

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

5795

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG
Date 15 June 1946

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Sta 111 ; Command or Air Force 8th
Group 306th Bomb (H) ; Squadron 423rd Bomb (H) ; ~~Attachment~~
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Thurleigh, England ; Course as prescribed
Intended Destination Nantes, France ; Type of Mission Heavy Bomb
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
1/10 clouds CAVU
- GIVE: (a) Date 15 June 46 ; Time 0807 ; and Location Nantes, France
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.
- 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 _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-107212
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97 ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-014480
(b) SW-014761 ; (c) SW-014088 ; (d) SW-014042
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) S-1192544 ; (b) S-1192223 ; (c) B-1296317 ; (d) C-51114
(e) BLC-716689 ; (f) BLC-716528 ; (g) BLC-717324 ; (h) B-1296486
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle casualty X
or (b) ~~Personnel Reported~~
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 9
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 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
1. Pilot - Pilot	<u>O'Brien, Wilbur B.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-810204</u> <i>RTD</i>
2. Pilot - Co-Pilot	<u>Price, George C.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-819164</u> <i>RTD</i>
3. Navigator - Navigator	<u>Allen, William D.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-709238</u>
4. Bombardier - Nose Gunner	<u>Thlhorn, William B.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-703538</u> <i>RTD</i>
5. Aer. Eng. Gun - Top Turret G.	<u>Boozer, Richard F.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>39554327</u>
6. Radio Opr - Radio Operator	<u>Pearson, Odis G.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>39694079</u> <i>RTD</i>
7. Armorer-Gun - Ball Turret Gun.	<u>Gibson, David F.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16056912</u> <i>RTD</i>
8. Armorer-Gun - Waist Gunner	<u>Sutton, John S.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>18213638</u>
9. Aer. Eng. Gun - Tail Gunner	<u>Ziem, Arne G.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>52768319</u> <i>RTD</i>

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			
			By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. <u>MATHIS, JOSEPH B.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-748205</u>		<u>X</u>		
2. _____						
3. _____						

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 _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer
United States Forces

(G-B-3)

APO 557.
17 June, 1944.

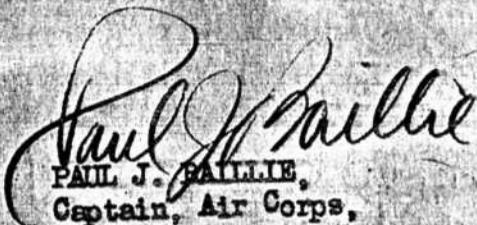
SUBJECT: Eye witness account of incidents pertaining to Aircraft
#42-107212, Pilot W.B. O'BRIEN, Missing in action 15 June, 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Hqs., First Bombardment Division, APO 557.

1. The following is an account compiled from reports of Pilots flying in the same formation as 2nd Lt WILBUR B. O'BRIEN, MIA, 15 June, 1944:

Our Aircraft #. 212, Pilot W.B. O'BRIEN, was last seen "on the deck" at about 4710N x 0200W. Hit by flak at 0807 just after bombs away, pieces were seen to fly from the plane which then pulled out of formation to the left and started to lose altitude rapidly but under control, headed SW. No. 2 engine was reported first on fire, then smoking. One crew reports three chutes, but another reports only one. Most reports do not mention chutes. One crew reports a small silver aircraft following the B-17 down, but it was too far away to tell whether it was enemy or friendly.

For the Commanding Officer:


PAUL J. BAILLIE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL