

ACCOUNT OF AIRCRAFT LOSS 42-95144 AND 42-100351

We were going into the target and were a few miles north west of Kiel, when the two planes collided. I was tail gunner on aircraft 42-95240. I saw the planes within a second after they collided.

The lower plane had its tail assembly completely cut off, and it immediately went into a spinning dive (aircraft 42-95144).

The upper plane (aircraft 42-100351) lost a propeller but otherwise seemed intact and was trailing a white vapor (might have been gas or oil). This plane seemed for a short time to be in a controlled glide, but then it rolled over and began to spin in.

I followed both planes all the way down. Only five (5) chutes came out. The plane was more or less intact (aircraft 42-100351) and blew up when it hit the water. The other aircraft did not.

There were several boats in the vicinity which probably picked up the men who were able to bail out. The planes and chutes landed within a mile off shore.

Ray W. Romick  
S/Sgt. 10675363  
Tail Gunner

Was in a mid-air collision. Was thrown into a left hand spin. Upon colliding pilot said to clear out. Stayed in seat trying to right the ship but was unsuccessful. Followed the radio operator at the nose wheel door as the engineer and pilot could not open the bomb bay doors. As I prepared to leave I saw two men in the nose of the ship. Think they were the nose gunner and the navigator. As the crew was unknown to me, I am not sure of the two above named. Bombardier may have bailed out or was in the rear also. I was flying as extra co-pilot as the regular co-pilot was sick that day. I was on V.H.F., pilot was on interphone, so can't give any information on interphone conversation.

Missing Air crew Reports Nos. 5923 and 5926 (continued)

Pilot and I were picked up by a fishing boat from the island of Laaland. They looked around but could not find any more members before a Jerry patrol boat came along side and halted them. Boarded the Danes boat and took us off. The boat had come out from a pier next to the light house.

Oscar J. Boudreaux  
2nd Lt., O-806395  
Co-Pilot