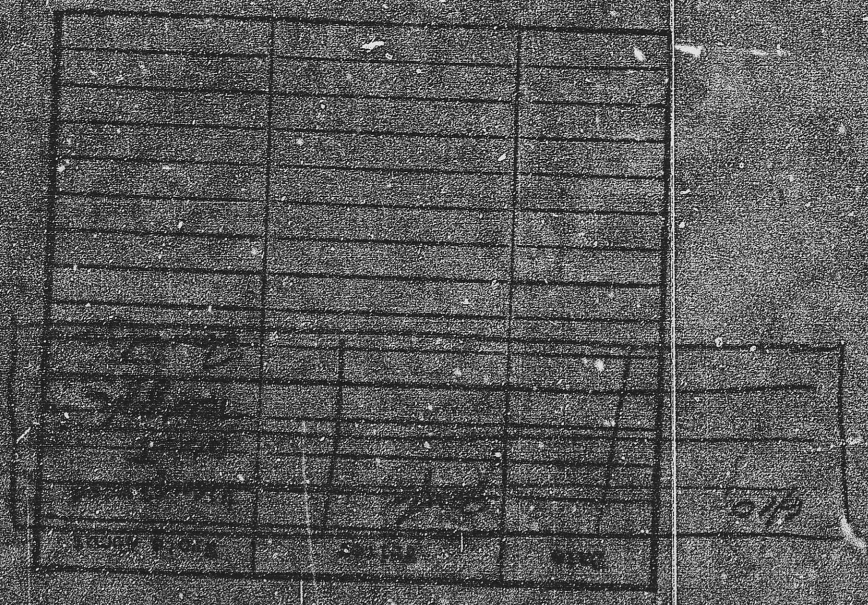
#12903 3/4/1945 44-6351 352nd

7 pgs



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Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
By E.A. [illegible], Lt. Col., MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
by F.W. [illegible], Chief, AG

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Lucera A/D #3, Italy Command or Air Force 15AF
Group 301st Bombardment Group (H) AAF Squadron 352nd Bomb Sqdn (H)AAF

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Lucera A/D #3, Italy Course 350° Bruck
Target: Bruck M/L, Austria Type of mission High Altitude Bombing(combat)

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8/10
Flying just above high cirrus at 25,000'.

4. DATE: (a) Date 2 March 1945 Time: 1327 Last known position: 47°46' N 15° 3' E
(b) Specify whether (X) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, ( ) Seen to crash,
( ) Last contacted by radio. ( ) No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (NAME) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
( ) Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series: B-17G AAF Serial Number: 44-6351

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series: R 1820-97 AAF Serial Number (a) SN-025074
(b) SN-025015 (c) SN-024561 (d) SN-002478

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
(a) 220120 (e) 257995 (i) 1305400 (m) 1305210
(b) 1305052 (f) 256891 (j) [illegible]
(c) 1722113 (g) 1306312 (k) [illegible]
(d) 612504 (h) 1305557 (l) [illegible]

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty ( ) Non Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 10
(If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	SERIAL NUMBER		NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	BEDZYK, Callias J. 1st Lt.	O-828022	MIA	Dorothy Bedzyk (Mother) 10752 Langley Ave. Chicago, Illinois
(2) Co-Pilot	WANGSNESS, Donald C. Jr., F/O T-12147		MIA	Marie I. Wangsness (Mother) 406 South Sanborn Street, Mitchell, So. Dakota
(3) Nav.	KERR, Herbert S. 2nd Lt.	O-820154	MIA	Mary E. Kerr (Mother) Burbourton Rd. West Trenton, N.J.
(4) Bomb.	LAURITSEN, Scott A. 2nd Lt.	O-783122	MIA	Hans P. Lauritsen (Father) 2900 No. Market St. Canton, Ohio
(5) Eng.	WEST, Thorne C. T/Sgt	19070018	MIA	Dermice M. West (Mother) 650 North St. Yreka, Calif.
(6) RO	PADGETT, Killian C. M/Sgt.	18040169	MIA	Claud E. Padgett (Father) None Milford, Texas.
(7) BT	GOWER, Reber S. S/Sgt	35736325	MIA	Gertrude F. Gower (Mother) 339 S. 11th St. Kansas City, Kansas.
(8) WG	BENNETT, Charles W. T/Sgt	35680990	MIA	Bessie M. Bennett (Mother) 130 Garden Ave. Greve City, Pa.
(9) WG	ANDRUSS, Oscar W. S/Sgt	35453023	MIA	Michael Andruss (Father) 114 Girard Ave. Atlas, Pa.
(10) TG	BLACK, Russell C. S/Sgt	35225942	MIA	Ruth Black (Mother) None Phillipsburg, Ohio.
(11)				
(12)				

