

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 765072,
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

13090

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Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by N. S. STANFORD, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [unclear], Capt., AC
Date 1 APR 1952

4378

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADYAS, Lt. Col., AC
by P. M. WISCH, Capt., AC
Date - **MAR 1945**

CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

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.

- ORGANIZATION:** Location, by Name Nuthampstead, England Group 398th Bomb Hq
Squadron 603rd Bomb Hq Detachment NONE
Command of Air Force 8th AIR FORCES
- SPECI:** Place of Departure Nuthampstead, England Course 333
Target or Intended Destination Granienburg, Germany
Type of Mission Operational Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:**
2/10 clouds 27-28,000 feet, visibility unrestricted aloft. Two (2) miles vertically in moderate ground haze, No contrails.
- CLIVE:** (a) Day 15 Month March Year 1945; Time 1528 - Approx and Location
52° 17' N 13° 15' E 52° 45' N 13° 15' E last known whereabouts of missing Aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); Last contacted by radio ()
Forced down (); Seen to crash () or information not available ().
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT of:** (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (X) (Other Circumstances as follows):
- AIRCRAFT:** Type, Model and Series B-27G AAF Serial No. 43-38562
- MARKING OF AIRCRAFT:** Fitty A
- ENGINES:** Type, Model and Series R-820-97 AAF Serial No. (a) 57-026068
(b) 57-025970 (c) 57-026016 (d) 57-029906
- INSTALLED WEAPONS, 50 Cal Aircraft Machine Guns as follows:**

| Make | Serial Number | Make | Serial Number |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| (a) Buffalo Arms | 1316206 | (b) Buffalo Arms | 1315683 |
| (c) Buffalo Arms | 1314986 | (d) Buffalo Arms | 1316384 |
| (e) Buffalo Arms | 1316337 | (f) Buffalo Arms | 1316451 |
| (g) Buffalo Arms | 1318336 | (h) Buffalo Arms | 1316518 |
| (i) Buffalo Arms | 1315166 | (j) Buffalo Arms | 1316232 |
| (k) Buffalo Arms | 1477553 | (l) Buffalo Arms | 14724 |

- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS:** (a) Battle Casualty X
or Non Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT:** Crew 8 Passengers 0 Total 8

Following information listed for personnel aboard aircraft:

| Crew Position | Name in Full | Rank | Serial Number | Current Status |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
| PILOT | ANDREW R. THOMAS | 1st Lt | 0-767686 | MIA KIA |
| Co-Pilot | MAURICE S. FROST | 2nd Lt | 0-772586 | MIA MIA EUS |
| Navigator | ELMER S. SPAN | 2nd Lt | 0-776819 | MIA |
| Radio Operator | ANTHONY G. BUDY'S | T/Sgt | 1110230 | MIA MIA |
| Engineer | JAMES B. PETTELBOHN | T/Sgt | 17159751 | MIA MIA |
| Ball Turret Gun | JAMES A. POWELL | S/Sgt | 33545579 | MIA MIA |
| Wing Gunner | GEORGE R. ORMSBY | S/Sgt | 15082028 | MIA MIA |
| Tail Gunner | WILLIAM H. HILBERBRAND | Opl | 39340502 | MIA MIA |

200

(over)

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND GIVE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WRECKAGE BASED ON STATE:

| <u>Name in Full</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Contacted by Radio</u> | <u>Lost</u> | <u>Saw</u> | <u>Saw Forced Landing</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|----------|--|
| 1. <u>LOUIS F. ALESSIO</u> | <u>2nd Lt</u> | <u>0-2005769</u> | | | <u>X</u> | |
| 2. <u>CLARENCE A. SMITH</u> | <u>S/Sgt</u> | <u>18217799</u> | | | <u>X</u> | |
| 3. <u>JAMES M. HARMAN</u> | <u>S/Sgt</u> | <u>18242311</u> | | | <u>X</u> | |
| 4. <u>JOY G. BERGUSCH</u> | <u>Sgt</u> | <u>39175049</u> | | | <u>X</u> | |

13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE OBSERVED, ANSWER THE QUESTION OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used X; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other Reason (Specify) _____

14. AFFIX MAPS, SKETCHES, OR OTHERS, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS DOWN, AND STATE OF WEATHER AT TIME.

