

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF STATION 376; command or Air Force Eighth
Group 25th Bomb Group (Bn); Squadron 652nd Bomb Sq (H) Wes Bn (H) Detachment -----
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF STATION 376; Course Watton, Trevose Head, Track
280 deg for 500 NM and return on reciprocal; Intended Destination Position #10 and
return: Type of Mission Weather Reconnaissance.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Weather
Fair - Visibility eight (8) miles - no low clouds.
- GIVE: (a) Date 17 March 1945; Time 0010; and Location Twenty (20) miles inland
from Trevose Head of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. (b) Specify whether
() 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; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows -----
Cause undetermined.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G 1944 AAF Serial Number 44-8601
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R1820-97 AAF Serial Number (a) FW008532
(b) FW0290920; (c) FW028181; (d) FW028205
- INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnished below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) # 1327026; (b) # 1138395; (c) # 1326585; (d) # 1138508
(e) -----; (f) -----; (g) -----; (h) -----
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty -----

- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew Eight (8); Passengers 0; Total 8
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons
were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original
to this form).

	Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number
KIA1.	Pilot	Nistrach, Colman T.	2nd Lt.	5 0-828127 MIA
KIA2.	Co-Pilot	Clark, Robert H.	2nd Lt.	3 0-774782 MIA
KIA3.	Navigator	Pellegrini, Anthony D.	2nd Lt.	7 0-2068457 MIA
KIA4.	Radio Operator	Hickhoff, Arthur G.	Sgt.	4 37721506 MIA
KIA5.	Engineer	Allison, Robert O.	S/Sgt.	1 33080624 MIA
KIA6.	Flexible Gunner	Chressanthis, James G.	Sgt.	2 32941976 MIA
KIA7.	Flexible Gunner	Garlett, John C.	Sgt.	6 33610203 MIA
KIA8.	Meteorological Obs.	Sartonne, Charles L.	1st Lt.	8 0-880818 MIA

- 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	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted By Name	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	(E.A.F.) Liddicot, K.	Cpl.	426938	X	-----	-----	-----
2.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
3.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used -----; Persons were seen walking away from the
scene of crash -----; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) -----
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE
AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN: Chart attached.