(over)

[illegible]

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY RADIO	SAW LAST SIGHTED	SAW Crash	FORCED LANDING
(1) ROBERT L. KING	T/Sgt	37368793		X		
(2) PAUL L. SCHEER, Jr.,	Sgt.	17176745		X		
(3) GLENN H. HAMMOND	T/Sgt	36841367		X		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
( ) Parachutes were used. ( ) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of crash.
( ) Other reasons (specify): No specific reasons given.

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE.

2 Inclosures.
Incl 1: Eyewitness Statm (nav) Date: 5 March 1945 /s/ Buel A. Dunn
Incl 2: Map (nav)

/t/ BUEL A. DUNN, Capt., Air Corps
Adjutant

[illegible]

OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

[illegible]

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352ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

5 March 1945

SUBJECT: Statements to Accompany Missing Aircraft Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 301st Bombardment Gp. (H) AAF.

1. The following is signed statements concerning missing Aircraft No. 44-6351 and crew on date of 4 March 1945.

"At approximately 1320 I saw a ship with 301st Bomb Group Marking and in relation to our ship, it was at 3 o'clock. At first the ship didn't seem to have anything wrong. Then fire seered to be in the bomb bay and radio room. Ship went into a dive and broke in half. I saw one chute which seemed to have come out of the Waist. Our approximate position was 47°46' N 15°3' E at the time of 1327. The weather at the time was 8/10."

/s/ Robert L. King
/t/ ROBERT L. KING
T/Sgt., Air Corps.
Gunner.

"Ship No. 6351 was flying under our tail when we hit the I.P. for Bruck. When the flak started they were still there. After we had passed the flak area it was gone and behind us was a B-17 out of formation with two P-51's standing by it. That was the last time I saw Ship No. 6351. The time was approximately 1327 with 8/10 weather at the position of 47°46' N 15°3' E."

/s/ Paul L. Neese, Jr.,
/t/ PAUL L. NEESE, Jr..
Sgt., Air Corps.
Gunner.

"I last saw Ship No. 6351 at approximately four minutes after I.P. I did not see any hits by flak. The weather was 8/10 with our approximate position of 47°46'N 15°3' E at the time of 1327."

/s/ Glenn M. Hammond
/t/ GLENN M. HAMMOND
S/Sgt. Air Corps
Gunner.

