

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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Classification changed

to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
date MAR 18 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

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 airplane is officially reported missing.

Wethersfield, England

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Sta 170, Command or Air Force IX Bomb Command  
Group 415th Bomb Gp (L) Squadrons 8th Bomb Sq (L) Detachment
- SPECIFY: Point of departure Wethersfield, England Course Not Available  
Intended Destination Gles-Sur-Risle RV/J Type of Mission Operational
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED  
Not available
- GIVE: (a) Date 18 July 1944 Time approx. 1500 and Location Eng. Channel off Little-  
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane. Hampton, Sussex, Eng.  
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last Sighted; ( ) Last contacted by radio;  
(x) Forced down; ( ) Seen to crash; or ( ) Information not available.
- AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF:  
(Check only one) ( ) Enemy Airplane; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other  
circumstances as follows: Pilot forced to ditch airplane in English Channel
- AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series A-20C-35 A.A.F. Serial No. 43-9975
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Not Available A.A.F. Serial No. (a) Not available  
(b) (c) (d)
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial No)  
(a) Not available (b) (c) (d)  
(e) (f) (g) (h)
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 3 Passengers 0 Total 3  
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	<u>CRUZE, RAYMOND K.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>MIA 0 747 755</u>
2. Gunner, Arm.	<u>Cherry, Frank E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>KIA 34 774 161</u>
3.	<u>(Body of En recovered by AIR Sea Rescue squad and unsuccessful attempt made to resuscitate soldier)</u>		
4.			
5.			
6. Gunner, Eng.	<u>Hiesv, Samuel E. Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>SIA 33 554 134</u>
7.	<u>(Soldier was SIA suffering from exposure to cold water, possible fracture right hand and multiple bruises. Soldier was returned to duty)</u>		
8.			
9.			
10.			

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11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRPLANE, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SALE;

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. Giesy, Samuel H. Jr	Sgt	39554134				XX
2.						
3.						

12. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ or (c) Any other reason (Specify) Air Sea Rescue Squad rescued crew. Body of Cherry, Frank & was recovered and Giesy, Samuel H. Jr was rescued
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND CITE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE See Attached report

Date of Report 24 February 1945

*George Schenk*  
 GEORGE SCHENKIN  
 Captain, Air Corps  
 Adjutant

1 Incl;  
 Copy of Missing Report submitted  
 24 July 1944.

MAR 14 1945  
  
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MISSING REPORT

To accompany WD AGO Forms 66-1 or 24 of Missing or Missing in Action Personnel (other than those covered by Missing Air Crew Report).

NAME RAYMOND K. CRUZE ASNO 747 955 GRADE 1st Lt. <sup>ARM OF</sup> Service Air Corps

ORGN 668th Bcat Sq (L), 416th Bomb Gp (LPO 140 Date 18 July 1944 Reported MIA 18 July 1944

MISSION Operational

POINT OF DEPARTURE Wethersfield, Essex, England Date 18 July 1944

INTENDED DESTINATION Wethersfield to Clerf Sur Risle BB/L, Fr to Wethersfield

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS English Channel ( Off Littlehampton, Sussex, England.)

BRIEF RESUME OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DISAPPEARANCE:

Aircraft severely damaged by flak over France. Engine failure necessitated the pilot's ditching the airplane in the English Channel. The pilot, 1st Lt. CRUZE, and crew of two gunners were able to free themselves from the rapidly sinking aircraft. Sgt Samuel H. Giesy Jr, 39 554 134, airplane mechanic gunner, sole survivor, last saw the pilot struggling in the water.

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, IF ANY: Sgt Samuel H. Giesy Jr, 39 554 134.

"When the plane was ditched, I was thrown about the cockpit and slightly injured. I left the plane through the waist window. The plane began to fill with water immediately, so I made no effort to retrieve the dinghy. In the water I opened my Mae West and watched the plane sink. I noticed Lt CRUZE, the pilot, struggling in the water in his parachute and helped him remove it, and then inflated his Mae West for him. That was the last I saw of him. Soon afterwards a plane dropped a dinghy nearby. I swam to it and inflated it, but could not pull myself in. I was in the water between 45 minutes to an hour before I was picked up by an Air Sea Rescue Crew.

REMARKS (Any information not covered above, including details and results of search, if any, conducted)

The Air Sea Rescue Crew of that area conducted a search for the missing pilot, but it was unsuccessful. The body of Sgt Frank A. Cherry, 34 774 161 (612) was recovered and an effort to resuscitate the soldier was made to no avail.