CONFIDENTIAL

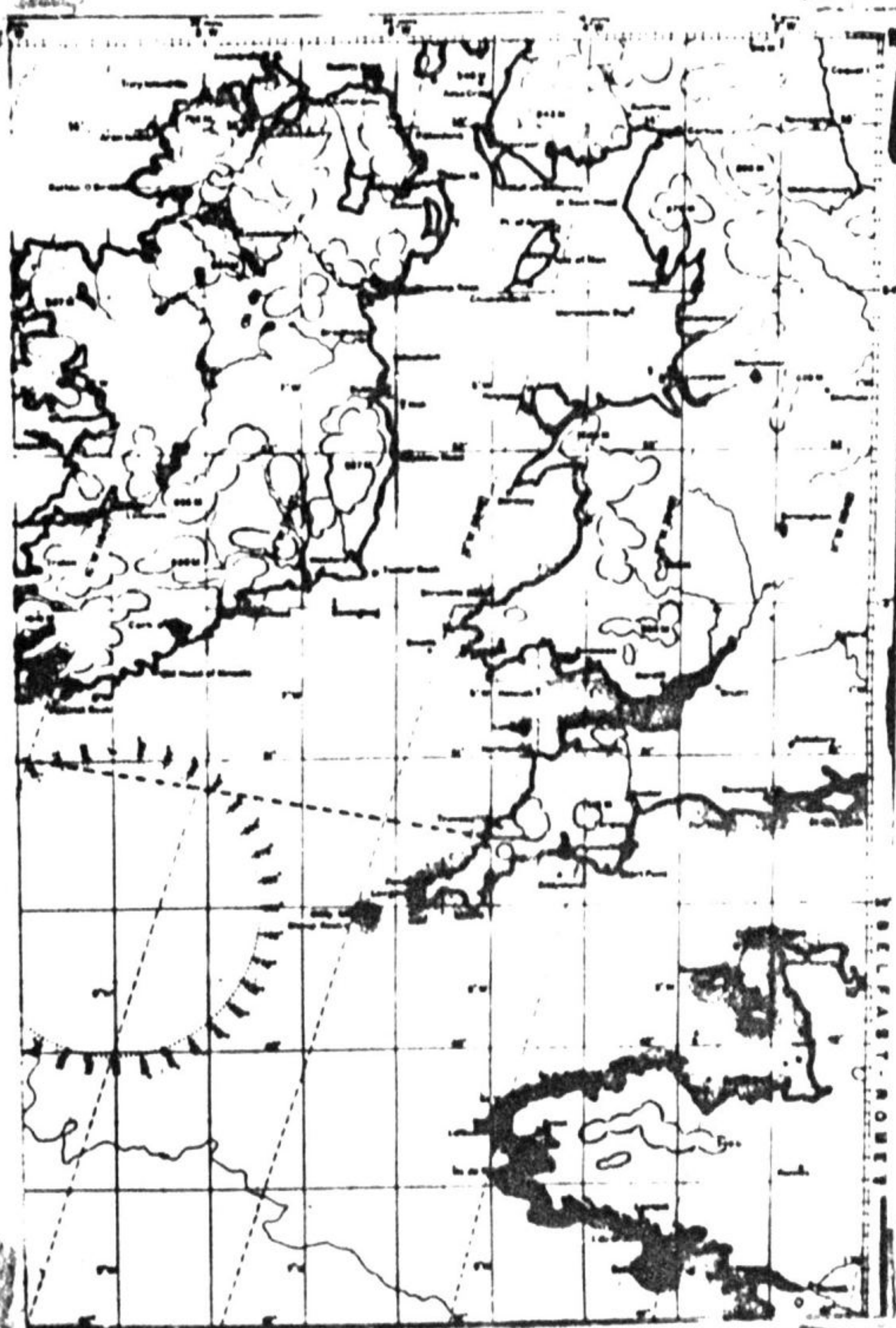
CONFIDENTIAL

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT: Civilian reported to Royal Observer Corps a fire approximately six (6) to eight (8) miles off the coast of Trevose Head. Search was immediately initiated by 19th Group (British).
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: Search for aircraft began at 0055 hours 17 March 1945. Three (3) aircraft of Walrus and Warwick type were used, including surface vessels. Wreckage and flotsam was found at scene of fire, identified as that of a fortress (B-17G). A flying jacket was found among wreckage with papers and letters addressed to Anthony D. Pellegrini, 2nd Lt., navigator of missing aircraft 44-8601. Search was abandoned at 1700 hours 17 March 1945. Officer in charge of search - R.A.F. Flt/Lt Evershed, H.K., Serial Number 86012, Flying Control Officer, 19th Group.

Date of Report 18 March 1945

Michael J. Lorenz Jr.
MICHAEL J. LORENZ JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

(Signature of
Preparing Officer)



CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

652ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) WEA RON (H)
25TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP RECONNAISSANCE
APO 634.

AAF STA 376.
18 March 1945.

STATEMENT

Aircraft B-17G Serial # 44-8601 was airborne at 2211 hours, 16 March 1945, on a authorized weather reconnaissance mission. ETA at base was 1016 hours 17 March 1945. At 1105 hours, 17 March 1945, aircraft was one (1) hour overdue. I started a check to find out if aircraft had crossed coast on return and was informed by base flying control that it had not. Upon further investigation into this matter I was told that the last radio contact was made by St. Eval at 0010 hours, 17 March 1945, he had then asked for a QFF. At 0031 an observer, at St. Eval, had seen a fire approximately six miles off the coast. This was in the vicinity of the track for the mission. 19th Group began a search at 0055 hours, 17 March 1945, and surface vessels reported that it was a petrol fire. Later parts of an aircraft were found and identified as that of a B-17. Among this wreckage was a flying jacket with papers and letters belonging to Anthony D. Pellegrini, 2nd Lt., the navigator of missing aircraft, #44-8601. Position of wreckage was found at 50 25N - 05 15W. Search was abandoned at 1700 hours 17 March 1945, by 19th Group. Officer in charge of search was Flt/Lt. Evershed, H.K., serial number, 86012, R.A.F.

Michael J. Lorenz
MICHAEL J. LORENZ, Jr.,
Captain, AC.,
Operations Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

INCL -

1st Lt. Charles L. Sertenne

Mrs. Charles L. Sertenne (wife)
1441 East Fifth Street
Tucson, Arizona

2nd Lt. Calman Trevor Estrach

Mr. Louis A. Estrach (father)
86 Shaw Road
Brookline, Massachusetts

2nd Lt. Anthony D. Pellegrini

Mrs. Anthony D. Pellegrini (wife)
35 Valley Road
San Anselmo, California

Sgt. John G. Gerlett

Mrs. Elisabeth Gerlett (wife)
3703 Lila Lane
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Arthur G. Kieckheff

Mr. William G. Kieckheff (father)
Rural Route #2
Macon, Kansas

Sgt. James G. Chresanthia

Mrs. Mary Chresanthia (mother)
137 - 4th Street
Troy, New York

2nd Lt. Robert H. Clark

Mrs. Marie Clark (mother)
2487 Chase Street
Denver, Colorado

S/Sgt. Robert C. Allison

Mrs. Mary R. Allison (mother)
Box #413
Parkers Landing, Pennsylvania