

7220

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Classification Change  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BARNETT, Lt. Col.; AB  
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt.; AB  
Date..... 12-5-60

*[Handwritten scribble]*

RESTRICTED

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to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUEHCH, Capt., AC  
Date MAR 15 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

7020

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 131; Command or Air Force 8th Air Force  
Group 398th Bomb. V.; Squadron 601st Bomb. V.; Detachment None

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 131; Course per attached track chart  
Intended Destination Numeres, France; Return Type of Mission Operational

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Overcast 9 to 10/10 coverage; Visibility 10-15 mile radius.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 July 1944; Time approx 0745; and Location 664-02125510N-0170E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. (APPROXIMATE)

(b) Specify whether ( ) Last Sighted, ( ) Last Contacted by Radio,  
( ) Forced Down, (X) 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 known to have crashed off the coast of England - Four persons  
accounted for: Two alive and two dead.

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series 1174; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-107096

7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1620-97; A.A.F. Serial Number  
(a) SN-011309; (b) SN-011410; (c) SN-011333; (d) SN-011330

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

|     | <u>MAKE</u>      | <u>TYPE</u>          | <u>SERIAL NUMBER</u> |
|-----|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) | Colt Arms Co.    | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 159408               |
| (b) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1295007              |
| (c) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1294747              |
| (d) | High Standard    | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 130450               |
| (e) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1295179              |
| (f) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1294920              |
| (g) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1295225              |
| (h) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1294835              |
| (i) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1295170              |
| (j) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1292695              |
| (k) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1295174              |
| (l) | Buffalo Arms Co. | .50 cal A/C mach gun | 1294737              |
| (m) |                  |                      |                      |
| (n) |                  |                      |                      |
| (o) |                  |                      |                      |
| (p) |                  |                      |                      |
| (q) |                  |                      |                      |
| (r) |                  |                      |                      |
| (s) |                  |                      |                      |
| (t) |                  |                      |                      |

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: ( ) Battle Casualty as Noted at right  
or ( ) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

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

|        | <u>CREW POSITION</u> | <u>NAME IN FULL</u><br>(Last Name First) | <u>RANK</u> | <u>SERIAL NUMBER</u> |                 |
|--------|----------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| RTD 1. | Pilot                | BERRY, MARSH L                           | Capt        | 0-25736              | (Rescued-Alive) |
| DED 2. | Co-Pilot             | THORNTON, RAY C                          | 2nd Lt      | 0-693711             | (MIA)           |
| DED 3. | Bombardier           | KRUSE, WALTER J                          | 2nd Lt      | 0-752923             | (MIA)           |
| DED 4. | NAVIGATOR            | MCCAIN, PAUL F                           | 2nd Lt      | 0-899216             | (MIA)           |
| DED 5. | Top Turret Gunner    | Bissing, Harold A                        | S Sgt       | 17135107             | (MIA)           |
| DED 6. | Waist Gunner         | Papa John, George C                      | S Sgt       | 38000946             | (MIA)           |
| DED 7. | Ball Turret Gunner   | Hess, Ralph                              | S Sgt       | 38198550             | (Rescued-Dead)  |
| KIA 8. | Radio Gunner         | Calisto, Carlo                           | S Sgt       | 12136522             | (Rescued-Dead)  |
| RTD 9. | Tail Gunner          | Ray, Manuel C                            | S Sgt       | 12145388             | (Rescued-Alive) |
| 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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank  | Serial Number | Contacted |              |           |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
|    |                                   |       |               | By Radio  | Last Sighted | Saw Crash |
| 1. | BERRY, MARSH L Jr                 | Capt  | 0-25736       |           | X            |           |
| 2. | RAY, MANUEL C                     | S Sgt | 12145388      |           | X            |           |
| 3. | MCCAIN, PAUL F                    | Sgt   | 38198723      |           |              | X         |

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash no; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) two persons rescued alive and two persons Rescued dead; Others probably rescued

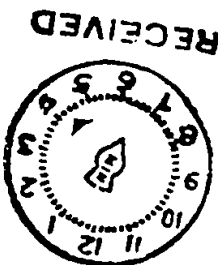
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

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

(Descriptions 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 further search being made.

