

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

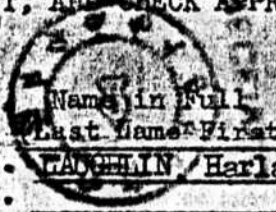
IMPORTANT: This Report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name AAF Sta 111 Command or Air Force 8th Group 306th Bomb; Squadron 423rd Bomb; ~~Detachment~~
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Thurleigh, Eng. Course as prescribed
Target or Intended Destination Berlin, Ger. Type of Mission heavy bomb
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Solid overcast to 23,000 feet
4. GIVE: (a) Day 5 Month Dec Year 44; Time 1103; and Location Over Target of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 42-39963 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Little Lulu
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-103007; (b) 43-57185; (c) SW-008284; (d) 43-64819
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
* (a) F-649354; (b) F-650477; (c) S-330718; (d) F-380416;
(e) S-931476; (f) S-931475; (g) S-930294; (h) S-930284;
(i) S-930885; (j) S-930929; (k) KH-667001; (l) S-930752;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) ~~Missing in Action~~
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.)

*KU 559A
KU 559*

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status	Other
1. Pilot-Pilot	Wetstler, Wayne M.	2nd Lt	0-824978	MIA MIA	KIA ✓
2. Pilot-Co-Pilot	Banko, Andrew Jr.	2nd Lt	0-850905	MIA MIA	KIA ✓
3. Navigator-Nav.	Gulbert, Samuel J. Jr.	F/O	T-128710	POW MIA	RMC
4. Bombardier-Nose G.	Realy, Arthur G.	2nd Lt	0-712273	POW MIA	RMC R.T.D
5. Aer. Eng-Top Tur. G.	Jarvis, Robert D.	S/Sgt	32860800	MIA MIA	MIA R.T.D
6. Radio Opr-Radio Opr.	Frantz, Donald R.	S/Sgt	37702939	MIA MIA	MIA R.T.D
7. Arm. Gun-Ball Tur.	Orschan, Daniel R.	Sgt	42060684	MIA MIA	KIA ✓
8. Arm. Gun-Waist Gun	Laubach, Charles C. Jr.	Sgt	33731026	MIA MIA	KIA ✓
9. Arm. Gun-Tail Gun.	Eschenbach, William J.	Sgt	15344408	MIA MIA	KIA
10.					
11.					

12. 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	Saw Last Sighted	Saw Forced Crash Landing
1. <u>WAGGONER, Harlan L.</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>0-664411</u>		<u>X</u>	
2.					
3.					

* F-Brigade
S-Savage

(Over)

In checking by

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 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 _____

Unknown

None

Date of Report 12 December, 1944.

J. A. La Motta
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

J. A. La MOTTA, Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See S-2 Report attached

I Incl: -
Incl 1 S-2 Report (in quad)



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11038-3

GROUP 306th Bomb Gp SQ 423rd Bomb Sq/C No. 42-39963 MISSION DATE 5/12/44

FIRST PILOT Stetler, Wayne M. 2nd Lt 0-824978 DESTINATION Berlin
NAME RANK ASN

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

- (a) By coordinates Approximately 5230N - 1320E
- (b) Approximate altitude 26,500
- (c) Last noted heading Made 360° turn then went down
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Dropped from formation at target

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

At target moderate tracking on lead and high, inaccurate on low. Barrage North of MPI. Meager AA fire before target and on way out. No fighter opposition. Aircraft in question flying in High Squadron.

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

Unknown

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft appeared to go down under control.

(over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11-3384X

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 observed to come from aircraft.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

8. Date of report 10 December, 1944

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>Laughlin, Harlan, L.</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>O-664477</u>	<u>101 8724</u>
2.				
3.				
4.				

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and on copy):

<u>John M. Kavanaugh</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>O-578133</u>	<u>S-2 Officer.</u>
NAME	RANK	ASN	DUTY
JOHN M. KAVANAUGH,			

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~