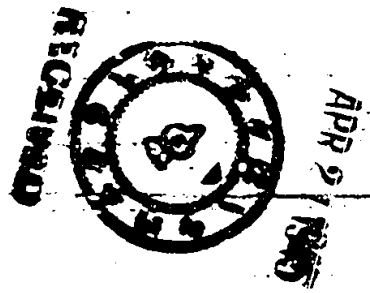
15. LIST ON EYE WITNESSES, LOCATION OF CRASH, PERSONS INVOLVED, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO WRECKAGE OF AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE, NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT _____

Date of Report 21 March 1945

Wallis L. Campbell
WALLIS L. CAMPBELL
Captain, Air Corps

17. REPORTS OF WITNESSES STATEMENTS:
(See attached statements)



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398TH BOMB GP BV
Grandenburg, Germany, 15 March 1945

Formation Plan over Target

15 March 1945

Lead Squadron "A" Group

F-2
Wells
 F-321-F
 C-2
Wells
 F-3699-Q
 B Monitor C-4
Wells
 F-6157-W

B-6
Wheatley
 F-9561-P

D-3
Peterson
 F-1000-R
 D-5
Traylor
 F-8064-H
 Channel No. 2 D-4
Str. Joy
 F-7190-J
 D-5
Hampton
 F-8420-F
 Zets. at E.O.

D-2
Wells
 F-3531-R
 D-6
McGinnis
 F-8130-R
 D-3
Harritt
 F-8458-G
 S-1. (Molayre)

Low Squadron "A" Group

D-6
Thomas
 F-1532-L
 C-2
Shopting
 F-1162-B
 C-6
Wells
 F-6096-W

D-6
Alford
 F-8551-B

D-5
Evers
Hansen
 F-8844-A
 D-4
Worley
 F-8970-A
 S.J. (Sutton)

D-3
Quinn
 F-8559-C

B-1
Stearns
 F-8038-Q
 Ret. at E.O.

D-4
Colman
 F-9101-Z

B-2
Flanagan
 F-8100-W
 S-1. (Lambert)

High Squadron

F-7
Wells
 F-3000-L
 C-4
Wells
 F-6077-W
 B Monitor C-4
Wells
 F-6077-W

F-2
Wells
 F-3000-L
 C-4
Wells
 F-6077-W

D-5
Pryor
 F-8420-F
 Ret. at E.O.

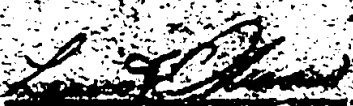
D-4
Wells
 F-3000-L

D-5
Wells
 F-3000-L

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Report concerning missing aircraft B17G 43-38562, Pilot, 1st Lt Andrew A. Thomas, 2-FC236, 503rd Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group Bv on combat mission to Greinburg, Germany, 15 March 1945.

My bombardier made a statement as to seeing a Mosquito throwing chutes out just after target, but on further inspection, the plane was identified as a B-17. Six chutes were seen by the bombardier and myself, as the plane was rapidly descending in opposite direction of formation. As plane passed under our wing, several thousand feet below us, the tail gunner reported seeing three chutes coming out. As to whether the chutes he saw, were the same as those seen by the bombardier and myself is doubtful. The tail gunner followed the plane visually until the tail broke off, and later the wings. Tail gunner made the statement that the plane was headed toward the target bombed.


Louis F. Blumie, 2-FC236
1st Lt 503rd Bomb Sq
B-17G 43-38562

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Statement concerning missing aircraft BU76 45-38562, Pilot, 1st Lt Andrew R. Thomas, O-767696, 603rd Bomb Sq, 598th Bomb Group, BV on combat mission to Gerdaburg, Germany, 15 March 1945.

