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DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,  
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Classification Authority~~  
by E. A. BRADYAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. E. MURPHY, Capt., AG  
Date 16 1946

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*Notion*

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

Classified SECRET  
by E. A. BRADNAS, Lt. Col., AO  
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AO  
Date MAY 15 1946

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location PANTANELLA AIR BASE Command or AF 15TH AF  
Group 464TH BOMB GROUP (H) Squadron 779TH BOMB SQ (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure GIOIA AIR BASE Course GIVORS, FRANCE  
Target GIVORS, FR Type of Mission BOMBING

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CLEAR

GIVE: (a) Date 25 MAY 1944 Time 1335 Location 43°27'N 6°55'E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio  
( ) Forced Down ( ) Seen to Crash; or  
( ) Information not available.

AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
(X) Enemy Aircraft ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows:

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 H AAF Serial No 42-52463

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) BP-400697  
(b) BP-400559 (c) BP-400689 (d) BP-400570

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)  
(a) BROWNING 50 CAL M2 988934 (b) 951844 952005  
(c) 951806 (d) 110370 952038  
(e) 951836 (f) 951746  
(g) 952163 (h) 951726

PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 1 Total 11  
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
<u>DeD</u> COMMANDER	<u>CHESSER, ROBERT L.</u>	<u>CAPT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. ROBERT L. CHESSER 1111 PUTMAN AVE. PLAINFIELD, N.J.</u>
<u>DeD</u> PILOT	<u>GARNISS, DONALD S.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. ARLENE H. GARNISS 3798 PILLSBURY AVE. WINNEAPOLIS</u>
<u>DeD</u> CO-PILOT	<u>DURISKO, JOHN A.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. JOHN A. DURISKO 227 W. LANE AVE. COLUMBUS, OHIO.</u>
<u>DeD</u> BOMBARDIER	<u>RANKIN, JOHN K JR</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. EUDARAT RANKIN 318 EAST 7TH, EMPORIA, KANSAS</u>
<u>DeD</u> NAVIGATOR	<u>HINDLE, ERNEST C.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. PATRICIA P. HINDLE 4202 RED BUD AVE. ST. LOUIS, MO.</u>
<u>DeD</u> ENG GNR	<u>EVERY, MEDWIN C.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>WIFE MRS. JEAN EVERY LAKE ROAD, HORSEHEADS, N. Y.</u>
<u>DeD</u> ENG GNR	<u>TAFELSKI, FRANK</u>	<u>(NMI) S/SGT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS. ALICE TAFELSKI 35 ST. LOUIS ST. BUFFALO, N.Y.</u>
<u>DeD</u> RD GNR	<u>BROWN, EDWARD G.</u>	<u>T/SGT</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS. SUSEY K. BROWN 305 40TH AVE. MERIDIAN, MISS.</u>

*could on other side*

~~NO GNR~~ DODD, JOHN J. ✓ S/SGT [REDACTED] WIFE MRS. HELEN W. DODD 1452 PRINCE AVE, ATHENS, GA.  
~~ARM GNR~~ FRANKENBERGER, ROBERT D. S/SGT [REDACTED] MOTHER MRS. MYRTLE FRANKENBERGER, ROUTE #1, COFFEYVILLE, KAN.  
~~ARM GNR~~ HOWARTH, LOUIS A JR S/SGT [REDACTED] MOTHER MRS. HELEN HOWARTH 2815 ST. JOHN ST., FLINT, MICH.

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	Basis for knowledge		
			Contacted	Last	Saw
STROUD, HARRY A JR	1ST LT	[REDACTED]			X
MORTENSEN, GORDON A	S/SGT	[REDACTED]			X

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
 Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash  
 Any other reason (specify) **ONLY 2 MEN USED CHUTES ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS OF EYEWITNESSES.**

ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) **NO SEARCH MADE BECAUSE AIRPLANE WAS SEEN TO FALL OVER ENEMY TERRITORY.**

Date of this Report: 27 MAY 1944

Signature of Officer Arthur E. Chambers

- 3 Incls:
- INCL 1 STATEMENT OF 1ST LT HARRY A STROUD, (OCTU)
  - INCL 2 STATEMENT OF S/SGT GORDON A. MORTENSEN, (OCTU)
  - INCL 3 MAP OF AREA WHERE PLANE WAS LAST SEEN. (OCTU)

ARTHUR E. CHAMBERS,  
 CAPT., AIR CORPS,  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
 779TH BOMB SQ (H)  
 464TH BOMB GP (H)



44-66-4111

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 U. S. ARMY.

