

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Cowron, France Command or Air Force 9th Air Force
Group 409th Bomb Gp (L) Squadron 642nd Bomb Sq (L) Detachment --
2. SPECIFY: Point of departure Station A-70 Course see overlay (at ch)
Intended Destination Dulmen, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED
Clear but hazy
4. GIVE: (a) Date 21 March 1945 Time 1103 and location near Velen, Germany
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last contacted by radio;
() Forced down; (x) Seen to crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF: (Check
only one) () Enemy Airplane; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other circum-
stances as follows: _____
6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series A-26-B-35; A.A.F. Serial No. 43-27359
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-2800-71; A.A.F. Serial No. (a) EP-020512
(b) 12-2059 (c) _____ (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: Machine Guns, Caliber .50, Browning, M2
(p) 1180963 (a) 1276003 (b) 1276031 (c) 1032264 (d) 1032214
(q) 1038540 (e) 1032114 (f) 1276064 (g) 1032578 (h) 1276405
(r) 605943 (i) 1276139 (j) 1032668 (k) 1305577 (l) 627990 (m) 559239 (n) 627981 (o) 1756012
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x or
(b) Non Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 3 Passengers _____ Total 3
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than
10 persons were aboard airplane, 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	Cotton, Donald J.	2d Lt	0-760521 MIA ✓
2.	Mech Gunner	Lord, Loring E.	S/Sgt	11093015 MIA ✓
3.	Gun-Observ (Inf)	Lord, Don E.	S/Sgt	19109432 MIA ✓
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

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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	Form Landed
1. <u>Stocking, Lewis W.</u>	<u>1st Col</u>	<u>O-22160</u>		<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Berner, Sidney</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>32990322</u>			<u>X</u>	
3. <u>Fitzel, Frederick W.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>33799793</u>		<u>X</u>		
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 SERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, M.F. 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

Ray C. Hutchison
RAY C. HUTCHISON, Capt, AC, Asst Personnel 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

APC 140, U.S. Army,
22 March 1945.

On 21 March 1945, I was flying as a turret gunner in the No. 6 position, 1st Flight, 1st Box. Lt. Cotton's ship was in the No. 2 position of the same flight. About two minutes before "bombs away" on the bomb run, my attention was called to Lt. Cotton's plane by my other gunner. My first sight of the plane was when it passed under our plane after being apparently hit by flak. I followed the flight of the plane on its downward course until it crashed into the ground and exploded.

The plane fish-tailed as it went down, making it easy for possible bailing out by crew members. Due to the limited visibility of my turret sight, I was unable to see any open parachutes.

Sidney Dernee

SIDNEY DERNEE,
S/Sgt, 32990322,
642nd Bomb Sq (L),
409th Bomb Gp (L).

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STATEMENT OF EYEWITNESS

APC 140, U.S. Army,
22 March 1945.

On 21 March 1945, I was flying in an A-26 airplane in the No. 6 position of the 1st Flight, 1st Box. I saw Lt. Cotton's plane receive a direct flak hit on the bomb run about two minutes before "bombs away." His plane was flying No. 2 position of the same flight. Upon being hit, Lt. Cotton's right wing was partially blown off. The plane then made a rising turn and then fell to the left, passing under the formation. After this I lost complete sight of the stricken plane.

Frederick W. Eitzel

FREDERICK W. EITZEL,
S/Sgt, 33799793,
642nd Bomb Sq (L),
409th Bomb Gp (L).

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Lt Cotton }
S/sgt Lord } 21 March 41
S/sgt Nord }

Scale - 1/500,000

07°10'E
+ 32°10'N



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26TH STATISTICAL CONTROL UNIT
HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE



In reply refer
to: 210.86

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Reports.

TO : Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theater of
Operations USA, APO 8C7, U S Army, Attention: AG Casualty Div.

Transmitted herewith are Missing Air Crew Reports and allied
papers as listed below.

For the Commanding Officer:

Edward Steuber
EDWARD STEUBER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst Opus Officer.