After our bombs were away and we had started our turn to the left of the target, my tail gunner called B-17 going down and a man bailing out. I picked up the plane and saw the one chute floating down. Tracking the plane, which seemed to be partly under control, with my ball turret, I followed the plane down until it disappeared into the smoke above the target. Both the tail gunner and myself, over the interphone, counted seven chutes, before the ship disappeared. The ship seemed to be partly under control, for it seemed to be falling in a slow circular motion. Smoke from the target seemed to be reaching altitudes of two or more thousands of feet, and I would not attempt to say what led to the ship. Other crew members from the crew reported smoke coming from number four engine, but the target area was very hazy and visibility was from two to three miles. Our position in the formation was number three of the high element of the high squadron.

Andrew R. Thomas
Andrew R. Thomas, 1st Lt
603rd Bomb Sq
598th Bomb Group, BV
15 March 1945, BU76 45-38562

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Statement concerning missing aircraft BL7G 43-38562, Pilot, 1st Lt
Andre R. Thomas, O-767686, 503rd Bomb Sq, 588th Bomb Group FV on
combat mission to Oranienburg, Germany, 15 March 1945.

After getting our bombs away okay on the target SS Oranienburg, Germany,
the group immediately made a turn to the left from the target area. Sud-
denly the bombardier's voice rang out over the interphone, that a plane
(BL7) was hit and going down at 12 o'clock. He also said three chutes
came out at about 11 o'clock. Since my position was in the tail of the air-
craft, I could not possibly see the plane or chutes at that clock position.
I contrived to watch the plane and chutes until they reached 7 o'clock or
7:30 o'clock, when three more chutes suddenly came out of the plane. The
plane was headed for the target area, smoke was two thirds of the way up
to our formation, and the chutes and Bomber were heading into it. But just
before the Bomber made her final plunge into the smoke, another chute blew
some out. The plane then nosed up into a stall on her left wing and dove
into the smoke. There were seven parachutes and they floated into the smoke
of the target. The second group behind us, was over the target and their
bombs were falling. My ship was lead of the High Squadron.

Clarence A. Smith

Clarence A. Smith, 122179
S/Sgt 602nd Bomb Sq
Mail Number, AFPC 44-243

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Statement concerning missing aircraft E17C 43-33521, Pilot, 1st Lt
Arthur R. Thomas, S-76706, 603rd Bomb Sq, 190th Bomb Group IV on
combat mission to Oranienburg, Germany, 15 March 1945.

We were on the mission to Oranienburg, Germany, 15 March 1945. Just
after breakfast, a call came over interphone that a B-17 was going
down at 12:30 o'clock. I rolled my turret around in time to see two
chutes open up, quite close together behind the plane. The plane con-
tinued to go down in a wide circle, as four more chutes opened at later
times. Then I saw a dark object go out past the tail of the plane, and
down. I looked over interphone and saw man had jumped, but his chute
had not opened yet. It was evidently a DC type jump, because I saw him open
his chute after he had gone down quite some. When the B-17 of the plane
got quite close to the smoke cloud over the target target, I saw one more
chute get back out. The plane seemed to be making shallow circles, but
still level, until it disappeared from my sight. In the smoke cloud, I saw
no fire or smoke coming from the plane at any time. I saw a total of eight
parachutes open from this aircraft.

Arthur R. Thomas
1st Lt, S-76706
603rd Bomb Sq
190th Bomb Group
US Army Air Corps

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 4 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 398th Bomb Gpqr 603 Bomb Sq A/C # 43-38562-J MISSION DATE 15 Mar 45

FIRST NAME Thomas, Andrew R. RANK 1st Lt O-NUMBER O-76766 DESTINATION Oranienburg, Ger.

