

~~SECRET~~  
L. L. BROWN, Lt. Col., AF  
U. S. AIR FORCE - AF

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

7823

Classification changed  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by E. F. BRADY, Lt. Col., AO  
by F. M. BUNN, Capt., 10

MISSING AIR CRAFT 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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 131; Command or Air Force 8th Air Force  
Group 398th Bomb Ev; Squadron 603rd Bomb Ev; Detachment None
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 131 Course per attach track chart  
Intended Destination Luern, Germany & Return Type of Mission Operational

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Six (6) to seven (7) tenths cloud coverage-visibility unrestricted, horizontally 12-15 MI

4. GIVE: (a) Date 28 July 1944; Time approx 0939; and Location Near IP (Sonderhausen)  
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.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one ( ) Enemy Aircraft, (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft, ( ) Other Circumstances as Follows \_\_\_\_\_

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-102579
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) SW-014836; (b) SW-014737; (c) SW-014841; (d) SW-014750
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
(a)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	731306
(b)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	713038
(c)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1528629
(d)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1578660
(e)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	648945
(f)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	647186
(g)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	77867
(h)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	972100
(i)	General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1528263
(j)	General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1529050
(k)	General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	1529013
(l)	General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	971967

*cl*

*OVS A*

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

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*Jul 23'*

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10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	Serial Number	Remarks
1. Pilot	MEYER, WILBUR S	1st Lt	0-705292	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	WILLIAMS, CLAUDE A	2nd Lt	0-757762	RTD
3. Navigator	WILKINS, JOSEPH H	2nd Lt	0-757762	RTD
4. Bombardier	WOOLLEY, ROBERT A	2nd Lt	58724852	RTD
5. Eng TURRET GUNNER	Boersma, Ted	T Sgt	11025576	RTD
6. Radio Gunner	Zelky, Eugene	T Sgt	11025576	RTD
7. Left Waist Gunner	Ford, Leon W	S Sgt	5764589	RTD
8. Ball Turret Gunner	Howey, Richard H	S Sgt	12696516	RTD
9. Tail Gunner	Harrington, Robert E	S Sgt		
10.				
11.				
12.				

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)

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. KOVACEV, STEPHAN	T Sgt	35292202		X		
2. MORRIS, STACEY, JR.	S Sgt	35652394		X		
3. HUMBERT, JAMES A	S Sgt	35408499		X		

12. 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
Aircraft was under control when last seen.

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

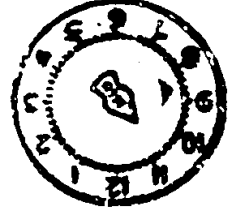
14. EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT:

(Eye Witness Statements Attached)

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE no knowledge of any search being made.

Date of Report 31 July 1944

RECEIVED



*Wallis L. Campbell*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
WALLIS L CAMPBELL  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Statistical Control Officer

SEP 18 1944

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398th Bombardment Group Ev  
Leuna, Germany Mission 28 July 1944

## Lead Group "A" 1st CBW Formation after Assembly

			F-12 <u>SIVERAL</u> <u>DOUGLAS</u> <u>7746-F</u>				
		C-3 <u>Ford</u> <u>2467-J</u>		F-10 <u>BESTERVELT</u> <u>RICE</u> <u>7975-P</u>			
	C-5 <u>Nelson</u> <u>7399-H</u>				C-1 <u>Elwood</u> <u>2390-X</u>		
C-2 <u>Fritog</u> <u>2592-G</u>		C-6 <u>Wheeler</u> <u>7249-P</u>			C-1 <u>Searl</u> <u>2536-C</u>		C-2 <u>Menzel</u> <u>7287-B</u>
	B-1 <u>Kaufman</u> <u>2466-Q</u>						
B-8 <u>Sieaman</u> <u>7977-R</u>		B-5 <u>Fisher</u> <u>7078-U</u>					

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## High Group "A" 1st CBW Formation After Assembly

