

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 111 ; Command or Air Force 8th
Group 306th Bomb (H) ; Squadron 423rd Bomb (H) ~~Detachment~~
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Thurleigh, England ; Course as prescribed
Intended Destination HAMBURG, GERMANY ; Type of Mission Heavy Bomb
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear - CAVU
4. GIVE: (a) Date 20 Jun/44; Time 0928 ; and Location Vicinity of Hamburg.
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; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-97250 X
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) SW-011800
(b) SW-011759 ; (c) SW-011843 ; (d) SW-011772
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) S-1199497 ; (b) S-1199536 ; (c) S-1200095 ; (d) B-1299943
(e) B-1299561 ; (f) BLC-1531246 ; (g) BLC-1531251 ; (h) S-1199903
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) ~~Missing~~
10. 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	Latham, Derrill L.	1st Lt	0-748434 RTD
2. Pilot - Co-Pilot	Porter, Ellis O.	2nd Lt	0-758723 RTD <i>chd</i>
3. Navigator - Navigator	Nuttall, Andrew (NMT)	1st Lt	0-424395 RTD
4. Bombardier - Bombardier Nose Gun	Bryant, Harold A. Jr.	1st Lt	0-679804 Dead
5. Aer. Eng. Gun. - Top Turret Gun.	Epps, Bryan E.	T/Sgt	18043684 RTD
6. Radio Opr - Radio Opr.	Breckels, Winston J.	T/Sgt	36501774
7. Arm. Gun. - Ball Turret Gun.	Reed, Harold L.	S/Sgt	34049041 Dead
8. Arm. Gun. - Waist Gunner	Smith, Edward W.	S/Sgt	18219507 Dead
9. Arm. Gun. - Tail Gunner	Walsh, Edward D.	Cpl	32734924 Dead

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	Check Only One Column	
					Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Mitchell, William G. Jr	1st Lt	0-813938		x		
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)
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE
None

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

APO 557,
21 June, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eye witness account of incidents pertaining to Aircraft
42-97250, Pilot 1st Lt D.L. LATHAM, Missing in Action
20 June, 1944.

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

1. According to 1st Lt William G. Mitchell, Jr., O-813938, Pilot of an aircraft in the same formation the following is an account of what happened to Aircraft No. 42-97250, Pilot 1st Lt D.L. LATHAM:

Our aircraft #250 - G, Pilot Latham was hit by flak over target after bombs away. Fire broke out on the two inboard engines and spread over nose to Radio Room. Aircraft peeled out, side-slipping to the left and went straight down. One crew reports seeing waist door off. One crew reports one chute. Aircraft was observed to go to pieces in the air.

For the COMMANDING OFFICER:

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

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