

12539

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RESTRICTED

Classification changed

By ~~RESTRICTED~~

By F. M. HUGHES, Lt. Col.

By F. M. HUGHES, Capt., AC

Date July 2, 1940

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

12534

2377

1. ORGANIZATION, Location AFG 520, U.S. Army Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
 Group 164th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sqdn (H)
2. SPECIFY Place of departure AAF, Pantanello, Italy Course North-Northeast
 Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 to 8/10 cumulus, tops 6,000 feet.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 16 Nov 44 Time 1430 Last known position Isle of Pag, Yugoslavia
 (b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last contacted by radio, No information.
5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]
 Enemy aircraft, Enemy anti-aircraft, Other Mechanical Failure
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51761
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) CP 327747
 (b) GP 327561 (c) CP 327728 (d) CP 327468
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Mabr, type and serial number]
 (a) MG M2 1548202 (c) MG M2 1547364 (i) MG M2 1547273
 (b) " " 1547387 (j) " " 1547224 (l) " " 1548103
 (e) " " 1548371 (g) " " 1547258 (k) _____
 (f) " " 1547388 (h) " " 1547137 (m) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: 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, initials) RANK, SERIAL NUMBER CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS

✓ 1) Pilot	<u>Hoffman, Merle H.</u> Cd Lt., O-826172	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 2) Co-pilot	<u>W Trotter, Carroll D.</u> F/O., T-127299	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 3) Nav.	<u>W Mahota, William J., Jr.</u> F/O., T-127673	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 4) Babdr.	<u>W Weisberger, William</u> 2d Lt., O-2056752	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 5) BOG	<u>W Weber, Alfred H.</u> Sgt., 12086879	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 6) BOG	<u>W McDowell, James C.</u> Sgt., 33248777	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 7) Eng-gun	<u>W Williams, Sammie E.</u> Sgt., 33672007	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 8) Arc-gun	<u>Denbeck, Raymond A.</u> Sgt., 36596807	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 9) Gunner	<u>Baumhoyer, Gletus H.</u> Cpl., 37652260	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
✓ 10) Gunner	<u>W Smith, William A.</u> Cpl., 36894255	RTD	(Non-applicable)	✓
(11)				
(12)				

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE [one only] COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		SAW	
			BY RADIO	SIGHTED	FORCED CRASH	LANDING
(1) <u>John W. Nance</u>	<u>Lt. Col.</u>	<u>O-790704</u>				<u>"STATEMENT"</u>
(2) _____						
(3) _____						

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

Parachutes were used. Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 Other reasons [specify] None applicable

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 Enclosures.

Incl 1-Sketch of map. Date 2 March 1945

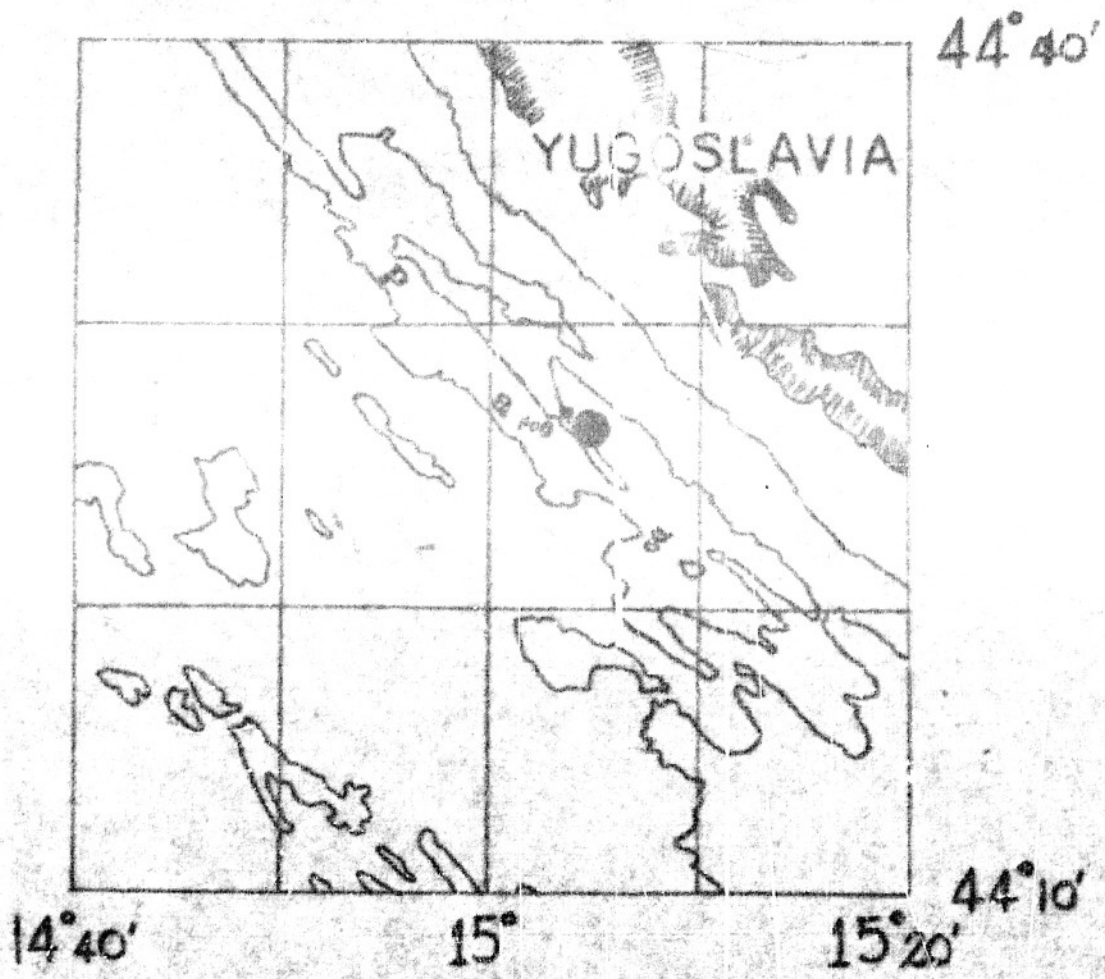
pos.

Incl 2-Statement of C.O.

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John W. Nance
 Signature of reporting officer
 JOHN W. NANCE,
 Lt. Col., Air Corps,
 Commanding

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● INDICATES AREA IN WHICH LT. HOFFMAN'S CREW BAILED OUT.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S T A T E M E N T

On 16 November 1944, Lt. Hoffman and crew were returning from a mission at Vienna, Austria, when they developed mechanical trouble. They were approaching the coast of Yugoslavia when they were forced to bail out. The men landed on the Isle of Pag and were brought together by the Partisans. They were told that the plane had continued and finally cracked up on a mountain.

On 17 November 1944, Lt. Weisberger and Sgt. Dembeck were RTD, and remainder of crew were LIA.

At the present, the complete crew is on duty status in this Squadron, with the exception of Sgt. James C. McDowell who has transferred to the 26th General Hospital, dated 1 December 1944.

John W. Nance
JOHN W. NANCE,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Commanding.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Encl #2

Williams, Samuel E., Sgt., 33672007, 776 Sq., 464 B. Gp.

No more

APPENDIX F

Entire crew back.

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