

10586

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

By E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC
By F. M. [unclear], AC
Date [unclear]

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MURCH, Capt., AC
Date Jan 1 1948

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Molesworth, Eng. Command or Air Force 8th A.F.
Group 303rd B.G.; Squadron 355th; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Molesworth, Eng.; Course As ordered.
Target or Intended Destination Magdeburg, Ger.; Type of Mission Bombardment.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8-10/10ths cumulus clouds, tops 16-18,000 feet. Visibility aloft unrestricted.
- GIVE: (a) Day 28 Month September Year 1944; Time _____ Location See par. 17.
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 (). See Par. 17.
- 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: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 43-38176
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any Bouncing Betty II
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-023215; (b) SW-023913; (c) SW-023655; (d) SW-023883
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 1279046 F.D.G.M. (b) 1278585 FDGM; (c) 1279510 FDGM; (d) 1278873 FDGM; (e) 1279818 FDGM; (f) 1278682 FDGM; (g) 1278726 FDGM; (h) 1279343 FDGM; (i) 1279053 FDGM; (j) 1278740 FDGM; (k) 1278857 FDGM; (l) 1278906 FDGM; (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X of (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(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
1. Pilot	<u>MAYER, WALTER J.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-816652</u>	<u>Injured</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>GRADLE, RAYMOND B.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-812248</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>SIMONS, ROBERT A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-772753</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>ROGERS, ORON J.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-772735</u>	<u>Injured</u>
5. Top Turret	<u>ELCKS, DOUGLAS E.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>31262527</u>	<u>MIA - DEAD</u>
6. Radio Gunner	<u>MUESCHER, ERNEST (NMI)</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>16056840</u>	<u>RTD</u>
7. Waist Gunner	<u>MESSERICH, JEROME R.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>37562453</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8. Tail Gunner	<u>WITHERS, FREDERICK J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>13146287</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
9. Ball Turret	<u>GENDRON, ERNEST J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>31010830</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10.				
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	Check Only One Column			
			Contacted by	Last Saw	Saw	Forced
			Radio	Sighted	Crash	Landing
1. <u>SIMONS, ROBERT A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-772753</u>	<u>Navigator of A/C.</u>			
2.						
3.						

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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) See Par. 17.
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. **Not required.**
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. **See Par. 17.**
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None.

Date of Report 1 October 1944

JAN 13 1945



RECEIVED

Jesse M. Barrett
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

JESSE M. BARRETT,
Major, AC,
Group S-2.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

A/C was badly damaged and forced out of formation near 52°11'N-10°35'E by enemy fighter attacks. The A/C started back to base alone with #2 propeller feathered, #1 engine streaming oil and only pulling half power, and holes throughout the A/C. Approximately 10 miles northeast of Brunswick, Germany, the top turret gunner was trying to close the bomb bay doors. At the same time the pilot gave the order to get ready to bail out. The top turret gunner had no interphone and when he saw the other members of the crew put their parachutes on, he jumped out thru the bomb bay. His chute was seen to open. The remainder of the crew bailed out near Wilt, Luxembourg just inside the allied lines.

75-6-2-400
RECEIVED
JAN 10 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
APO 634

