



Gunner S/Sgt. Joyce B. Carroll's Last Mission




United States Army
World War II
Gunner S/Sgt. Joyce B. Carroll KIA
Hometown: Cherryville, North Carolina
Squadron: 579th BS 392th Bomb Group
Service# 7083040
Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart
Pilot 1st/Lt. Walter B. Sherwood KIA

Target: Bernburg
Missing Air Crew Report Details
USAAF MACR#: #03934
Date Lost: 11-Apr-44
Serial Number: #42-52654
Aircraft Model B-24
Aircraft Letter: "J-Bar"
Aircraft Name: "NIGHTLIFE NELLIE" 5th Mission
Location: Halberstadt
Cause: bombs of another group



The target assigned was an airfield outside the city. Briefings were held between 0300-0400 hours for (29) aircrews. Lead Bombardiers were Lieutenants Joachim of the 578th and Tierney of the 577th Squadron. Take-offs began at 0700 hours with (4) aircraft being forced to return early due to mechanical problems

MISSION LOSS CIRCUMSTANCES: Eye-witness accounts on the fate of this aircrew from returning observers stated that this aircraft was hit by bombs of another group aircraft above, the plane immediately caught fire, turned over on its back, and went into a spin with (4) parachutes being seen. (Click here to see photo) Another report in the MACR recorded that "all were at their positions when the aircraft was struck with a tremendous explosion in the left wing and went down spinning". A German Report #KU1461 reported the ship as crashing at the south end of Air Base Halberstadt at 1126 hours above date. As regards the survivors from this aircrew, a puzzling situation in final reporting of the ultimate fate of one crewmember is apparent. German Report #KU1461 reports the capture of Sgts. Todd and Draper on 11 April 1126 hours. In the case of Sgt. Draper, the final determination of his status in the MACR was "KIA". No mention of his wounding or suffering otherwise is indicated in any German accounting which leads to a conclusion that he was killed or died while POW. A third crewmember, Sgt. Mohr is known to have survived as well based on i after-the-war casualty report he gave to U.S. officials about the mission. There 'as no obvious confusion between Draper and Mohr by the Germans on report of capture because Sgt. Draper was correctly identified from his dog tags.



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INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS OF CREWMEN FATES: One 'Casualty Questionnaire' in the MACR is that given by survivor, Sgt. Mohr, at some time after the war's end. He confirmed that to his knowledge only (1) other crew member got out of the aircraft that was Sgt. Todd, the Flight Engineer. He named all the other members he felt were still in their crew positions when the plane spun down and crashed (which included Sgt. Draper). He noted that to his knowledge, "they all went down with the Dinning ship and none of these men were able to get out". (Note: A mystery will remain as to the true situation regarding Sgt. Draper at the time based on the German report (captured?), and the final MACR determination of "KIA". The latter most believably must be held as the true and final fate of this crewmember and what really happened after his reported 'capture', most surely will never be accurately known).

BURIAL RECORDS: The only burial recordings on these men in U.S. National Overseas Military cemeteries follows: All listed here are interred in the U.S. Cemetery FLORRAINE St. Avold (Moselle), France: Anderson (Grave D-20-29); Sheridan Grave F-10-12); Yarbrough (Grave K-6-9) and McGowan (Grave C-26-61). There are no records on the remaining members for burial, either in German or U.S. overseas accounts or listings. Regarding Medal Awards, Anderson and Sheridan are credited with the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; and Yarbrough and McGowan with Air medals and (2) Oak Leaf Clusters. All members are noted to have received the Purple Heart, except McGowan.

The "NIGHTLIFE NELLIE" crew
1st/Lt. Walter B. Sherwood Pilot KIA
2nd/Lt. John B. Anderson Co Pilot KIA
2nd/Lt. James J. Sheridan Navigator KIA
S/Sgt. William L. Yarbrough Bombardier KIA
T/Sgt. Raymond E. Todd Engineer KIA
T/Sgt. Donald C. Mohr Radio Op. POW
S/Sgt. William J. McGowan Gunner KIA
S/Sgt. Theodore J. Grybos Gunner KIA
S/Sgt. James Woodrow Draper Gunner KIA
S/Sgt. Joyce B. Carroll Gunner KIA

