

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Date Oct 15 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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Dijon, France : Command or Air Force 1st TAC AF
Group 320th ; Squadron 441st : Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Dijon, France : Course: Epinal to Ville to Saalestat to
Target or Intended Destination Breisach, Germany : Type of Mission Bombing Target.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Open with heavy haze.
- GIVE: (a) Day 23 Month Dec Year 1944 ; Time 14:12A ; and Location Over target at
WV-9936 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 B-26B45 ; AAF Serial Number 42-95753
 Battle # 08
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any _____
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-43 AAF Serial Number _____
(a) 41-38805 ; (b) 42-52274 ; (c) _____ ; (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) ; 50 Cal. Browning
(a) 94211 ; (b) 91098 ; (c) 259359 ; (d) 252256 Machine Gun.
(e) 401827 ; (f) 258919 ; (g) 91057 ; (h) _____
(i) _____ ; (j) _____ ; (k) _____ ; (l) _____
(m) _____ ; (n) _____ ; (o) _____ ; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle Casualty
(b) Non Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 7
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 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	Current Status
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- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Pilot | <u>DICKEY, RICHARD E.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-705917</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 2. CoPilot | <u>KUENTZ, FRANK J.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-713476</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 3. Bombardier | <u>STADNICKI, FRANK A.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-722676</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 4. Engineer G. | <u>DICKENS, DONALD G.</u> | <u>Col.</u> | <u>38507604</u> | <u>MIA</u> |
| 5. Radio Gunner | <u>WRIGHT, WILLIAM (NMI)</u> | <u>Pvt.</u> | <u>14097521</u> | <u>MIA</u> |

(Over)

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	Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
6.	Arm. G. ✓	MCONANT, PAUL (NMI)	Cpl. ✓	13178765	MTA ✓
7.	Arm. G. ✓	LOFTON, JOHN W.	S/Sgt. ✓	18085010	MTA ✓
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					

12. 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	Check Only One Column		
				Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forces Landing
1. GEMMILL, JOHN G.	Captain	0-568270	Consolidated S-2		Interrogation	
2. DUNN, JOHNNIE O.	S/Sgt.	38219423			X	
3. SNOW, CLARON E.	S/Sgt.	38414919	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)
1 Chute was seen to emerge from A/C.

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 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.

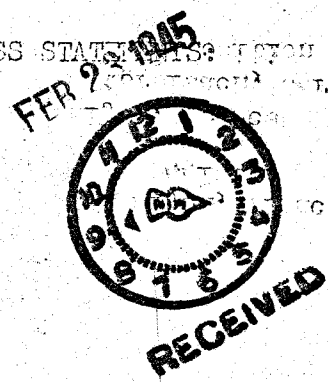
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT

Date of Report 27 December, 1944

Thomas McLaughlin
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)

THOMAS (NMI) McLAUGHLIN
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Statistical Officer.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS



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70° 30'

70° 40'

48° 10'

