

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT 10670

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Lucera A/D No. 8, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 301st Bomb (H) Squadron 419th Bomb Squadron (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Lucera A/D No. 8, Italy Course Base to Biechhammer, Germany
Target Biechhammer O/R, Germany Type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU

4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 December 1944 Time 1200 Last known position 50° 20' N.-18° 32' E.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
() Last contacted by radio, () No information.

5. AIRCRAFT YOGY (BELIEVED LO. AS A RESULT OF: (check one only)
() Enemy aircraft, () Enemy anti-aircraft, (X) Other Uncertain, Plane pulled out of formation and

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-17G AAF Serial Number 42-32104 disappeared.

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1820-97 AAF Serial Number (a) SW-015767
(b) SW-012282 (c) SW-014674 (d) SW-010036

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.)
(a) 638525 (e) 655933 (i) 634920 (m) 633869
(b) 625639 (f) 638232 (j) 898680
(c) 727666 (g) 638236 (k) 726657
(d) 726597 (h) 633875 (l) 647777

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)	RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	KEARNS, MICHAEL J. JR.	MIA	Mr. Michael J. Kearns Sr. (Father) <u>RTD</u> 111 N. 11th St., Lucasville, Pa.
(2) Co-Pilot	JONES, DAVID M.	MIA	Mrs. Eleanor Jones (Mother) <u>RTD</u> 2nd Lt. O-826991 1736 W. Chestnut St., Shamokin, Pa.
(3) Navigator	FITZSIMMONS, ROBERT O.	Pow MIA	Mrs. Margaret Fitzsimmons (Mother) <u>RTD</u> F/O T-128730 221 Tama St., Boone, Iowa.
(4) Toggelier	DYGA, LEO J.	Pow MIA	Mrs. Sophia Dyga (Mother) <u>RTD</u> T/Sgt. 16012079 1821 Henry St., Muskegon, Michigan.
(5) Eng Gnr	TINLEY, EUGENE A.	MIA	Mr. Joseph Tinley (Father) <u>P</u> Sgt. XXXXXXX 7074366 75-25 61st St., Glendale, Long Island, N.Y.
(6) Rad Opr Gnr	CHAPMAN, JOE D.	MIA	Mrs. Juanita M. Chapman, (Wife) <u>RTD</u> Sgt. 37534106 3917 E. English, Wichita, Kansas.
(7) Lwr Trt Gnr	HUGHES, IVAN G.	MIA	Mr. Lawrence I. Hughes (Father) <u>RTD</u> Sgt. 38421679 Box 687, Belle Glade, Palm Beach, Fla.
(8) Wst Gnr	JANIAK, CHESTER J.	MIA	Mrs. Clara Janiak, (Wife) <u>RTD</u> Sgt. 39236136 7521 Aetna Road, Cleveland, Ohio.
(9) Wst Gnr	MOHOLLEN, CHARLES R. JR.	MIA	Mrs. Ethel Mohollen, (Mother) <u>RTD</u> Sgt. 33798329 611 E. Thompson St., Philadelphia, Pa.
(10) Tail Gnr	ELLIN, ALVEN J.	MIA	Mr. Jacob Ellin, (Father) <u>RTA</u> Sgt. 15364395 2 Craig St., Norton, Virginia.
(11)			
(12)			

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.	BY RADIO	CONTACTED LAST	SAW SIGHTED	SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING
(1) CLONTS, JOHN E.	S/Sgt	34812578		X		
(2) DICK, JR., BERNARD	1st Lt	557025		X		
(3)						

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 the crash. Plane was not in any trouble apparently when last seen. It is believed that gas was low
(X) Other reasons (specify) and plane left formation to look for a place infriendly territory to land.

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. No search

2. Inclosures.
Incl 1 - Witnesses
Incl 2 - Sketch.

Date 18 December 1944
Signature of Leslie W. Holman
OFFICIAL TITLE LESIE W. HOLMAN, LT. Colonel, AIR CORPS.

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HEADQUARTERS
419TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

(E/rms)

18 December 1944

SUBJECT : Witnesses' Statements to Accompany Missing Air Crew Report on
A/C # 42-32104.

TO : Commanding Officer, 301st Bombardment Group (H) AAF, APO 520.

1. In compliance with Ltr., Hq., 301st Bombardment Group, above subject, dated 19 May 1944, the following statements of those witnesses who last saw A/C # 42-32104 on 17 December 1944 are submitted:

a. " The last I saw of plane # 42-32104 was while we were on the bomb run. We came off the IP at the same time as the missing plane, but they dropped back almost immediately. The plane then started to catch up again with the formation, but again dropped back and out of sight. As far as I know this was the last anyone saw of it."