Date of Report 11 July 1944



(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
WALLIS L CAMPBELL  
1st Lt, Air Corps

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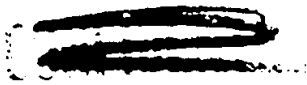
800th Bombardment Group  
 Romeires, France Mission 6 July 1944

Lead Group Formation Over Target

|                                  |                                    |                                    |  |  |                                |                                   |                                 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                  |                                    |                                    | D-2<br><u>LAND</u><br><u>FRANSON</u><br>7800-A |  | D-2<br><u>Berry</u><br>7000-Y  |                                   |                                 |
|                                  | F-6<br><u>Turner</u><br>7807-H     |                                    | D-3<br><u>Wilson</u><br>2420-R                 |  |                                | D-6<br><u>Davis, JH</u><br>2090-L |                                 |
| F-5<br><u>Boenene</u><br>2010-Y  |                                    | F-12<br><u>Zimmerman</u><br>7100-G |  |  | D-3<br><u>Taylor</u><br>7094-F |                                   | D-6<br><u>McCarty</u><br>2565-H |
|                                  | D-4<br><u>Richardson</u><br>7190-L |                                    |  |  |                                |                                   |                                 |
| D-7<br><u>Roderick</u><br>7000-J |                                    | D-1<br><u>Rudow</u><br>7080-S      |  |  |                                |                                   |                                 |

2nd Group Formation Over Target

|                                  |                                 |                                |  |  |                               |                                     |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                  |                                 |                                | B-6<br><u>Hopkins</u><br><u>Wagner</u><br>7285-A |  |                               |                                     |                                 |
|                                  | B-9<br><u>Saxer</u><br>0107-W   |                                | B-2<br><u>Gallagher</u><br>2470-B                |  | B-2<br><u>Stoll</u><br>2003-E |                                     | B-5<br><u>Fisher</u><br>7078-U  |
| C-8<br><u>Lovelace</u><br>7380-R |                                 | C-6<br><u>Searl</u><br>7249-F  |  |  |                               | B-7<br><u>Faurenthold</u><br>7053-M | B-5<br><u>Spitzer</u><br>6083-V |
|                                  | C-6<br><u>Ballard</u><br>2410-L |                                |  |  |                               |                                     |                                 |
| C-3<br><u>Reed</u><br>2000-L     |                                 | C-2<br><u>Mensel</u><br>2487-B |  |  |                               |                                     |                                 |



**Pilot's Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-107096, Captain  
Kearie L Berry Jr, 601st Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Humieres, France  
mission 8 July 1944.**

Our plane (regency lead) was hit by flak over target (Humieres, France) about 0700 on July 1944, numbers three and four engines knocked out. I Sgt Gaulto badly wounded in chest under left arm. I left formation and started back alone. Fire started in numbers one and two engines over pas de Calais. I gave order to put on parachutes and stand by to bail out. We were at seventeen thousand feet crossing enemy coast. At 0740 I noticed fire in both wings back of engines. I gave order to bail out. All men jumped out. Lt W. J. Kruse (bombardier) is believed to have jumped without his Mae West. I Sgt Gaulto, I believe, never opened his parachute. 3 Sgts Bisping, Repagon and Hess could not swim. I jumped last and landed 80 Yds from a sand bar (the Goodwin Sands) and some two hours later managed to get on sand bar where I was picked up by RAF Air-Sea Rescue Launch six hours after my jump. 3 Sgt Ray was picked up by same launch after he had been in sea one and one half hours. The bodies of Sgt Gaulto and Sgt Hess have been picked up and identified. Lts Kruse, Richardson, McCallin and Sgts Bisping and Repagon are MIA. Aircraft crashed in sea and exploded.

