

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 1, 1948

11243

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Classified by [unclear]  
on [unclear]  
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col. AC  
by P. H. [unclear], Capt. AC  
1968

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Classification changed

11243

to RESTRICTED

by E. A. SKADONAS, Lt. Col., AG

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by F. W. WENDEL, Capt., AG

Date: MAR 15 1944

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REPORT: This report will be compiled and published by the Army Air Forces organization with the following information. Air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORIGINATOR: Location, NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND Group 398TH BOMB HV  
Squadron 602nd Bomb Hv Base None  
Command or Air Force 8th Air Force
2. SPECIFY: Place of origin NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND Elevation 1700  
Target or Location of Destination BISCHOFFSHEIM, GERMANY  
Type of Mission Operational Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY: Temp 39°, Clouds 10/10 LS tops 7-8000 with 7/10 M/7 tops 15-16000. Light non-persistent contrails at 26000 with moderate persistent contrails from fighters
4. TIME: (a) Day 30 Month Dec Year 1944; Time Approx 0937 and Location 5035N - 0022E Approx. of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether by radio ( ) or by other means ( ) ( ) List contact by radio ( )  
Force ( ) (X); Date of contact ( ) or information not available ( ).
5. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial No. (Check only one) Army Aircraft ( ) Navy Aircraft ( ) Other Circumstances as follows:
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial No. B17G Serial No. 42-107610
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: "Boomerang"
8. ENGINE: Type, Model and Serial No. (a) R-1820-97 Serial No. (a) SW-013451  
(b) 41-57865 (c) SW-012983 (d) 42-137243
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS, 50 Caliber Machine Guns as follows:  

Type	Serial Number	Type	Serial Number
(a) High Standard Corp	600406	(g) High Standard Corp	601941
(c) High Standard Corp	594736	(h) High Standard Corp	1082203
(e) High Standard Corp	1082685	(i) Frigidaire Corp	642087
(d) High Standard Corp	1082334	(j) Colt Arms	255172
(f) High Standard Corp	1083640	(k) Frigidaire Corp	226259
(k) High Standard Corp	600072	(l) High Standard	Unknown
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW ARE REPORTED AS: (a) Death ( ) (b) Missing ( ) (c) MIA & KIA

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9

Following information listed for personnel aboard aircraft:  
Crew Position      Name in Full      Rank      Serial Number      Current Status

<i>KIA</i>	1. Pilot	DOERR, LYLE J	1st Lt	0-760600	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	2. Co-Pilot	TEAGUE, GILES L	1st Lt	0-552732	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	3. Navigator	WALKER, JOHN P	1st Lt	0-720043	KIA
<i>KIA</i>	4. Togglier	STEWART, ROBERT A	S/Sgt	15332743	KIA
<i>KIA</i>	5. Top Turret Gun	KISKA, JOSEPH J	T/Sgt	33278772	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	6. Radio Gunner	GAISER, JOSEPE R.	T/Sgt	12216648	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	7. Right Waist Gun	BERGANT, JOE	S/Sgt O	39920353	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	8. Ball Turret Gun	EERLE, HAZEN V	S/Sgt C	31204391	MIA
<i>KIA</i>	9. Tail Gunner	FOX, THOMAS H JR	S/Sgt	15137287	KIA
	10.				
	11.				

(Over)

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4

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND WHICH APPROXIMATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Contacted</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Saw</u>	<u>Saw Force</u>
			<u>by Radio</u>	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Crash</u>	<u>Landing</u>

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES OR NO OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \_\_\_\_\_; (b) Persons were seen walking away from a end of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

14. ATTACH WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, MAP OR CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

15. ATTACH BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO SINKING AIRCRAFT.

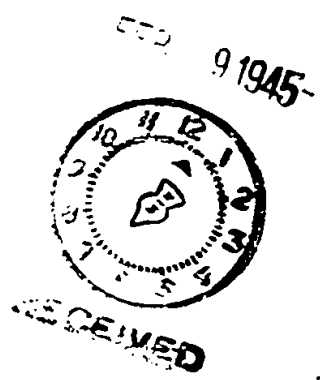
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT See Statement of Capt Kavanaugh, inclosed as Incl # 2.

Date of Report 6 January 1945

*Wallis L Campbell*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 WALLIS L CAMPBELL  
 Capt, Air Corps  
 Statistical Officer

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See investigation by Capt William R Kavanaugh which is attached as incl # 2.



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Statement concerning Missing Aircraft 8170 42-102410, Pilot, 1st Lt Kyle J. Coerr, O-780000, 602nd Bomb Squadron, 895th Bomb Group, on Combat Mission to Bischofsheim, Germany 30 December 1944.

I was up to Newhaven 31 December 1944 to expedite arrangements for the burial of the recovered bodies of this crew.

The officer in charge at Newhaven Police Headquarters had turned the three bodies over to the Liaison officer, Major Newkirk of Turnbridge, Wells, USAAF, 12th S. E. Region. Bodies had been taken by Ryegate to the Northover Mortuary, from whence they should go to Cambridge.

