

5298

CONFIDENTIAL

Harris

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by **F. M. M. E. N.** **Col., AG**
Date **MAR 15 1946**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Technical Sergeant Raymond Koch

Mr. Leadore Koch, (Father)
158 Franklin Street,
Stanford, Connecticut.

Second Lieutenant Michael N. Stanke

Miss Patricia Stanke, (Sister)
5425 South Laflin,
Chicago, Illinois.

Second Lieutenant Alexander Kucherenko

Mrs. Helen Kucherenko, (Wife)
1336 Allen Street,
Flint, Michigan.

Second Lieutenant James M. Cochran, Jr.

Mrs. Betty L. Cochran, (Wife)
366 Burton,
Washington, Pennsylvania.

First Lieutenant Roger W. Birkman

Mr. Vincent E. Birkman, (Brother)
917 Woodard,
Houston, Texas.

Staff Sergeant John L. Toney

Mrs. Dorothy A. Toney, (Wife)
College Corner, Ohio.

Technical Sergeant Andrew Kafka

Mrs. Anna Kafka, (Mother)
Box 769,
Daltonville, Ohio.

Staff Sergeant James C. Jones

Mrs. Lillian Jones, (Mother)
205 Robert Street,
Anderson, South Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Errol Bailey

Mrs. A. L. Bailey, (Mother)
Route One, Box 100,
Parkdale, Oregon.

Command John Buschel

Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Buschel, (Mother)
129 Cedar Street,
Covington, Kentucky.

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED** by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC Date MAR 15 1944

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location ENGLAND; Command or Air Force 8AF
Group 457th Bomb. GP. (B) Squadron 748th; Detachment _____
- LOCATE: Point of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Intended Destination Ludwigshafen, Germany; Type of Mission Objective Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Good CAVU
- GIVE: (a) Date 27 May 44; Time 1225; and Location vicinity Saarbrucken of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft,
(b) Specify whether (X) 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 (X) Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy anti-aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-38055 X
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number(a) SW-004214
(b) SW-004203; (c) SW-004158; (d) SW-001863
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) 1074401, 1074135;
(a) 1074756; (b) 1074087; (c) 1074838; (d) 1074623, 1074480
(e) 1074014; (f) 1074282; (g) 1074648; (h) 1074600, 1074904, 1074093.
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
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 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	P ✓ BERKMAN, ROGER W.	1st Lt.	0-504591 RTD
2. CP	CP ✓ KUCHENENKO, ALEXANDER (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0-570450 RTD
3. N	N ✓ STANKO, MICHAEL N.	2nd Lt.	0-511953 RTD
4. B	B ✓ COCHRAN, JAMES H. Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-752853 RTD
5. AEG	TG ✓ KOCH, RAYMOND (NMI)	T/Sgt.	11102957 RTD
6. BOG	BO ✓ KAPKA, ANDREW (NMI)	T/Sgt.	35596089 RTD
7. AARG	ENG ✓ TONEY, JOHN L.	S/Sgt.	1511008 RTD
8. AROG	ENG ✓ JONES, JAMES C.	S/Sgt.	14125137 RTD
9. AG	TG ✓ BALLEW, ERROL (NMI)	S/Sgt.	39406485 RTD
10. AAG	BTG ✓ BUECHEL, FRED (NMI)	Sgt.	35683243 RTD

11. 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	Saw Forced Landing
1. Feldman, Barnett (NMI)	Sgt.	12182302	Radio	Sighted		X
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) None
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHEN AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. None
- ATTACH EYE-WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. Will be forwarded at later date.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report 31 May 1944.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL GERALD H. GALLIGAN, 1st Lt.,
Statistical Officer.

Sheet 35-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (A)
Office of the Operations Officer
AAF STATION 130

A P O 557
1 June 1944.

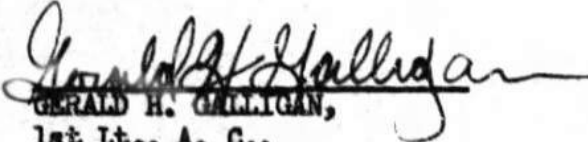
SUBJECT: Narrator's Report of Missing Air Crew - Mission 27 May 1944 -
Ludwigshafen, Germany.

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

1. At approximately 1225 hours, 27 May 1944, the undersigned spotted Lt. Birman in A/C 42-38055 and joined him in formation, flying off his left wing. At that time our formation was no longer in sight. He continued on a homeward heading for approximately five minutes and then did a 180° turn. At this point we left him. His ship appeared to be well under control but was losing altitude consistently and slowly. The number three engine was on fire, which was assumed to be an oil fire. He took up a heading in the general direction of Switzerland. This was the last we saw of him, but he seemed to have full control of the ship.

