

14165

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

Classification changed

to
by S. A. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AC
by P. M. BRANCH, Capt., AC
~~Code~~

Classification changed

to
by RESTRICTED
by P. M. BRANCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

6-1946

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by SM: UNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by W. MUENCH, Capt., AC

Date MAR 15 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

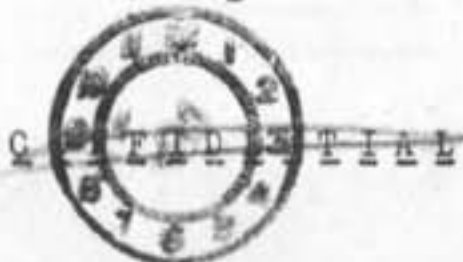
IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in quintuplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Dion, France : Command or Air Force 1st TAF
Group 17th Bomb Squadron 34th Bomb : Detachment xxxxxxx (prov)
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Dion, France: Course 270 Degrees Mag.
Target or Intended Destination Schwabmunchen: Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Cloud coverage up to 9,000 feet.
- GIVE: (a) Day 24 Month Apr. Year 1945: Time 10:02 : and Location Schwabmunchen, Ger.
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
available ().
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check
only one) Enemy Aircraft (X); Enemy Anti-Aircraft () ; Other Circumstances
as follows: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26B50 : AAF Serial No. 42-95987
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any "YO YO CHAMP"
- ENGINES: Type, Model and series R2800-43's AAF Serial No. (a) FT-660723 (L)
(b) 42-53450 (R) ; (c) XXXXXXXX ; (d) XXXXXXXX
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) 607406 (Flex.) ; (b) 1049960 (Fixed) ; (c) 589799 (Fixed) ; (d) 400929 (Fixed)
(e) 1077123 (Fixed) ; (f) 1076447 (Fixed) ; (g) 1076659 (Fixed) ; (h) 1076433 (Fixed)
(i) 1076975 (Fixed) ; (j) All guns are Cal. 50 Mach. M-2 Browning A/C
(m) _____ ; (n) _____ ; (o) _____ ; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty No
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6 ; Passengers None ; Total 6
(Starting 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.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	Slates, Leigh	1st Lt	C-824001	MIA
2. Co-Pilot	Menser, Howard E.	1st Lt	7-130584	MIA
3. Bombardier	Phelps, Floyd G.	S/Sgt	35634202	MIA
4. Engineer Gunner	Ganhs, John J.	S/Sgt	36575202	MIA
5. Radio Gunner	Tillman, Robert W.	S/Sgt	18194751	MIA
6. Armorer Gunner	Gauthier, Lloyd S.	S/Sgt	38267284	MIA

MAY 2 1945
- 1 -

APPENDIX NO. 4A (REVISED)



Incl 2

- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Check Only One Column		
				Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Sprowls, John S.	2nd Lt	O-2011416		X		
2. Jordan, Claude H.	S/Sgt	14157457		X		
3. _____						

13. 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 _____; or (c) for other reason (specify) _____

Unknown

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. Yes _____

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. Yes _____

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT. None _____

Date of Report April 26, 1945

Joseph Levin

(Signature of Preparing Office)
JOSEPH LEVIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

3-Incl:

- 1 - Sketch Map (5 copies)
- 1 - Statement of 2nd Lt John S. Sprowls (5 copies)
- 1 - Statement of S/Sgt Claude H. Jordan (5 copies)

26 April 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying # 2 position in the chaff flight. Just after coming off the target and while making a turn to tack onto the 18-ship formation we were jumped by what I judged to be three ME-262's which pressed their attacks to about 900 yards and appeared to be firing rockets.

Number 3 ship (20)* seemed to be hit in the bomb bay and blew up in mid-air. The left wing was blown off at the engine nacelle and the nose compartment was blown off. The ship spun into the clouds approximately 5 miles West of Schwabmunchen, Germany. (48 degrees 12' North, 10 degrees 32' East)

John S. Spruells
JOHN S. SPRUELLS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

* (20) Ser. Nr. 42-95987.

