

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND RECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,
H.C. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1992.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FC ~~RESTRICTED~~

by ~~...~~ S. BEAETHAS. Lt. Col., AC

by ~~...~~ W. H. ... Capt., AC

Date

12853

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

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: Station 131 Command or Air Force _____
GROUP 398th Bomb Gp.; SQUADRON 603rd Bomb Sq DETACHMENT _____
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure _____; Course _____
Intended Destination Bohlen, Germany; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Date 2 March 45 Time _____; And location 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; () Enemy Ant.-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows About 35 mi. South of Chemnitz, Germany
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. _____
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. (a) _____
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Status
1.	Pilot	✓ Christensen, Donald R.	2nd Lt.	0-780 518	
2.	CP	✓ Lone, William E.	2nd Lt.	0-781 350	
3.	N	✓ Ostrow, Harry	2nd Lt.	0-1 593 155	
4.	B	✓ Gustafson, John V.	2nd Lt.	0-717 495	
5.	E	✓ Dudley, Robert W.	Sgt.	35 558 750	
6.	R	✓ Gurba, Elmer G.	Sgt.	35 052 024	
7.	BTG	✓ Carlisle, Albert S. Jr.	Sgt.	31 340 415	
8.	WG	✓ Plentz, Kenneth J	Sgt.	17 143 904	
9.	TG	✓ Haakenson, Selmer K.	Sgt.	19 069 753	
10.					

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

WD, Hq MAP, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, AND IF 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 EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

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

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report _____

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

REMARKS:

Classified

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12853

by K. A. ELADONAS, Lt. Col., AF
by F. M. [redacted], Capt., AF

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 aircraft member is officially reported missing. . .

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Nuthampstead, England Group: 398th Bomb HV Squadron 603rd Bomb HV Detachment NONE Command or Air Force 8TH AIR FORCE
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Nuthampstead, England Target or Intended Destination Bohlen, Germany Type of Mission Operational Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS OR LAST REPORTED: Clouds 9/10 Tops 10,000- Nil Contrails- Visibility aloft unrestricted.
- GIVE: (a) Day 2 Month March Year 1945; Time 1036 and Location 5020N-1255E 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 ().
- 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:
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G AAF Serial No. 44-6573
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97 AAF Serial No. (a) SN-027256 (b) SN-027305 (c) SN-027055 (d) SN-027241

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS, 50 Cal Aviat Machine Guns as follows:

Make	Serial Number	Make	Serial Number
(a) General Motors, Inc	364933	(b) General Motors, Inc	790618
(c) General Motors, Inc	1536580	(d) General Motors, Inc	1536261
(e) General Motors, Inc	390276	(f) General Motors, Inc	364252
(g) General Motors, Inc	364711	(h) General Motors, Inc	393213
(i) General Motors, Inc	390827	(j) General Motors, Inc	1327699
(k) General Motors, Inc	865183	(l)	

10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty or Non Battle Casualty

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9
Following information listed for personnel aboard Aircraft:

Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
DE01. Pilot	DONALD R. CHRISTENSEN	2nd Lt	0-780518	MIA
DE02. Co-pilot	WILLIAM H. LOVE	2nd Lt	0-781350	MIA
DE03. Navigator	GEORGE	2nd Lt	0-1593155	MIA
DE04. Bombardier	JOHN V. GUSTAFSON	2nd Lt	0-717945	MIA
DE05. Engineer	ROBERT W. DUDLEY	Sgt	35568720	MIA
DE06. PCM Gunner	ELMER G. GURBA	Sgt	35052024	MIA
DE07. Ball Turret Gunner	ALBERT S. GARLISIE Jr.	Sgt	31540415	MIA
DE08. Waist Gunner	KENNETH J. PLANTZ	Sgt.	17145904	MIA
DE09. Tail Gunner	SELMER K. HAARONSON	Sgt.	19069763	MIA

(Over)

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Contacted by Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw Crash</u>	<u>Saw Forced Landing</u>
1. RICHARD L. MARTIN	T/Sgt	15355450		X		
2. RICHARD G. MILLS	S/Sgt	36686293		X		
3. NORMAN A. ANDERSON	Sgt.	56800421		X		

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 _____

Date of Report 9 March 1945

Walter L. Campbell

WALLIS L. CAMPBELL
Captain, Air Corps

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

(See attached statements.)