DAVID K. SUMMERVILLE,
2nd Lt., A. C.,
1st Pilot, 748th Sqdn.

A TRUE COPY:


GERALD H. GALLIGAN,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Group Statistical Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Doc. #11

Date and time aircraft
was shot down:

27 May 44, time: 1445

Casualty No.: KU 1995

Place of crash:

Overslag near Gent

Type of aircraft:

Fortress

Reporting office:

Air Base Command Gent - St. Denis

	Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of internment
JOHNS 27 Jan 25	James C. Statt S.C.	S/Sgt.	14125157	captured	Dulag Luft
BALLET 22 Aug 22	Errol	S/Sgt.	39406485	"	" "
KAFKA 3 March 23	Andrew Ohio.	T/Sgt.	36596089	"	" "
BUECHEL	John	S/Sgt.	38682245	"	" "

Casualty No.: KU 1995

1st additional report of 21 Aug 44

STANKO

Michael Nicholas Snd/Lt. O-511995

captured Dulagluft

MAAR 5298

Dulag Luft, 21 June 44 We.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air Base Detachment

Disty Water
F.Ig.ado. Belgium-Northfrance, Is
Information center west, Oberursel

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

DATE: 28.5.44

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Fortress on 27.5.44, about 14.15XXXXXXXXXX: AT: 1 km northnorth/east Ovrslag, 20 km northnortheast
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Jones

FIRST NAME: James O.

Rank: S/Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 14 125 132

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Vicinity of the plane-crash. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Air Base Detachment Oent-St. Denis.

Local quarters, 28th May 1944

List of confiscated items belonging to prisoner S/sgt. John Buechel,
 Identification tag: 35 683 243.

Shot-down: Fortress, 27.5.44, about 14.45 near: 1 km north-northeast Oerslag
 20 km north-northeast of Oent.

1 identification tag
 1 empty escape-bag (open)
 20 bank notes each 100 Ffrs.
 1 emergency saw
 1 pair of boot laces
 2 silk cards
 6 passphotos
 1 bracelet with name & duty number
 1 golden wristwatch
 16 bank notes each 1 engl. pound
 1 bank note, 10 Shilling
 1 lighter
 1 sversharp
 1 pencil
 1 sallet with leatherbag
 1 sallet with needle
 1 card "My Daily Prayer"
 2 sheets paper indicating prayermarks.

no signature.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air Base Detachment

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

DATE: 28.5.1944

Distributor
F.Lg.Kdo. Belgium-North-
France, Ic, Information
Center west, Oberursel.REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Fortress on 27.5.44 at 14.15XXXXXXXXXX AT: 1 km northnortheast Overslag, 20 km northnortheast
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME): Kafka

FIRST NAME: Andrew

Rank: Tech Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 35 596 089

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Binay 7 km northeast Lockeren. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY / FORCES

POST: Air Base Detachment

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

DATE: 28.5.1944

Distributor:
F.Lg.Kdo. Belgium-Northfrance
Ic. Information center west,
Oberursel.REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Fortress on 27.5.44, about 14.45
XXXXXXXXXXXX AT: 1 km northnorthwest Overalag, 20 km northnorthwest
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Huechel

FIRST NAME: John

Rank: S/sgt.
SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 35 683 243

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: captured Binay, 7 km northeast Lockeren. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: 29.5.44

Air Field Detachment Gent - St. Denis.

Local Station, 28th May 1944

List of confiscated items belonging to prisoner S/Sgt. Errol Bailey,
identification: 39 406 485

tag

Shot-down: Fortress, 27.5.1944, at 14.45 near: 1 km north-northeast Overlag,
20 km north-northeast of Gent.

1 Identification tag
20 Bank notes each 100 Ffrs.
1 Escape-saw
6 Passphotos.
1 Lists of Phrases
1 Envelope with address
3 Silvercoins
2 Coppercoins
1 gold signet-ring
1 wristwatch
1 lighter
1 pak of flints
1 Photo-album, leather
43 private photos
1 slip General Orders Nr. 63
1 slip General Orders Nr. 200
1 furlough slip
1 Kanteenslip
1 passport - yellow-
1 Identification card
2 travel cards
1 book containing addresses
1 card Social Security Act
2 examination cards -brown-

no signature.

Unit
Postal number 56 196

Local Station, 2nd August 1944

Deposit - also.