9 November 1944

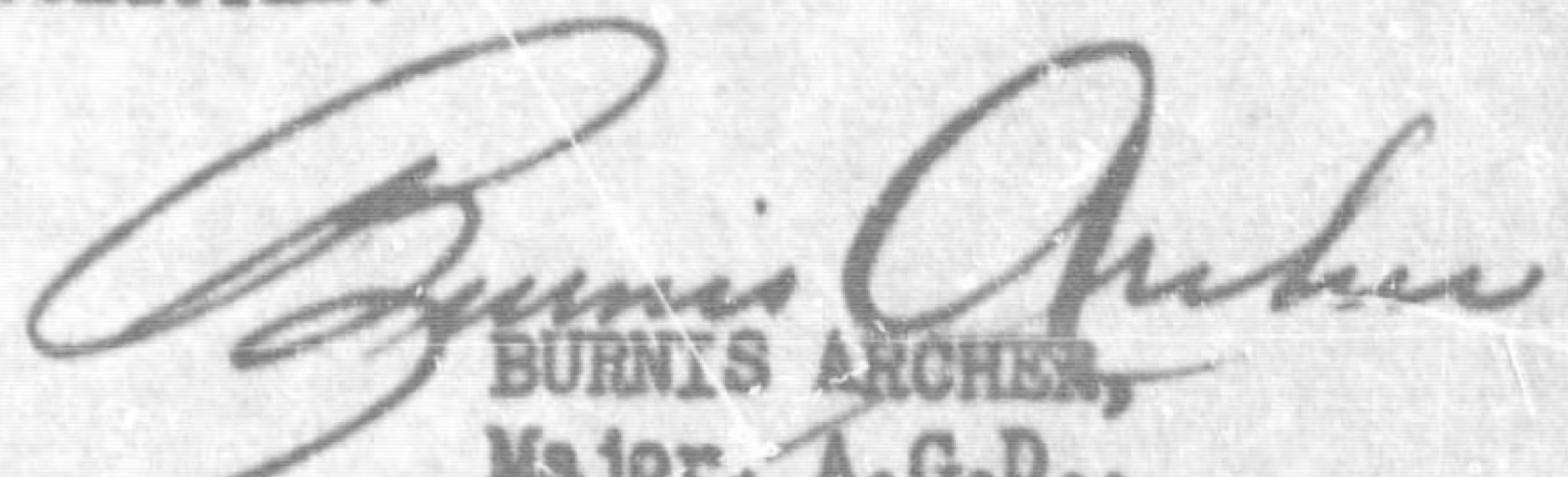
319.1

SUBJECT: Battle Casualties.

TO : Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557, U.S. Army.

