUNCH WITH GOERING WHILE HE WAS HELD PRISONER.Source: VARIOUS MEMBERS 457th Bomb Gp.Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 19, 1945 FIVE OF OUR CREW MEMBERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT FROM VARIOUS OTHER PLACES TO THE HEADQUARTERS NAMED ABOVE (FOX, BELLINGER, MR. GROVE, HOTALLING & MYSELF) HOTALLING THE ONLY ONE APPARENTLY NOT INJURED. HE WAS TAKEN BY GUARDS FROM THE ROOM AT ABOUT 11:00 P.M. — WE THOUGHT FOR INTERROGATION — WE SAW HIM NO MORE, AS WE WERE REMOVED AT 1:00 AM.Total number of missions of above crew member: ?Dates and destinations if possible: ?

Paul L. Hertenstein 0514856
D.R. Navigator of CREW.

Name of crew member: BLOOD, Lloyd J.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 32856964
 Position: Crew (Bomber) PT/FF/SM/FF/FF/FF/FF/FF/RO

Did he bail out? YES, I think so.

Where? About 20 miles N. of ORANIENBURG, GERMANY.

If not, why not? —

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: IMMEDIATELY BEFORE DAIL OUT, HE WAS INFORMING PILOT OF FIRE PROGRESS IN BOMB BAY.

Was he injured? DON'T KNOW

Where was he when last seen? DON'T KNOW

Any hearsay information: I HEARD THAT T. COL R. FRANCIS (AIR C.O. OF OUR CREW) REPORTED UPON HIS LIBERATION THAT HE HAD SEEN GERMANS TAKE BLOOD'S BODY FROM A LAKE.

Source: VARIOUS MEMBERS OF 457th BOMB GP.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE WAS FIGHTING FIRE IN BOMB BAY (PERHAPS WITHOUT ADEQUATE OXYGEN AT 25000 FT) AND ASSUMING HE DAILED OUT AND PULLED RIPCORD AT HIGH ALTITUDE, IF HE LANDED IN LAKE, HE PROBABLY WAS TOO WEAK FROM LACK OF OXYGEN TO SWIM OR GET OUT OF HIS PARACHUTE HARNESS.

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 28

Dates and destinations if possible: ?

Paul L. Shertenstein 0514856
O.R. NAVIGATOR OF CREW.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 13882

Name of crew member:

STALING, Maurice J.

Rank:

Capt.

Serial number:

0663383

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Temple Germany.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

none

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? In the Airplane

Any hearsay information: From members of Squadron. He had been pushed up by American Forces.

Source: Member of Squadron.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

none

Total number of missions of above crew member: Do not know

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

Gerald (Zelkafsky) Selig

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11983

Name of crew member:

BLOOD, Lloyd J.

Rank:

T/Sgt.

Serial number:

32858984

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or~~ Flight (Fighter):

BO

Did he bail out? no.Where? —If not, why not? Anoxia was unconscious at time of explosionthrown out by member of crewLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: noneWas he injured? I do not know.Where was he when last seen? In the shipAny hearsay information: A German (alias Feldt veler) Sgttold Sgt Alvin Puhop and myself - that he had perished in a river. His chute was not opened at the time of the contact with water. The German gave or showed us Lloyd Blood's Dog tag and we assumed he had died.Source: a German Sgt in the FalkstromAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —Total number of missions of above crew member: 27Dates and destinations if possible: none

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 13882

Name of crew member:

HOTALING, Monroe J.

Rank:

Capt.

Serial number:

0563353

Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~FF11441/FF11441/11~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YesWhere? East of Uranenberg, Germany

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Capt. Notaling requested permission to come out of the tail as smoke from the fire was suffocating himWas he injured? Not at time of bailing outWhere was he when last seen? Was not seenAny hearsay information: According to waist GUBBER he got out of plane andwas injured in landing. I have been informed that he was in hospitalwith other crew members and thought he had returned to the states.Source: X S/Sgt. Alvin B. Prukop, Box 53, Delferno, Texas

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

I feel sure that Capt. Notaling has returned to the states.Total number of missions of above crew member: UnknownDates and destinations if possible: Unknown*Sent in by Beverly C. Robertson
Capt. A.C.*

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 13882

Name of crew member: **BLOOD, Lloyd J.**
 Rank: **T/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **32856964**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~11/17111111/17111111/11~~ **BO**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? East of Oranienberg, Germany

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? Not while in plane, possibly suffering from lack of oxygen as I understand he was fighting fire

Where was he when last seen? before takeoff

Any hearsay information: Waist Gunner said Sgt. Blood was suffering from lack of oxygen and that he threw him out of plane. Also he advised that the the Germans showed him Sgt. Blood's dog tags and chute telling him that he landed in a lake and drowned. This was near Prenslau. I was imprisoned in a ~~Kasseler~~ Guard house at ~~an Army~~ a Luftwaffe base there and I saw some equipment that I believe belonged to my crew.