Concerning: Custody. (of items)

of Stanke, Michael, Mx., 29.11.1917, american
concerning diary Nr. 676/44
concerning espionage suspicion.

Statement.

The following items were taken away from me by the undersigned:

1 Air plans medal (pilot)	1 Pocket-compass
1 batch of rank	1 Escape-saw
1 Wristwatch	3 stripes of tape
1 Phrasebook	1 sewing-kit
1 Money-bag, leather	2 tubes containing tablets
3 passports	2 rolls tape
20 Bank-notes, each 100 ffrs.	1 pencil
1 Bank note - 1 engl. Pound	1 linen-bag
1 Air Force Medal	2 tablets
1 Pilot-ring	1 counterfeit identification card Nr.
1 Signet ring	23681
1 Lighter	

Responsible for correctness:

1. signed: Wassermann, Sgt. H.F.P.B.A.
2. signed: Steinel, Sgt. H.F.P.B.

27 May 44

Identification tag: ANDREW KAFKA
35596089 T 43-43 B

ANNA KAFKA
Box 769
DILLONVALE, Ohio

1 Registration Certificate

1 General Order No 63 (award of PURPLE HEART)

1 General Order No 200 (award of AIR MEDAL)

2 Physical Record Cards

Identification tag: JAMES C JONES
14125137 T42
LYLLIAN JONES
205 Roberts Str.
Anderson, S.C.

Identification tag: ERROL BAILEY
39406485 T 43-43 A
MRS. ADA BAILEY
GEN DEL
MT HOOD CREG

Identification tag: JOHN BURCHEL
35683243 T43-43 O
ANNA BURCHEL
329 DELMAR PL.
COVINGTON, KY.

27 May 44

No	downed by	time	site of crash	type	disposition of crew
9	?	14,45	1 km NNE Overslag, 20 km NE Gent	Fortress	<u>4 men captured</u> S/Sgt. Jones S/Sgt. Bailey S/Sgt. Buschel T/Sgt. Kafka <u>5 men at large</u> 1st Lt. Birken 2nd Lt. Stanke T/Sgt. Koch S/Sgt. Toney 2nd Lt. Cooran

27 May 44

KU 19 95

MACR 5298

DATE: 27 May 44 TIME: 14.45

PLACE: 1 km north-north-east Overlag
20 km north-north-east Gent

TYPE OF CRAFT: Fortress

MARKINGS: 748 (HBo) Group 457
Base: Clatten 130

TARGET: Air-Base-Station Command Gent
St. Denis

RANK NAME KU - 199E

1st Lt BIRKMAN

2nd Lt STANKO, Michael Nicholas .
ASN: 0-811995

2nd Lt COCHRAN

S/Sgt BAILEY, Nrrrel .
ASN: 39406485

S/SGT BUECHEL, John .
ASN: 35683283

T/Sgt KAFKA, Andrew .
ASN: 35596089

S/Sgt JONES, James G. .
ASN: 14186132

T/Sgt Koch

S/Sgt TONEY

H. W. Miller
3298

Ku 1995

5298-28

Identification tag: ANDREW KAFKA
35596089 T 43-43 B

ANNA KAFKA
Box 767
DILLONVALE, Ohio

1 Registration Certificate

1 General Order No 63 (award of PURPLE HEART)

1 General Order No 200 (award of AIR MEDAL)

2 Physical Record Cards

Identification tag: JAMES C JONES
14125137 T42
LILLIAN JONES
205 Roberts Str.
Anderson, S.C.

Identification tag: ERROL BAILEY
39406485 T 43-43 A
MRS. ADA BAILEY
GEN DEL
LT HCOO OREG

Identification tag: JOHN BUECHEL
35683243 T43-43 O
ANNA BUECHEL
329 DELMAR PL.
COVINGTON, KY.

DATE: 27 May 4; TIME: 14.45

RANK: NAME: KU - 1995

PLACE: 1 km north-north-east Overlag
20 km north-north-east Jent

1st Lt B'HEMAN

2nd Lt SPANCO, Michael Michael
ASN: 0-811995

TYPE OF CRAFT: Fortress

2nd Lt COCHRAN

MARKINGS: 718 (HBo) Group 457
Base: Glatten 130

S/Sgt BAILLY, Errol
ASN: 39406425

~~MARKING:~~ Air-Base-Station ~~Glatten~~ Jent
St. Omer

S/Sgt BURCKEL, John
ASN: 35185385

T/Sgt KAFKA, Andrew
ASN: 35896069

S/Sgt JONES, James G.
ASN: 14125133

T/Sgt Koch

S/Sgt TONEY

MACR 5298

Unit
Postal number 56 196

Local Station, 2nd August 1944

Deposit - slip.