APR 17 1945



RECEIVED

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Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 44-6573, Pilot, 2nd Lt Donald R. Christenski, O-780514, 503rd Bomb Sq, 598th Bomb Group Lv on combat mission to Bohlen, Germany 2 March 1945.

As Engineer of Lt Spangler's crew, I was flying in the upper turret when the fighters hit us on the Chemnitz raid. Lt Christensen was flying somewhere between one-half to three-quarters of a mile behind the group. Lt Spangler was flying deputy in the lead element. Enemy fighters totaled about twenty. There were four (4) fighters going after Lt Christensen's plane. Just before the plane went down, there was one (1) enemy plane exploded behind his plane. His plane went straight down. I could see no smoke or fire. I lost sight of the plane as it went below our horizontal stabilizer. I saw no lights at any time.

Richard L. Martin
Richard L. Martin, 503rd Sq
1st Lt, 598th Bomb Group
1st Lt, 598th Bomb Group, B17G 44-6573

Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 44-6573, Pilot, 2nd Lt Donald R Christensen, O-780512, 603rd Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group BV on combat mission to Bohlen, Germany, 2 March 1945.

I was the tail gunner in the deputy lead plane of the Eight Squadron on 2 March 1945. On this day our squadron was attacked by enemy fighters while making a 360 degree turn around the target. On this turn Lt Christensen's plane was thrown out of the formation as he was trying to catch up. I noticed that a fighter plane, which was directly behind him, began smoking and went into a dive. This was my first indication that enemy fighters were present in the area. In the following few minutes I was busy shooting at and calling off other fighters to other members of my crew. I only got a few momentary glances in the direction of Lt Christensen's plane. It was one of those times when I looked back and saw a B17 airplane, Lt Christensen's, diving straight towards the cloud layer. There was no smoke or flame visible and the airplane appeared to be completely intact. I never did see any parachutes.

Richard G. Mills
RICHARD G. MILLS, 3658235
S/Sgt 603rd Bomb Sq
Tail Gunner, B17G-43-3851

Statement concerning missing aircraft BL7G 44-6573, Pilot, 2nd Lt Donald R Christensen, O-790518, 603rd Bomb Sq, 396th Bomb Group Bv on combat mission to Röhlen, Germany 2 March 1945.

Lt Christensen's ship was flying at about seven o'clock from us and was about 1000 yards from us when three or four F. W. 190's attacked it from out of the sun at about nine o'clock. All the attacks seemed to be made from the front. The F. W. 190's made about four passes and Lt Christensen's ship went over on its left wing and into a spin with no sign of smoke or fire. I didn't see any chutes come out. I watched the ship until it went into the clouds. All this happened a little south of Chemnitz after making a 360 degree turn over the target at Chemnitz.

Norman A. Anderson
NORMAN A. ANDERSON, 36900421
2gt 603rd Bomb Sq
Tail Gunner, BL7G-44-8630

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8-2 SUMMARY OF AIR-TRACES ACCOUNTS

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 398th Bomb Gp SO 603rd B.S. A/C # 44-6573-E MISSION DATE 2 March 1945

FIRST PILOT Christensen, Donald L. 2nd Lt O-780518 DESTINATION Bohlen, Germany
NAME RANK SER #

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

Time - 1036

- (a) By coordinates 5020N-1255E
- (b) Approximate altitude 25,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading 325 Mag.
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation _____

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

At this particular time there was no flak. The Enemy Aircraft opposition was described as moderate. Crews report that 3 FW-190's made a pass at this A/C - the B-17 flipped over and went down into spin.

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

No visible damage was apparent, no fires or explosions were reported, however it must be stated that other crews in this formation were under attack from E/A and did not make extensive observations.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

B-17 was described as going down in steep dive or spin.

(Over)

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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 force if noted (Group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). P-51's were in area and seen attacking the E/A.

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

No parachutes were reported.

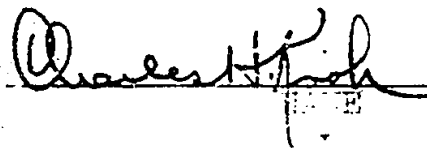
7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Nil.

8. Date of report 9 March 1945

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>U/C</u>
1.	May, Newell D.	603	2nd Lt O-777767	43-35184-U
2.	Alwood, Joseph G.	603	F/O T-62397	43-102390-N
3.	Spangler, Harold F.	603	1st Lt O-767024	43-38951-B
4.				

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):



Captain, Air Corps 0566990 Asst. Intelligence
OFFICER DUTY O.