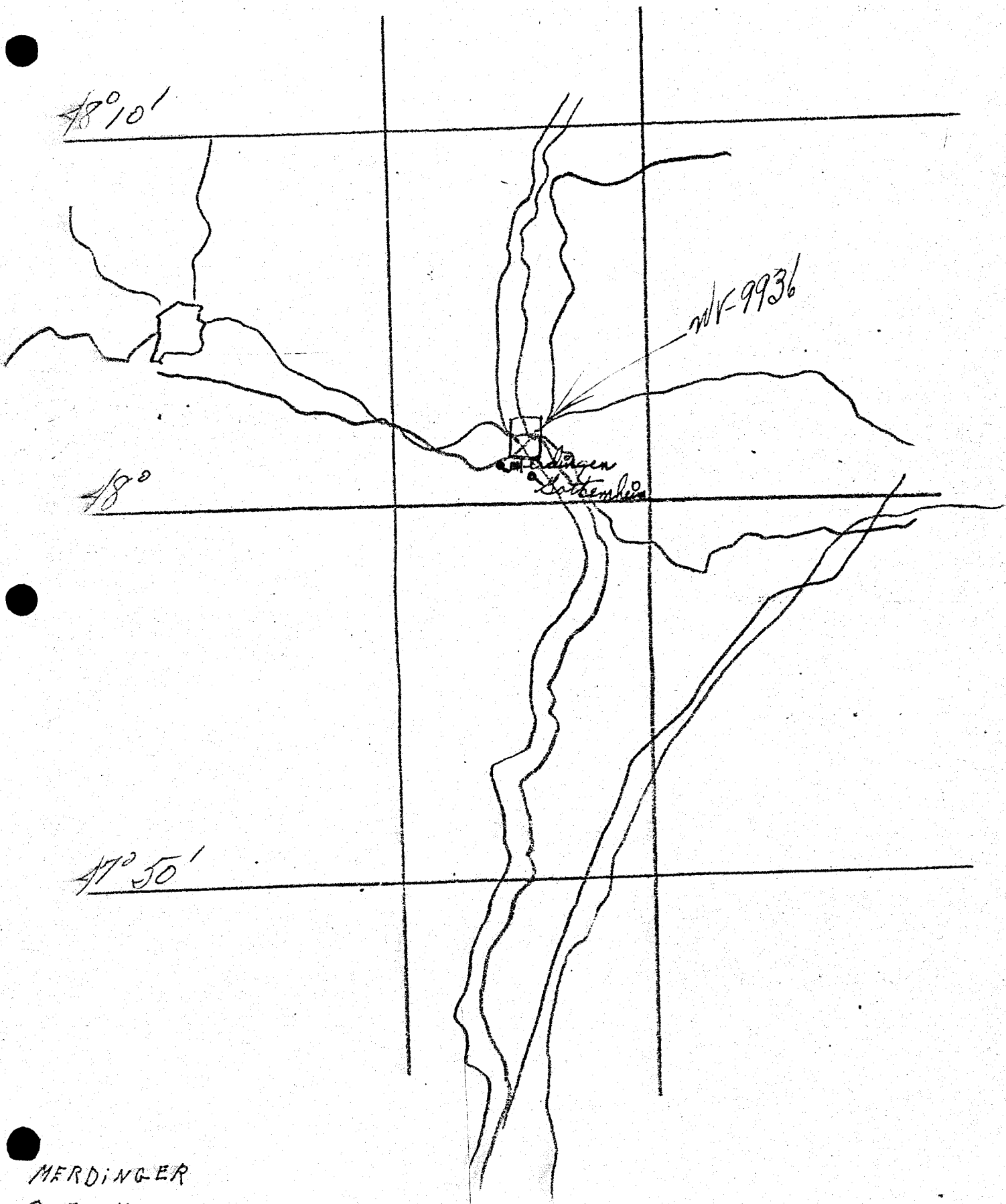
NV-9936

48°

Merdinger
Gottenheim

47° 50'

MERDINGER
GOTTENHEIM



HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 374

27 December, 1944.

S T A T E M E N T

23 December, 1944 965
A/C Battle # 08 was hit by flak at 14:12 hours, over the target;
the tail assembly was torn off and the A/C spun to the ground, crashing
and exploding at WV-9936. One (1) chute was seen to emerge from the A/C
at WV-9936.

John G. Gemmill
JOHN G. GEMMILL
Captain, Air Corps.

2nd Lt. Richard E. Dickey

Mrs. Vivian M. Dickey, (Wife) ✓
c/o W.L. Mack
1127 Warden, Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

2nd Lt. Frank J. Kuents

Mrs. Nell Kuents, (Wife) ✓
5811 Vellasco Street
Dallas, Texas

2nd Lt. Frank A. Stadnicki

Mrs. Stella S. Guys, (Sister) ✓
315 High Street
Central Falls, Rhode Island

Corporal Donald G. Dickens

Mrs. Lollie E. Dickens, (Mother) ✓
Route Number Three
Conway, Arkansas

Private William Tipton

Mrs. Pearl H. Tipton, (Mother) ✓
123 1/2 West Main
West Frankford, Illinois

Corporal Paul Conant

Mrs. Helen M. Conant, (Mother) ✓
1657 34th Street Northwest
Washington, D.C.

S/Sgt. John W. Lofton

Mr. William Riley Lofton, (Father) ✓
413 North Ninth Street
Wilson, Oklahoma

441st BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 374 US ARMY

24 December 1944

SUBJECT: Statement of S/Sgt. Johnnie O. Dunn

TO : All Concerned

1. Below is the written statement of S/Sgt. Dunn.

While flying on a mission the 23 December 1944 as tail gunner, I saw ship 08 which was flying on my left wing get a direct hit between the waist window and top turret. The ship was blown completely in to. Both pieces were level for a split second then both nose dived earthward. As the nose section got about half way to the ground, a thin trail of black smoke could be seen. When the ship hit the ground it exploded. From the time the ship was hit until it hit the ground, I had my eyes on it and I did not see any chutes come out of the ship.

S/Sgt Johnnie O. Dunn
S/Sgt. Johnnie O. Dunn

441st BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
US ARMY AFSC 374

24 December 1944

SUBJECT: Statement of S/Sgt. Clarion E. Snow.

TO : All Concerned.

1. Below is the written statement of S/Sgt. Snow.

While flying the upper turret of ship No. 21, the lead ship of company formation on the 23 December 1944, we encountered intense and accurate flak just after passing the I.P. There were a number of very close burst to our ship and one particularly loud one. On hearing this burst, I glanced toward our left wing and saw 08, the left wing ship, hit directly between the upper turret and the tail. The ship immediately dropped from my vision and I saw no more of it. I called Capt. Cahan, the pilot, and told him that 08 was missing and could not see it. I did not see any chutes come from this ship.

Clarion E. Snow
S/Sgt. Clarion E. Snow
ASN 38414919

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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 374

D-F-3.

23 December 1944.

Final Mission Report No. 434

Flight Commander: Lt. ~~Borden~~
Lead Pilot : Lt. Abernathy.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

TARGET: GUN POSITIONS AT BIELLA, (M/R) (W) V-875364, 869357, 872352 and 877340), GERMANY.

At 1219 hours, 9 B-26's took off; no B-26's returned early and no B-26's were lost prior to the target. 9 B-26s were over the target and dropped 1,056 x 20-lb fragmentation bombs on the primary target at 1411 hours from 10,000' on an axis of 149 Deg. True. No bombs were salvaged. 24 x 20-lb fragmentation bombs were returned to base, after having hung up over the target. 9 B-26s returned to base at 15:12 hours. No A/C were lost, and none are missing. 1 B-26 was slightly damaged by flak and no B-26's were seriously damaged by flak.

RESULTS: Same as Report No. 2.

WASBY FIGHTER OPERATIONS: None.

FLAK: Same as Report No. 2.

WEATHER: See Report No. 2.

AIR OBSERVATIONS: See Report No. 1.

NAVAL OBSERVATIONS: None.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: See Report No. 1.

COMMENTS: 99 cartons of Chaff dropped. See special Chaff report to follow.

NORMAN L. FARBEROW,
Captain, Air Corps,
Act'g Group S-2 Officer.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
745005
By 7 NARS, Date 6/6/78