

APR 15 1946

Honorable Wat Arnold

House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Reference is made to your letter of 20 March 1946, addressed to The Adjutant General, concerning Sergeant Walter Brown Scurlock, who was reported missing in action on 22 December 1943, and subsequently reported by the German Government through the International Red Cross as having died on that date.

Information received in this headquarters indicates that Sergeant Scurlock was the right waist gunner of a B-24 (Liberator) bomber which departed from Bungay, England, on a bombing mission to Osnabruck, Germany, on 22 December 1943. The plane was last sighted at 2:12 p.m. north of Osnabruck, Germany. Crew members of other planes returning from this mission stated that one of the wings of Sergeant Scurlock's aircraft was partially severed after being struck by a bomb from another plane in the formation. This caused the aircraft to go into a spin whereupon it subsequently disappeared in the overcast.

In an effort to furnish the next of kin with all available details concerning casualties among our personnel, the Army Air Forces recently completed the translation of several volumes of captured German records.

In regard to Sergeant Scurlock's plane, these records indicate that it crashed at Hahlen, Germany, near the town of Menslage at 2:30 p.m. Hahlen is designated by the coordinates 52° 40' N - 7° 48' E and is located about 29 miles north northwest of Osnabruck, Germany. These records further indicate that two of the crew, Sergeant Thomas E. Metzger and Sergeant Harold C. Bennett, were captured by the Germans in the town of Menslage at 3:00 p.m. on 22 December 1943. No mention was made of Sergeant Scurlock or the other members of the crew.

The Quartermaster General is charged with the responsibility of notifying the legal next of kin concerning grave locations of members of the military forces who are killed or die outside the continental limits of the United States. If the report of Sergeant Scurlock's burial has not been received by his next of kin, the Quartermaster

General will forward this information immediately upon receipt of the official report of interment from the Commanding General of the theater concerned.

Kindly extend my deepest sympathy to Sergeant Scurlock's family in their bereavement.

Very sincerely,

LEON W. JOHNSON
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Director, Personal Services
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