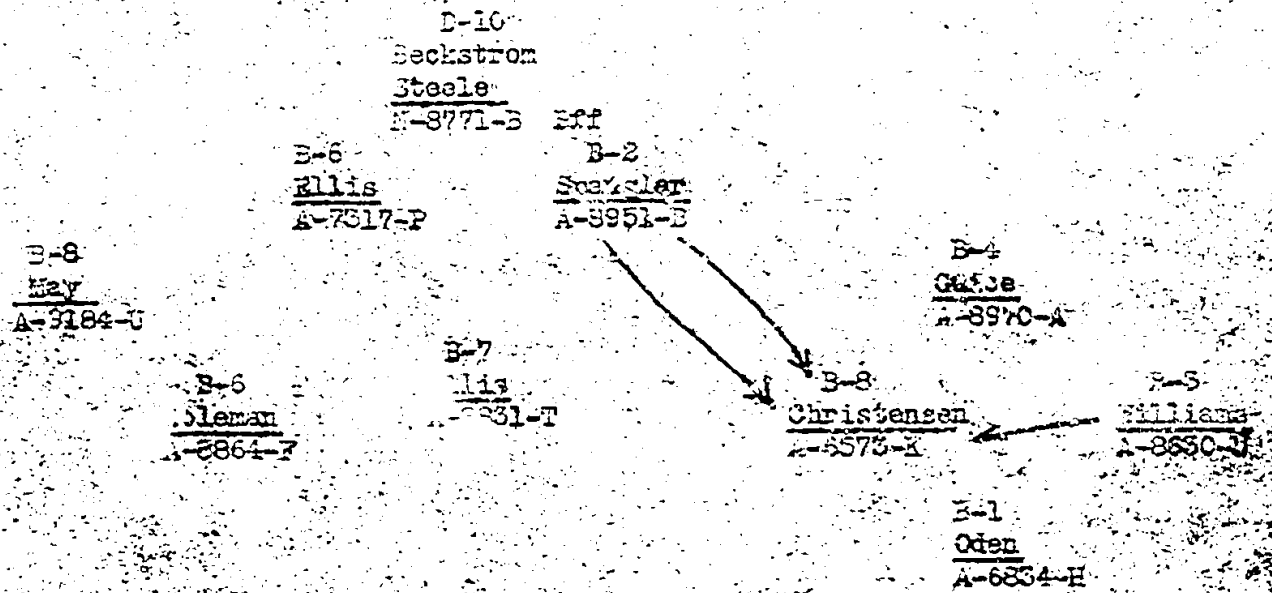
NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner described in Air 3, letter 1, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OS-3-44 P-1, subject "Missing Air Crew Reports", 7 July 1944.

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

896th Bomb Group BV
Bohler, Germany 2 March 1945

Formation Plan Over Target

Low 5000' Gp



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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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Duthamstead, England Group 308th Bomb Bv
Squadron 668th Bomb Bv Detachment 132E
Command or Air Force 8TH AIR FORCE
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Duthamstead, England Course 325 Star
Target or Intended Destination Polish, Germany
Type of Mission Operational Training
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clouds 1/10 Tops 10,500- Nil Contrails- Visibility about unrestricted.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 2 Month March Year 1945; Time 1036 and Location
5020N-1255E 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 (x); Enemy anti-aircraft () Other Circumstances as follows:
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G AAF Serial No. 44-8278
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-27 AAF Serial No. (a) SN-027222
(b) SN-027208 (c) SN-027038 (d) SN-027241
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS, 50 Cal Aircraft Machine Guns as follows:

Make	Serial Number	Make	Serial Number
(a) General Motors, Inc	34653	(b) General Motors, Inc	720218
(c) General Motors, Inc	158820	(d) General Motors, Inc	1876961
(e) General Motors, Inc	893378	(f) General Motors, Inc	264252
(g) General Motors, Inc	564711	(h) General Motors, Inc	883213
(i) General Motors, Inc	54027	(j) General Motors, Inc	1227999
(k) General Motors, Inc	665163	(l)	
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9
Following information listed for personnel aboard Aircraft:

Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	DONALD R. SMITHSPRING	2nd Lt	0-730518	MIA
2. Co-Pilot	WILLIAM H. LUYE	2nd Lt	0-730590	MIA
3. Navigator	HARRY OSBORN	2nd Lt	0-1593253	MIA
4. Bombardier	JOHN V. RUSAPSOE	2nd Lt	0-717945	MIA
5. Engineer	HENRY E. DUDLEY	Sgt	66588720	MIA
6. Bomb Gunner	ELMER G. GUNSA	Sgt	3507026	MIA
7. Tail Turret Gunner	ALBERT S. CARLISLE Jr.	Sgt	31240415	MIA
8. Waist Gunner	BERNICE J. PLATZ	Sgt	17148904	MIA
9. Tail Gunner	SERGEY E. SHARPOV	Sgt	19339763	MIA
10.				
11.				

