

8917

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Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AS
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date ~~MAR 15 1948~~

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by A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUNCH, Capt., AC

Date: 11-1-58

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

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. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name NUTHAMPTON, ENG Group 398th Bomb Hq
Squadron 602nd Bomb Hq; Detachment None
Command or Air Force 8th Air Force
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure AAF Station 131 Course: per atchd chart
Target or Intended Destination Brux, Czechoslovakia
Type of Mission Operational Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR LAST CONTACT: 2-3 tenths coverage, Vis 15-20 miles, Moderate-Consistent Contrails
4. GIVE: (a) Day 12 Month SEPT Year 44; Time Approx 1130 Location 5124N-1446E of last known whereabouts of missing A/C.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (x); forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not available ().
5. AIRCRAFT WAS DOWN, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT of: (Check only one) enemy aircraft (); enemy anti-aircraft (); other circumstances as follows: Acrft was still under control when last contacted, but couldn't maintain speed to stay with formation.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B17G; AAF Serial No. 42-102597
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any "STINKER"
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Serial R-1820-97
AAF Serial No. (a) SW-010180; (b) SW-010123; (c) SW-011425
(d) SW-015546
9. INSTALLATION(S) (Furnish below name, Type and Serial Number); see attached list: (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____; (e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____; (i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____; (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE AIRCRAFT WAS DOWN OR BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AS A RESULT of: (a) Battle Casualty MIA or (b) Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 8; Passengers 0; Total 8

(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than one person was aboard aircraft list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this report.)

Crew Position (Last Name First) Rank Current Number Status

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------|-----|-----|
| 1. Pilot | <u>W</u> FIELDS, JAMES B | 2nd Lt | 0-813359 | MIA | KIR |
| 2. Co-Pilot | <u>W</u> CRANSTON, LYMAN N JR | 2nd Lt | 0-761565 | MIA | RTD |
| 3. Navigator | <u>W</u> WHITE, GOODRICH C, JR | 2nd Lt | 0-712714 | MIA | XLA |
| 4. Bombardier | <u>W</u> CONSER, BILLY G | 2nd Lt | 0-756972 | MIA | |
| 5. Top Turret Gunner | <u>W</u> MULLENDORE, EDWARD L | S Sgt | 35099180 | MIA | |
| 6. Radio Operator | <u>W</u> GOODMAN, RICHARD S | S Sgt | 13107139 | MIA | |
| 7. Right Waist Gunner | <u>W</u> LEACH, MARVIN F | Sgt | 35094698 | MIA | |
| 8. Ball Turret Gunner | <u>W</u> SOMERS, JAMES H | Sgt | 35583014 | MIA | |
| 9. Tail Gunner | <u>W</u> VANLUVEN, GEORGE N | Sgt | 36831007 | MIA | |

C O N F I D E N T I A L

12. IDENTIFY PERSONS FROM CREW WHO WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT SCENE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR BELIEF:

| Name in Full (Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Check Only One Column | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | | | Contacted by Radio | Last Sighted | Saw Crash Landing | Saw Persons |
| 1. CREECH, WARREN | 1st Lt | O-706140 | X | | | |
| 2. LEHARDT, ROGER | 2nd Lt | O-816954 | X | | | |
| 3. DALTON, HOLLIS L | 1st Lt | O-810838 | X | | | |
| 4. ABRUSCH, ROBERT C | 1st Lt | O-702211 | X | | | |


13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DEPARTED, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (a) Direction of travel _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other number (Specify) Aircraft still under control when last contacted.

14. ATTACH AIRCRAFT PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, SKETCH, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE LOCATION MAP SHOWING LAST KNOWN OR BELIEVED POSITION.

15. ATTACH ANY OTHER ORIGINAL OR COPY OF REPORT, POLICE REPORT, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY BE HELD TO BE IMPORTANT.

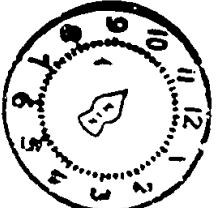
16. CIVIL AID, IF ANY, HAS BEEN OBTAINED OR IS BEING OBTAINED. IF NOT, INDICATE THAT no knowledge of any search being made.

Date of Report 15 September 1944


 WALLIS L. CAMPBELL
 (1st Lt, Air Corps pending Officer)
 Statistical Control Officer

17. REFERENCES OR OTHER ITEMS ATTACHED:
 see atchd statements.

A Call by one of the members of this crew from Stockholm, Sweden is supposed to have been received by a Military Attache in London.

