



FORMATION PLAN: 398th Mission To Berlin Feb. 3, 1945

**HIGH SQUADRON
600**

ANDERSON
Johnson

Sheffer Treverrow

Dean Kenyon

Shimek Sponholtz Beatty Baldwin

Lipnick

Sistek

Grinter Riley

**LEAD SQUADRON
603**

ENSIGN
Smith

Blythe

Aniello

Overton

Hyndman

Selby

BRANDSTATTER
Steele

Thomas

Pinner Stockman

Hanauer

Powell

**LOW SQUADRON
602**

HERSHBERGER
Hall

Shappell Ashworth

McCormick Andrako

Brown Lamiel Gray Ferguson

Schipull

Saferite Godfrey

While looking out the side window I noticed that the lead squadron was getting quite close to our low squadron. We had drawn almost even with the lead, although the planes were scattered a bit. I noticed that 387 H (McCormick) was in some prop wash and that 697 M (Powell) had drifted back 300 to 400 feet. All of a sudden he shot up 45 degrees and the right wing of his plane cut into McCormick's between the ball turret and radio room.

—WENDELL SAFERITE
Pilot, 602nd Squadron

I saw the under ship (Powell) raise its nose in a climb such that the planes hit in mid-air. It had broken in two before the collision.

—KENNETH AKINS
Tail gunner, Hall, 602nd Squadron

I saw Powell drift over to the right, apparently to avoid propwash. He then dove 100 or more feet. As he pulled up out of the dive the plane broke in half. The front half turned up, cutting part of the nose of McCormick's plane.

—DONALD DUNN
Tail gunner, Hanauer, 603rd Squadron