

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: NND 735001
 By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

HARPER
2100

Classification changed
RESTRICTED
 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. MUEENCH, Capt., AC
 Date MAR 15 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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Kingsliffe; Command or Air Force VIII F.G.
 Group 20th Fighter Gp; Squadron 79th Ftr Sq Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Kingsliffe; Course 125 Degrees
 Intended Destination Frankfurt, Ger.; Type of Mission Bomber escort
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Cloud, Visibility Good, Excellent above overcast
4. GIVE: (a) Date Jan. 29, 44 Time 11:30; and Location Koblenz, Area
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio; ()
 Forced 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; () Other Circumstances
 as follows

6. AIRCRAFT Type, Model and Series P-38H-10-10; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-67665
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1710-91; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-95514
 (b) V-1710-89 Ser.; (c) 42-31232; (d)

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
 (a) 50 Cal.-Frig.; (b) 407179, 406919; (c) 407024; (d) 407228
 (e) 20MM Gun, Int Max. 12177; (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 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).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	<u>HARPER, WILLIAM MARTIN</u>	<u>P/O</u>	<u>T-1373</u>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-
 CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>HAWZO, THOMAS A.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-730475</u>				
2. <u>MARTIN, JACK T.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-743359</u>				
3. <u>GATTERDAM, RICHARD P.</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>0-791298</u>				

67FW/02890-C
8FC/35960

3528 2nd 2'

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Missing Air Crew Report cont'd.

12. IF PERSONNEL WERE 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) Airplane was not in violent spin and pilot could have bailed out if not seriously injured.
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH MADE AND NUMBER OF PERSONS AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICERS INVOLVED.

Date of Report 31 January 1944

Charles F. SALTER

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CHARLES F. SALTER,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Reproduced at Hq VIII FC
C-2 26 June 1943



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STATEMENT OF CAPT. R. P. GATTERDAM

On 29 January 1944 at 1130 just after R/V with the bombers north of Koblenz I was at 20,000 ft. and saw a flight of 5 P-38s in a turn to the left about 4000 ft below me and a FW 190 pulling up into firing position on the rear man. I yelled for the last man in the flight of five to break. He did not break and I saw about 5 cannon strikes on the gondola. This plane went up and over to the right and when I last saw him he was almost on his back, at about 16,000 ft. I do not know positively whose plane this was but it was probably F/O Harper.

Richard P. Gatterdam
RICHARD P. GATTERDAM
CAPT. A. C.

STATEMENT OF LT. H. A. HANZO

I was the third man in the above flight and saw an unidentified P-38 join our four ship flight coming from above. Almost immediately I heard the call for the 5th man to break. The rest of my story is the same as the above. I did not know the man was F/O Harper.

Thomas A. Hanzo
THOMAS A. HANZO
1ST. LT. A. C.

STATEMENT OF LT. JACK T. MARTIN

At about the time and place stated in the statement of Capt. Gatterdam I saw a P 38 in a slow spinning dive to the left going straight down with white smoke trailing from the right engine. I was not able to watch him below 7000 ft. He had not yet gone into the overcast. I did not see a chute.

Jack T. Martin
JACK T. MARTIN
2ND LT. A. C.

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