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DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,  
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

2912

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to

~~RESTRICTED~~

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

Date MAR 16 1946

MARTIN

B418

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



KU 845 A

Army Prison  
Paris - Section 3

Fresnes, 11 May 1944

Information Center (interview) of the Air Force  
Dulag - Luft, Oberursel/Taunus

ADMITTANCE REPORT

Surname:

S U T P H I N

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

First name:

JOSEPH F.

Day and place of birth:

22 November 1919 in Winston-Salem

Preference of religion:

protestant

Occupation:

1st Lt.

Nationality:

American

Habitation:

Cleveland-Ohio, 105th Street No. 1382 E

Day of turn-in:

7 May 1944 0020 o'clock

Turning-in station:

Security Service Detail Toulouse - PA 3324

Reason for turn-in:

downed enemy aviator

at the disposal of:

Security Service Paris BdS- IV E - Prisoner  
of War.

Signature illegible

Captain .

KU 848 A

List of identification tags filed under KU 848 A

MELVIN PORTER  
15335318 T 43 43 B P  
Essie Porter  
RN 1  
Clay City Ind.

JOSEPH E. SUTPHIN  
O-741719 T42-43 O P  
Mrs. Mary Sutphin  
9311 Wade Park  
Cleveland Ohio.



KU 848 A

Army Prison  
Paris - Section 3

Fresnes, 11 May 1944

Information Center (interview) of the Air Force  
Dulag-Luft, Oberursel/Taunus

Admittance - Report

Surname:

P O R T E R

First name:

MELVIN

Day and place of birth:

11 March 1923, in Howesville, Indiana

Preference of religion:

protestant

Occupation:

Sgt., Air Force

Nationality:

American

Habitation:

Claycity, Indiana

Day of turn-in:

7 May 1944 at 0020 o'clock

Turning-in station:

Security Service-Detail Toulouse- PA 3324

Reason for turn-in:

downed enemy aviator

at the disposal of:

Security Service Paris BdS-IVB- Prisoner of War.

Signature illegible  
Captain.

1st Lt. Robert A. Martin

Mrs. Mildred J. Martin (wife)  
608 Arvin Street,  
Bakersfield, California.

T/Sgt. George G. Hunt, Jr.,

Mrs. Freda A. Hunt (mother)  
841 Rebecca Avenue,  
Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

1st Lt. Joseph E. Sutphin

Mrs. Rosemarie A. Sutphin (wife)  
1382 East 105th Street,  
Cleveland, Ohio

2nd Lt. Rudolph F. Gabrys

Mrs. Bernice L. Gabrys (wife)  
926 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  Avenue, Northeast,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pfc. Charlie Flukinger, Jr.,

Mrs. Katie Flukinger (mother)  
Route One,  
Hempstead, Texas.

Sgt. Melvin Porter

Mrs. Bessie Porter (mother)  
234 South White Street,  
Clay City, Indiana.

S/Sgt. Robert H. Metcalf

Mrs. Jennie H. Metcalf (mother)  
327 South Short Street,  
Troy, Ohio.

Sgt. Earl D. Hostetter

Mr. Frank E. Hostetter (brother)  
Alien Property Custodian,  
Washington, D. C.

T/Sgt. Richard G. Thalhamer

Mrs. Mary G. Thalhamer (mother)  
348 West Adams Street,  
Franklin, Indiana.

2nd Lt. Lawson B. Campbell

Mr. Frank B. Campbell (father)  
Rural Free Delivery Number One,  
Allandale, Missouri.



**SECRET**

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

**SECRET**

By authority A. C. of S., G-2

Date

*3 July 44 RAS*

Initials

ROBERT A MARTIN, 1st Lt. O-732039

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

8 June 1944

(Date)

448 Bomb Group, 714 Bomb Squadron

(Unit)

EAE #724

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

5 March 1944; 1315 hours; near PERE which is South of NIORT, France (Dept. of DEUX SEVRES)

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc?

#2 Engine and auxiliary section on fire; bomb bay cat-walk out in half by shell and center of wing section torn out; hydraulics gone; electrical system and all radios gone; bad gas leak; #1 and #4 engines gone.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

Crash landed.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

Sgt THALHAMMER (Radio operator) bailed out; chute opened; rest of crew crash landed.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? No.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?

Saw all except radio operator, as they stayed with ship to get rid of bombs and keep 2 ME 109s off.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so give detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise. No.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

#2 Engine and auxiliary section at wing connection were burning.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion?

Saw Lt Campbell captured; others safe.

MACR #  
5912

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

SOURCE: ROBERT A MARTIN, 1st Lt, O-732039

E&E #724

DATE: 8 June 1944  
MIA: 5 March 1944

UNIT: 714 Bomb Squadron, 448 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW.

