

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT NO. 3

Original - ~~Supplement~~
(Cross out one)

61ST BOMB SQ, 39TH BOMB GP
(Unit)

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

AK 286

148

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name APO 246; Command or Air Force XXI Bomber Command
Group 39th Squadron 61st Bomb Detachment Not applicable
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure North Fld; Course 343°, 345°, 041°, 081°
Target or Intended Destination Tokio
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: (Take-Off)
Scattered clouds ay 1500 ft, wind east at 15 miles, visibility 12 miles.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 26 Month May Year 1945 Time 0100Z; and Location of last
known whereabouts of missing aircraft North Field, APO 246
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio
(); forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not available (X).
5. 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:
Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-29; AAF Serial No. 42-94079
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any: None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-3350-23A; AAF Serial Nos
(a) DW-202790 (b) DW-202546 (c) DW-205760 (d) DW-205694
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
Make: See remarks; Type: M-2
(a) 1299533; (b) 1297224; (c) 1298007; (d) 1298573
(e) 1504807; (f) 1504475; (g) 1301384; (h) 1299626
(i) 1031198; (j) 1030945; (k) 1800994; (l) 1297645
(m); (n); (o); (p)
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars:

Status	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
KIA	1. A	Kobler, Cornelius W.	Capt	0-666191	Missing in Action ✓
"	2. A	Winteringer, Thomas P.	2d Lt	0-836210	Missing in Action ✓
"	3. B	Ogden, Clarence G.	2d Lt	0-2079081	Missing in Action ✓
"	4. C	Fredenburg, Milford G.	F/O	T-136545	Missing in Action ✓
"	5. L	Graesslin, Fred C.	F/O	T-138214	Missing in Action ✓
"	6. G	Drouin, Gerald A.	Sgt	36959975	Missing in Action ✓
"	7. N	Howard, Melvin J.	Sgt	39293587	Missing in Action ✓
POW	8. O	Slater, Harry Jr	Sgt	39286722	Missing in Action ✓
DED	9. K	Curry, David R.	Cpl	13191087	Missing in Action ✓
KIA	10. K	Roberts, George W.	Cpl	6860412	Missing in Action ✓
KIA	11. K	Woods, Luther	Cpl	34829852	Missing in Action ✓
	12.				
	13.				
	14.				

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-
CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank ASN	Contacted Last by Radio	Saw Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. None					
2.					
3.					
4.					

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13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____
Not applicable
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM:
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT: Search conducted in accordance with provisions of XXI Bomber Command Regulations by Air Sea Rescue Unit, 314th Bomb Wing, 1st Lt Graham S. Campbell, O-724088, in charge.

DATE OF REPORT 27 May 1945

George W. Mundy
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
GEORGE W. MUNDY,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Continuation of Item #9

- Weapons a, b, c, d: Make: Buffalo Arms
- Weapons e, f: Make: Frigidaire
- Weapons g, h: Make: Buffalo Arms
- Weapons i, j: Make: Colts
- Weapons k, l: Make: Buffalo Arms

No information regarding subject aircraft and crew available.

Note: On Supplemental reports, it is not necessary to repeat answers to questions previously answered, except questions 1 and 2. Additional statements may be attached here.

XXI BC Casualty Form #3.

AFFPA-8-MD

5 November 1945

Copy sent A G O

SUBJECT: Flight Officer Fred Graesslin, T-138214

TO: Sergeant Harry Slater, Jr.
1476 Forest Street
Pasadena, California

1. Records of this headquarters indicate that you were a gunner on a B-29 (Superfortress) of which subject named was a crew member and was reported missing in action 26 May 1945.

2. Request you furnish this headquarters with all known facts relative to the mission and any information concerning the fate of Flight Officer Graesslin and other crew members.

3. The crew members who served with you on 26 May 1945 are still listed as missing in action.

NOV 21 1945

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:



JOHN J. SMITH
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1

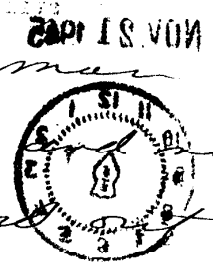
RECEIVED

On May 26th at night we were flying over north Toku on mission. Coming in for Mount Fiji towards the Shilba peninsula when we were caught in search light. We kept coming in and dropped our bombs on target, soon after we were hit by flock in right wing and in #3 engine which caught fire. Engine was feathered and the fire was put out. Soon after that #2 engine was hit and on fire. Engineer tried to put it over

- 1. None
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

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fire wall. Fire spread rapidly and the
Cpts manuvering around couldn't blow
out the fire. Soon it had burned half
the wing off and was getting near our
center wing tank. The Buster next
to me was melting and the plane
looked as if she would blow up right
away. The Cpt. was planning on putting
in Tokyo Bay and ditching it there.
He gave us our choice whether to
bail out or stay. The radio man
was back with the gunners
message was sent. I jumped
of the plane with the other gunners
right behind me. Weather they
wer jumped I'll never know. I was on
fire and by the time I got it out,
pulled my rip cord I could see nothing
of the plane. I landed safely in a tree
and was picked up by the Japanese
two nights later. I never did hear
any thing else about my crew.



Sgt. Harry Slater
C.F.C.

- 1. _____ None
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