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted: Time - 1525

- (a) By coordinates 5245N-1315E
- (b) Approximate altitude 10,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading 080 Magnetic
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation two miles

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

Flak - Moderate and very accurate. No enemy aircraft opposition. Direct flak hit in #3 engine.

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

Flak hit #3 engine and possibly #4 engine. Started a fire in number 3 engine but was subsequently extinguished. Plane was seen to explode.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

After aircraft was hit it appeared to peel off to left - chandelle into stall - Then go down to about 10,000 feet and explode.

(Over)

Just

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? No If so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter (one if noted (Group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, names, etc.)). No fighters were seen to escort.

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

First parachute was seen at 1529. There were from 7 to 9 parachutes seen. One from Tail - two from bombay and others - place they came from not observed.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Severe haze make all these observations a bit doubtful, however the main body of the report is substantiated by at least 3 crews.

8. Date of report 21 March 1945

WITNESSES:

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>GRADE</u> | <u>SERIAL</u> | <u>A/C #</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Fryer, Gaillard S. | 602 | 2nd Lt | 0-678927 44-8848-L |
| 2. Mundhenke, Roland D. | 601 | 2nd Lt | 0-547236 42-8654-M |
| 3. Hansauer, James S. | 603 | 1st Lt | 0-2058171 44-8044-A |
| 4. Maudsley, Donald R. | 600 | 1st Lt | 0-799424 44-2637-A |
| 5. Shuptrins, Henry R. | 600 | 2nd Lt | 0-824938 43-39102-B |

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):


 CHARLES E. KROE

Capt., A.C. 0-568990 Asst. Intel. O.
SRM1 SRM1 DUTY

NOTE: Supplemental information developed subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 3, letter L, AG, 704 (3 July 44) CB-3-A F-4, subject "Missing Air Crew Reports", 7 July 1944.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--------|---------------------|
| 6. Hill, James L. | 600 | 2nd Lt | 0-778548 43-38805-Z |
| 7. Gieryn, Robert L. | 603 | 2nd Lt | 0-780462 43-39038-Q |

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

KIA at 1st Lt. Andrew R. Thomas

*Bureau
1945-46-10-10-10*

RMC

2nd Lt. Maurice S. Treney

*Address Files 1945
Route #1
Marion, Calif*

RMC

2nd Lt. Elmer S. Spaw

*1000 228
Marion, Calif*

MIA 371 2/Sgt. Anthony G. Daddo

*POW No 9884
Stalag Luft 1, Berth, Germany
1/Sgt. James E. Pettibone
Discharged 15 Oct 45*

*RMC
17 June 45*

RMC - 13 May 45

*Evangelical
15 June 45*

2/Sgt. James A. Powell

Discharged: records transferred 15 Oct 45

POW No 7958

2/Sgt. George R. Conroy

*Stalag Luft 1, Berth, Germany
Discharged 17 May 45*

RMC

Opl. William E. Hilsbrand

*Discharged 9 Nov 45
Records transferred 38 Nov 45*

Mrs. Anthony A. Thomas (mother)

*State Road, West
Weyland, Massachusetts*

Mrs. Madeline S. Treney (mother)

*Route Number One
Marion, California*

Mrs. Bertha Mae Anderson (mother)

*3500 East Van Buren Street
Phoenix, Arizona*

ms Frank Showers

Mrs. Stella P. Daddo (wife)

*70 Incevia Street
Hartford, Connecticut*

*Warehouse Point
RFD
(Aunt)*

Mrs. Ida E. Fabulone (wife)

*508 North Filmore
Kirkswood, Missouri*

Mrs. Isabelle V. Powell (wife)

*2742 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia*

Mrs. Bob E. Conroy (mother)

*1131 North Washington Street
Kansas, Kansas*

Mrs. Yvonne A. Hilsbrand (mother)

