

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

13556

U.S. AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS U.S. AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPORT OF MISSING AIRCRAFT

1. **CHARACTER:** Location, by Area SEA; Command or Air Force SEA AIR FORCE
Group 1st; Squadron 1st; Detachment 1st

2. **IDENTITY:** Place of Departure SEA AIR FORCE; Date 1st
Target or Intended Destination SEA; Type of Mission SEA

3. **WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:**
SEA

4. **DATE:** (a) Day 1st Month 1st Year 1955 Time SEA and Location SEA - 13556
of Last Known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); Last contacted by
radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not avail-
able ().

5. **AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF:** (Check
one only) Enemy aircraft (); Enemy anti-aircraft (); Other Circumstances
as follows:

6. **AIRCRAFT:** Type, Model and Series SEA; and Serial Number SEA

7. **CREW:** Name of Aircraft, If any SEA

8. **PILOT:** Type, Model and Series SEA; and Serial
Number (a) SEA; (b) SEA; (c) SEA; (d) SEA

9. **INSTALLED WEAPONS:** (Provide below name, type and Serial Number, if known)
(a) SEA; (b) SEA; (c) SEA; (d) SEA
(e) SEA; (f) SEA; (g) SEA; (h) SEA
(i) SEA; (j) SEA; (k) SEA; (l) SEA
(m) SEA; (n) SEA; (o) SEA; (p) SEA

10. **THE FOLLOWING LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS:** (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non Battle Casualty

11. **NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT:** Crew 1; Passengers 1; Total 2
(Complete 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.)

Serial	Name in Full	Rank	Branch	Current Station
1.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
2.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
3.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
4.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
5.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
6.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
7.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
8.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
9.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA
10.	SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA

12. **IDENTITY:** Name of Person(s) who are believed to have last knowledge of air-
craft, and check appropriate column to indicate basis for name:

Name in Full	Serial	Rank	Branch	Current Station	By	Last	See	Forced
SEA, JOHN J.	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	X			

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HEADQUARTERS
SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT
ARMY AIR FORCES PERSONNEL DISTRIBUTION COMMAND

ABT/pck/hwp

201-BENNETT, Craig M. (Enl.)

San Antonio, Texas
8 October 1945

SUBJECT: Casualty Interrogation Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: Chief Notification Branch, Personnel Affairs Division,
Asst Chief of Staff, A-1.

1. Submitted herewith is casualty interrogation report of Sergeant
Craig M. Bennett, 34931452:

"On 21 March 1945 we took off around 0600 in B-17G, Serial No.
43-38072, our primary target being Ruhlend, Germany. The following were
crew members on my plane:

	Name	Home Address
Pilot	1st. Lt. John J. Schultz	Baltimore, Maryland
Co-pilot	2nd Lt. Frederick M. Black	Kansas City, Kansas
Navigator	2nd Lt. Joseph M. Parks	604 Division St., Trenton, New Jersey
Engineer	S/Sgt. Joseph T. Ellis	Augusta, Maine
Radio Oper.	Sgt. Lloyd Edward Kennedy	Teaneck, New Jersey
Armorer	Sgt. Charles G. Lenson	Buffalo, New York
Ball-Turret	Sgt. Carl E. Stein	Kansas City, Kansas
No. 1 Gunner	Sgt. James R. Butterfield	Riverton, Utah

On the way to the target, over Wienbulla, Germany, we were attacked by
ME-262's. On their first pass we became separated from the formation,
and on the second pass, from seven o'clock low, one of the pilots evidently
lost control of his ME-262 and collided with our plane. The resulting
collision exploded both aircraft immediately. I was in the tail-gunner
position of the ship and the tail section was blown off intact by the
explosion, enabling me to bail-out. Upon opening my parachute I looked
around me and saw only two wing tips and the tail section intact, all else
was debris. I saw these three pieces of the ship hit the ground, but I
did not see any other parachutes open. This is the last I have seen or
heard of the remainder of the crew. Upon landing I asked all Germans I
encountered, both civilian and military, how many parachutes came out.
All replied they had seen only one chute. The remainder of my crew were
never heard of at any of the German POW Camps I went through. A report
which I later received from a friend of mine who was on another ship, was
to the effect that they witnessed no parachutes opening at all. The action
was over so quickly that it is my opinion none of the remainder of the crew
survived.

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Ltr, HQ SAC AAFPC, 205-HENNETT, Craig M. (Bel), Subject: Casualty
Interrogation Report, 8 October 1945, to CG, AAF, Washington25, D. C.

The remainder of the crew did not wear their parachutes in the ship, but kept them near their positions. S/Sgt. Elie did not wear his harness, as he could not efficiently operate his position as top turret gunner with his chute harness on. Myself and other personnel listed above were members of the 490th Bomb Group (H), assigned to the 848th Bomb Squadron, and attached to the 850th Bomb Squadron, 3rd Division, 8th Air Force, APO 599, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Since my return to the United States I have been contacted on numerous occasions by members of the families of the men on the crew, seeking information concerning the men, as they are still carried as missing-in-action. As I have been instructed to refrain from submitting casualty information, I should like to submit this information to the proper source with view of possible clarification of missing-in-action of the men, whom I believe to have been killed-in-action.

My home address is 26 Seeling Street, Charleston 1, South Carolina, and I may be reached through such address at any time."

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Peter P. Kelly, Jr.
PETER P. KELLY, JR.
Captain, Air Corps
Post Intelligence Officer.

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11 May 1945 SLA

Sgt. Lloyd R. Kennedy	Mrs. Lillian F. Kennedy (mother) 145 Highland Avenue Trenton, New Jersey
2/Sgt. Joseph T. Hio	Mrs. Marguerite Hio (wife) 75 Arsenal Street Augusta, Maine
Sgt. James R. Butterfield	Mrs. Martha R. Butterfield (mother) Route 1 Hiverton, Utah
Sgt. Carl E. Shan	Mrs. Lela V. Shan (mother) 607 Broadway Kansas City, Kansas
Sgt. Craig H. Bennett	Mrs. Nellie R. Bennett (mother) 25 Hocking Street Charleston, South Carolina
Sgt. Charles G. Leman	Mrs. Elancho A. Leman (mother) 143 Oakton Avenue Buffalo, New York
2nd Lt. Joseph E. Furber	Mrs. Theresa Furber (mother) 614 Franklin Street Dunbar, New Jersey
2nd Lt. Frederick L. Hlack	Mr. William F. Hlack (father) 638 4th Street Kansas City, Kansas
1st Lt. John J. Schulte	Mrs. Frances G. Schneider (mother) 7000 Solitaire Road Bundick, Maryland