

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

13847

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS, AIR FORCE

MICROFILM OR MICROFORM

1. OPERATIONAL: Location, reference, E.T.O., Group or Air Force, Eighth A.F., Group 94 Bomb Op., Station 322 Bomb Sq.

2. SUBJECT: Station 468, As planned, Operational

3. DATE: 5 Apr 1945, 1020, 50°00'N 08°00'E

4. Multi-layered clouds and haze with poor visibility at flight altitude.

5. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

6. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

7. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

8. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

9. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

10. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

11. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	DICKERSON, CLARK C. JR.	1st Lt	0-831683	MIA
2. Co-pilot	CAIN, FREDDIE A.	2nd Lt	0-2063789	"
3. Navigator	ESTERLEIN, ROBERT G.	2nd Lt	0-2073306	"
4. Toggler	BAKER, RALPH B.	Sgt	38496537	"
5. Radio Op.	SULLIVAN, FRANK W.	T/Sgt	17067666	"
6. T.T.G.	BATES, GENE R.	Sgt	18202842	"
7. Tail Gnr.	BLACK, CHARLES B.	Sgt	33682385	"
8. R.N.G.	BECKETT, JACK C., JR.	Sgt	35770098	"
9. Radar Obs.	PEARSON, WALLACE O.	S/Sgt	31136734	"

12. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z)

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status	Saw	Perched	Crash	Landing
1. McCABE, CHARLES H.	Capt	0-808867	Y				

(over)

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*2-16-45*

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- 13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) any other person (Specify) See paragraph 17
- 14. ATTACH SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, OR OTHER INFORMATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST OBSERVED OR WHERE IT WAS LAST OBSERVED.
- 15. ATTACH EXHIBITS DESCRIBING THE CONDITION OF THE AIRCRAFT, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES RELATIVE TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. See paragraph 17
- 16. GIVE NAME, TITLE AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY. INCLUDE DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT OF SEARCH. NICHOLAS T. PERKINS, Colonel, Air Corps.  
0-20210



MAV 1 1945

Date of report 9 April, 1945  
Thomas C. S. Kouser  
Signature of Reporting Officer

THOMAS C. S. KOUSER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Ops Administrative Officer.

17. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

Aircraft of this mission took off from home base and flew individually to Buncher A-73 on the continent, where Group assembly was briefed to be effected. Upon arrival there, the weather was found to be much worse than briefed, as multi-layered clouds with poor visibility were encountered. Individual aircraft were flying on instruments in the area endeavoring to make Group assembly on radio orders of their respective leaders. Visibility was so poor and the multi-layered clouds so thick that the individual aircraft were ordered to fly on a heading so as to have them reach 49°02'N 03°18'E, where an opening in the clouds was reported. Upon arrival at that point the weather slowly began to close in also. However, thirty-one (31) of the thirty-eight (38) aircraft did assemble while flying at 14,000 feet. The formation then left that point flying on a heading so as to intercept the briefed course at Control Point #3. Climb was made on instruments from 14,000 to 26,000 feet through dense multi-layered clouds with very poor visibility. At 10:20 hours, about twenty-three (23) minutes before our thirty-one (31) aircraft formation reached Control Point number 3, a radio message was received from the missing aircraft saying that they had lost our formation and were circling Control Point #3. The Command Pilot of the Squadron with which this aircraft was briefed to assemble and fly advised the Pilot to circle that point and join our formation as we flew by in about twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) minutes. When our formation reached that point visibility was still very poor and the formation was just beginning to emerge on top of the multi-layered clouds. The missing aircraft was never observed and never contacted again, although the Command Pilot made repeated efforts to re-establish radio contact. It was believed that the subject missing aircraft had joined some other formation. It would have been almost impossible to verify this aircraft flying with another formation, as all formations going into the target had aircraft from three (3) or four (4) other Groups with them. The visibility was very poor in this area and throughout the remainder of the mission over the continent, except in the immediate target area where there were scattered clouds with fair visibility. No further information is known.

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Save

**SAVE**

ARMY AIR FORCES BOMBARDIER SCHOOL  
 BIG SPRING ARMY AIR FIELD  
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

BIG SPRING, TEXAS  
 27 October 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.  
 Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4215 Munitions Building.

1. In compliance with your T.O. AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

a. Name of casualty PEARSON, W. J.

b. Rank 1st Lt. c. Crew position spot Jammer

d. Date last seen 21 April 45. Place last seen Aalsmeer, Holland

f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Shot up by flak  
Guns from Rotterdam - Crash landed on Island (Over flaker).

e. Known information (eye witness only)  
 Pearson hit in left leg very badly by flak. All taken prisoners.  
 Pearson (only member of crew taken to hosp. at Amsterdam) Last information known about him.

h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability)

*James H. Martin*  
 Rank and name of reporter  
18202842 2509th AAFBW  
 ASN Unit  
Big Spring, Texas  
 Being discharged October 45,  
 Home address:  
 1465 Cedarcrest Dr.  
 Abilene, Texas

cc. CG, AFTRC  
 cc. Sub Comd Hq

Incl #1, TC Ltr 39-18, 23 Oct 45

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Form 5-25-45

1st Lt Clark C. Dickerson, Jr.	Mrs. Elizabeth J. Dickerson (Wife) 9 Asylum Street Middletown, Connecticut
2nd Lt Freddie A. Cain	Mrs. Georgia H. Cain (Wife) 410 East Street Danville, Kentucky
2nd Lt Robert G. Esterlein	Mrs. Betty S. Esterlein (Wife) Rural Free Delivery # 2 Lancaster, Pennsylvania
T/Sgt Frank W. Sullivan	Mrs. Betty C. Sullivan (Wife) 1323 Dunrook Street Dalhart, Texas
S/Sgt Wallace O. Pearson	Mrs. Mary P. Pearson (Wife) 2 Larkin Street Hyfield, Massachusetts
Sgt Ralph B. Baker	Mrs. Audrey L. Kyster (Mother) 1530 Magnolia Street New Orleans, Louisiana
Sgt Gene R. Bates	Mrs. Eva V. Hughes (Mother) 1445 Cedar Crest Drive Arlene, Texas
Sgt Charles B. Black	Mrs. Madeline L. Black (Wife) North Main Street Knox, Pennsylvania
Sgt Jack C. Beckett, Jr.	Mrs. Agnes V. Bias (Mother) 1343 4th Avenue Huntington, West Virginia