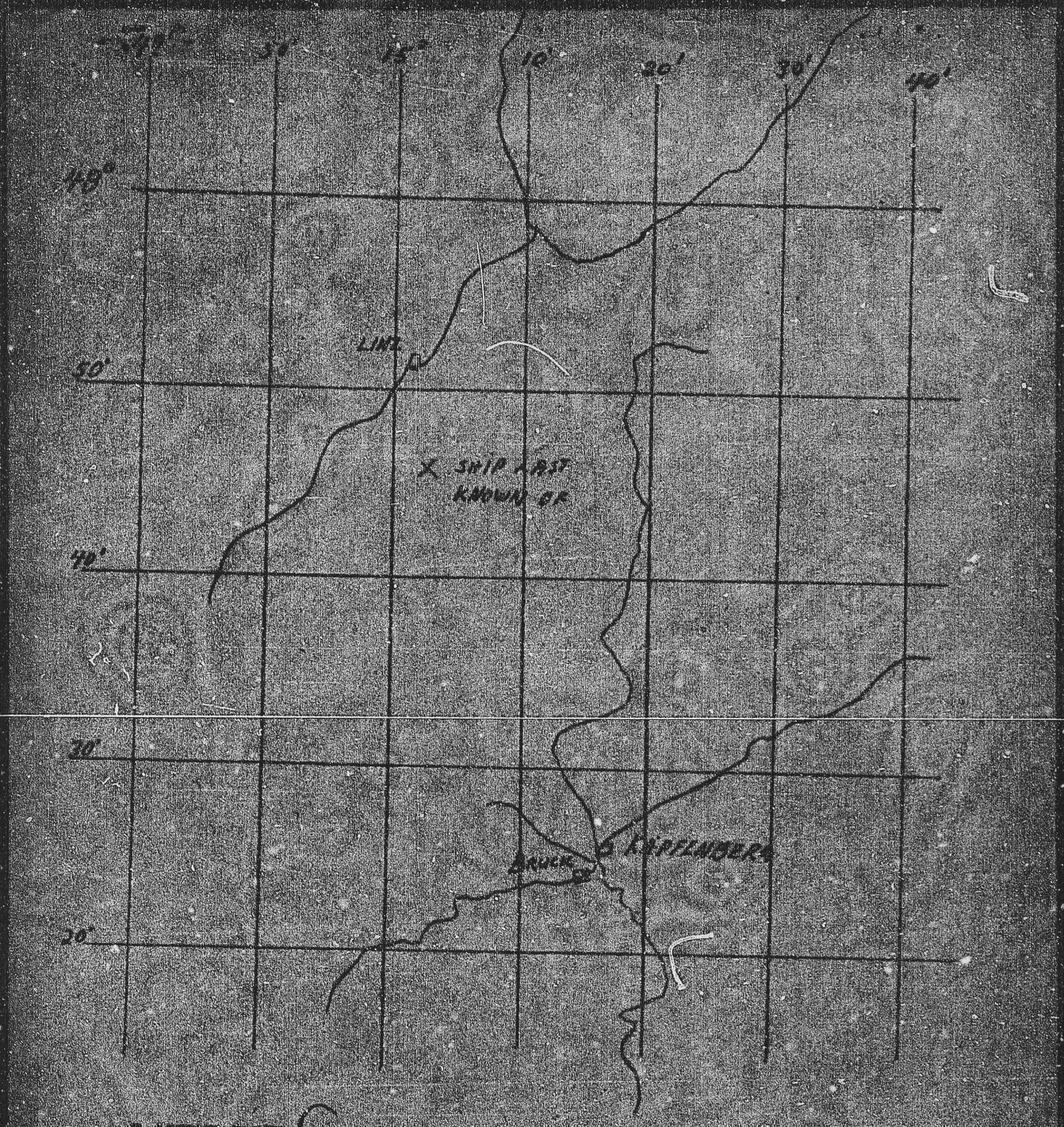
/s/ Othmar A. Kemper
/t/ OTHMAR A. KEMPER
Capt., Air Corps.
Operations Officer.

"A TRUE COPY"

Owen Elliot

OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

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* A TRUE COPY*

OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AUS
Asst Adj Gen

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Incl #2

AFPMR-S

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

21 April 1945

SUBJECT: Request for Missing Air Crew Report

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters, MTOUSA, A.P.O. 512
U. S. Army, Attention: M.I.A.G.O.

Request Missing Air Crew Report, as required by AGO letter, 7 July 1944 (AG 705 (3 Jul 44)OB-S-SAF-M), be forwarded with least practicable delay in the case of 1st Lieutenant William J. Bedsyk 0928022
(Grade) (Name) (ASN)
301st Bomb Group (H)
(Organization)
reported missing in action, 4 March 1945, which report
(Date)
has not been received to date.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

JOHN E. PALMER
Lt Colonel, Air Corps
Chief, Personnel Affairs Division
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

AG 340.33/6M-C 1st Ind CM/TT
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 27 April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

1. MIRR dispatched from this headquarters 15 March 45 bearing Control No. 1739.

2. Type copy attached.

BY THE THEATER COMMANDER:

OWEN ELLIOT
Lt.Col., AGD
Assistant Adjutant General

1 Incl. MACR

AP 4333

5-3794, AS

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]