PWIB RECORDS

PILOT	O-732039	1st Lt	Robert A MARTIN	RE
CO PILOT	O-687543	2d Lt	Lawson D CAMPBELL	MIA
NAVIGATOR	O-741719	1st Lt	Joseph E SUTPHIN	MIA
BOMBARDIER	O-751820	2d Lt	Rudolph F GABRYS	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	15335752	T/Sgt	Richard E THALHAMER	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	33392182	T/Sgt	George C HUNT, JR	MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	37499896	Sgt	Earl C HOSTETTER	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	35619527	S/Sgt	Robert A METCALF	MIA
WAIST GUNNER	15335328	Sgt	Melvin (NMI) PORTER	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	18191275	PFC	Charlie (NMI) FLUKINGER, JR	MIA

KNOWN INFORMATION:

Radio operator bailed out; chute opened.  
Rest of crew crash landed; all alive on ground.  
Saw Lt CAMPBELL (Co-pilot) captured.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

No.



Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by **WAS, Lt. Col., AO**

by **WAS, Capt., AO**

Date **MAR 15 1944**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

**MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**2712**

**IMPORTANT:** This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 146; Command or Air Force 8th AF  
Group 448th Bomb (H); Squadron 714th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Seething; Course Return from target  
Intended Destination (target) Mont-de-Marsan; Type of Mission Objective Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 8/10 undercast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 5/March/44; Time 1310; and Location 5 miles NE Cognac, France  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last sighted; ( ) Last contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forced Down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not Available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) ( ) Enemy Aircraft; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B24J; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-100414
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-65; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-9246  
(b) 43-0214; (c) 42-98595; (d) 42-9923
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below table, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) 992726; (b) 792977; (c) 992978; (d) 912125; 954765  
(e) 992483; (f) 972866; (g) 997144; (h) 992406; 928620
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10  
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, 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>Martin, Robert A</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0732039</u> <b>RTD</b>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Campbell, Lawson D</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0687543</u> <b>RTD</b>
3. Bombardier	<u>Gabrys, Rudolph F</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0751820</u> <b>RTD</b>
4. Navigator	<u>Sutphin, Joseph E</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0741719</u> <b>RTD</b>
5. Mach Gun-Tail Turret	<u>Flukinger, Charlie (NMI) Jr.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>18191275</u> <b>RTD</b>
6. Mach Gun-Top Turret	<u>Hunt, George O Jr.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>33392182</u> <b>RTD</b>
7. Arm Gun-Left Turret	<u>Hostetter, Earl D</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>37499896</u> <b>RTD</b>
8. Arm Gun-Right Waist	<u>Metcalf, Robert N</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>35619527</u> <b>RTD</b>
9. Mach Gun-Left Waist	<u>Porter, Melvin (NMI)</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>15335318</u> <b>RTD</b>
10. Radio Oper Gun-Radio	<u>Thalhamer, Richard G</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>15335752</u> <b>RTD</b>

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

		Contacted			Saw		
Name in Full (Last Name First)		Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	<u>Solomon, Hidd J.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>0678344</u>		<u>X</u>		
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) None
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. 5 miles NE, Cognac, France
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None

Date of Report 6 March 1944

William C. Cates Jr.  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
**WILLIAM C. CATES, JR.**

**1st Lt., Air Corps, Stat Officer**

*2nd 16*

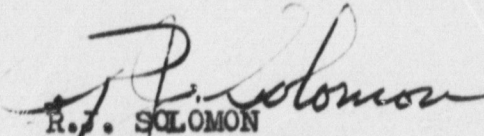


HEADQUARTERS, 448th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO #634

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 17 March, 1944

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying on the left wing of the leader of the low element in the first section. Lt R.A. Martin was leading the 2nd element in the first section. He was hit by flak over Cognac, France at 1310 on March 5, 1944. His #2 engine was on fire and smoking badly. The A/C went into a steep dive and lost altitude rapidly but appeared to be under control. He was last seen disappearing into the cloud cover below about five miles north east of Cognac. No chutes were observed.

  
R.J. SOLOMON  
2nd Lt AC 0678344  
Pilot A/C 42-100356

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



MACR 2917

10845A

KU 1057

5. March 1944 about 11,30  
France  
Type: Liberator  
Markings: 714 H.B.  
448 Group

2. Lt. CAMPBELL, Lawson Douglas  
O-687543

capt.

MARTIN, Robert A

SUTPHIN, Joseph E.

GARRYS Rudolph

HUNT, George

TRALHAMER, Richard

FLUKINGER, Charles

METCALFE, Robert

PORTER, Melvin

HOSTETTER, Earl

mixed crews

23

No further informations shown on this sheet.

