

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

9103

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

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

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.

Essex

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by name Wethersfield; Command or Air Force 9 AF
Group 416th Bomb Gp (L); Squadron 640th Bomb Sq (L); Detachment ---
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Wethersfield, Essex; Course See Incl I
Target or Intended Destination See Incl I; Type of Mission Operational
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Visibility 10 miles, sky clear
4. GIVE: (a) Day 16 Month Sep Year 1944; Time 1815; and Location See Incl I
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by
radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (x); or Information not Avail-
able ().
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check
only one) (Enemy Aircraft ()); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (x); Other Circumstances
as Follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series A-20G-45; AF Serial Number 43-21767
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Airplane crashed in sea; AF Serial Number
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) Airplane crashed (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) in sea (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
(i) _____ (j) _____ (k) _____ (l) _____
(m) _____ (n) _____ (o) _____ (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
(b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 3; Passengers 0; Total 3
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: if more than 11
persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheets
and attach original to this form.)

209099-2 45

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	Vleghels, Andre J.	2d Lt	0 750 488	NTA
2. Armorer Gunner	Rice, Roger W.	S/Sgt	11 113 422	NTA
3. Mechanic Gunner	Young, Clay E.	S/Sgt	17 129 222	NTA
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

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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:

(Last Name First)	Rank	Number	Check only one column			
			Contacted by	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Huff, Meredith J.	Capt	0-736220			X	
2. Kupits, Joseph	1st Lt	0-847012			X	
3. Smith, Jack F.	2d Lt	0-750471			X	

13. 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) _____

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 None

Date of Report 18 Sep 1944

Joseph A. Haverich
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
JOSEPH A. HAVERICH,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

CAPTAIN MEREDITH J. HUFF

Airplane seen to go down in flames Southeast corner of Oostershilde Bay. Two parachutes seen drifting towards Bergen op Zoom. Airplane crashed in water about one quarter of a mile from land.
1ST LT JOSEPH KUPITS

Airplane seen going down in flames in Southeast corner of Oostershilde Bay. Two parachutes seen drifting towards Bergen op Zoom.

1ST LT JACK F. SMITH

Airplane seen to go down in Bay of Oostershilde, Southeast corner near enemy coast. Two parachutes were observed drifting towards land.

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Strait of Dover,
1:500,000

416th Bomb Gp (1). 16 Sep 1944. 97th Bomb Wing (1)

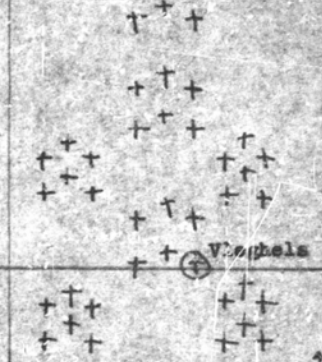
F16 O #216-554. Weather Clear. 3 Window ships

Course Briefed

Deviations

○ - Missing, A-20G-45
No. 43-21767

Ooster Schelde



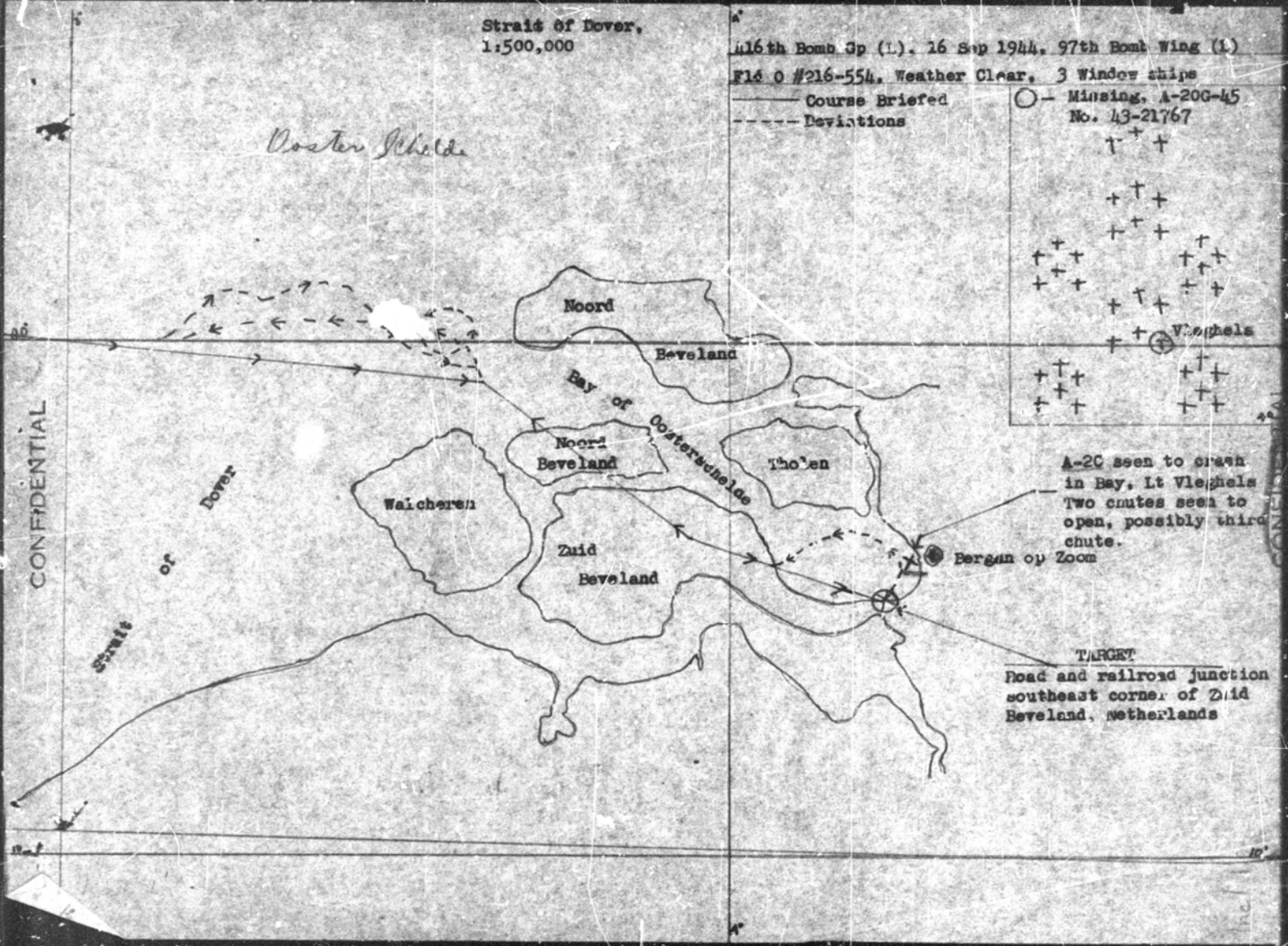
A-20 seen to crash
in Bay, Lt Vlieghals
Two chutes seen to
open, possibly third
chute.

Bergin op Zoom

TARGET

Road and railroad junction
southeast corner of Zuid
Beveland, Netherlands

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eb/12/20/44

2nd Lt. Andre J. Vlegbels

Mr. Maurice Vlegbels, (father)
10348 Britain Street,
Detroit, Michigan. ✓

S/Sgt. Eugene W. Rice

Mrs. Mildred Rice, (mother)
73 Bromfield Road,
Somerville, Massachusetts. ✓

S/Sgt. Clay E. Young

Mrs. Ellajean F. Young, (wife)
3522 Smart Avenue,
Kansas City, Missouri. ✓

Ans

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Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AO
Date MAR 15 1946

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