

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.

AAF Station

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name 111; Command or Air Force 8th
Group 306th Bomb(H) Squadron 423rd Bomb(H) Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Thurleigh, Eng Course as prescribed
Target or Intended Destination Hanover; Type of Mission Heavy Bomb
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather was clear and visibility excellent
4. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month Oct Year 44; Time 1222; and Location Over North Sea
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(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: Aircraft collided in air with another of the same formation
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 43-37976
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any Lilly Marlene
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-022853; (b) SW-022932; (c) 41-56477; (d) SW-022687
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
* (a) s-1214296; (b) s-1214617; (c) s-1214566; (d) 1214267; (e) s-1214200; (f) s-1214325; (g) s-1214405; (h) 1214546; (i) s-1214539; (j) s-1214540; (k) s-1214600; (l) s-1214287; (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
KIA	1. Pilot-Pilot	M Mathis, Joseph B. III	Capt	0-748205	MTA ✓
KIA	2. Pilot-CoPilot	M Lowe, Joseph E.	Major	0-724784	MTA ✓
KIA	3. Navigator-Navigator	M Siler, Gorman W.	1st Lt	0-717524	MTA ✓
KIA	4. Bombardier-Nose Gun.	M Brill, Ivan	1st Lt	0-761395	MTA ✓
KIA	5. Aer. Gun-Top Turr Gun.	M Maupin, John P.	T/Sgt	39079641	MTA ✓
KIA	6. Radio Opr-Radio Opr.	M Covington, William R.	T/Sgt	33632928	MTA ✓
KIA	7. Aer. Gun-Ball Turr Gun.	M Cooke, Creston O. Jr.	S/Sgt	13176302	MTA ✓
KIA	8. Aer. Eng Gun-Waist Gun.	M Kasniersky, Joe A.	S/Sgt	18186747	MTA ✓
KIA	9. Aer. Gun-Tail Gun.	M Reimann, Carroll L.	S/Sgt	37572550	MTA ✓
	10.				
	11.				

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-CRAFT, 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>Brown, Harold (MI)</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-764201</u>		<u>X</u>		
2.						
3.						

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 EYEWITNESS 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 Air Sea Rescue (unit unknown)
conducted search and picked up three members of other aircraft
involved in collision. (one man is still alive)

Date of Report 25 October 1944

Robert T. Morris
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

ROBERT T. MORRIS,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See S-2 Report.



GROUP 306th Bomb Gp (H)SQ 423 Bomb Sq/C No. 43-37976 MISSION DATE 22/10/44.

FIRST PILOT JOSEPH B. MATHIS III, Capt. O-748205 DESTINATION Hanover.
NAME RANK ASN

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

- (a) By coordinates App. 5250N-0223E
- (b) Approximate altitude 12,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading Crashed into sea
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation See No. 7

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

None

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

Aircraft broke up and exploded

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

aircraft exploded after collision.

(over)

9656-B

9656-Ex

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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)

2 to 5 parachutes seen

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Aircraft No. 43-37976, Pilot, Capt Mathis, flying in #4 position of high Sq. collided with lead aircraft of high Sq., and both planes went down with several crews reporting 5 chutes. At the time of the accident weather was clear, visibility was excellent and formation good. The lead aircraft reduced speed while in gradual climb, as evidenced by radio conversation between lead aircraft and Lt. H. Brown (witness) the latter asking the lead Pilot what his airspeed was and lead pilot replying 140 mph. (see below)

Date of report

26 Oct., 1944.

EYE-WITNESSES: NAME RANK ASN A/C No.

1. BROWN, HAROLD (NMI) 1st Lt 0-764201 43-37598

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and on copy):

John M. Kavanaugh
NAME RANK ASN DUTY
JOHN M. KAVANAUGH, Captain 0-578133 S-2 Officer.

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Remarks cont'd— At about this time Lt Mathis' aircraft overran slid ahead and under lead aircraft. Lt Mathis' aircraft held his position without losing altitude or making any attempt to clear. For about 10 seconds planes remained together then collided. Air Sea Rescue picked up three men from other crew. Two were dead and One was alive.