

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF EMD DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,
K.D. MILES, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location APG 521, U.S. Army Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (M) Squadron 776th Bombardment Squadron
 2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AAR, Pantanella, Italy Course BR
 Target Oil Refinery, Elechhammer, Germany of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Not Applicable

4. CRV: (a) Date 2 Dec 44 Time 1400 Last known position 50° 18' N - 18° 15' E
 (b) Specify whether: (x) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash.
 () Lost contacted by radio, () No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, () Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other Aircraft returned to Pantanella, Italy

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series Not Applicable AAF Serial Number _____

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Not Applicable

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series Not Applicable AAF Serial Number (a) _____

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Not Applicable

(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
 (e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____
 (h) _____ (i) _____ (j) _____

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS (X) Battle Casualty, () Non Battle Casualty

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 0 Total 10
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial) RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
1) Pilot	<u>Spoley, David E.</u>	<u>RTD</u>
2) Co-Pilot	<u>Hood, Noel J.</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3) Pilot	<u>Hallen, Ralph</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4) Bombardier	<u>Blesner, James H.</u>	<u>RTD</u>
5) Bombardier	<u>Madara, Ralph D.</u>	<u>RTD</u>
6) Bombardier	<u>Carson, Devin T.</u>	<u>LWA</u>
7) Arm-Gun I	<u>Devis, Robert E.</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mrs Gertrude T. Devis (Mother) 8054 Eastern Ave., Ball Gardens, Calif.
8) Gunner	<u>Michael, Paul J.</u>	<u>KIA</u> Mrs. Mary A. Michael (Mother) 12 Balton St., Providence, R.I.
9) Gunner	<u>Franklin, William P.</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10) Gunner	<u>McLaughlin, Robert C.</u>	<u>RTD</u>

No. 1103

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (see entry) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		
			BY RADIO	SIGHTED	FORCED LANDING
(1) <u>Elmer H. Baighard Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>		<u>X</u>	
(2) _____					
(3) _____					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

(1) Parachutes were used. () Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 () Other reasons (specify) _____

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None

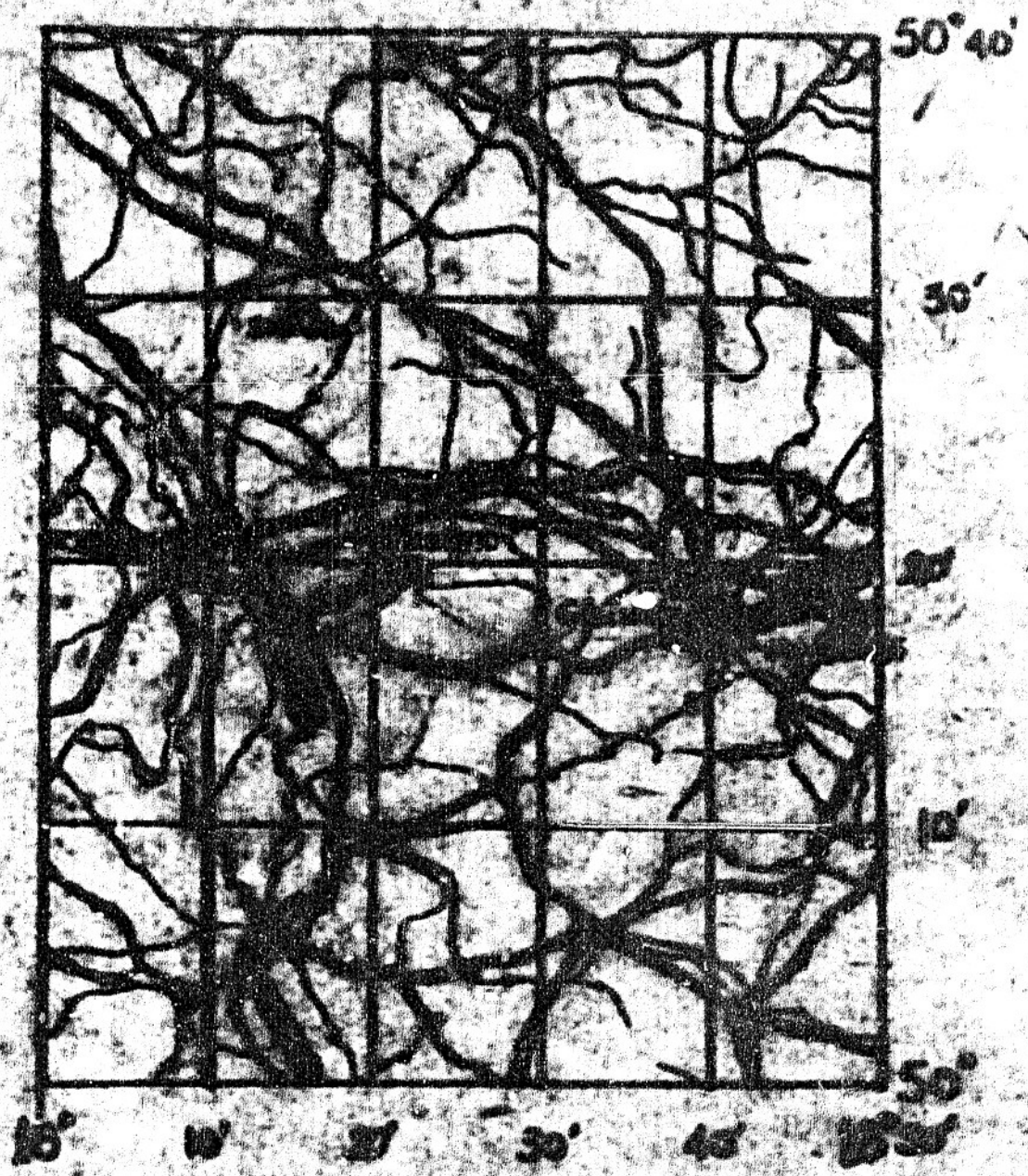
2. Inclosures.

