

8195

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Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MUECH, Capt., AG  
Date **228 1 5 1968**

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by E. A. BRADONIS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC  
Date 10 July 1944

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

8195

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location England; Command or Air Force 8 A.F.  
Group 457th Bomb. Gp. (H); Squadron 751st; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Station 130; Course \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Destination Leipzig, Germany; Type of Mission Objective Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_
- GIVE: (a) Date July 10; Time \_\_\_\_\_; and Location English Channel  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether ( ) 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 B17-F; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-30731
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; A.A.F. Serial Number(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_  
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 10 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
1.	Pilot	<u>OWENS, JACK B.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0757259</u>
2.	CP	<u>BRICKA, HAYS</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0822365</u>
3.	N	<u>TOPAKIAN, ARLEN (NMI)</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0701349</u>
4.	B	<u>MENTUN, FRANCIS A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0759966</u>
5.	AEG	<u>MURILLO, PHILIP M.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>37657593</u>
6.	ROG	<u>ROLAND, THEODORE C.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>32475502</u>
7.	AAEG	<u>MARKWALDER, EARL A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>31327253</u>
8.	AROG	<u>ZEAHLER, R. C. (I.O.)</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>38412949</u>
9.	AAG	<u>WARD, JOHN D.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>12214207</u>

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	Contacted				Check Only One Column	
			By	Last Sighted	Saw	Forced Landing		
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	

- 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 reasons (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHEN AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report 10 July 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Gerald H. Galligan  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
CONFIDENTIAL GERALD H. GALLIGAN, 1st Lt., A.C.,  
Group Statistical Officer.



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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Gp. Stat. Officer  
AAF STATION 130

A P O 557  
14 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Summary of Facts and Statements concerning Missing A/C 42-30731 -  
Mission 7 July 1944 - Leipzig.

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

1. The following is a summary of facts and statements concerning  
three members on A/C 42-30731:

- a. A/C had three engines out of commission and the fourth engine was sputtering. Crew was forced to "ditch" in the English Channel about fifteen miles off the English coast.
- b. Five members of the crew were able to get out of the A/C and were rescued. One man's body was recovered.
- c. The other three members were apparently trapped inside of the A/C and were carried down when the A/C sank. It is believed that the Bombardier, Lt. Francis A. Minturn could have freed himself but attempted to help the other two missing members.

*Gerald H. Galligan*  
GERALD H. GALLIGAN,  
1st Lt., A. C.,  
Gp. Statistical Officer.

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Incl. #1



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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Stat. Officer  
AAF STATION 130

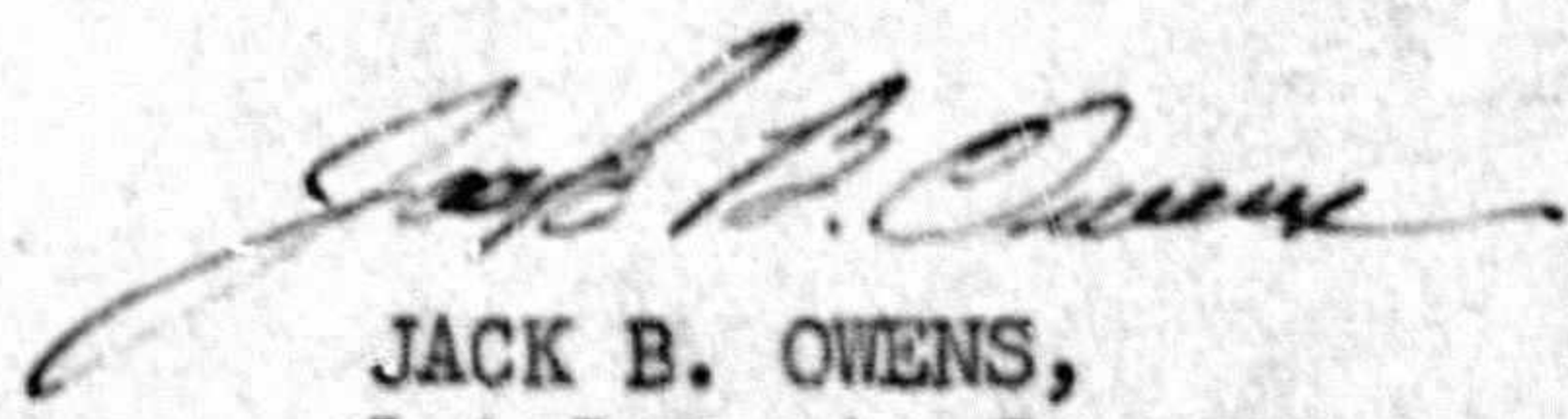
E-F-1

A P O 557  
22 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Information pertaining to Missing Air Crew Report, dated 10 July 1944 on mission 7 July 1944 - Leipzig, Germany. (A/C 42-30731).