Concerning: Custody. (of items)

of Stanko, Michael, Nz., 29.11.1917, american
concerning diary Nr. 676/44

concerning espionage suspicion.

Statement.

The following items were taken away from me by the undersigned:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Air plane medal (pilot) | 1 Pocket-compass |
| 1 batch of rank | 1 Escape-saw |
| 1 Wristwatch | 3 stripes of tape |
| 1 Phrasebook | 1 sewing-kit |
| 1 Money-bag , leather | 2 tubec contrining tablets |
| 3 passphotos | 2 rolls tape |
| 30 Bank-notes, each 100 ffrs. | 1 pencil |
| 1 Bank note - 1 engl. Pound | 1 linnen-bag |
| 1 Air Force Medal | 2 tablets |
| 1 Pilot-ring | 1 counterfeit identification card Nr. |
| 1 Signet ring | 23681 |
| 1 Lighter | |

Responsible for correctness:

1. signed: Wassermann, Sgt. H.F.P.B.A.
2. signed: Steinel, Sgt. H.F.P.B.

Air Field Detachment Gent - St. Denis.

Local Station, 28th May 1944

List of confiscated items belonging to prisoner S/Sgt. Errol Bailey,
identification: 39 406 485

tag

Shot-down: Fortress, 27.5.1944, at 14.45 near: 1 km northnortheast Overslag,
20 km northnortheast of Gent.

- 1 Identification tag
- 20 Bank notes each 100 Ffrs.
- 1 Escape-saw
- 6 Passphotos.
- 1 Lists of Phrases
- 1 Envelope with address
- 3 Silvercoins
- 2 Coppercoins
- 1 gold signet-ring
- 1 wristwatch
- 1 lighter
- 1 pak of flints
- 1 Photo-album, leather
- 43 private photos
- 1 slip General Orders Nr. 63
- 1 slip General Orders Nr. 200
- 1 furlough slip
- 1 Kanteenslip
- 1 passport - yellow-
- 1 Identification card
- 2 travel cards
- 1 book containing addresses
- 1 card Social Security Act
- 2 examination cards -brown-

no signature.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air Base Detachment

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

DATE: 28.5.1944

Distributor:

F.Lg.Kdo. Belgium-Northfrance
Ic. Information center west,
Oberursel.REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Fortress on 27.5.44, about 14.45~~POCKET REPORT~~ AT: 1 km northnorthwest Overslag, 20 km northnortheast
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Buechel

FIRST NAME: John

Rank: S/Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 35 683 243

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) - captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: captured Sinay, 7 km northeast Lockeren. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: 29.5.44

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air Drome Detachment

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

DATE: 28.5.1944

Distributor
F.lg.Kdo. Belgium-North-
France, Ic, Information
Center west, Oberursel.REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF: Fortress on 27.5.44 at 14.1564-100-100 AT: 1 km northnortheast Overslag, 20 km northnortheast
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Kafka

FIRST NAME: Andrew

Rank: Tech Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 35 596 089

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Sinay 7 km northeast Lockeren. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Air Base Detachment

Distributor:

PLACE: Gent - St. Denis

F.lg.Kdo. Belgium-Northfrance, Ic
Information center west, Oberursel

DATE: 28.5.44

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Fortress on 27.5.44, about 14.15RECORDING: AT: 1 km northnortheast Overslag, 20 km northnortheast
Gent

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Jones

FIRST NAME: James O.

Rank: S/Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 14 125 132

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: Vicinity of the plane-crash. Time: 27.5.44

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Air Base Detachment Gent-St.Denis.

Local quarters, 28th May 1944

List of confiscated items belonging to prisoner S/Sgt. John Buechel,
identification tag. 35 683 243.

Shot-down: Fortress, 27.5.44, about 14.45 near: 1 km northnortheast Overslag
20 km northnortheast of Gent.

- 1 identification tag
- 1 empty escape-bag (open)
- 23 bank notes each 100 Ffrs.
- 1 emergency saw
- 1 pair of boot lace
- 2 silk cards
- 6 passphotos
- 1 bracelet with name & duty number
- 1 golden wristwatch
- 16 bank notes each 1 engl. pound
- 1 bank note, 10 Shilling
- 1 lighter
- 1 oversharp
- 1 pencil
- 1 amulett with leatherbag
- 1 amulett with needle
- 1 card "My Daily Prayer"
- 2 sheets paper indicating prayermarks.

no signature.