Incl 1 - Sketch of Area 4 Dec 44

Incl 2 - Statement of Sgt. Baighard [REDACTED]

William P. Franklin
 Lt Col., Air Corps,
 Commanding.

Original



○ AND CROSSHAIR INDICATES AREA IN WHICH
SGT DAVIS WAS LAST SIGHTED
BEARING - 50° FROM 10' 15' E

Aug 17 1951

STATEMENT

I was flying as Radio Operator, and Sgt. Robert Davis, was the Ball Gunner. After the ship received a direct hit through the left side, I started to open the escape hatch near the tail turret. Sgt. Davis was to my right while I was trying to open this hatch. After realizing the ship was not going down, I looked around, and Sgt. Davis was not present. The lapse of time from when I started to open the hatch, and saw that Sgt. Davis was missing, was fifteen seconds at the most.

It is my belief, that Sgt. Davis thinking the ship was on its way down, did bail out through the hole blown on the left side of the ship.

Darwin T. Carlson
Darwin T. Carlson,
Sgt.

CONFIDENTIAL

776th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. Army.

S I A I E M B E I

I was flying as Ball Gunner on B-24, Red K. on the 2nd of December 1944.

As we went over the target I saw none of our planes fall out of formation and there was no indication that any of our crews were leaving their ships. Later I saw a single parachute floating about 1500 or 2000 feet below.

After returning to our base I learned that Sgt. Davis was missing from his plane. The parachute I saw may have been Sgt. Davis.

Elmer H. Reighard Jr.

Elmer H. Reighard Jr.
Sgt., ~~SP4~~
776th Bomb Sq (H)
Ball Gunner.

Incl #1



Status of CREW

Carlson, Derwin T. ✓

██████████ RTD

Davis, Robert R.

██████████ DOW

Eppley, David R. ✓

██████████ RTD

Franklin, William P.

██████████ BUS

Haders, Ralph D.

██████████ RTD

McLaughlin, Robert C.

██████████ RTD

Richard, Buile J.

██████████ KIA 3 Dec. 1944

Buried Bari, Italy, I-4-1621

Hallen, Ralph

██████████ Bus

Wiener, James M.

██████████ RTD

Wood, Noel A.

██████████ RTD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~

11995

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 US ARMY

GP/S/eh

AG 201 - Davis, Robert R. (RM)

12 December 1944

5281

SUBJECT: Additional Casualty Information.

TO : Commanding General, 55th Wing, APO 520.

1. Request more detailed information be forwarded this headquarters concerning the missing in action status of Sgt Robert R. Davis, 191-5754, 776th Bomb Squadron, 464th Bomb Group, reported Missing in Action 2 December 1944.

2. As the plane on which Sgt Davis was a crew member returned to base, it is desired that statements providing all relevant details be furnished by one or more members of that crew.

By command of Major General TWIBING:

W.D. Hill
WINDIE D. HILL, Major, Air Corps, Assistant AG.

1995.
201-Davis, Robert R. (enl) 1st Ind.
HQ 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 13 December 1944.

W.D. Hill
C-DRW-14

TO: CO, 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520.

For immediate compliance with basic communication.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

E. G. McClure
E. G. McCLURE,
Major, CMS,
Asst Adj.

~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~

- 1 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S: 16 Dec 44
DDJ/hwf

201-Davis, Robert R. (enl) 2nd Ind
Hq, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army, 14 Dec 44

TO: CO, 776th Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, US Army

For immediate compliance.

By order of Colonel SCHROEDER:

[Signature]
LAFEL E. JOHNS
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

201-Davis, Robert R. (enl) 3rd Ind
Hq, 776th Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, US Army, 16 Dec 44

WHR/rc

TO: CO, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army

The only information available was obtained from Sgt. Carlson. Enclosed statement submitted herewith.

[Signature]
WILLIAM H. REDELL,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Statement by Sgt. Carlson (7copies)

201-Davis, Robert R. (Enl) 4th Ind
Hq, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army, 17 Dec 44

VF/hwf

TO: CG, 55th Bomb Wg (H), APO 520, US Army

[Signature]
V. Y.

1 Incl:
1 cc Incl 1 withdrawn

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CONFIDENTIAL
10027

Supplemental

12388

201-Davis, Robert R. (enl) 5th Ind.
HQ 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 18 December 1944.

C-DM-14

TO: CG, 15th AF, APO 520.

1 Incl: n/c

F. A. R.

5626

201 - Davis, Robert R. (EM) 6th Ind. GP/B/eh
HQ 72PTK 5TH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 22 December 1944.

TO: CG, MFOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Forwarded for inclusion with missing air crew report for Sgt Robert R. Davis, ~~XXXXXX~~.

For the Commanding General:

Windle D. Reel

WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl: n/c



AG 360.33/030-C
(12 Dec 44)

HQ., MFOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 27 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Force, Washington 25, D. C.
(Attn: Statistical Control Division)

JER/lms
PPH-22

Forwarded for inclusion with MACK bearing Casualty Control #1103, dispatched from this headquarters 13 Dec 44.

For the DEPUTY COMMANDER:

Frank E. Roberts

FRANK E. ROBERTS,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

1 Incl: n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MATF-9004