*507 Northeast 14th Street
Portland, Oregon*

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name MAURICE S. TROKEY Rank 1ST LT. Serial No. 0-772686
2. Organization 2C Gp Commander Rank Colonel (full name) BRISIGN Sqn CO JOSEPH R. MILLER Rank Major (full name)
3. What year 1948 month MARCH day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Berlin AREA, target, ?, target time, about 1500, altitude, 24,500 route scheduled, ?, route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? over target
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes except pilot
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".
pilot still in ship after my bailing out.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? pilot in seat
12. What was their condition? normal except surrounded by fire
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Buddes
 Rank: Technical Sergeant
 Serial number: 11102340
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Target

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? bailing out

Any hearsay information: No knowledge. Fringe

up and Sgt Powell forced him to
land.

Source: S/Sgt. James A. Powell (Bail gunner)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: No

Knowledge.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 31 ?

Dates and destinations if possible: Last mission 25 MAY 45

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Andrew R. Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: O-767636
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Pilot

Did he bail out? no

Where? over target

If not, why not? preferred to remain with ship till all out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: just

before bailing - Lt. Thomas said "Good luck Fellows"

Was he injured? APPARENTLY NOT

Where was he when last seen? IN cockpit of ship ^{his} on seat

Any hearsay information: after bailing, ship went

into dive - made a 360° turn then

exploded

Source: myself as seen while descending in chute

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: death

as a result of explosion. His reason for

remaining with ship can only be stated as

this due to the fire and inability to search his

ship he remained at the wheel as long as possible to

permit all to bail.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3/

Dates and destinations if possible: LAST MISSION : 5 Mar 45

Berlin Area

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Buddes
 Rank: Technical Sergeant
 Serial number: 11102340
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR BASDORF GERMANY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I TALKED
 HIM INTO BAILING OUT AND HELPED HIM GET OUT

Was he injured? LOOKED DAZED

Where was he when last seen? I SAW HIS PARACHUTE OPEN AND

Any hearsay information: FOLLOWED IT TO THE GROUND
 NO

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

I THINK HE WAS KILLED BY GERMANS ON
 GROUND BECAUSE SOME OF THEM WANTED
 TO DO SAME TO ME

Total number of missions of above crew member: 26

Dates and destinations if possible: FORGOT

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Andrew R. Thomas
Rank: First Lieutenant
Serial number: 0-767686
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Pilot

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? FLEW PLANE FOR REST TO GET OUT

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ORDERED

US TO BAIL OUT AND SAID, "SO LONG FELLOWS AND GOOD LUCK!"

Was he injured? HE WAS BURNED

Where was he when last seen? PILOTS SEAT FLYING PLANE

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

I SAW PLANE EXPLODE THINK HE
WAS KILLED THEN

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30

Dates and destinations if possible: FORGOT

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JAMES ARTHUR, POWELL Rank S/SGT Serial No. 33545579
2. Organization 398-B Gp Commander (M. C) ENSIGN Rank LT. CDR Sqn CO T. B. MILLER Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ORDANCE DEPT, target, ORANIEBURG, GER, target time, 3:25 PM, altitude, 22000 FT, route scheduled, CENTRAL GERMANY, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? ORANIEBURG, GERMANY
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? ALL EXCEPT PILOT
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". ALL BAI'ED OUT AT ORANIEBURG AND WERE CAPTURED EXCEPT RADIO OPERATOR - NO KNOWLEDGE
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? BLEW UP IN AIR
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) PILOT I THINK
11. Where were they in aircraft? IN PILOTS SEAT
12. What was their condition? BURNING WHEN LAST SEEN
13. When, where, and in what condition did you ^{ab} see any members not already described above? RADIO OPERATOR AS I HELPED HIM BAIL OUT. HE LOOKED MAZED
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name George Richard Ormsby Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 15082028
2. Organization 398-B.G. Cp Commander Insignia Rank Col Sqn 70 Miller Rank Maj.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Oranienburg, target, marshalling yards, target
time, 3:25 p.m., altitude 25,000 route scheduled, Unknown
route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just after bombs away.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Hilderbrand, followed me out the main escape hatch in the waist. Buddes followed him. Powell next. Spaw went out the escape hatch in the navigator's compartment. Trokey followed. Pettibone went out thru bombbay. Do not believe Thomas bailed out before ship blew up.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Blew up.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Unknown
11. Where were they in aircraft? Unknown.
12. What was their condition? Unknown.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Thomas was badly burned, when I left the aircraft Buddes bailed out--was in good condition, but has never been seen since.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None.

