

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
United States Forces

AFU 557  
9 March, 1945

SUBJECT: Aircraft Lost on Gunnery Mission  
9 March, 1945

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

1. A/C #302-Z, pilot Miesler, flying on a gunnery mission 9 March, 1945, went down in the North Sea at 1504 hours, 5309N - 00500E, 03e fix. This A/C left the formation apparently under control, then eight(8) chutes were reported. An explosion in the right wing, which most crews believed to be in the #3 engine, was seen prior to the plane's final dive. SOS and position were immediately sent to Air Sea Rescue by formation leader, and acknowledgment was received.

2. A/C #908-J, pilot Kingsley, left the formation to give aid, saw five men in chutes hitting the water, and dropped three dinghies on three separate runs over the survivors. In each case the carbon dioxide cylinders of the dinghies were opened before dropping. Kingsley's A/C shot all available flares, then guided approaching launch to the first dinghy, with one man in it; saw this man rescued. Second dinghy was seen with one man clinging to it. The third dinghy was empty with blue dye surrounding it. Kingsley's A/C searched the area until 1800 hours, then returned to base, since launches and several A/C were continuing the search. The rescuing launch reached the first dinghy twelve(12) minutes after SOS was sent.

✓  
JOHN A. BAINSPATER,  
Major, A/C,  
Group 3-2

On 10 March, Co. pilot Burns, & bombardier Johnson, returned to this base, having been picked up by Air Sea Rescue launch.

B.H.P.

Mission file

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Record Group No. 18

Additional Information \_\_\_\_\_

aag, 7th AF Combat Gr Rec 1941-46  
306th Bomb Gr. MISSION RPTS 8/43-5/45

LEAD ship  
Target  
Coyne

Buis  
Vielle  
443-M

OVER

on file  
what  
down  
they let  
2071

Kingsley  
322-B

Hickenbotham  
840-Y

Brash  
174-Y  
is pulling out  
back seat

Warner  
143-P

Smith  
604-W  
wait  
4-chit-

Wissler  
362-Z  
367

Mitchell  
515-D  
no  
nothing

Babin  
619-S

Schick  
896-X

Co-Proprietor  
A/C to left, in  
low spiral  
maneuver  
if ditch put  
it wheels down  
& made  
radio calls  
to turn a turn to left at the  
time, & firing at target ship

see  
tail  
upper

Phoned  
Taylor  
at  
1500 hours

Underwood  
662-S

thinks target  
flew too  
low  
too  
surely  
will  
fire

Swango  
916-N

Law  
024-O

Bartshorn  
145-K

Collahan  
901-U

Forsyth  
466-Q

Altshuler  
914-B

Olsen  
928-L

Collins  
287-V

Schook  
765-M

Cohn  
515-I

Bobbs  
814-G

5315  
0107  
4900

sent S.O.S. to 'J' area of Area Base.

LRD  
HIGH

Horvay  
Hedley  
362-L

Leigh  
516-M

Trease  
910-B

Clark  
116-T

Mattham  
713-X

sent full out 1600 hours  
5300  
3800  
12,700 ft

Cannon  
598-Q

Cheney  
418-J

Paisley  
397-O  
have  
tape  
pull off

Sandini  
297-R  
#3  
#4

Fisher  
819

Rach  
153-G  
nothing  
seen  
even by  
ball turret

one  
other  
tail  
7  
5314  
0057

Cogswell  
454

Tow ship

OVER



OVER Kingsley — 10 5307  
18 chutes seen — 0049 E } see

Saw 5 going into water —

Our A/C 908

dropped 3 <sup>by hydroplanes</sup> on 3  
start different runs,

Two guys

seen in water —  
then it flies —

W carbon dioxide  
Cylinders opened  
to see out.

then biggest approaching launch —

beached from 1620 to 1800 hours.  
+ launch + Me still

One guy got in slightly then 1 that

Launch picked up

Another dig by guy hanging out

Callings  
of A/C  
see  
- 72

1 Pilot +  
handier  
picked up  
O.K.

because how air in the launch  
to each operator —

\* Kingsley's  
navigator  
says he noticed  
Pump (fuel tank)  
pointed straight  
down

3 (9 guys)  
Piles still  
on water there —

Launch  
Catalina  
P47  
3 mosquitoes  
2 birds

Upper turret <sup>1st white smoke</sup> <sup>then</sup>  
#3 engine — then blew up.

OVER