

312.1 - Kinberg, Sheldon H. (Enl) 4th Ind.
367th Bomb Sq (H), APO 557, 4 October, 1944.

(C/1/alw)

TO: Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H), APO 557.

1. Enlisted Man concerned in basic communication was killed on 26 April, 1944, when B-17G aircraft # 42-31469, in which he was flying, crashed and burned shortly after take-off on an operational mission.

2. There was one (survivor) from the crash, S/Sgt GEORGE S. LITTLEFIELD, but since he was flying the tail position, he was unable to explain the reason for the crash, and since he was rather seriously injured, was unable to give any details surrounding it.

3. Grounded flying personnel and mechanics who were watching the take-off reported that they saw one of the aircraft's engines on fire very shortly after it became airborne, and since the crash occurred very near this airbase, it was assumed that the pilot banked too steeply and without sufficient altitude in an attempt to bring the aircraft in for a landing.

4. Other members of the crew who were killed at the same time and their nearest relatives and addresses are:

2nd Lt DONALD J. SCHAEFER, O-754381 *KIA*

Mrs. June M. Schaefer, 7111 Ross Street, Sioux City, Iowa (Wife)

2nd Lt FLOYD B. HENRY, O-814898 *KIA*

Mrs. Elizabeth Henry, 9 Warwick St, Quincy, Mass. (Mother)

2nd Lt WILLARD A. TRANSETH, O-702985 *KIA*

Mrs. Nora A. Holmgren, Mother, 205 Fern Avenue, Walla Walla, Wash. (Mother)

2nd Lt ROY A. McKINNEY, O-757006 *KIA*

Mrs. Helene McKinney, Mother, 7050 Merrill Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

T/Sgt Charles E. Weller, 15110110 *KIA*

Mrs. Charles E. Weller, RR # 1, Miamisburg, Ohio, (Wife)

S/Sgt John W. Byrd, 18170062 *KIA*

Mrs. John W. Byrd, 240 Horizon Ave., Venice, Calif., (Mother)

Sgt Ronald M. Winter, Jr., 15196568 *KIA*

Mrs. Ronald E. Winter, RFD # 2, Kenton, Ohio, (Mother)

Sgt John C. Simons, 33596385 *KIA*

Mrs. Anna D. Simons, 6228 N. 21st Street, Philadelphia, Pa., (Mother)

5. In case the correspondent would like to contact S/Sgt Littlefield, it is suggested that he write him at his home address since he has transferred to the Zone of the Interior and this organization has no record of his present Army address. His home address is General Delivery, Woodruff, South Carolina.

For the Squadron Commander:

12/1/44
/s/ SHALDON H. KINBERG, MA

Donald L. Giles
DONALD L. GILES,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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thought to have hit on the airfield. On a second run the cloud cover was 10/10ths and no bombs were dropped.

The 367th had only two ships on this mission. They were spares that filled in as #5 in the lead squadron and #6 in the high squadron, which were left blank by aborts. Neither of our A/C bombed. The pilots were Lts. Louis F. Matichka and Ben H. Peters. No E/A were seen and only meager, inaccurate flak was at the coast. None of the 306th A/C suffered damage and all returned.

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BRUNSWICK - Today's mission was to Brunswick, with Lt. Col. George Buckey, 367th commander, leading the Group and the 40th Combat Wing. He completed his tour with this mission. Take off was before dawn, on instruments, at 0536 hours. Our Squadron was flying high squadron for the 306th and was led by Lt. Henry E. Hanson.

On takeoff, Lt. Donald J. Schaefer's #1 engine stopped and the plane stalled out and crashed about a mile and a half from the field. The plane completely disintegrated and burned, killing everyone aboard except Sgt. George S. Littlefield, the tail gunner, who was operating the Aldis lamp to warn other A/C of their position. This was the only part of the plane not consumed by the fire. This ship was loaded with nickels, and consequently there was no large explosion. Although seriously injured, Sgt. Littlefield is expected to recover. Other members of Lt. Schaefer's crew were: Lts. Floyd D. Henry, Willard A. Transech, and Roy A. McKinney; and Sgts. Charles E. Weller, Sheldon H. Kingberg, John W. Byrd, D. M. Minter, Jr., and John C. Simons.

The cloud cover was 10/10ths at the target and bombing was PFF. No E/A were seen and flak at the target was inaccurate. At Dummer Lake, flak was described as moderate and accurate. All planes returned with no crew members injured.

Other 367th pilots were Lts. Louis F. Matichka, Ben H. Peters, Ralph B. Malsom and Bernard J. McGuire.

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NOBALL, FRANCE - Today sets a new precedent and another "first" has been passed. Today, for the first time, two mission were run by the 8th AF in a single day. The 367th participated in both.

The first mission was on a Noball target in Northern France. Our Squadron flew five A/C in the high squadron of the 306th, and was led by Lt. Henry E. Hanson. Other pilots were Lts. Perry Raster, Louis F. Matichka, Ralph B. Malsom and Edward W. Magee.

The weather was good and our bombs fell with possibly good results. About one fourth of our bombs were on target and the remainder fell short.

Major John A. Baldwin r.

Our A/C 469-K, pilot Schaefer, crashed at Blotsoe Castle on take-off. According to Captain Witt, it was probably a question of motor trouble and then trying to feather the motor and fly instruments at the same time.

According to the loading list, those on board were:

Pilot.	2nd Lt. D. J. Schaefer.
Co-pilot	2nd Lt. F. B. Henry
Navigator	2nd Lt. W. A. Transeth
Bombadier	2nd Lt. R. A. McKinney
Engineer	T/Sgt. C. E. Weller
Radio	S/Sgt. S. H. Kinberg
Waist	S/Sgt. J. W. Byrd
Waist	Sgt. D. M. Minter Jr.
Ball T.	Sgt. J. C. Simons
Tail G.	Sgt. G. S. Littlefield.

Of these, the hospital (Capt. Munal) reports all killed except Sgt. Littlefield, tail gunner who, though cut and burned, will most certainly pull through, his injuries, under the circumstances, being "surprisingly slight".

This A/C was loaded with eight nickel bombs each bomb containing mixed G-35's and 36 Lt. Murtha has been sent out to look over the situation and pick up scattered nickels, if any.

Capt. Baldwin.

A/C RETURNING EARLY - NOT DISPATCHED

Pilot Switzer had difficulty at take off, changed to A/C 765-D, taking off at 0635. Went direct to Lowestoft but did not locate group. Brought back 10 x 500 M43's.

Our spare A/C 431-F, pilot Baldwin, and spare A/C 146-W, Pilot Koch filled in.

A/C 148-K, pilot Carlson, unused spare, brought back 10 x 500 M43's.

Report of Crashed A/C.

Our A/C 469-K, pilot Schaefer, crashed at field near Bletsce Castle on take off. According to Captain Witt, it was probably a question of motor trouble and then trying to feather and ~~XXXXXX~~ prop and fly instruments at the same time.

Of the crew as listed on attached interrogation form, Captain Mural ~~XXXXXX~~ reports all killed except Sgt. Littlefield, tail gunner who, though cut and burned seriously, will most certainly pull through.

This A/C, loaded with 8 nickel bombs filled with mixed G-35's and 36's, is completely destroyed. One bomb containing nickels was salvaged. Others, scattered around ~~XXXXXX~~ wreckage, all burned under supervision of Lt Murtha.