

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. Stocking, Lewis E.	Lt Col	O-22160		x		
2. Gibson, Stuart K.	F/O	T-5370		x		
3. Tucker, Richard E.	Sgt	37557847				
4.						
5.						

12. 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) _____

Unknown

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN: Overlay map atchd in quadruplicate

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE: Eyewitness Statements atchd in quadruplicate.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: no search.

Date of Report 25 March 1945

LeRoy C. Hutchison
LEROY C. HUTCHISON, Capt., AG, Asst. Pers. O.
(Signature of Preparing Officer)



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HEADQUARTERS
409TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

APO 140, US Army,
24 March 1945.

STATEMENT

On the morning mission of 21 March 1945 I was flying in number seven position of the second flight of the first box. On the bomb run, while we were receiving very accurate flak, I saw the number two airplane of the first flight receive a direct hit. There was a brilliant red flash, the left wing was torn off and, together with the debris, the airplane immediately disappeared from the formation. I did not watch it down, but during the time the airplane was within my field of vision I did not observe any parachutes.

Approximately ten seconds after the above aircraft was hit, I observed the number five airplane of the first flight turn sharply out of formation to the right. The aircraft rolled almost onto its back in this turn and disappeared from view, going down in what I considered to be an uncontrolled dive. I did not observe any parachutes from this aircraft. Both aircraft were hit before bombs away.

Upon return to the field I found that the pilot of the number two aircraft, first flight, was Lt. Cotton and the pilot of the number five aircraft, first flight was Lt. Hadfield.


LEWIS W. STOCKING
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps.

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STATEMENT OF EYEWITNESS

APO 340, U.S. Army,
25 March 1945.

On 21 March 1945 I was flying an A-26 aircraft on a combat mission. I was flying in No. 5 position, second flight, first box. Lt. Hadfield was flying in No. 5 position, first flight, first box. Just a few minutes past the initial point, before opening our bomb-bay doors, I saw Lt. Hadfield's plane peel up to the right. It fell over on it's back and headed straight down towards earth. I was a mile or two behind him at the time. From my position, I didn't see his plane hit by flak. The last I saw of the plane the bomb-bay doors were closed and I saw no parachutes leave the plane.

Stuart K. Gibson
STUART K. GIBSON,
F/O, T5370,
642nd Bcmb Sq (L),
409th Bomb Gp (L).

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STATEMENT OF EYEWITNESS

APO 140. U.S. Army,
25 March 1945.

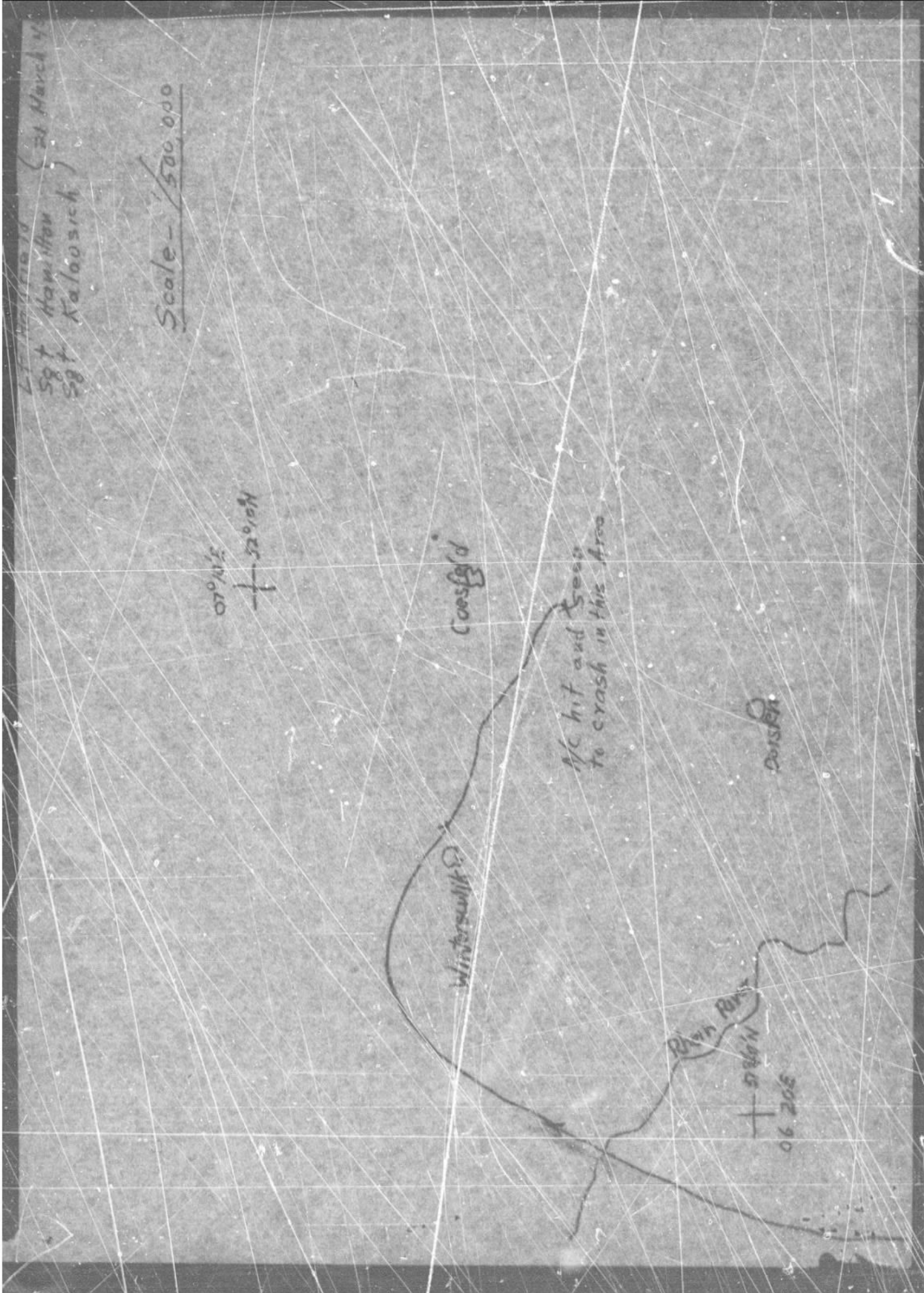
On 21 March 1945 I was flying as an Engineer Gunner in an A-26 aircraft in the number 5 position of the second flight, first box on a bombing mission. Lt. Hadfield's plane was in the number five position in the first flight, first box. On the bomb run before the bomb-bay doors were opened, I happened to glance toward Lt. Hadfield's plane and saw it peel up with the left wing up. It then kept going and turned over on it's back while nosing down. I kept the plane in my view until we passed over it and then lost sight of it altogether. To the best of my knowledge no parachutes opened.

Richard E. Tucker
RICHARD E. TUCKER,
Sgt., 37557857,
642nd Bomb Sq (L),
409th Bomb Gp (L).

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mlw/5/1/45

2nd. Lt. Lynn F. Hadfield

Mrs. Betty T. Hadfield (wife)
1443 South 10th East Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sgt. John Kalousich

Mrs. Mary Rokrich (mother)
907 Richard Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Sgt. Vernon L. Hamilton

Mrs. Dorothy E. Hamilton (mother)
426 West Main Street
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

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