Source: Waist Gunner: S/Sgt. Alvin D. Prukop Box 53, Telfer, Texas

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Since he has not been heard from I believe that he drowned in the lake as the Germans say, however I doubt that ~~an~~ any attempt was made to rescue him. Sgt. Blood could have been suffering from lack of oxygen and failed revive ~~and~~ thereby causing him not to use his "Mae West".

Total number of missions of above crew member: between 26 and 28.

Dates and destinations if possible: 19 Sept 44 Soest, Ger. 25 Sept. 44 Frankfurt
 28 Sept 44 Magdeburg 30 Sept 44 Munster Ger. 5 Oct Cologne Ger. 6 Oct. 44
 Stergard, Ger. 7 Oct. 44 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Politz, Ger. 15 Oct. 44 Cologne
 17 Oct. 44 Cologne 5 Nov 44 Frankfurt 21 Nov. 44 Nerseburg Ger. 26 Nov. 44
 Misburg, Ger. 4 Dec. 44 Kassel, Ger. 11 Dec. 44 Frankfurt, Ger.
 15 Dec. 44 Kassel, Ger. 29 Dec. Bingen, Ger. 1 Jan. 45 Kassel, Ger.
 3 Jan. 45 Hermulheim, Ger. 20 Jan. 45 Holton, Ger. 3 Feb. 45 Berlin, Ger.
 21 Feb. 45 Nurnberg, Ger. 26 Feb. 45 Berlin 1 Mar. 45 Goppingen, Ger.
 5 Mar. 45 Chemnitz, Ger. 9 Mar. 45 Kassel, Ger. 5 Apr. 45 Ingolstadt, Ger.
 10 Apr. 45 Oranienburg, Ger.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 13883

Name of crew member:

HOTALING, Monroe J.

Rank:

Capt.

Serial number:

0563353

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~PI/FLIGHT/FLIGHTER/PI/~~

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YESWhere? ABOUT 20 TO 30 MILES EAST OF ORANIENBURG.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: RIGHTAFTER CAPTURE I SPOKE TO HIM.Was he injured? ONLY A SLIGHT BACK SPRAIN.Where was he when last seen? AT OR CLOSE TO SCHWEDTAny hearsay information: AS FAR AS I KNOW I SPOKE TOHIM AND HE WAS ALRIGHT THEN THEY TOOKHIM TO ANOTHER BUILDING BUT HE WALKEDOUT WITH THE GERMANS.Source: THIS IS WHAT I SAW. THAT'S ALL

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

I DON'T KNOW THE GERMAN SOLDIERSWHO HAD US ALL SEEMED TO BEREGULAR FELLOWSTotal number of missions of above crew member: I DON'T KNOWDates and destinations if possible: I DON'T KNOW HEWASN'T A REGULAR MEMBER OF OUR CREWTHIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD FLOWNWITH HIM THAT WAS THE 10TH OF APRIL 1945

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

BLOOD, Lloyd J.

Rank:

T/Sgt.

Serial number:

32856964

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~:

BO

Did he bail out? YES, FROM WHAT I WAS TOLD

Where? IN ABOUT THE SAME AREA NEAR EBERSWALPE

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I SAW HIM

LAST JUST BEFORE I LEFT THE PLANE

Was he injured? I DON'T THINK SO

Where was he when last seen? I LAST SAW HIM IN PLANE

Any hearsay information: FROM WHAT I GATHERED HE LANDED
IN A LAKE AND DROWNED SO THE GERMANS
SAW AND THEY SHOWED OUR WAIST GUNNER
HIS DOG TAGS.

Source: ALVIN B. PRUKOP, TELFERNER TEXAS.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NO.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 29.

Dates and destinations if possible: _____