RECEIVED

 OCT 10 1944

C O N F I D E N T I A L

INSTALLED WEAPONS

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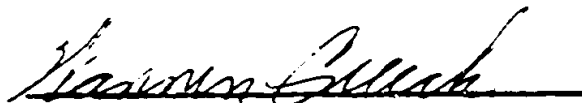
| <u>Manufacturer</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Serial Number</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 713172 |
| 2. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 731145 |
| 3. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 152892 |
| 4. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 1528600 |
| 5. Buffalo Arms | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 1299377 |
| 6. Frigidaire Div | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 77867 |
| 7. High Standard | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 601413 |
| 8. Frigidaire Div | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 972022 |
| 9. Buffalo Arms | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 1299591 |
| 10. Frigidaire Div. | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 972086 |
| 11. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 1299475 |
| 12. General Motors | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 1528640 |
| 13. Colts | .50 Cal A/C Mach Gun | 255462 |

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102597, Pilot
2nd Lt James B Fields, O-813359, 602nd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb
Group Bv on Operational Mission to Brux, Czechoslovakia 12 September
1944.

I heard Lt Field call up and tell the wing leader that he was
about five miles behind the formation and unable to catch up. He
asked the wing leader what he suggested to do; the wing leader
suggested that he return home. I heard him remark that he was
turning back. Our Navigator noted our position at that time as
being 5124N-1446E.



WARREN CREECH, O-706140
1st Lt, Air Corps
Co-Pilot, B17G 42-97810

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Statement Concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102597, Pilot, 2nd Lt James B Fields, O-813359, 602nd Bomb Squadron, 338th Bomb Group BV on Operational Mission to Brux, Czechoslovakia, 12 September 1944.

We were flying lead of the low squadron in the high group on the mission 12 Sept 1944 to Brux, Czechoslovakia. Lt Fields called the lead ship and told them he was having trouble. They called him back and told him to stick with them as long as possible. About this time fighters hit the wing ahead of us. The second time I heard him call, he stated he was lagging and would have to turn back. He wondered whether he should salvo his bombs or take them back. They told him to salvo his bombs and stick with the formation. The next time he called he said he had salvoed his bombs, feathered his prop, that he was five miles behind the formation, and he asked for fighters for cover home. The lead ship told him that they had failed to contact fighter support but to turn back and try to contact them himself. At this time we were right around Berlin just about ready to make the turn to the right on course.

Roger Leukhardt

ROGER LEUKHARDT, O-816954
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, B17G 42-102610-Y

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Statement Concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102597, Pilot, 2nd Lt
James B Fields, O-813359, 602nd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group BV
on Operational Mission to Brux, Czechoslovakia 12 September 1944.

About forty-five minutes before we reached the enemy coast, Lt Fields called in and said he had lost on supercharger and he requested permission to stay with the formation with his bomb load until he got to altitude and see if he could maintain his position in the formation. At this time we were at approximately fifteen thousand feet. Somebody, who I thought to be Major Rooney, called him and told him how to recover his supercharger. He was drawing eighteen inches manifold pressure and he stated just after he received these instructions that he had recovered his supercharger, however, approximately when we reached the enemy coast near Hamburg he called again and stated the he had lost his supercharger and could not maintain his position in the formation. This is the last call I heard him make. He left the formation in approximately ten or fifteen minutes before we encountered fighters. We were at this time at 23,000 feet and still climbing.

Hollis L Dalton

HOLLIS L DALTON, O-810838
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, B17G 42-97746

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Statement Concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 42-102597, Pilot
2nd Lt James B Fields, O-813359, 602nd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb
Group Hq on Operational Mission to Brux, Czechoslovakia 12 September
1944.

Just after we made our turn to the right as our course near Berlin,
Germany, I heard Lt Fields call up and say that he couldn't keep up
with the formation. They told him to try to stay with the formation.
He called back a little later (~~at about 1115~~) stating that he couldn't
keep up with the formation so they told him to go back home and they
wouldd try to get fighters for him. Just about this time enemy fighters
moved in under us and hit the wing ahead. I heard no more from
Lt Fields.

Robert C. Abresch

ROBERT C ABRESCH, O-702211
1st Lt, Air Corps
Co-Pilot, B17G 42- 102507

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

S U M M A R Y O F M I S S I N G A I R C R A F T A C C O U N T S

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 398 SC 603 A/C # B-17G 43-102597V MISSION DATE 13 Sept 44

FIRST PILOT Fields, James B. 2nd Lt G-813359 DESTINATION Brux, Czechoslovakia
NAME RANK SER #

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

- (a) By coordinates 5124N-1446E
- (b) Approximate altitude Flight altitude
- (c) Last noted heading Unknown
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation left formation to turn around

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft): Not Known.

