32ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO 520
US ARMY

E/JRB/jw

24 April 1945

SUBJECT: Witnesses Statement to accompany Missing Air Crew Report on A/C 44-6737

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

1. I was flying as Navigator on A/C 43-38484 in the 21 position of the low left box of the 1st attack unit. Shortly before bombs away, our formation was hit by some very accurate flak. We turned on the rally and our squadron was well scattered.

2. Ahead of us we could see that the 11 and 13 ships were in trouble and about five minutes after bombs away, flames started to flare from the left wing of the 13 ship 44-6737. It peeled off from the formation seemingly out of control and headed in the opposite direction. At this time we were holding a heading of 220°. Shortly after, at 1231, the ship started to spin and was enveloped in flames. I observed three chutes come out and our Ball turret gunner said he observed one more chute come out a few seconds later. Evidently the latter delayed his jump several thousand feet.

3. I was following the ship down and the right wing seemed to hit a peak or a cliff and flew off. A few seconds later the plane hit in the snow capped peaks in a ball of flame. I don't believe the rest of the crew had a chance to get out.

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