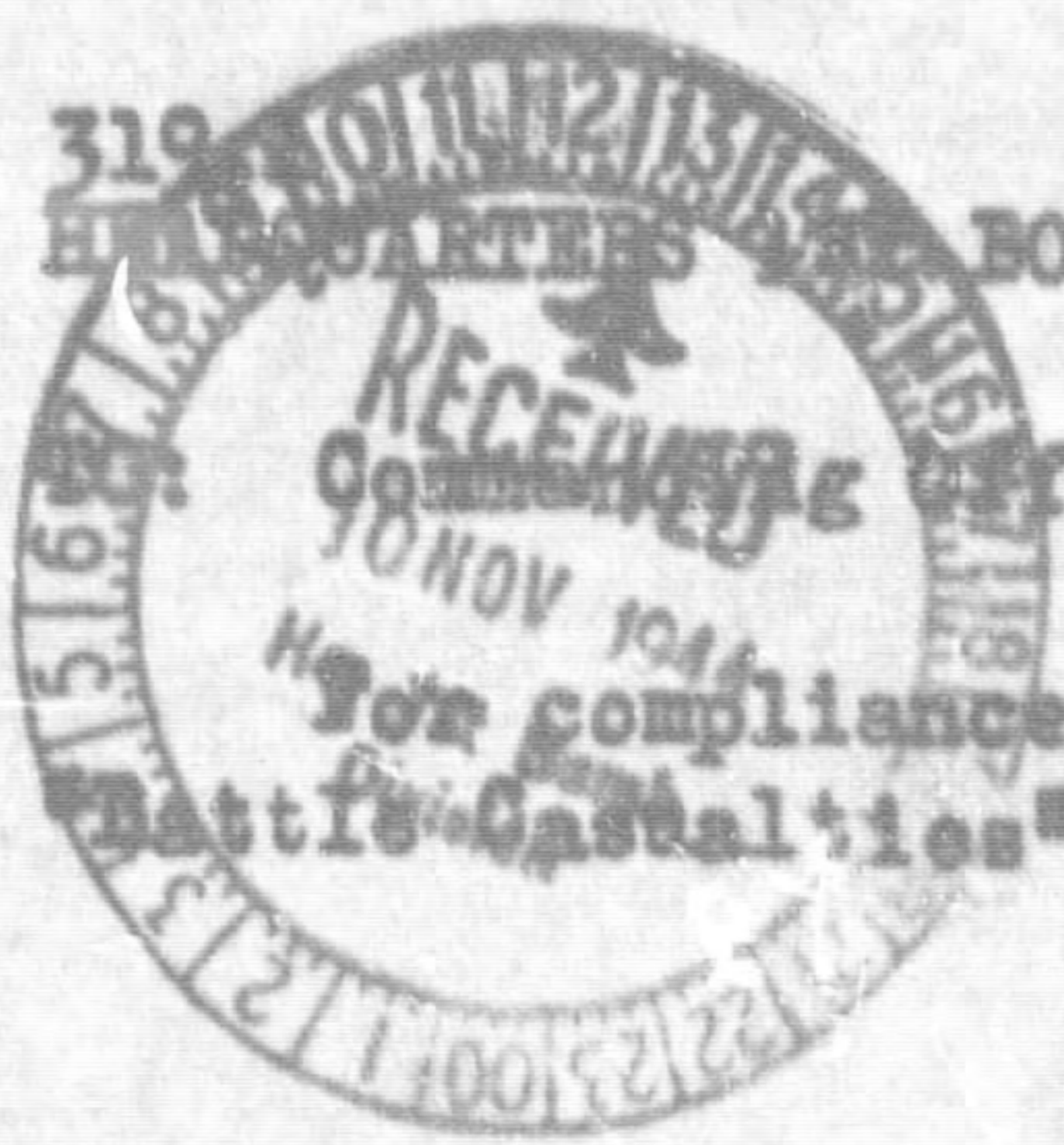
1. Missing Air Crew Report returned for correction or clarification with Battle Casualty Report.
2. No record this headquarters of 1st Lt. Walter J. Mayer, O-816652, and 2d Lt. Oron J. Rogers, O-772735, as injured in action.
3. If personnel have been hospitalized in Continental Europe and degree of casualty cannot be determined, a statement to that effect will be made on Missing Air Crew Report.
4. It is evident that degree of injury can be determined in the case of 1st Lt. Walter J. Mayer, O-816652, by information set forth in paragraph 7, of attached eyewitness statement.

By command of Lieutenant General DOOLITTLE:

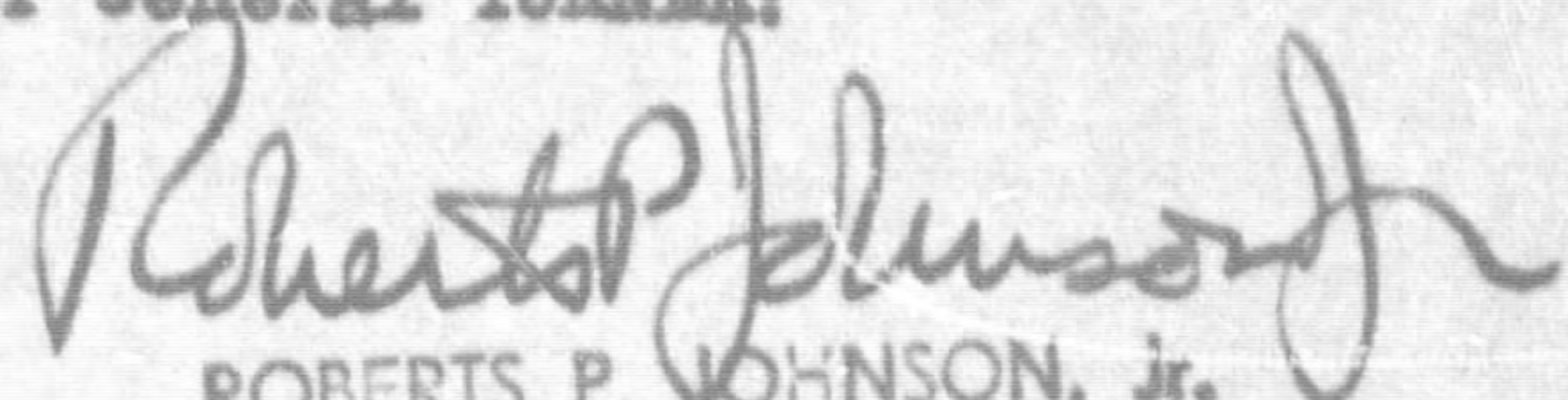

BURNIS ARCHER,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

1 Incl: MACR-A/C #43-38176, 303rd B.Gp.,
MIA - 28 Sept 44.

319.1
HEADQUARTERS 1st BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 12 November 1944. P-L-6
1st Ind.
Commanding Officer, AAF Station 107, APO 557. (Att; 3-2).
For compliance with basic communication dated 9 November 1944, subject,
"Battle Casualties".



By Command of Brigadier General TURNER:


ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, Jr.
Lieut. Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General

1 Incl: n/c

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

2nd Ind.

D-A

HEADQUARTERS, AAF STATION 107, APO 557, 15 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557, AAF Station 103.
(Attention: Statistical Control).

1. Battle Casualty Report showing 1st Lt. Walter J. Mayer, O-816652, and 2nd Lt. Oron J. Rogers, O-772735, as injured in action forwarded by this headquarters 13 November 1944.

2. 1st Lt. Mayer has returned to duty this headquarters. 2nd Lt. Rogers returned to duty and was transferred to 303rd Station Hospital for return to Zone of Interior.

For the Commanding Officer



1 Incl: n/c

319.1

3rd Ind.

P-L-5

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 557, 17 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.
(Att: 21st Statistical Control Unit).

Attention is invited to 4th Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:



Jesse T. Peurifoy
JESSE T. PEURIFOY
1st Lt. AGD
Asst. Adjutant General

1 Incl: n/c.
C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

(Ltr Hq Eighth AF, subj: "Battle Casualties", dtd 9 Nov 44, cont'd)

319.1

4th Ind.

SCU-D-2

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U. S. ARMY.

29 NOV 1944

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.

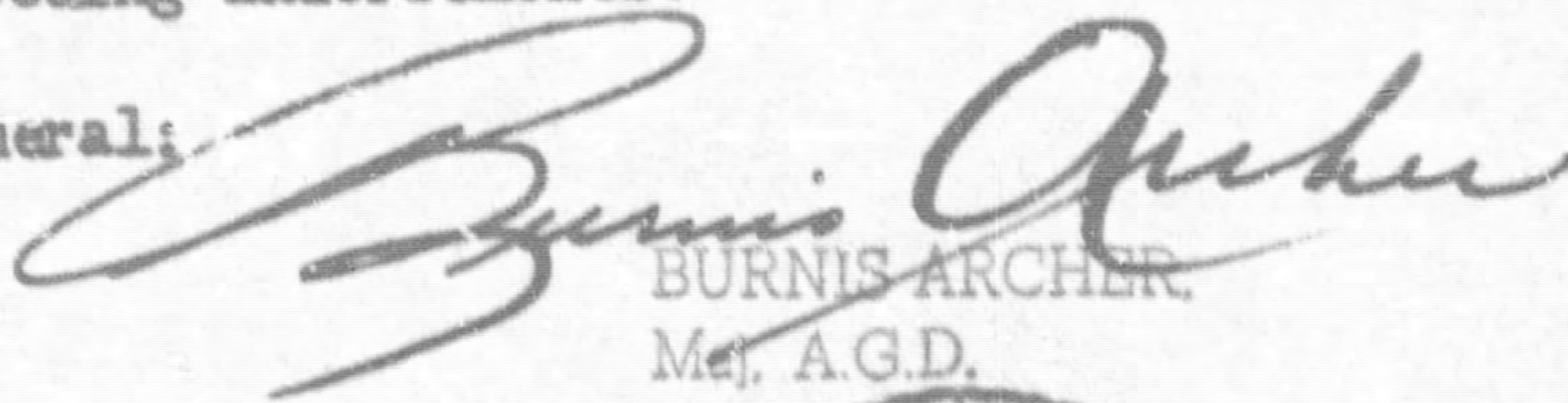
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