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

A/C when last observed was under control.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Under control.

(Over)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation as it last seen with escort, called for. If so, give distinguishing markings of fighter group if noted (group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). Not known whether fighters answered call.

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

No parachutes observed.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

#11

8. Date report 13 September 1944

| <u>YE- NUMBER:</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>SERIAL</u> | <u>A/C #</u> | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | <u>Hough, Luther W. Jr</u> | <u>602</u> | <u>Capt.</u> | <u>0-26307</u> | <u>7810-S</u> |
| 2. | <u>Ballard, Charles W.</u> | <u>600</u> | <u>1st Lt</u> | <u>0-798417</u> | <u>2607-F</u> |
| 3. | <u>McCarty, Wm. A.</u> | <u>601</u> | <u>1st Lt</u> | <u>0-758361</u> | <u>8172-F</u> |
| 4. | <u>Stallcup, Harold K.</u> | <u>601</u> | <u>1st Lt</u> | <u>0-815933</u> | <u>8064-H</u> |

INTERROGATING OFFICER (sign Original and one copy):

Charles H. Troh
NAME

Captain
RANK

0568990
SERIAL

Asst. Intel. O.
DUTY

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in memo prescribed in par C, letter 12, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-M 1-4, subject "Missing Air Crew Reports", 7 July 1944.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|----------|--------|
| 5. Sittler, Wm. A. | 601 | 2nd Lt | 0-764481 | 2596-E |
| 6. Leubharat, Roy W. Jr. | 602 | 2nd Lt. | 0-816954 | 2610-Y |

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398th Bombardment Group Ev
Brux, Czechoslovakia 12 September 1944

LEAD GROUP 1st "A" CBW Formation AFTER ASSEMBLY

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | C-3 Petersen Lamb M-7975-U (PFF) | | | |
| | | | D-7 Delancy N-7203-Z | | F-10 Frazier Dalton E-7746-T (PFF) | | D-8 McCarty N-8172-P |
| D-10 Curtis N-2607-F | D-5 Stallcup N-8064-H | D-6 Sitler N-2596-N | | D-3 Marias N-8129-A | | C-5 Hunt M-8164-H | D-8 Regers N-7338-C |
| | | | D-4 Comrow N-7190-L | | D-1 Morrison N-7060-S | | |

LOW GROUP 1st "A" CBW Formation AFTER ASSEMBLY

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | | | C-7 Pappas Rice M-8147-L | | | |
| | | | C-4 Ballard M-2507-F | | C-5 Shott M-8126-J | | B-7 Mann A-7138-T |
| C-1 Atkinson M-2390-X | C-9 Slavin M-7846-T | B-8 Matthews A-7977-R | | B-6 Halstead A-8086-C | B-2 Hansord A-7789-H | | B-7 Zimmer A-7053-M |
| | | | C-8 Cummings M-2519-A | | B-3 McLaughlin A-8075-A | | |

HIGH GROUP 1st "A" CBW Formation AFTER ASSEMBLY

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | | F-2 Scott E-2543-B | | | |
| | | | F-3 Hancock E-2593-C | | F-8 Hough E-7810-S | | |
| D-5 Erler N-7401-T | F-9 Leukardt E-2610-Y | B-5 Hall A-2562-G | | | F-7 Rudow E-7374-X | | F-4 Hersberger E-7183-J |
| | | | F-7 Fields E-2597-V | | F-5 Griffin E-2506-L | | |
| | | B-4 Connolly A-8091-L | | | F-4 Evans E-7150-K | | |

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| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| MIA | 2nd Lt. James E. Fields | Mrs. James E. Fields (Wife) 712 Marx Street, Fishman, Kentucky |
| MIA | 2nd Lt. Ignace E. Cranston, Jr. | Mrs. Baby T. Cranston (Mother) 21 Pond Street, Wainfield, Rhode Island. |
| MIA | 2nd Lt. Godrich C. White, Jr. | Doctor Godrich C. White (Father) 2014 North Decatur Road, Atlanta, Georgia. |
| MIA | 1st Lt. Billy G. Ganser | Mrs. Dorothy E. Ganser (Wife) 134 South Eastman Street, Bremen, Michigan. |
| MIA | S/Sgt Edward L. Mullenbore | Mrs. Clara E. Mullenbore (Wife) 408 East 9th Street, Fors, Indiana. |
| MIA | S/Sgt Richard S. Goodman | Mrs. Rose Goodman (Mother) 2100 Wilbur Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. |
| MIA | Sgt. Marvin F. Leach | Mrs. Madeline V. Leach (Mother) 211 North Mackley Street, Munich, Indiana. |
| MIA | Sgt. James E. Scurry | Mrs. Elizabeth Scurry (Mother) 222 Park Avenue, Chester, Indiana. |
| MIA | Sgt. George H. Van Dusen | Mrs. Emily I. Van Dusen (Mother) 738 Cassin, Smilt Saint Marie, Michigan. |