(Any additional information may be written on the back.)

Dear Sir

I would appreciate it very much if you could let me know the information the investigating officers find out about the fate of Lieutenant Thomas and Sgt. Buddis. for I would like to know what happened to them.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Buddes

Rank: Technical Sergeant

Serial number: 11102340

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? Yes.Where? Oranienburg.If not, why not? - - -Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He was off interphone and told him that pilot gave us orders to bail out.Was he injured? No.Where was he when last seen? The last time I saw him, his parachute had opened and he was on his way safely to the ground.Any hearsay information: None.Source: - - -Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was not injured in any way when he left the plane but may have been killed upon reaching the ground, by German civilians; or he may have tried to escape when captured and was killed.Total number of missions of above crew member: 29.Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Andrew R. Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: 0-767686
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Pilot

Did he bail out? I believe he did not.

Where? ---

If not, why not? Thomas would not leave the aircraft because controls were damaged. He stayed with ship and kept it level for the rest of us to get out. Believe ship exploded before he could leave it.
 Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Thomas gave us orders to leave ship just before interphones went out.

Was he injured? Yes.

Where was he when last seen? At controls of aircraft.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source: None.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: possibility that he may have gotten out but we are not sure.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William H. Hilderbrand Rank Sgt. Serial No. 39340502
2. Organization 398th Co Commander Rank Ensign Rank Lt. Sgd CO Miller Rank Mag.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Oranienburg, target
time, 15:30, altitude, 24,500 ft. route scheduled, ----
-----, route flown -----
5. Where were you when you left formation? After bombs away
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All but pilot.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".
Bailed out of waist. Orsmby Hilderbrand Pettibone Buddies
Powell
Bailed out from front of ship. Pettibone Spaw Trokey
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Blow up.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
Thomas in it when the plane blew up.
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?
Spaw Trokey ~~At~~ At Santa Monica Calif.
Orsmby at Camp Patrick Henry Va.
Powell Pettibone Camp Lucky Strike France.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Buddies
 Rank: Technical Sergeant
 Serial number: 11102340
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? North of Oranienburg only a few seconds from target.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

He was in contact when I last seen him. Powell included me in the

Was he injured? Yes.

Where was he when last seen? Coming down in his chute.

Any hearsay information: _____

He was in contact when I last seen him. Powell included me in the
mission. I believe he was killed by civilians. So I know his chute
opened.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

He may of been injured when he bailed out but don't believe so.

I believe he was killed by civilians Germans.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: Date: March 15, 1945

Target: Oranienburg Germany

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Andrew R. Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: O-767686
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Pilot

Did he bail out? No.

Where? *-----

If not, why not? Because He was so badly burnt. He kept plane in control so we could bail out. Co pilot was last to see Thomas.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Over interphone he said. You had better leave it boys. Or

something similar.
 Was he injured? He was sitting in flames.

Where was he when last seen? at controls.

Any hearsay information: Thomas kept the plane in control so we could bail out. The cockpit was on fire. The plane blew up and after we left it. So it is my belief that Thomas blew up with the plane.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown.

Dates and destinations if possible: Date: March 15, 1945

Target: Schweinfurt, Germany

*From either Pottobone or Spear
No name
agreed with
it*

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Pudes
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Serial number: 11102340
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Between Berlin & Ehrenberg

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? Yes, burned.

Where was he when last seen? last seen as he left ship through
waist escape hatch.

