

13558

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Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by S. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC
Date 1 MAR 1946

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Date 1 MAR 1948

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

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

1. **REPORTING OFFICER:** Location, by name England; Command or Air Force 8AF
2. **UNIT:** 457th Bomb Op (H) Squadron 749th; Detachment _____
3. **LOCATION:** Station 130; Berlin, Germany; Type of location _____
4. **OBJECTIVE:** Coastal Bombing
5. **PERIOD OF SEARCH:** 4/10th to 5/10th - Visibility Poor
6. **DATE OF LOSS:** 18 March 1945; Time 1127; and location of last known whereabouts or missing aircraft. 52 39 N 13 42E
7. **TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:** B-24; **MODEL AND SERIAL:** R-1820-97; **RAF SERIAL NUMBER:** _____
8. **CREW:** (a) SW-017666; (b) SW-025421; (c) SW-025580; (d) SW-017054
9. **STATUS OF CREW:** (a) 1278745; (b) 1278404; (c) 1278827; (d) 1278895; (e) 1279311; (f) 1279150; (g) 1279584; (h) 1278551; (i) 1278847; (j) 1279680; (k) 1278889; (l) 1279640
10. **STATUS OF CREW:** (a) Battle Casualty X; or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. **STATUS OF CREW:** 9; Passengers 0; Total 9

Serial Number	Rank	Name in Full (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Current Status
0834033	2nd Lt	Schwikart, John W.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
0828597	2nd Lt	Thompson, Quentin P.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
0926852	2nd Lt	Everett, Ruben O.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
37533926	Sgt	Burton, Hugh (NMI)	MIA <i>RTD</i>
39134089	Sgt	Biagini, Emilie D.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
34766076	Sgt	Brooks, Rayford L.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
18244062	Sgt	Barron, Douglas P.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
19177385	Sgt	Brod, Irving S.	MIA <i>RTD</i>
39695098	Sgt	Taber, James C.	MIA <i>RTD</i>

Check Only On Column

Name in Full (Last, First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Force	Force Landin
1. Francisco, Myron E.	1 Lt	02064238				
2. Stanley, Delmar L.	1 Lt	0775174				
3. Castanias, Jesse E.	2 Lt	0831918				

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13. IF PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT OR AIRCRAFT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE
MATTER, WERE USED FOR (a) Propaganda purposes Yes; (b) Persons were seen
working for fear of loss of work; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
14. AIRCRAFT, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, OR AIRCRAFT, BEING APPOINTED
FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER.
15. AIRCRAFT, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, OR AIRCRAFT, BEING APPOINTED
FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER.
16. AIRCRAFT, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, OR AIRCRAFT, BEING APPOINTED
FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER, OR FOR THE MATTER.

Date of report 28 March 1945

MAY 1945



Gerald H. O'Meara

GERALD H. O'MEARA,
Captain, Air Corps
Air Statistical Officer

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(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

(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. 43-38203

MISSION DATE 18 March 1945 PILOT John W. Schwikert

2nd Lt. O-834033 DESCRIPTION Berlin

(Rank) (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates About 5239-1342

(b) Approximate altitude About 15,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading 35 degrees (magnetic heading)

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation: _____

About 9,000 feet below formation.

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

a. 3 Me-262's attacked the high flight of the low squadron. A/C 203 was flying number three in this flight. The E/A attacked from the tail, making one pass and each apparently firing at one of the B-17's.

b. Moderate to intense, accurate, continuously pointed flak was encountered from about five minutes before the Me-262 attack.

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

#2 engine appeared to catch fire.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

A/C 103 apparently kept on flying normally immediately after the attack; then #2 engine suddenly caught on fire. The aircraft went into a steep glide for several thousand feet. It did not appear to be out of control when lost to view in clouds amid the excitement of the situation.

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5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation, was it last seen with escort? No If so, give location in terms 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.):
From six to nine parachutes were seen.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

The flight in which A/C 203 was flying number three was out of position and to the left of the lead flight at the time of the attack.

8. Date of report 27 March 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
1.	<u>Myron E. Francisco, Jr.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-2051238</u>	<u>44-8157</u>
2.	<u>Delmar L. Stanley</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-775174</u>	<u>43-37733</u>
3.	<u>Jesse E. Castanias</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-831918</u>	<u>43-39200</u>
4.	<u>Josey H. Nelson</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-1044628</u>	<u>44-8157</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill
HUGH M. HAMILL 1st Lt. O-571919 Asst. Gr. S-2
(Sign) (Rank) (A.S.N.) (Duty)

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 5, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) G-8-147-2, subject "Rescue Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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2nd Lt John W. Schwikert	Mr. William W. Schwikert, (Father) 50 Roseview Ave Rochester, New York ✓
2nd Lt Quentin P. Thompson	Mr. Helen V. Thompson, (Mother) 312 South 12th Avenue Mount Vernon, New York
2nd Lt Reuben O. Everett	Mrs. Margaret Everett, (Mother) ✓ 1308 Dickerson Ave Greenville, North Carolina
Sgt Hugh Burton	Mr. Emerson J. Burton, (Father) ✓ 815 North Forest Street Chanute, Kansas
Sgt Emilio D. Biagini	Mrs. Josephine Biagini, (Mother) ✓ 3464 San Pablo Dam Road Richmond, California
Sgt Rayford L. Brooks	Mrs. Elizabeth S. Brooks, (Wife) ✓ B-2 4th St Trion, Georgia
Sgt Douglas R. Barron	Mrs. Lenora R. Barron, (Mother) ✓ 1257 Pecan Street Arlene, Texas
Sgt Irving S. Brod	Mrs. Millicent Brod, (Mother) ✓ 146 Raymond Avenue Santa Monica, California
Sgt James C. Taber, Jr.	Mrs. June E. Taber, (Mother) 4204 West 61st Street Los Angeles, California