John E. Clonts
S/Sgt JOHN E. CLONTS,
Tail Gunner, A/C # 44-6449.

b. " I was pilot of plane # 44-6449, leading the low left squadron. After we left the IP I did not again see the missing plane. However my tail gunner called me over interphone and told me that plane number 104 had fallen back from the formation and disappeared. The coordinates at which he last saw it are as follows: 50o 20' N. - 18o 32' E. This was approximately twenty-one (21) miles southeast of Blechhammer.

Bernard Dick Jr.
BERNARD DICK JR.,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, A/C # 44-6449.

For the Commanding Officer:

Lawrence D. Snyder
LAWRENCE D. SNYDER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

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Incl 1

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A H 1 746/45

Airfield Det. Bielitz O/S
of the airbase District
Beneschau

26 Dec. 1944

Regd. : 1. D(Luft) 2709 Fig. VII b edition Oct. 1944
2. L.V.BI. 36/1941 Fig. 1075 Supl. for Airforce of 1 Sept. ~~1941~~ 1941
Subj. : dead members of the enemy airforces

To
War Information Center
for War Casualties and
Prisoners of War
B e r l i n W 30
Hohenstaufenstr. 47/48

MAR 10670
B-17
10 in crew
AAF # 42-32104

On 17 Dec. 1944 at about 12 30 an enemy airplane of the type "Fortress" was shot down at Wilmesau district of Bielitz/Oberschlesien . The crew bailed out by parachute .One man of the crew being captured

A.J. ELLIN

was shot by the police Sgt. Swittaj at the attempt to escape. According to statement of physician the death was afflicted by bullet through abdomen. No papers or other documents for identification were found. An identification tag was missed ,too. Solely a bracelet with the inscription A.J. Ellin No. 15364395 was found. This bracelet was forwarded with the documents of the remaining 8 prisoners to Information Center West Oberursel on 17 Dec. 1944.

Ellin was buried at the cemetery of Jawischowitz district of Bielitz - grave location immediately between the mortuary (tool booth) and hedge - on 20 Dec. 1944 at 1700 . 1 polish grave digger and the police master (police post Jawischowitz) attended the burial.

According to his features E. had a Jewish appearance. No pictures of the grave were taken.

Since also the airplane is completely destroyed the names of the other crew members could be used for identification of the Ellin. They are :

✓ Lt.	J Kearns	Michael
M/sgt	Dyga	Leo John
Sgt	Janiak	Chester
?	Fitzstammons	Robert
Sgt	Chapman	Joe D.
Sgt	Tinley	Eugene
Sgt	Mohollen	Cahs
Sgt	Huches	Ivan

ME 1560

Illegible

Cpt. and airfield commander

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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 10670

Name of crew member: ELLIN, Alvin J.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 15364395
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Eighteen)~~ Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? SOME WHERE OVER POLAND

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: WHEN WE
BAILED OUT

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? IN POLAND

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt Ellin was
supposed to have resisted upon hitting the ground. I
saw him with a wound in the shoulder, leg and
he was supposed to have been wounded in the side.
I heard the shots and went to his aid but was

Total number of missions of above crew member: captured before I reached

Dates and destinations if possible: him. The shots sounded like
those of a rifle and not of a 45 nature that Sgt
Ellin had at the time. A few days later we heard
that he had died in a German hospital. We never
got any more confirmation on this fact.

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By: NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

File 10670

3

To reach Russian lines.

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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 10070

Name of crew member: ELLIN, Alvin J.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 18384386
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~some thing (Pilot)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YES.

Where? Was told by members of my crew HE bailed out of the tail escape hatch

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? SHOT by SS MAN.

Where was he when last seen? No Knowledge.

Any hearsay information: A newspaper reports thru Polish authorities Nov. 6th.

1945. That Sgt. A. J. Ellin, an American airman, was shot to death by a German
SS (Elite Guard) man when he parachuted from a damaged bomber on Dec. 17,

1944. They said an SS man named SWITAJ shot Ellin once in the back and
shoulder. THE Germans tried to hide the body by burying it behind a barn
but the Poles found it and marked the spot.

Source: (UP) Above is a Newsmans report of SGT A. J. ELLIN.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: His parachute was
full of blood which was thrown in front of all of us at Gestapo or SS HQ.

The name of the town is JAWISZOWICE, POLAND.

Total number of missions of above crew member: "No Knowledge"

Dates and destinations if possible: _____