			D-7 <u>Griffen</u> <u>7874-W</u>				
			D-5 <u>Darner</u> <u>7401-T</u>		D-1 <u>Heintzelman</u> <u>7098-Y</u>		
	D-10 <u>Hornshuh</u> <u>7385-X</u>				D-6 <u>Davis, J H</u> <u>2565-M</u>		
D-2 <u>Farnsworth</u> <u>7889-E</u>		D-3 <u>Wierney</u> <u>7509-F</u>		D-4 <u>Fairbanks</u> <u>7190-L</u>		D-3 <u>McCarty</u> <u>2516-H</u>	
	B-4 <u>Durtschi</u> <u>7825-J</u>				D-10 <u>Slavin</u> <u>2607-F</u>		
C-4 <u>Engel</u> <u>7214-V</u>		B-3 <u>Dwyer</u> <u>2579-C</u>					

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## Low Group "A" 1st CBW Formation After Assembly

			F-9 <u>Allen</u> <u>2610-Y</u>				
		F-4 <u>Clark</u> <u>7183-J</u>		F-2 <u>Woodson</u> <u>2543-B</u>			
	F-3 <u>Turner</u> <u>7387-R</u>				F-6 <u>Ryan</u> <u>7387-M</u>		
F-7 <u>Roderick</u> <u>7374-X</u>		F-3 <u>Dollar</u> <u>2593-C</u>		F-6 <u>Boehme</u> <u>7084-M</u>		F-7 <u>Ludow</u> <u>2597-V</u>	
	B-6 <u>Lassegard</u> <u>2570-P</u>						
B-7 <u>Schrenthold</u> <u>7138-T</u>		B-5 <u>Bowden</u> <u>5083-V</u>					

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102579, Pilot 1st Lt  
Wilbur S Dwyer, O-808396, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group missing  
from operational mission to Leuna, Germany 28 July 1944.

On the 28th day of July on way to Leuna, Germany I saw Lt Dwyer  
feather his number three engine after it had been smoking badly. He  
then dropped back, because he could not keep up with the formation. After  
about ten minutes of falling back he started his engine again, but again  
it started smoking. This time he dropped way back and knowing he could not  
keep up with the formation he peeled off to the right. This was the last  
time I saw him.

*Stephen Kovacev*

STEPHEN KOVACEV, 36292252  
S Sgt, 602nd Bomb Sq.  
Radio Gunner, B17G 42-102593

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**Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102579, Pilot, 1st Lt Wilbur S Dwyer, O-698596, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group missing from Leuna, Germany mission 28 July 1944.**

I was flying as ball turret gunner on Lt Wierney's crew on a raid of Leuna, Germany 28 July 1944 when I saw Lt Dwyer feather a propellor.

I noticed that he had trouble holding his position as number two ship of second element in low squadron, high group, but his engine wasn't smoking. About ten minutes from the target, Lt Dwyer made a turn to the right and was heading for home.

We had fighter support on that day and when Lt Dwyer started back, I saw some fighters, which were flying just above the clouds, head toward his plane. Whether they were our fighters or German I don't know because they were too far away to recognize.

We were over the target shortly after and I didn't see what happened to Lt Dwyer.

*Stacey Morris, Jr.*

STACEY MORRIS, JR., 35532394  
S/Sgt, 601st Bomb Sq.  
Ball Turret Gunner, B17G 43-37509

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102579, Pilot, 1st Lt Wilbur S Dwyer, O-808596, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Leuna, Germany 28 July 1944.

I was flying with Lt Durtschi as Tail Gunner on the raid to Leuna, Germany on 28 July 1944. We were flying lead of second element of low squadron, high group and Lt Dwyer was flying number two position of second element of 398th squadron high group. On way to target Lt Dwyer had trouble holding his position in formation because of prop wash.

About ten minutes from the target Lt Dwyer feathered his number three engine. His aircraft then dropped out of formation. Shortly after, he started the engine and caught up with our formation but at a lower altitude. It was evident he couldn't keep the engine going as he again feathered it and dropped further back. He then salvaged his bomb load and made a right turn heading toward another group that had hit the target and was on course home. I observed no smoke or fire from the aircraft.