(Thru: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887)

1. Missing Air Crew Report is transmitted herewith in accordance with letter, War Department, TAGO, AG 704 (5 Jul 44) OB-S-AAF-M, 7 July 1944, subject: "Missing Air Crew Report".

2. Attention is invited to preceding indorsements.

For the Commanding General:



BURNIS ARCHER.

Mej. A.G.D.

Asst.



1 Incl - Missing Air Crew Report, 303rd Bomb Gp
B-17G, 43-38176, 28 Sept 44 (in dup)

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Charged out -
Jan. 27,
10586

AG 360.33 Cas 5th Ind. JWP/jt
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887, US ARMY, 28 Dec. 44.

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

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

2. Records of this headquarters indicate all crew members of
subject aircraft to be on a duty status with exceptions shown below:

2nd Lt. Oron J. Rogers, O-772735, LIA 28 Sept. 1944.
T/Sgt. Douglas E. Hicks, 31262527, MIA 28 Sept. 1944.

For the Theater Commander:

4 AGO
JAN 3 1945
Received

AAAF

H. M. Rund
H. M. RUND,
Colonel, AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

✓ 1 Incl:
n/c (dup w/d)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 303rd SQ 358th A/C # 43-38176 MISSION DATE 28 Sept. 1944.

FIRST PILOT Mayer, Walter J. 1st Lt. O-816652 DESTINATION Magdeburg, Ger.
NAME RANK SER#

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

(a) By coordinates 49°58'N-06°00'E

(b) Approximate altitude 7500

(c) Last noted heading Going down.

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation A/C had left formation about an hour previously.

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft):

Severe and intense attacks from enemy fighters near 52°10'N-10°35'E at 1145 hours.

52.15
10.30 3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

Crew bailed out and allowed A/C to crash.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

(Over)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort? No. If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). _____

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.): _____

The top turret gunner bailed out about 10 miles northeast of Brunswick, Germany. His chute was seen to open. The A/C was about 14000 feet when he went out. The remainder of the crew bailed out over Wilt, Luxembourg about three kilometres inside the allied lines.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above: _____

Out of the eight on the crew who bailed out over friendly territory, five have returned to their squadron and are uninjured. The pilot broke his leg when he landed and the bombardier sprained his ankle. The tail gunner was wounded and hospitalized in France.

8. Date of report: 3 October 1944

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SFR #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	Simons, Robert A.	2nd Lt	O-772753	43-38176
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>Joseph G. Robinson</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>O-904619</u>	<u>Ass't. S-2.</u>
NAME	RANK	SER #	DUTY
JOSEPH G. ROBINSON			

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1st Lt. Walter J. Mayor

Mrs. Cecielia Mayor, (mother)
General Delivery
Unicatown, Washington

1st Lt. Cron J. Rogers

Mrs. Jane E. Rogers, (wife)
728 West Main Street
Albemarle, North Carolina

T/Sgt. Douglas E. Hicks

Mrs. Esther H. Hicks, (mother)
Bacon Street
Westminster, Massachusetts

S/Sgt. Frederick J. Withers

Mrs. Helen M. Withers, (mother)
1430 2nd Avenue
Altoona, Pennsylvania