I talked with Lt Milton of the RAF, Station Air Sea Rescue at Newhaven. He had been in charge of the first boat on the sea. Milton stated that his report was received from a Flight Lieutenant Robinson who was piloting a Walrus (Amphibean) with the call letters Decot 56. This plane hangered at Hawk Hawkings Airdrome. At 0937 30 December 1944 while flying at 5047°N, 0037°E (about sixteen miles off Beachy Head) he claims to have seen an explosion in the sky. The explosion was followed by an aircraft falling into the sea where, upon hitting there were great flames. The Walrus proceeded immediately to the scene of the crash and before landing, while circling, saw five bodies and much debris. The Airplane landed and found one man apparently alive and struggling in the water. As it turned out later, this was Lt Walker. It was noticed that his Mae West was inflated and his parachute opened.

A rope was thrown to Lt Walker, who because of shock and/or injuries was unable to recognize that aid was at hand. When attempts to grapple Lt Walker failed, the gunner of the patrol plane removed his clothes and plunged into the sea in an effort to place the rope around Lt Walker's body. Lt Walker fought his would-be rescuer until the gunner became so fatigued and chilled that he himself had to be pulled into the airplane. By this time (1015) the RAF Rescue Boat 177 found Walker's body floating face down-- apparently dead (for artificial respiration failed to revive him after he was grappled into the deck of the rescue boat). The position at this time was 5035N, 0022E. There was a slight Northeast Wind, a light sea, and visibility was two miles at water level with intermittent showers and no icing conditions, at sea level. The Rescue Boat 177 continued the search and found widely scattered debris. Twenty minutes after Lt Walker was pronounced dead, the second body was found with the Mae West inflated and no parachute. Forty five minutes after this the third and last body recovered was found with the Mae West inflated, but partly removed and no parachute. In a further search of

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about one hour, no more bodies were found.

The last two bodies found indicated extensive injuries such that they were probably killed immediately. They had been identified as the bodies of S Sgt Thomas E. Fox, Jr, 13137287, and S Sgt Robert A. Stewart, 15332743.

Salvageable parts consisted of one wheel, rim and axle.

I also talked to a Naval man on Mine Sweeper 298, who claimed that the plane did not explode in the air, but was smoking, apparently in difficulty and exploded when it hit the water. He stated that it was about 0950 when he first saw it smoking.

The observers on Beachy Head CGI claim that they too saw the explosion when the plane hit the water.

*William R. Kavanagh*  
WILLIAM R. KAVANAUGH, C-1686876  
Captain, Medical Corps.

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1. Description of aircraft or object, only describing such as type, make, model, etc. (not applicable to aircraft) and number of persons on board in five words, four of which will be in parentheses. If negotiating Officer, include name and rank.

398th 602 4/0 42-102610 Y 30 Dec. 1944

Dear, Lyle J. 1st Lt. C-760603 Bischofsheim, Ger.

2. Location of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

- (a) By coordinates: This A/C was never sighted or contacted until it went down - See remarks.
- (b) Approximate altitude \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Approximate heading \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) If not of formation, approximate distance from formation \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe any other pertinent information (intensity of flares, intensity of search or enemy in area, etc.) with particular reference to this aircraft.

4. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft including fires, explosions, etc):

5. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

(10-1)

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

5. If direction of aircraft was out of formation as it listed in this report? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, give distinguishing markings of fighter indicated (group number, color and/or identifier aircraft numbers, etc., etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitudes, time between jumps, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

This A/C took off from base and was to proceed with assembly. It never made the formation.

8. Date of report 5 January 1945

NAME:	_____	RANK:	_____	UNIT:	_____
1.	_____				
2.	_____				
3.	_____				

9. SIGNATURE OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>Charles H. Krog</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0568990</u>	<u>Asst S-2</u>
NAME	RANK	UNIT	DUTY
CHARLES H. KROG	Captain, AC	0-568990	Asst. S-2 O.

Note: Supplemental information developed subsequent to this account has been forwarded in separate memorandum in War 3, letter 1, PG, 704 of file # 05-1-1-1-1, subject "War 3, in War Report", July 1945.

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



mlw/2/28/45

1st. Lt. Lyle J. Deerr

Mrs. Berta Deerr (mother) ✓  
524 Grant Avenue  
Madison, South Dakota

1st. Lt. Giles L. Teague

Mrs. Muriel S. Teague (wife) ✓  
601 South Broad Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina

1st. Lt. John P. Walber

Mr. Frank L. Walber (father) ✓  
39 Jefferson Street  
Eugene, Oregon

T/Sgt. Joseph J. Kisha

Mrs. Anna Kisha (mother) ✓  
525 Williams Street  
Ephrata, Pennsylvania

T/Sgt. Joseph R. Gaiser

Mr. Jacob J. Gaiser (father) ✓  
178 Millinet Avenue  
Buffalo, New York

S/Sgt. Miss V. Earle

Mrs. Frank E. Earle (mother) ✓  
10 Hampshire Street  
Everett, Massachusetts

S/Sgt. Joe Bergant

Mrs. Gertrude Bergant (mother) ✓  
140 E. 45th Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah

S/Sgt. Robert A. Stewart

Mrs. Etta L. Stewart (mother) ✓  
Rural Route Number One, Box 111  
Gary, Indiana

S/Sgt. Thomas H. Fox, Jr.

Mrs. Selma H. Fox (wife) ✓  
2905 East Monument Street  
Baltimore, Maryland