23



Date: 5 March 44, at 1300

Place: Hiort

Type of  
craft: Liberator

Markings:  
714 (HB) Sqd  
448

Rank: Name: KU 240 a

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1st Lt	MARTIN, Robert A.	
2nd Lt	CAMPBELL,	
1st Lt	SUTPHIN, Joseph W.	: 0-741719
2nd Lt	GABRYS,	
Sgt	PORTER, Melvin	: 15335318
T/Sgt	THALHAMER, Richard G.	:
T/Sgt	HUNT, George C.	
S/Sgt	METCALE, Robert N.	
Sgt	HOSTETTER, Earl D	
Sgt	FLUKINGER, Charlie	

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NO 845 A

Army Prison  
Paris - Section 3

Fresnes, 11 May 1944

Information Center (interview) of the Air Force  
Dulag - Luft, Oberursel/Taunus

ADMITTANCE REPORT

Surname:

S U T P H I N

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

First name:

JOSEPH F. ✓

Day and place of birth:

22 November 1919 in Winston-Salem

Preference of religion:

protestant

Occupation:

1st Lt. ✓

0741719

Nationality:

American

Habitation:

✓ Cleveland-Ohio, 103th Street No. 1382 #1 E

Day of turn-in:

7 May 1944 0020 o'clock

Turning-in station:

Security Service Detail Toulouse - PA 3324

Reason for turn-in:

downed enemy aviator

at the disposal of:

Security Service Paris BdS- IV E - Prisoner  
of War.

Signature illegible

Captain .

ac  
Mia 5 Mar 44  
cus 6 Jan 45



KU 848 A

Army Prison  
Paris - Section 3

Fresnes, 11 May 1944

Information Center (interview) of the Air Force  
Dulag-luft, Oberursel/Taunus

Admittance - Report

Surname:

PORTER

First name:

MELVIN

Day and place of birth:

11 March 1923, in Howesville, Indiana

Preference of religion:

protestant

Occupation:

Sgt., Air Force

Nationality:

American

Habitation:

Claycity, Indiana

Day of turn-in:

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Signature illegible  
Captain.

5 Mar 44  
EHS  
MIA

KU 848 A

List of identification tags filed under KU 848 A

MELVIN PORTER  
15335318 T 43 43 B P  
Hessie Porter  
RR 1  
Clay City Ind.

JOSEPH E. SUTPHIN  
O-741719 T42-43 O P  
Mrs. Mary Sutphin  
9311 Wade Park  
Cleveland Ohio.



c). 1st Lt. Sutphin, Josef F., ASN: O-741719, downed on 5 March 1944, Time 1300, 29 km south of Niort, 60 km east-north-east of La Rochelle; Liberator, I, in circle: 2 100 414 A,;- Navigator, 448th group.

: Field Air District, Western France, Ic VO.

MIA 5 Mar 44

Dog Tag 3

Lawson D. Campbell

O 687544

not on 490 file

EUS.

KU 1057



FILE

**INTERROGATION OF FORMER POW'S**

- | 1. NAME        | RANK | ASN      |
|----------------|------|----------|
| Portor, Melvin | Sgt. | 15335318 |
2. CREW POSITION  
Gunner
3. UNIT  
448 Bomb Group
4. DATE LAST SEEN  
about May 20 1944
5. PLACE LAST SEEN  
Viarzon (distric Cher) France
6. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT  
Shot down by Flack
7. KNOWN INFORMATION (eyewitness only) Sgt. Portor was accompanying a party of us (evadies) on a train. We were in the hands of the underground and had to stop at Vierzon (10 hrs) to wait for a train connection, as we got on the train we happened to glance out of the R. R. Station gates and saw the three crew members with their guide, ready to come through. That was the last any one saw these individuals. We waited on Toulouse and in the Pynanuse mountains for them, but they apparently were captured by the Germans.
8. HEARSAY INFORMATION (all other information with estimate of reliability) SIGNED NAME, ASN, AND UNIT OF REPORTER.

2912

William O. Ross 1ST LT 0-945186  
NAME RANK ASN

FILE

INTERROGATION OF FORMER POW'S

1. NAME Hunt, George C RANK Sgt ASN 33392181
2. CREW POSITION Eng
3. UNIT 448 Bomb Gp
4. DATE LAST SEEN About May 20 1944
5. PLACE LAST SEEN Vierzon (distric Cher) France
6. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT Shot down by flack

7. KNOWN INFORMATION (eyewitness only)

Sgt Hunt was accompanying a party of us (exodites) on a train. We were in the hands of the underground and had to stop at Vierzon (6 hrs) to wait for a train connection. As we got on the train we happened to glance out of the R.R. station gates and saw the three crew members with their guns ~~just~~ suddenly to come through. That was the last any one saw these individuals. We waited in Toulouse and in the Pyrenean mountains for them but they apparently were captured by the Germans.

8. HEARSAY INFORMATION (all other information with estimate of reliability) SIGNED NAME, ASN, AND UNIT OF REPORTER.

None.

2912

William C. Ross 1<sup>ST</sup> LT AC 0-745126  
NAME RANK ASN