

14018

[REDACTED]

Classification changed

to [REDACTED]

by E. J. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by W. J. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AC

date MAR 1 1948

[REDACTED]

A-23

10049 W.P.7

Haw-LL R.C.P.

Rat-LL R

W.P. 10049

MAY 1 1945

(Date)

No letters nor ~~...~~

EIAK

(Initials)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2102

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello AB, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF  
 Group 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (B) Squadron 778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello AB, Italy Course Northwest  
 Target Verona Porto-Nuova W/Y, Italy Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Solid layer  
 breaking up to 4/10 alto stratus. Visibility 5 miles
4. GIVE: (a) Date 27 Dec 44 Time 1518 Last known position 41° 27' N 16° 10' E, Adriatic  
 (b) Specify whether:  Last sighted,  Forced down,  Seen to crash,  
 Last contacted by radio,  No information.
5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] ~~RECOVERED~~ AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]  
 Enemy aircraft,  Enemy anti-aircraft,  Other Ditch in Adriatic
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24-J AAF Serial Number 42-51360
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT RONNIE ANNIE L. JEFF
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R2830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) CP 347617  
 (b) EP 454995 (c) EP 447737 (d) EP 447751
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All remaining .50 Cal Machine Guns  
 (a) Left Nose 1548201 (c) Left Ball 1548347 (f) Left Tail 1548177  
 (b) Right Nose 1548252 (e) Right Ball 1548356 (g) Right Tail 1548506  
 (c) Left Upper 1548281 (h) Left Waist 1547147 (k) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Right Upper 1548264 (i) Right Waist 1547308 (l) \_\_\_\_\_
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS:  Battle Casualty,  Non Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers \_\_\_\_\_; 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
KIA 1) Pilot	✓ MATVEIA, DONALD E. 2d Lt, 0-775459	KIA Mr Ernest C. Matveia Father 426 Oak St., Kalamazoo, Mich
KIA 2) CP	✓ HILL, GERMOLD G. 2d Lt, 0-777675	✓ Mrs Evelyn F. Hill Mother Box 234, Arapahoe, W. Dakota
RTD 3) N	✓ MILLER, ROBERT L. JR. 2d Lt, 0-2063311	
KIA 4) P	✓ ROGERS, WILLIAM L. 2d Lt, 0-782961	KIA Mrs Frances L. Rogers Mother Box 394, Cleburne, Texas
KIA 5) REC	✓ KELLY, JOSEPH A. Cpl, 12006611	KIA Mrs. Sarah E. Kelly Wife 838 W Railroad St., Pelham, GA.
RTD 6) ROG	✓ SMITH, JAMES S. JR. Cpl, 16115732	RTD
KIA 7) AG	✓ YOUNG, FRANK H. Cpl, 32697582	KIA Mr Louis Young Father 2092 Vyse Ave., Bronx, N.Y.
KIA 8) G	✓ ALLISON, NORMAN W. Cpl, 35298547	KIA Mrs Lucille Allison Wife 1075 Mt Pleasant Ave., Columbus, Ohio
KIA 9) AEG	✓ TAYLOR, CLAYTON R. L. Cpl, 31450172	KIA Mrs Phoebe L. Taylor Mother Wedford, Maine
KIA 10) G	371 ✓ DURBIN, WALLACE H. Cpl, 37540037	KIA Mr Henry E. Durbin Father 319 W. 21st St., Kansas City, Kansas
(11)		
(12)		

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		SAW	FORCED
			BY RADIO	SIGHTED	CRASH	LANDING
(1) ROBERT L. MILLER, JR	2d Lt	0-2063311				
(2) JAMES S. SMITH, JR	Cpl	16115732				
(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) Plane ditched

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 DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE No Search

3 Inclosures.

1. Sketch Date 19 Apr 45  
 2&3 Statements

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*Carl V. Hasty*  
 Signature of reporting person  
**CARL V. HASTY**  
 Capt, Air Corps  
 Adjutant



31 December 1944

**S T A T E M E N T**

We were flying at about 100 feet or 200 feet and then overcast broke and we went up to about 1500 feet. Then we just passed Vienna and something started smoking in the cockpit and the pilot was giving full right rudder and right trimtab and the plane kept coming out to the left. He called Cpl Kelly the engineer to find out how much gas was left and about 20 seconds later we started on a 20 degree to 30 degree dive. Then the pilot put a full flap before we hit the water. Two life rafts came out after we hit the water. The next I remember is getting up in the water. I finally managed to get my "back seat" inflatable. I was floating when they closed on me. I was Navigator on this crew.