(Over)

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Contacted by Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw Crash</u>	<u>Saw Forced Landing</u>
1. RICHARD W. MARTIN	1/Sgt	1335450		X		
2. RICHARD G. MILES	S/Sgt	30638295		X		
3. NORMAN A. ANDERSON	Sgt.	3690421		X		
4.						

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 _____

Date of Report 8 March 1945

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

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:
(See attached statements.)

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Statement concerning missing aircraft #176 44-6573, Pilot, 2nd Lt Donald R Christensen, O-780618, 808rd Bomb Sq, 895th B-29 Group Hq on combat mission to Echlen, Germany 2 March 1945.

I was the tail gunner in the deputy lead plane of the High Squadron on 2 March 1945. On this day our squadron was attacked by enemy fighters while making a 360 degree turn around the target. On this turn Lt Christensen's plane was thrown out of the formation as he was trying to catch up. I noticed that a fighter plane, which was directly behind him, began smoking and went into a dive. This was my first indication that enemy fighters were present in the area. In the following few minutes I was busy shooting at and killing off other fighters to other members of my crew. I only got a few momentary glances in the direction of Lt Christensen's plane. It was one of those times when I looked back and saw a B-29 airplane, Lt Christensen's, diving straight towards the cloud layer. There was no smoke or flame visible and the airplane appeared to be completely intact. I never did see any paratroopers.

Richard G. Mills
RICHARD G. MILLS, 86884433
2/Lt 808rd Bomb Sq
Tail Gunner, #176-44-6573

Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 44-5513, Pilot, 2nd Lt
Donald R Christensen, O-790618, 503rd Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group Bv
on combat mission to Bohlen, Germany 2 March 1945.

Lt Christensen's ship was flying at about seven o'clock from the
west and was about 1500 yards from us when three or four Y. H. 190's at-
tacked it from out of the sun at about nine o'clock. All the attacks
seemed to be made from the front. The Y. H. 190's made about four
passes and Lt Christensen's ship went over on its left wing and into
a spin with no sign of smoke or fire. I didn't see any flames come
out. I watched the ship until it went into the clouds. All this hap-
pened a little south of Chamnitz after making a 300 degree turn over
the target at Chamnitz.

Donald R Christensen
DONALD R CHRISTENSEN, O-790618
2nd Lt, 503rd Bomb Sq
398th Bomb Group, B17G-44-5513

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

8-2 SUMMARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

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/100th Bomb Gp CG 603rd B.G. A/C # 41-5378-X MISSION DATE 3 March 1945

FIRST PILOT Christensen, Donald L. 2nd Lt O-780513 DESTINATION Berlin, Germany
NAME RANK SER #

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted: Time - 1036

- (a) By coordinates 5920E-1255E
- (b) Approximate altitude 25,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading 325 Mag.
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation _____

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft):
At this particular time there was no flak. The enemy aircraft's opposition was described as moderate. Crews report that 3 FW-190's made a pass at this A/C - the B-17 flipped over and went down into spin.

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

No visible damage was apparent, no fires or explosions were reported, however it must be stated that other crews in this formation were under attack from B/A and did not make extensive observations.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

B-17 was described as going down in steep dive or spin.

(Over)

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

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

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort? If so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter group if noted (Group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.).

P-51's were in area and seen attacking the E/A.

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

No parachutes were reported.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Nil.

