

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

1426.

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

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Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

RESTRICTED

IMPORTANT: THIS REPORT IS TO BE COMPILED IN TRIPPLICATE BY EACH ARMY AIR FORCES ORGANIZATION WHICH REPORTS OF THE TIME AN AIRCRAFT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station F-131; Command or Air Force VIII Fctr Cnd. Group 20th Fighter Group; Squadron 77 F Sq.; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station F-131; Course Southeast
Intended Destination Solingen, Germany Type of Mission Escort
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8/10 low clouds and middle layer to 15,000 feet over channel
4. GIVE: (a) Date 30-11-43; Time 1145; and Location Unknown
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; (X) Last contacted by Radio; () Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not Available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (X) Other Circumstances as follows Unknown

DNEB SF 93322

6. Aircraft: Type, Model and Series P-38H-510; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-67038
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series 1710-91A89; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-94071
(b) 42-30777; (c) _____; (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 50 Cal MG-376768 (b) 50 Cal MG-410800 (c) 20 MM Cannon 52132; (d) _____
(e) 50 Cal MG-409689 (f) 50 Cal MG-410015 (g) _____; (h) _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty; (X) _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers _____; Total _____
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

DNEB

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
Pilot	<u>371 THOMAS, ROBERT L JR.</u>	<u>1st Lt., AC</u>	<u>0724850</u>

OKC

1. JAN 13 1944
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:
Check Only One Column
- | Name in Full (Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Contacted by | Last Sighted | Saw Crash | Saw Forced Landing |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| <u>RAE, ELMER H.</u> | <u>1st Lt., AC</u> | <u>0573040</u> | <u>X</u> | | | |

(1)
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159 Incl 3'

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Missing Air Crew Report Cont'd.

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used No; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash No; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) None
13. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE F. W. GAFF, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 0912289

Date of Report 4 December 1943

RESTRICTED

Herbert E. Johnson, Jr.
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

HERBERT E. JOHNSON, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding, 20th Fgtr Gp Detach.

3 Incls:

- (1) Certificate.
- (2) Certificate.
- (3) Sketch.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

4 December 1943

Upon the receipt of the "Mayday" call from Lt. Thomas, Air Sea Rescue sent two spotters to search the North Sea. An area of approximately forty (40) square miles was searched with no results.

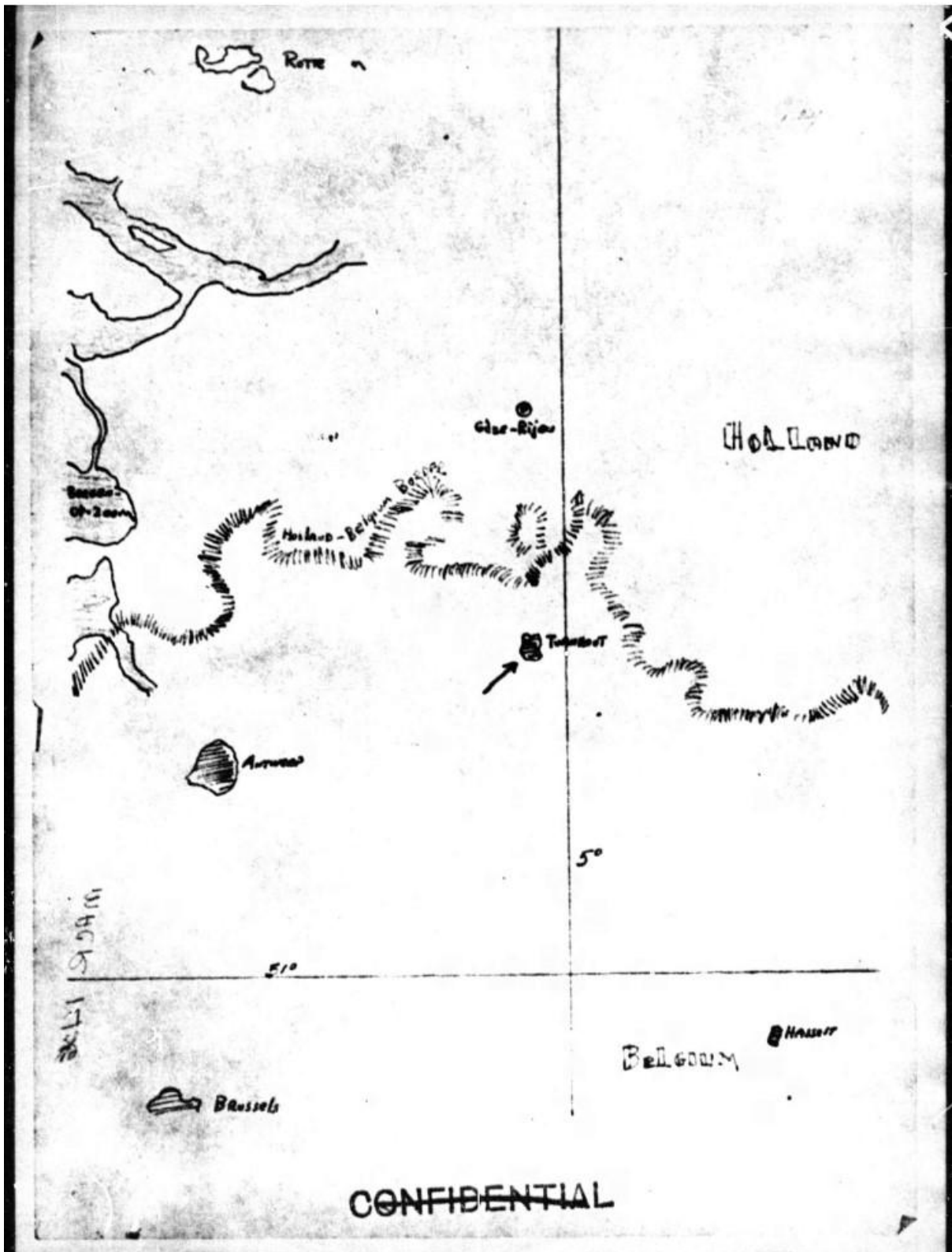
Later a complete search was made from Orfordness to a point ten miles south of Bradwell Bay. This search extended to the Dutch Islands on the enemy coast.

The following day six Spitfires search the North Sea with no results. The officer in charge of the search was F. W. Graf, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 0912289.

Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer,
77th Fighter Squadron, AAF.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

4 December 1943

Robert L. Thomas, 1st Lt., Air Corps, 0724850, was flying a 20th Fighter Group ship, organization number KI-B, on this mission. The 356th Fighter Group reported that a ship bearing the number KI-B was seen by them while coming back from Germany. The ship flew near them until it disappeared in the vicinity of Turnhout, Belgium.

The call sign for Lt. Thomas was Rebuke 42. At 1143 on 25 November 1943 the 66th Fighter Wing Controller received a "Mayday" call on "A" channel from Rebuke 42. Rebuke 42 was told to change to "B" channel to contact Air Sea Rescue. No further contact was made with Lt. Thomas.

Francis W. Barkley
FRANCIS W. BARKLEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer,
77th Fighter Squadron, AAF.

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