Any hearsay information:

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Believe he was killed by civilians. Ball Gunner said he
was his chute open. He was dozed, so might have attempted
escape or was killed by small arms from ground while
coming down. Several crew members reported such fire upon themselves.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Andrew R. Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: O-767636
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Pilot

Did he bail out? No.

Where? ✓

If not, why not? Trying to hold ship straight + badly burned possible that hits.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I think we had to leave her - Get ready to go.

Was he injured? Yes.

Where was he when last seen? In cockpit + egressed out of cockpit before they pulled

Any hearsay information: Yes.

Sources: ✓

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: His parachute burned up. Flames filled entire ft. deck so he was burned badly. As a result of 5 to 7 close or direct flak hits. I suspect he was also wounded. Saw ship explode approx. 2-3 minutes later as it was in steep spiral.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 30

Dates and destinations if possible: ✓

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13090

Name of crew member: Andrew E. Thomas
 Rank: First Lieutenant
 Serial number: O-757686
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? WAS KEEPING SHIP IN LEVEL FLIGHT SO WE COULD BAIL OUT.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: "SO LONG

FELLOWS AND GOOD LUCK."

Was he injured? NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? ON FLIGHT DECK IN PILOTS SEAT

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: AFTER I BAILED OUT THE SHIP WENT INTO A STEEP DIVE. LEI BLED OUT AFTER ABOUT 2,500 OR 3000 FT DIVE + EXPLODED. IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY ONE TO LEAVE DURING DIVE. FLAMES SHOULD BE HIGH ON FLIGHT DECK WHEN I LEFT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: THIRTY (30)

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Anthony G. Buddes
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Serial number: 11132340
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Radio Operator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BARRINHORST - GERMANY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN PARACHUTE ON WAY DOWN

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NO KNOWLEDGE

Total number of missions of above crew member: THIRTY (30)

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1

1. Your name JAMES BRUCE PETIBONE Rank T/SGT. Serial No. 17159731
2. Organization 398 Bn Gp Commander ENSIGN Rank LT. COL. Sqd CO J. MILLER Rank LT. COL.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, COMBAT, target, BARINHORST, GERMANY, target time, 15:30, altitude, 23,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? BARINHORST, GERMANY
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". NAVIGATOR - LT. E. S. SPAN - NOSE ESCAPE HATCH, CO-PILOT - NOSE ESCAPE HATCH LT. M. S. TRONEY, 1/SGT. J. A. POWELL - MAIN ESCAPE HATCH, WING GUNNER - 1/SGT. G. R. ORMSBY - MAIN ESCAPE HATCH, CAPT. W. HILDEBRAND - TAIL GUNNER - MAIN ESCAPE HATCH - MYSELF - BOMBAYERS.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? EXPLODED IN AIR
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 1/SGT. ANDREW F. THOMAS 0-767686 IN SHIP AT TIME OF EXPLOSION
11. Where were they in aircraft? FLIGHT DECK - PILOTS SEAT
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? 1/SGT. A. R. THOMAS IN FLIGHT DECK IN PILOTS SEAT SEEMED TO BE ALLRIGHT YA APPARENT WOUNDS. 1/SGT. H. G. BUDEK - RADIO ROOM SEEMED TO BE DAZED CONDITION. HELPED OUT OF SHIP BY 1/SGT. J. A. POWELL. NO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL WORD RECEIVED BY MY WIFE
WE WERE KNUCKLED DOWN OVER ~~ORIENTS~~ ORIENTSBURG, GERMANY. BUT
OUR NAVIGATOR SAID WE WERE AT ~~ORIENTS~~ RINHORST, GERMANY
APPROX. 41 KILO. FROM RUSSIAN FRONT AT THAT TIME.

RARINHORST - AS BEST AS I KNOW IT.

LT. E. S. SPAW - NAVIGATOR SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY PROPER SPELLING
& IDENTIFICATION.

James B. Pettibone

any information obtained on Lt. Thomas and T/Sgt Budden
would be appreciated if you can forward same to me.