

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

785072

(EQUALS BRITISH SECRET)

By B. J. (M) NARS, Date 1/27/81
RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

HIGGINBOTHAM
1860
Classification Change
to **RESTRICTED**
by **E. A. [unclear], Lt. Col., GS**
by **P. M. [unclear], Capt., GS**
Date **MAR 1 1948**

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 aircraft is officially reported missing

- ORGANIZATION: Location STATION Tc367; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 20th Fighter; Squadron 77th F; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Kingscliffe; Course Northeast
Intended Destination Kiel; Type of Mission Target Support
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear at Altitude
- GIVE: (a) Date Jan 4/44 Time 1127; and Location 20 miles S E of Kiel
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () last contacted by Radio; ()
Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not Available.
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check
only one () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (v) Other Circumstances
as follows Unknown
- Aircraft: Type, Model and Series P-38J510; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-67191
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series L-42-94158 A.A.F. Serial Number (a) R-42-30232
(b) L-V171091; (c) R-V171089; (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
409859(a) 50-Fric UR; (b) LL Fric 407110; 20 MM 121338; (d)
562265(e) IR-SAV A; (f) UR 56143 SAV (ARM Int Harvester (h)
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty v
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1
(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).

Status
1/27/81

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	<u>HIGGINBOTHAM, HENRY MERLE</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-1019</u>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

- 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 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. <u>ORR, MELVIN H.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>O-740529</u> | <u>Radio</u> | <u>V</u> | | |
| 2. | | | | | | |

Incl 3'

(EQUALS BRITISH SECRET)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(EQUALS BRITISH SECRET)

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 _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; (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 NONE

Date of Report 6 January 1944

FEB 17 1944



RECEIVED
A-1 A 2

Charles F. Salter

(Signature of Preparing Officer)
CHARLES F. SALTER
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
FEB 17 1944
A-1 A 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(EQUALS BRITISH SECRET)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

SECRET BRITISH

STATEMENT

On January 4, 1944 I was flying as #4 man in a flight which was led by Major Montgomery and with F/O Higgenbotham as #2 man and Lt. Gilbertson as #3 man. I heard F/O Higgenbotham say something over the radio. He was speaking too loud as reception was blurred but I did hear him say his own name and call Montgomery. The rest I could not understand. His ship continued along in same relative position. About this time bounce was made on e/a flying below. As group made turn I lost sight of F/O Higgenbotham on my left. When group came out of turn Higgenbotham's ship was not in sight. This occurred while group was on AT R/V at Kiel.

Melvin H. Orr
MELVIN H. ORR
2nd Lt., Air Corps

SECRET
EQUALLY BRITISH

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