8. Date of report 9 March 1944

WITNESSES:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2.	<u>May, Harold E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-977267</u>	<u>42-57184-7</u>
3.	<u>Alwood, Joseph E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-92897</u>	<u>42-10780-8</u>
4.	<u>Spangler, Harold F.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-957384</u>	<u>42-5272-3</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (sign Original and one copy):

 Captain, Air Corps 558289 Asst Intelligence

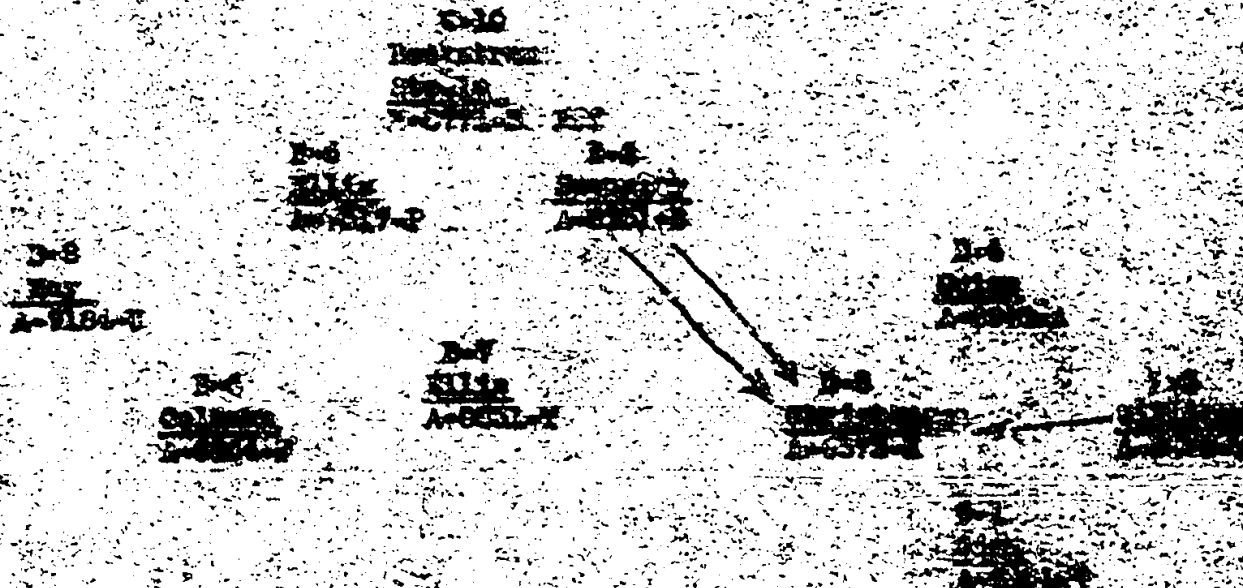
NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter 'D', AG, 704 (5 July 44) OS-3-42 P-4, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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

NAVY - AIR FORCE
JANUARY 3 1945

REMARKS: [Illegible]

MAY 30 1945



Name: DUDLEY - ROBERT W.

35558720

1. Visi - Status *DEW, 3 March 46, 630 5:30 AM, 46.*
Form 0353 Finding of fact of missing - Review

2. Casualty File: *Public Law 490*
A. Unit: *398 Bomb Group, 603rd Bomb Squadron*

B. Date of Casualty:

C. Circumstances: *While on a Bombing mission to*
Bohlen, Germany, the plane on which I was a
crew member, encountered mechanical difficulties
and was attacked by enemy fighters about 35
miles south of Chemnitz, Germany. I was ejected
parachuted from plane which flared on its last before
going into a spin.

D. List of Message & Shipment Nos:
673

E. Cross reference to 704 (only if not in Mail & Message)

3. Message & Shipment Nos: *073*

A. Crew List:
2nd Lt Donald P. Christensen 0780518
" John J. Gustafson 0717745
" William H. ... 0781350
" Harry Ostrom 0159355
Sgt. Albert S. Cariele 31340415

Sgt. Robert W. Dudley 35558720
" Umer L. Kupka 35052024
" Kenneth J. Kuntz 17143902
" Clarence K. Hesterson 19669763

B. Review:

5519
of 1 March 701
of 1 March 701



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8

CPA-T
JA
NOT RECORDED



25 August 1945

SUBJECT: Sergeant Selmer K. Haakenson, 19069763

TO: Commanding Officer
1030th AAF Base Unit
Santa Monica, California

1. It is requested that Sergeant Haakenson be interrogated with reference to any information he may know concerning the whereabouts of Second Lieutenant Donald R. Christensen.
2. Lieutenant Christensen was the pilot of the bomber of which subject named was the tail gunner, and was reported missing 2 March 1945, on a mission to Bonlen, Germany.
3. All crew members are still listed as missing in action.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

N. W. Reed

N. W. REED
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Asst Chief of Air Staff

1st Ind. RS3AJ/hh
HQ AAF REDISTRIBUTION STATION #3, Santa Monica, Calif., 8 October 1945.