27 Incls: (dup)

- Incl 1 - MACR 409 Bomb Gp (L), A-26B15, 43-22359, 21 Mar 45
- Incl 2 - MACR 409 Bomb Gp (L), A-26B-15, 43-27353, 21 Mar 45
- Incl 3 - MACR 3C7 Bomb Gp, B-26G20, 44-68107, 21 Mar 45
- Incl 4 - MACR 328 Bomb Gp, B-26G20, 44-68100, 14 Mar 45
- Incl 5 - MACR 410 Bomb Gp (L), A-20K51, 44-078, 13 Mar 45
- Incl 6 - MACR 397 Bomb Gp, B-26G1, 43-34112, 13 Mar 45
- Incl 7 - MACR 404 Ftr Gp, P-47D28RA, 42-38671, 21 Mar 45
- Incl 8 - MACR 36 Ftr Gp, P-47D30RA, 44-32277, 16 Mar 45
- Incl 9 - MACR 365 Ftr Gp, P-47D30, 44-33175, 19 Mar 45
- Incl 10 - MACR 474 Ftr Gp, P-38L5, 44-25548, 18 Mar 45
- Incl 11 - MACR 474 Ftr Gp, P-38J10, 42-68092, 13 Mar 45
- Incl 12 - MACR 36 Ftr Gp, P-47D28RA, 42-28947, 16 Mar 45
- Incl 13 - MACR 404 Ftr Gp, P-47D30RA, 44-33128, 14 Mar 45
- Incl 14 - MACR 404 Ftr Gp, P-47D27, 42-27334, 13 Mar 45
- Incl 15 - MACR 10th Photo Gp Ren, F-6C, 44-10897, 16 Mar 45
- Incl 16 - MACR 362 Ftr Gp, P-47D28, 42-28848, 18 Mar 45
- Incl 17 - MACR 362 Ftr Gp, P-47D11, 42-75582, 20 Mar 45
- Incl 18 - MACR 367 Ftr Gp, P-47D30, 44-33238, 15 Mar 45
- Incl 19 - MACR 362 Ftr Gp, P-47D22, 42-26038, 20 Mar 45
- Incl 20 - MACR 362 Ftr Gp, P-47D22, 42-26277, 20 Mar 45
- Incl 21 - MACR 371 Ftr Gp, P-47D30, 44-32975, 16 Mar 45
- Incl 22 - MACR 10th Photo Gp Ren, F-6B, 43-12164, 14 Mar 45
- Incl 23 - MACR 362 Ftr Gp, P-47D30, 44-32974, 14 Mar 45
- Incl 24 - MACR 406 Ftr Gp, P-47D30RA, 44-33185, 19 Mar 45
- Incl 25 - MACR 366 Ftr Gp, P-47D26RA, 42-28274, 14 Mar 45
- Incl 26 - MACR 373 Ftr Gp, P-47D28, 44-20071, 18 Mar 45
- Incl 27 - MACR 406 Ftr Gp, P-47D25RE, 42-26661, 14 Mar 45

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AG 360.33 Cas 1st Ind. JWP/JFR.
HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887 U.S. ARMY, 13 April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, 25, D.C.
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded in compliance with letter, War Department, AG 704 (5 Jul 44)
OB-S-AAP-M, dated 7 July 1944.

2. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of the crew
members of subject aircraft to be missing in action, on the dates shown on the
various Missing Air Crew Reports inclosed, with the exceptions shown below:

Incl. 5 -	Capt.	William C. Kahle,	0-307647	RTD	20 Mar. 1945.
	Sgt.	Theodore W. Shaboda,	15079349	RTD	21 Mar. 1945.
	S/Sgt.	Donald F. Holmquist,	37660471	RTD	21 Mar. 1945.
Incl. 10 -	2nd Lt.	Fred W. Wright,	0-773936	RMB	7 Apr. 1945.
Incl. 11 -	2nd Lt.	Ralph E. Byers,	0-766415	KIA	13 Mar. 1945.
Incl. 19 -	2nd Lt.	Arthur J. Davis, Jr.,	0-715485	LWA	20 Mar. 1945.
Incl. 27 -	1st Lt.	William A. Cunningham, Jr.	0-770194	RMC	1 Apr. 1945.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

H. M. RUND
H. M. RUND,
Colonel, AGD,
Assistant Adjutant General



27 Incls:
n/c (dup w/d)

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PA A-32285

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Feb 12 1945

2nd Lt. Donald J. Cotton

Mr. Earl L. Cotton (father) ✓
201 Wright Street
Route One, Box 813
Garden Grove, California

S/Sgt. Loring E. Lord

Mr. Francis H. Lord, (father) ✓
45 Avon Street
Sommerville, Massachusetts

S/Sgt. Don E. Lord

Mr. August Lord (father) ✓
Salome, Arizona

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