Robert F. Miller, JR.  
Robert F. Miller, JR.  
1st Lt, US  
3-24-45

A C 104111 "HW" COPY:

*Carl V. Halsey*  
CAPT. V. HALSEY  
Capt, US  
Adjutant

17 6069

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

31 December 1944

STATEMENT

After Lt (Pilot) called "prepare for ditching" I turned around in the radio seat and in a matter of seconds I felt the concussion of hitting the water. Next thing I knew I was under water and rising to the surface. I came up about 10 yards from the remains of the ship and "swam" to the two rafts which were tied to the ship. I couldn't gather strength enough to get into the raft nor could I unhook the rope to free the raft. I saw three heads in the water farther away from the ship and heard Cpl Kelly shouting to bring over the raft. When the ship sank a few minutes later, the rope snapped freeing the raft and leaving me hanging on to it. Shortly after a launch picked me up.

/s/ James S. Smith, JR.  
James S. Smith, JR.  
Cpl Radio Operator  
1611573

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Carl V. Harny*  
CARL V. HARNY  
Capt, AC  
Adjutant

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Decl 21



ATTENTION: AFPPA-2

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

29 March 1944

SUBJECT: Request for Missing Air Crew Report

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters, AFPPA  
A.P.O. 520, U. S. Army, Attention: AFPPA-2.

Request Missing Air Crew Report, as required by AGO letter, 7 July 1944 (AG 704 (5 Jul 44)OB-S-AAF-M), be forwarded with least practicable delay in the case of Col Wallace E. Turbin 37540077  
(Grade) (Name) (ASN)  
1st Lt. (P) Conardent Brown  
(Organization)  
reported missing, ~~missing~~ <sup>killed</sup> in action, 29 December 1944, which report  
(Date)  
has not been received to date.

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
JOHN D. MARSH  
Lt Colonel, Air Corps  
Chief, Personal Affairs Division  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

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AG 201-Durbin, Wallace H., (Enl)-C 1st Ind. OE/cfm  
(29 Mar 45)

HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 10 April 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, US Army.

1. For compliance and return thru this headquarters.
2. Records fail to show that MACR was ever received. Subject was reported KIA 29 Dec on BCR L-325.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL WC NARNEY:



OWEN ELLIOT  
Major, AGD  
Asst Adj Gen

201 - Durbin, Wallace H. (EM) 2nd Ind. S: 28 Apr 45.  
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 13 April 1945. GP/B/eh

TO: CG, 55th Wing, APO 520.

Request MACR be forwarded. Present Army Air Forces policy requires the submission of MACR on all air crews reported missing, even though status is changed prior to submission of the MACR.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL TWINING:




WENDLE D. REEL  
Major, Air Corps  
Asst Adj Gen

6371  
201-Durbin, Wallace H. (enl) 3rd Ind. C-DRW-14  
Hq 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 15 Apr 45.

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

For compliance and return no later than 24 Apr 45.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ACHESON:

  
H. J. McCLURE,  
Major, GWS,  
Adjutant.

432  
No. - 2069

UVA

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201-Durbin, Wallace H. (EM) 4th Ind.  
Hq, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 17 Apr 45

DDJ/elx

TO: CO, 778th Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

For immediate compliance with basic communication.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL BIRD:

*Daryl D. Johns*  
DARL D. JOHNS  
Maj., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

201-Durbin, Wallace H. (EM) 5th Ind.  
778th Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, US Army, 19 Apr 45

CVH/ns

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

- 1. Basic communication complied with.
- 2. Inclosed herewith MACR, Lt Matveia and Crew.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

*Carl V. Hardy*  
CARL V. HARDY  
Capt, Air Corps  
Adjutant

- 1 Incl:
- 1. MACR, Lt Matveia & Crew  
19 Apr 45, w/3 incls (7 copies)

201-Durbin, Wallace H. (EM) 6th Ind.  
Hq, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army, 2 April 45.

DDJ/hpn

TO: CO, 80th Bomb Sq (H), APO 52, US Army.

*D. D. J.*  
D. D. J.

1 Incl:  
Withdrawn Inc

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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3  
IMMEDIATE ACTION

~~RESTRICTED~~

6692

201-Durbin, Wallace H. (enl) 7th Ind.  
Hq 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 21 Apr 45.

<sup>14-33</sup>  
C-DRW-14

TO: CG, 15th AF, APO 520.

618

1 Incl: n/c

*[Signature]*  
E. J. M.

201 - Durbin, Wallace H. (EM) 8th Ind.  
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 26 April 1945.

GP/B/eh

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Attn: Casualty Branch, ACD.

327

1 Incl: MACR 2102

*[Signature]*  
W. D. R.

No. 2069