Date of Report 24 July 1944

*Joseph A. Hauerich*  
JOSEPH A. HAUERICH, 1st Lt AC  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

Incl 12

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IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON



SUBJECT: Personal Affairs Casualty Assistance  
TO: Commanding Officer

It is requested that a representative of your command communicate with the emergency addressee of the AAF casualty named in the attached casualty report and render assistance and advice in accordance with AAF Letter 39-14 dated 19 June 1945.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SPAATZ:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leon W. Johnson".

LEON W. JOHNSON  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief, Personnel Services Division  
Office of the Assistance Chief of Air  
Staff, Personnel

1 Incl  
Casualty Report (in dup)

6-5672b, AF

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MACR

12210 -

18-July-'44

Cherry, Frank E

SGT. 34774161 KIA

Cruze, Raymond K.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. D 747755 KIA

12210

293 FILE	DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER	
CRUZE, RAYMOND H.		1-LT	0747755	
ORGANIZATION		RACE	CREED	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If Applicable)
668 BOMB SQ. 416 BOMB SQ.		WHITE	PROT	
DATE OF DEATH/MIA	CAUSE OF DEATH		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA	
18 JUL 44	MIA		SWIMMING TO THE SHORE IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL	
DATE OF FOD				
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR	SHOE SIZE
5'4"	150	BROWN	BROWN	7 1/2 D
DENTAL CHART 16 APR 42				
UPPER RIGHT			UPPER LEFT	
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
LOWER RIGHT			LOWER LEFT	
16 X 14 13 12 11 10 9			9 10 11 12 13 X 15 16	
X = Extracted                      O = Carious                      I = Carious Non-Restorable				
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS		TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK		
		NOT SHOWN		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION				
AGE: 38				
PHOTOSTAT DENTAL RECORD				

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

1st Lt. Raymond E. Cruse

Mr. Pinkney S. Cruse (father)  
Rural Route Number Three  
Wellington, Kansas

Sgt. Frank E. Cherry

Mrs. Louella D. Cherry (mother)  
Meadow Road  
Draper, North Carolina

Sgt. Samuel H. Giesy, Jr.

Mr. Samuel Hensel Giesy (father)  
917 Hyperion Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1964  
U.S. AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

12210

*no more  
Capt. [unclear] [unclear]*  
(22)

AG 360.33 Cas. 6th Ind. JWP/JFR/lr  
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, APO 887 U.S. Army, 6 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.  
Attention: AFPPA-C

1. Forwarded in compliance with letter, War Department, AG 704 (5 Jul 44) OB-S-AAF-M, dated 7 July 1944.
2. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of the crew members of subject aircraft to be as shown below:

1st Lt.	<u>Raymond K. Cruze</u>	0-747755	MIA	18 July 1944
Sgt.	Frank E. Cherry	34774161	KIA	18 July 1944
Sgt.	Samuel H. Giesy, Jr.	39554134	RTD	1 Sept 1944

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

*H.M. Rund*  
H.M. RUND, *w*  
Colonel, AGD,  
Asst. Adj. General.



1 Incl: n/c (1 cy w/d)

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PAR-19175



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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ATTENTION: **APPPA-8**  
**MAC**

**HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES**  
**WASHINGTON**

3 February 1945

**SUBJECT: Request for Missing Air Crew Report**

TO: Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696  
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York

Request Missing Air Crew Report, as required by AGO letter, 7 July 1944 (AG 704 (5 Jul 44)CB-S-AAF-M), be forwarded with least practicable delay in the case of First Lt. Raymond K. Cruise 0717755  
(Grade) (Name) (ASN)  
416th Bomber group 668th squadron  
(Organization)  
reported missing, missing in action, 18 July 1944, which report  
(Date)  
has not been received to date.



For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:



*John D. Marsh*  
**JOHN D. MARSH**  
Lt Colonel, Air Corps  
Chief, Personal Affairs Division  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

210.86 1st Ind **0-10450 G2**  
26TH STATISTICAL CONTROL UNIT, HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE, APO 696,  
U S Army, 19 February 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 9th Bombardment Division, (M), APO 140, U S Army,  
Attention: Statistical Control Section.

A matter pertaining to your command.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Edward Steuber*  
**EDWARD STEUBER,**  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Asst Ops Officer.  
5-5799, AF

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210.86.

5th Ind

G2

26TH STATISTICAL CONTROL UNIT, HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE, AF 696,  
U S Army, 3 March 1945.

10. Commanding General, Communications Zone, European Theater of  
Operations USA, APO 867, U S Army, Attention: AG Casualty Div.

For the Commanding Officer:



*Edward Steuber*  
EDWARD STEUBER,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Asst Opns Officer.

1 Incl:  
n/o

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Classification for this document  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by E. M. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
Date ~~MAR 16 1968~~

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