

Press Release:

Missing in Action (1st mission for this aircraft) Leverkusen 12/1/43 with Pilot Harland V. Sunde (KIA - body recovered 6/12/44); Ball turret gunner: Doyle C. McCutchen (KIA - body recovered from river 5/30/44); Tail gunner: John F. Healey (KIA). Co-pilot: James W. Sweaney; Navigator: Roger G. Christensen; Bombardier: O.D. Tully; Flight engineer/top turret gunner: William P. England; Radio Operator: Claudio Carano; Right Waist gunner: Charles J. Culver; Left Waist Gunner: Carlton A. Josephson (those 7 Prisoner of War).

Hit by flak, left formation a few minutes before hitting the target and was attacked by fighters. Ditched in River Lek between Streefkerk and Nieuw-Lekkerland, Holland. All wounded, except Co-Pilot Sweaney. Ball Turret gunner McCutchen was killed by MG fire in the radio room. Tail gunner John Healy was last seen slumped on his gun. He had reportedly asked to let him stay there. According to the testimony of a crew member, when the aircraft was ditched, having only one serviceable dinghy, Lt Sunde refused to use it (probably so as not to overload it) and tried to swim to shore, but he drowned before that crewman could reach him. See Missing Air Crew Report 1661.



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