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

1. On the 7 July 1944, we were forced to ditch in the English Channel. As the airplane hit the water, it buckled at the radio room and immediately began to sink. After getting out of the cock-pit and swimming back to the radio room, I helped one of the gunners out. By this time, the airplane was almost under water. When the ship did go under, I saw the Bombardier trying to get another man out, presumably the radio man or ball turret gunner. The airplane sank with Lt. Minturn, T/Sgt. Roland and S/Sgt. Markwalder, with no visible means of escape.

  
JACK B. OWENS,  
1st Lt., A. C.,  
Pilot.

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*Inc #2'*



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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Stat. Officer  
AAF STATION 130

E-F-1

A P C 557  
22 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Information pertaining to Missing Air Crew Report, dated 10 July 1944 on mission 7 July 1944 - Leipzig, Germany. (A/C 42-30731).

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

1. At 1127 hours the 7th July 1944, we were forced to ditch. When we hit the water, the plane buckled at the ball turret. The radio man was pinned down by part of the ball turret. From where I was, I could see the Bombardier standing up in the radio room. The Bombardier had time to get out but he remained, trying to help some one else out as the ship sank. When the ship sank, Lt. Minturn, T/Sgt. Roland and S/Sgt. Markwalder were still in it.

*Armen Topanian*  
ARMEN TOPANIAN,  
2nd Lt., A. C.,  
Navigator.



# CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Group Stat. Officer  
AAF STATION 130

E-F-1

A P O 557  
22 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Information pertaining to Missing Air Crew Report, dated 10 July 1944 on mission 7 July 1944 - Leipzig, Germany. (A/C 42-30731).

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

1. On the 7 of July 1944, we were forced to ditch in the English Channel. The impact of ditching caused the airplane to buckle at the rear of the radio room. Three men were trapped in the radio room and were unable to escape. These men were: S/Sgt. Markwalder, the ball turret operator; T/Sgt. Roland, the radio operator; and 2nd Lt. Minturn, the bombardier. The airplane sank within two minutes, hence there was no chance for me to aid those trapped.

*Hays Bricka*  
HAYS BRICKA,  
2nd Lt., A. C.,  
Co-Pilot.

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*Smith H1*



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*MSC*  
*(11)*

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

JWP/wcj

APO 871

17 September 1944

AG 360.33

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, 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 aircraft number 42-30731 to be as shown below:

1st Lt.	Jack B. Owens,	0-757259	Duty	
2nd Lt.	Hays Bricka,	0-822365	Duty	
2nd Lt.	Armen Topakian,	0-701349	Duty	
2nd Lt.	Francis A. Minturn,	0-759966	KIA	7 July 1944
T/Sgt.	Philip M. Murillo,	37657593	KIA	7 July 1944
T/Sgt.	Theodore C. Roland,	32475502	KIA	7 July 1944
S/Sgt.	Earl A. Markwalder,	31327253	KIA	7 July 1944
S/Sgt.	R. C. Zeagler,	38412949	Duty	
S/Sgt.	John D. Ward,	12214207	SIA	7 July 1944

For the Theater Commander:

*H. M. Rund*  
H. M. RUND,  
Lt. Col, AGD,  
Asst. Adjutant General.

✓ Incl:  
Missing Air Crew Report, 457th Bomb Gp  
B-17F. 42-30731, 7 July 1944.

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*mc-26760*

*AC-40-10936*



2nd Lt. Francis A. Minturn

Mrs. Lucy B. Minturn, (Mother) ✓  
292 North Church,  
Salem, Oregon.

2/Sgt. Philip N. Murillo

Mr. Dan Murillo, (Father) ✓  
626 G Avenue,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

T/Sgt. Theodore C. Roland

Mr. Theodore T. Roland, (Father) ✓  
70 Guilford Street,  
Buffalo, New York.

S/Sgt. Earl A. Markwalder

Mr. Arthur S. Markwalder, (Father) ✓  
Rural Route Number One,  
Buckley, Illinois.

S/Sgt. John D. Ward

Mr. Dewitt C. Ward, (Father) ✓  
120 1/2 Jefferson Avenue,  
Fairport, New York.