*Kearie L. Berry Jr.*  
KEARIE L BERRY JR, C-107096  
Capt, Air Corps  
Pilot B17G 42-107096

Eye witness description of missing aircraft B17C 42-107090, Pilot, Captain  
Hearle E. Berry, O-20700, 301st Bomb Squadron, 98th Bomb Group on Hamiers,  
France mission 8 July 1944.

I was flying as Tail Gunner on Captain Berry's crew 8 July 1944 on  
the mission to Hamieres, France. Just as we turned on the IP number  
three engine was hit on Bomb Run. The pilot feathered the engine, at the  
same moment the Radio operator was hit under left arm pit and wounded  
seriously. Shortly after number four engine oil tank was hit and engine  
ran away and started to smoke.

At that time we dropped bombs and peeled from formation and started for  
English Channel, coming over French Coast between Calais and

Then Pilot took evasive action but number one and two engines caught fire,  
also the fire was within the wing. The pilot told us to hold on for awhile  
in order to get closer to English Coast.

Then came the order to bail out as the fire was getting serious. First  
out, by order of the pilot, was CO-pilot, Lt. Peter C. Navigator, then Radio  
operator went out through bomb bay with the help of 3 Sgt. Slipping, it broke  
and opened. He dropped but I never saw his chute open. I left the bomb bay  
and returned to the waist door and bailed out behind the Bombraider. Shortly  
after 3 Sgt. Slipping and 3 Sgt. fell from aircraft, then the pilot bailed out  
and was going into a perfect banking turn then broke off into a spin.  
It exploded just above hitting the water.

As I was parachuting in the chute I looked down to see where the other fellows  
were. I saw only the 301st and the 1st. I hit shortly afterwards.  
It took me about two or three minutes to get out of the harness. I then in-  
stantly hit the water and started to sink, little by little. About one  
and one half hours later the Air Se. Rescue picked me up and unstrapped me  
completely, put me in sea with hot water bottles and gave me some hot soup.  
Two hours later I got to the shore.

*W. Harold C. King*

Master S. A. F., 12100889

3 Sgt, 301st Bomb Sq.

Tail Gunner B17C 42-107090

Eye witness description of missing aircraft BTG 42-10700, piloted by Captain  
Kearie E. Berry, Jr., Coast Bomb Squadron, 332nd Bomb Group, Air Force,  
France mission 8 July 1944.

The wing flying lead said high element, my position in the wing being  
the tail turret, I saw Capt Berry's ship fall back going down at about  
five o'clock low. I watched him for about fifteen minutes. Then Capt  
Lamb fell out of formation and we took lead. I turned back around and  
saw seven crates laying on the water--one about half a mile from the rest.  
The ship hit the water near two sand dunes and exploded.

FILED 14013a, 3301972  
Cgt 101st Bomb Sq  
BTG 42-10700

2nd Lt. Raymond A. Thornton

Mr. Clay H. Thornton, (Father)  
1404 Madison Street,  
Amarillo, Texas.

2nd Lt. Walter J. Kruse

Mr. John Kruse, (Father)  
31 West Runyon Street,  
Newark 8, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. Paul P. McCain

Dr. Paul P. McCain, (Father)  
Sanatorium, North Carolina.

S/Sgt. Harold A. Bisping

Mrs. Anna H. Bisping, (Mother)  
110 Byron Street,  
Mankato, Minnesota.

S/Sgt. George C. Papajohn

Mrs. Katherine Papajohn, (Mother)  
6331 South Marshfield,  
Chicago, Illinois.

S/Sgt. Ralph C. Hess

Mrs. Lora Lou Hess, (Mother)  
Hamburg, Iowa.

T/Sgt. Carlo Galloto

Mr. Joseph Galloto, (Father)  
278 Wallabout Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.



# TRACK CHART

TARGET

Primary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Resort \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Route followed by 318 P. 24 (C)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