TO: The Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

Interrogation of Sergeant Selmer K. Haakenson, 19069763, forwarded herewith in compliance with basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

George C. Merrill, Jr.

GEORGE C. MERRILL, Jr.
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

1 Incl:
(Interr. in trip.)

State of California)
:
County of Los Angeles)

Deponent of lawful age, after having been duly sworn deposes and states as follows.

My name is Selmer K. Haakenson, Sergeant, Air Corps, 19069763. I was formerly assigned as a tail gunner with the 398th Bomb Group, 603d Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force.

On 2 March 1945, members of my crew embarked on a bombardment mission over Bohlen, Germany. Approximately thirty minutes before we reached the target we were forced to drop our bombs due to mechanical difficulty with the flaps.

Shortly thereafter we received numerous hits from fighters and both 20mm and 50 cal. After this the plane went into a left bank and after that the tail was shot completely off. No one had bailed out prior to the time the tail was shot off and I was unable to observe what happened to the other members of the crew as I received a shrapnel hit on the right side of my face which removed the vision in my right eye and very badly clouded the vision in my left eye.

I bailed out from the tail at approximately two thousand feet into a low cloud bank and snow storm and was unable to see whether or not any other chutes opened, or whether any members of my crew bailed out.

After I hit the ground my left eye closed completely and I was unable to see at all for some time.

I am unable to say what happened to the pilot, Second Lieutenant Donald R. Christensen for the reasons stated above and further because of the fact that the interphones were shot out by the first burst received.

After I hit the ground I never saw any of the members of my crew again, or heard anything concerning their whereabouts.

Selmer K. Haakenson

SELMER K. HAAKENSON
Sergeant, Air Corps
19069763

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 3d day of October 1945.

Benita Haakenson
Notary Public

My Commission Expires April 5, 1949

(100 712)
12653

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) CARLISLE, ALBERT S. JR.		GRADE Sgt.	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 31340415
ORGANIZATION 603 Bomb. Sq. 398 Bomb. Gr.		RACE WHITE	CREED PROT.
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 2 MARCH 45	CAUSE OF DEATH FOD	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA ABOUT 35 MI. SOUTH OF CHEMNITZ, GERMANY	
DATE OF FOD 3 MARCH 46		HEIGHT 70"	WEIGHT 148
		COLOR HAIR BLOND	SHOE SIZE 10 1/2 C

DENTAL CHART **24 July 43**

UPPER RIGHT X 7 X ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①	UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧
LOWER RIGHT X ⑮ X ⑬ ⑫ 11 10 9	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 ⑭ 15 X

X = Extracted O = Carious 1 = Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS NONE	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK NONE
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
**WHILE ON A BOMBING MISSION TO BOHLKEN GERMANY PLANE
 WAS ATTACKED BY FIGHTER PLANES AND WENT INTO A SPIR ABOUT
 35 MI. SOUTH OF CHEMNITZ, GERMANY**
AGE 20 YEARS

PHOTOSTAT OF DENTAL CHART

4/24/45

2nd Lt. Donald B. Christensen

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 19 May 45

Mrs. Jessie C. Christensen (wife)

155 West 70th Street
Los Angeles, California

2nd Lt. William E. Love

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 20 June 45

Mrs. Leta B. Love (mother)

404 1st Street
San Francisco, California

2nd Lt. Harry Gentry

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 20 May 45

Mrs. Anna Gentry (mother)

2322 North 11th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2nd Lt. John V. Gustafson

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 30 May 45

Mrs. Lela B. Gustafson (wife)

908 West 9th Street
Alton, Illinois

Sgt. Earl A. Valley

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
22 May 45

Mrs. Elsie E. Valley (mother)

1315 Johnson Avenue
Salina, Ohio

Sgt. Elmer C. Gertz

MIA 9 Mar 45 -
E.O. 22 May 45

Mrs. Loretta E. Gertz (mother)

4016 American Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sgt. Elmer E. Gosselin Jr.,

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 19 June 45

Mrs. Leta E. Gosselin (mother)

42 Maple Street
White River Junction, Vermont

Sgt. Kenneth E. Flanta

MIA 2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 19 May 45

Mrs. Frances E. Flanta (mother)

1425 Maple Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sgt. Selmer E. Hankerson

2 Mar 45 -
E.O. 20 June 45

Mrs. Wynne Hankerson (mother)

1431 4th Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama

(Name) ...

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