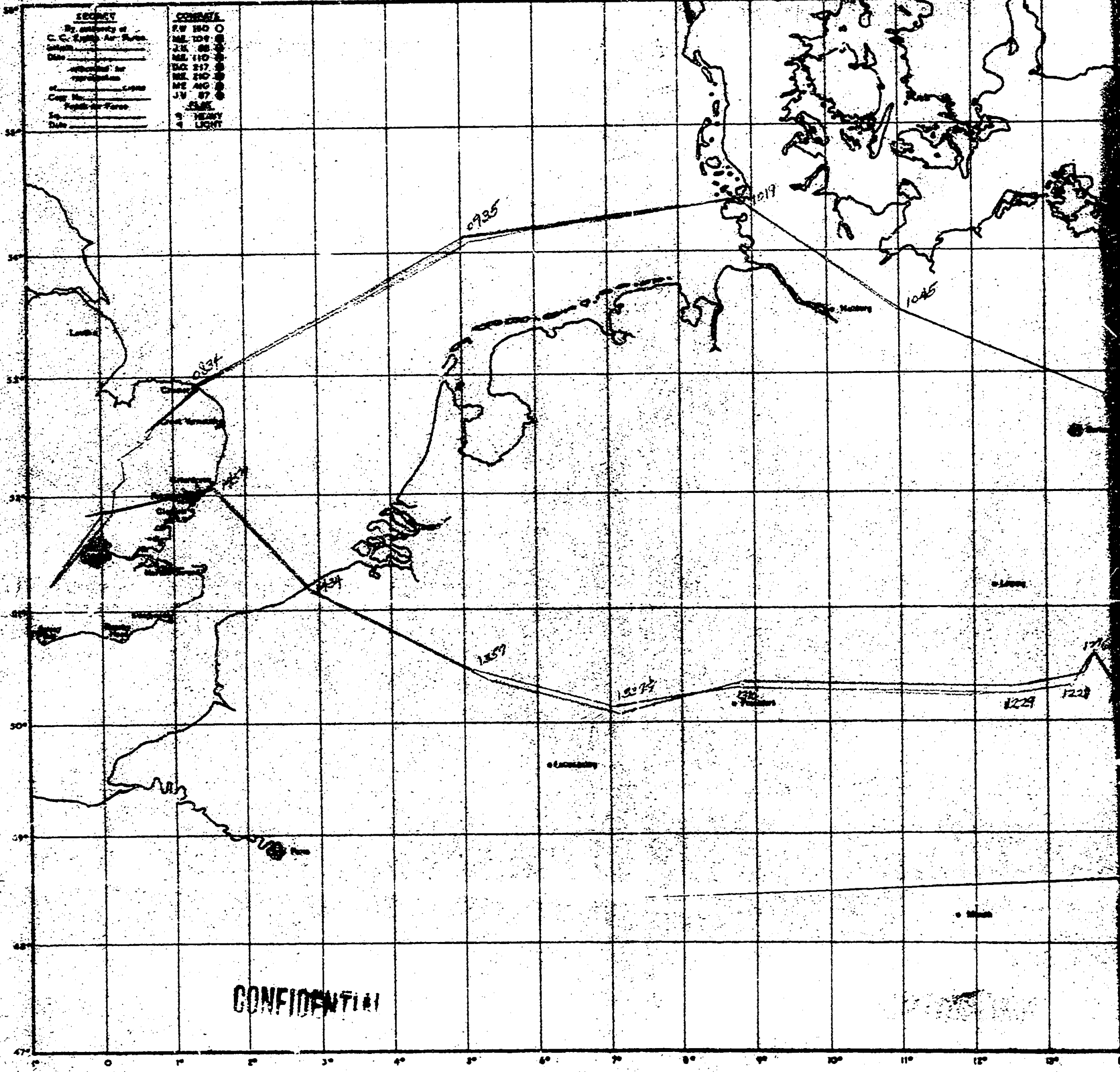
TARGETS:

PRIMARY

1742, 1045, 1228

TRACK
DATE *12-5-57*

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TRACK CHART
 DATE 12 Sept 44

DATE 12 Sept 44 ROUTE FOLLOWED BY 291 B-24G
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