*James A. Humbert*

JAMES A HUMBERT, 35602499  
S/Sgt, 603rd Bomb Sq  
Tail Gunner, B17G 43-37625

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HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Eugene ZOLDY T/Sgt LIC65576 9 September 1944  
(Name) (Rank) ASN (Date)

603 Bomb Squadron, 398 Bomb Group R&E 1855  
(Unit) (IS9(WEA)/6/79/725)

					PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS
	<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				
PILOT	0-808596	1st Lt	William S Dwyer		Z/W
CO-PILOT	0-699497	2nd Lt	Claude A WILLIAMS		P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-703292	2nd Lt	Joseph MUIZ		P/W
BOMBARDIER	0-757762	2nd Lt	Robert A WOOLLEY		P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	11065576	T/Sgt	Eugene ZOLDY		RETD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	36724862	T/Sgt	Ted BORSENA		P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	11082576	S/Sgt	Leon W FORD		RETD
WAIIST GUNNER	37665898	S/Sgt	Richard HOVEY		P/W
WAIIST GUNNER	NONE				
TAIL GUNNER	12096638	S/Sgt	Robert R HARRINGTON		P/W

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

28 July 1944; 1200 hours; vicinity of Maredret.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Three engines were throwing out oil continuously.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

900 feet.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

All bailed out and all chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Yes

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Yes, S/Sgt Leon Ford.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Yes; S/Sgt Leon Ford was with the underground; S/Sgt Hovey was turned over to the Germans because proper medical attention could not be given.  
Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

Plane exploded and blew up four houses.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

Not given.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

Chutes were too small and three men that I know of sprained or broke their ankles. The pilot escaped but no one knew where he was and the rest were prisoners. S/Sgt Ford and Hovey were identified by name.



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HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
P/W and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Leon F FORD S/Sgt. 11082376  
(Name) (Rank) ASN

11 September 1944  
(Date)

603 Bomb Squadron, 398 Bn, Group  
(Unit)

R&E 1980  
(IS9(WEA)/6/125/846)

	<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>	<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-808596 1st Lt Wilbur S Dwyer ✓	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-699497 2nd Lt Claude A WILLIAMS ✓	P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-705292 2nd Lt Joseph MITZ ✓	P/W
BOBARDIER	0-757762 2nd Lt Robert A WOOLLEY ✓	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	11065576 T/Sgt Eugene GOLDY	RTD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	36724862 T/Sgt Ted BORSIEMA ✓	P/W
RAIL TURRET GUNNER	11082376 S/Sgt Leon F FORD	RTD
W/ST GUNNER	37665898 S/Sgt Richard HURLEY ✓	P/W
W/ST GUNNER	NONE	
TAIL GUNNER	12096618 S/Sgt Robert E HARRINGTON	P/W

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
28 July 1944; 1200 hours;

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Three engines out; no fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

900 feet.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

All members bailed out and 11 chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

Yes.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Yes, one alive.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Yes, was told by underground of 6 prisoners. Radio operator and I were together.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

Crashed on land.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

Six of the crew are prisoners; informed by underground. Two were with the underground. The pilot was missing but believed safe.

7522

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
DROPT DOWN

28 July 44, time: 1215

CASUALTY NO. EG 2573

NAME OF ORIGIN Charlooi

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE Air District Belgian North France

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
WOOLLEY Robert A.	2nd/Lt.	0-757762	captured	Dulag Luft
WILLIAMS Claude Armin	"	0-699497	"	" "
DWYER Wilbur Stevens	1st/Lt.	0-808596	"	" "
HARRINGTON Robert Edward	S/Sgt.	12096618	"	" "
BOERSMA Ted	T/Sgt.	36724862	"	" "
MUTZ Joseph	Lt.	0-703292	wounded	Hospital, 23 Aug 44 Dulag.
HOVEY Richard	Sgt.	37665898	"	dto.