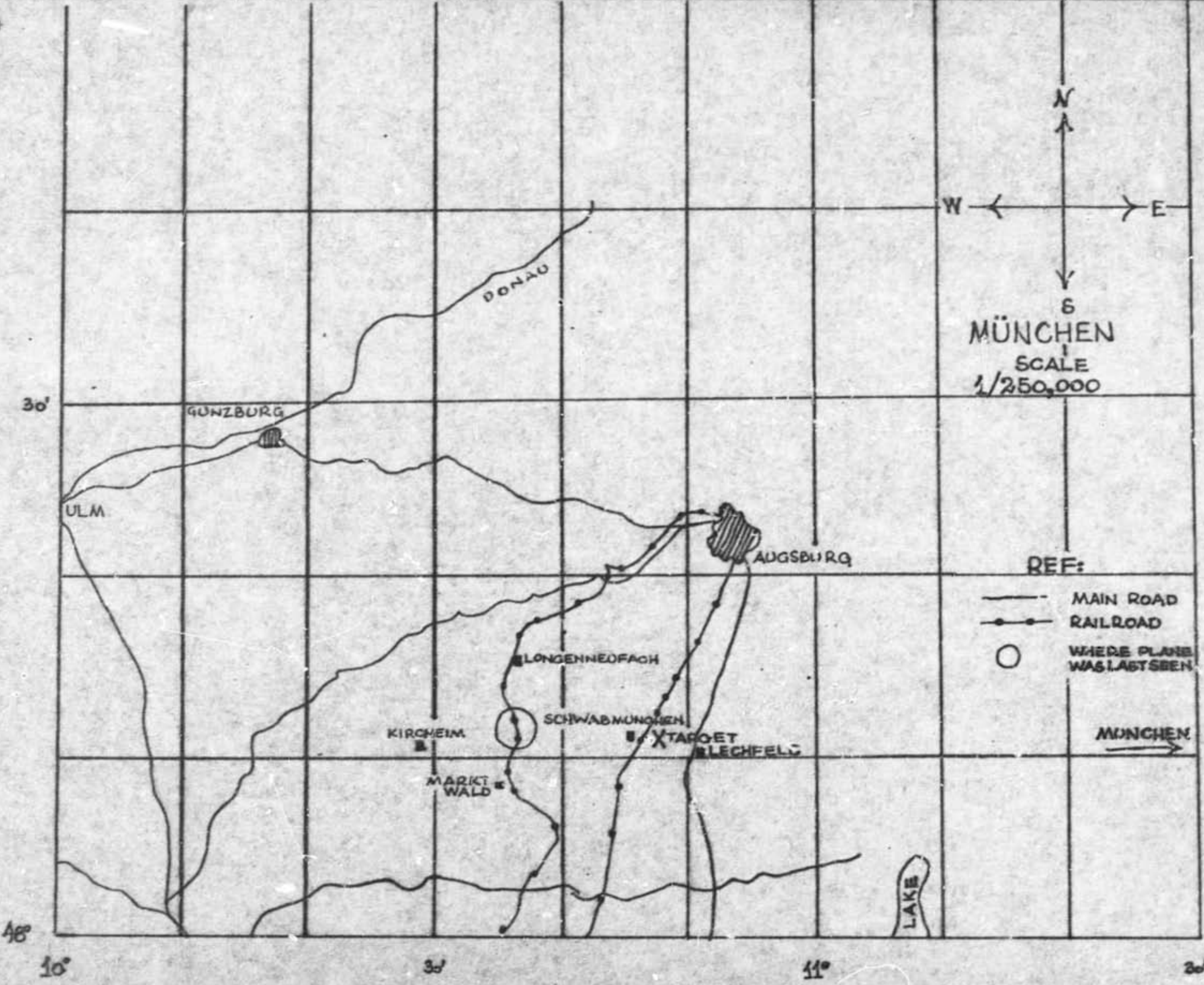
26 April 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying turret gunner in # 2 position in the chaff flight. Just after coming off the target and while making a turn to get back with the 18 ship formation we were jumped by 3 ME-262's. They appeared to be firing rockets. The first pass the fighters made they did not do any damage. One broke to the right and the other to the left and came in again. The first one came in at about 5 o'clock and fired hitting ship # 20 flying # 3 position. As much as I could see it appeared to me that it was hit in the forward Bomb Bay and exploded. That was the last I saw of the plane. At the time we were approximately 5 miles West of Schwabmunchen, Germany.

Claude H. Jordan
CLAUDE H. JORDAN,
S/Sgt, Air Corps,
Turret Gunner.

• # 20 Ser. Nr. 42-95987



N
↑
W ← → E

6
MÜNCHEN
SCALE
1/250,000

REF:

- MAIN ROAD
- RAILROAD
- WHERE PLANE WAS LAST SEEN

MÜNCHEN
→

30'

GUNZBURG

ULM

AUGSBURG

LONGENNEOFACH

SCHWABMÜNCHEN

KIRCHHEIM

TARGET

LECHFELD

MARKT WALD

LAKE

48°

10'

35'

41°

20'

1st Lt. Leigh Slatos

Mrs. Leigh Slatos (wife) ✓
Post Office Box 68
Oakwood, Missouri

F/O Howard E. Menzer

Mrs. Myrtle A. Kessel (mother) ✓
312 Ford Avenue
Wyandotte, Michigan

S/Sgt. Floyd G. Phelps

Mr. Edward V. Phelps (father) ✓
Route Two
Ravenna, Ohio

S/Sgt. John J. Ganhs

Mrs. Orpha Ganhs (mother) ✓
21 1/2 Wall Street
Fort Huron, Michigan

S/Sgt. Robert W. Tillman

Mrs. Minnie A. Tillman (mother) ✓
Box 241
Fort Towson, Oklahoma

S/Sgt. Lloyd S. Gauthier

Mr. Henry Gauthier (father) ✓
Cottonport, Louisiana