27 MAY 1944

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF MISSING AIR CREW REPORT.

TO : COMMANDING OFFICER, 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H),  
APO 520, U. S. ARMY.


1. TRANSMITTED HEREWITH IS THE MISSING AIR CREW REPORT ON CREW ASSIGNED TO THIS SQUADRON REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION AS OF 25 MAY 1944 ON A MISSION OVER GIVORS, FRANCE.

CAPT.	✓	CHESSER, ROBERT L.	0789135
2D LT.	✓	GARNISS, DONALD S.	0807411
2D LT.	✓	DURISKO, JOHN A.	0808968
2D LT.	✓	RANKIN, JOHN K. JR.	0691652
2D LT.	✓	HINDLE, ERNEST C.	0698287
S/SGT.	✓	EVERY, MEDWIN C.	0906656
S/SGT.	✓	TAFELSKI, FRANK (NMI)	32732603
T/SGT.	✓	BROWN, EDWARD C.	34139208
S/SGT.	✓	DODD, JOHN J.	3405159
S/SGT.	✓	FRANKENBERGER, ROBERT D.	17126904
S/SGT.	✓	HOWARTH, LOUIS A. JR.	3657424

2. SUBJECT PERSONNEL ARE BATTLE CASUALTIES AS DEFINED BY PARAGRAPH 2, SECTION II, CIRCULAR 10, NATOUSA, DATED 24 JANUARY 1944.

3. BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT FORWARDED TO YOUR HEADQUARTERS 26 MAY 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

  
ARTHUR E. CHAMBERS,  
CAPT., AIR CORPS,  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1 INCL:  
INCL 1 MAC RPT, LT. GARNISS AND CREW  
27 MAY 1944, W/3 INCLS (OCTU)

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*Dead*  
Captain Robert L. Chascer (371)

Second Lieutenant Donald S. Garniss

*Dead*  
Second Lieutenant John A. Durisko

*D*  
Second Lieutenant John E. Harkin, Jr.

*D*  
Second Lieutenant Ernest U. Hindle

*Dead*  
Technical Sergeant Edward C. Brown (371)

*Dead*  
Staff Sergeant John J. Dodd (371)

*D*  
Staff Sergeant Robert D. Frankenberger

*D*  
Staff Sergeant Louis A. Howarth, Jr.

*D*  
Staff Sergeant Frank Tafelski

*Dead in 2 days*  
Staff Sergeant Edwin C. Every

Mr. William L. Hadley, (Father-in-Law)  
1111 Putnam Avenue,  
Plainfield, New Jersey.

Mrs. Arlene M. Garniss, (Wife)  
3708 Pillsbury Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Andrew Durisko, (Father)  
30 West Ohio Street,  
Sharon, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Sadora T. Harkin, (Wife)  
316 East 7th,  
Emporia, Kansas.

Mrs. Patricia M. Hindle, (Wife)  
4202A Red Bud Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Mrs. Susy K. Brown, (Mother)  
305-20 Avenue,  
Meridian, Mississippi.

Mrs. Helen W. Dodd, (Wife)  
342 Milledge Terrace,  
Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Charles H. Frankenberger, (Father)  
Route One,  
Coffeyville, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Howarth, (Parents)  
2815 Saint John Street,  
Flint, Michigan.

Mrs. Alice Tafelski, (Mother)  
35 St. Louis Street,  
Buffalo, New York.

Mrs. Jean M. Every, (Wife)  
Lake Road,  
Horseneeds, New York.