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft, 18 Aug 44 Wc.

7-23-53

On File:

- 1 Identification tag Mr. Richard H. BUVK, 37665876 T 43-43 0/P
- 1 " " Joseph H. WITZ 0-703032 T 43-4 0/0
- 1 " " Calisto A. F. LIANE 0-699697 T 43-43 12/P
- 1 " " Ted KOESK. 3672282 T 43-43 1/P
- 1 " " William E. WYER 0-305596 T 42-2-4 0/2
- 1 " " Robert A. MOORPHY 0-757752 T 42-2-4 0/P
- 1 Officer's Identification Card No. 1053630

7-23-53

22 July 1944

Report on captured enemy aircraft equipment  
and captured members of enemy air forces.

Distributed to:  
Computing Station West Brussels 1.x

Time of crash: 22 July 1944, Time 1235 (shot down on way back)  
 Place of crash: Luxembourg-Sudwet (village), 12 km NE of Luxembourg  
 Type of craft: Boeing B 17 E  
 Cause: burned out in crash, wreckage 07-90 %  
 Kind of capture: probably land-air craft  
 Search for crew: started by Headquarters A, Air Field Luxembourg  
 at Charleroi, Time 1400  
 Guard with captured air-craft: A. Air Field Luxembourg, E (v) 215/II, Air Field Command Council  
 Captured navigation- and P.T. Data: 1 geographic map and 2 navigation and P.T. Data  
 Captured crew: 5 acc as follows:  
 Sgt. BOWEN, Robert, 0-27000, wounded, St. Gilles, transferred to Computing Station West  
 Sgt. BARNETT, Robert, 0-27000  
 2nd Lt. WILSON, Thomas, 0-27000 T 15-2-10  
 2nd Lt. BROWN, Robert, 0-27000 T 15-2-10  
 2nd Lt. WOOD, Robert, 0-27000 T 15-2-10  
 Sgt. BROWN, Tom, 0-27000 T 15-2-10

Date and place of capture: 22 July 1944, Etc.

Signature: [illegible] Sgt.

Technical Data:

Wreckage: Fuelage 100 % ; Serial gear / 1 ; Wings 100 % ; Engines 50 %  
 Type of Motor: Standard  
 1.) 1/2 A 01478 2.) 1/2 A 01478 3.) 1/2 A 01478 4.) 1/2 A 01478  
 5) 5/5 S 01480T 6) 5/5 S 01480T 7) 5/5 S 01480T 8) 5/5 S 01480T  
 9) 5/5 S 01480T 10) 5/5 S 01480T 11) 5/5 S 01480T 12) 5/5 S 01480T

Motor Propeller: 3 blades, 4-bladed. Type: Hamilton Standard  
 Propeller Radius: 1 - 1/2 ft. Blade on this sort has a length of 126 in  
 0,7 - 0,8 - 1,0

(sketch on page 2)





1st Lt. Edgar S. Dyer

Mrs. John P. Dyer (mother)  
4015 Walnut Street,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

1st Lt. Charles A. Williams

Mrs. Ira B. Williams (mother)  
1109 15th Avenue North East,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

1st Lt. Robert A. Wollay

Mrs. Helen E. Wollay (wife)  
3015 Olive Street,  
Washington Park, California.

1st Lt. Joseph L. Tate

Mrs. Lydia A. Tate (wife)  
1001 Market  
Berkeley, California.

1st Lt. Paul Strauss

Mrs. Emma E. Strauss (mother)  
1124 West Superior Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois.

1st Lt. Eugene Kelly

Mrs. Florence Kelly (mother)  
1015 1st Street  
Berkeley, California.

1st Lt. Paul P. Bond

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Bond (mother)  
1115 1st Street  
Berkeley, California.

1st Lt. Robert E. Cunningham

Mrs. Mary E. Cunningham (mother)  
1115 1st Street  
Berkeley, California.

1st Lt. Richard E. Harty

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Harty (mother)  
1115 1st Street  
Berkeley, California.







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Case #2