

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

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Classification changed

to [REDACTED]

by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

by W. WILKINSON

Date: 13 1948

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Classification changed

WAR DEPARTMENT

L. A. BRUNAS, Lt. Col., AGHEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
OF F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG WASHINGTON

Date MAR 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 PANTENELLA AAB, ITALY Command or AF 15TH AF
Group 464 BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Squadron 778 BOMBARDMENT SQ

SPECIFY: Point of Departure PANTENELLA AAB, ITALY Course EAST/NORTHEAST
Target PLOESTI, ROUMANIA Type of Mission BOMBING

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
1/10 CUMULUS, 15 MILES VISIBILITY OVER TARGET: HAZY SCATTERED ALTO STRADUS AND ALTO CIRRUS ENROUTE.

GIVE: (a) Date 6 JUNE 1944 Time 0942 Location NR PLOESTI, ROUMANIA
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 41-28755

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) 42-62572
(b) 42-36200 (c) 42-62467 (d) 42-62495

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)

(a) BROWNING 50CAL LNOSE 966011 (b) BROWNING 50CAL RNOSE 980507
(c) BROWNING 50CAL LUPPER 985975 (d) BROWNING 50CAL RUPPER 966844
(e) BROWNING 50CAL LBALL 965933 (f) BROWNING 50CAL RBALL 965965
(g) BROWNING 50CAL LWAIT 966443 (h) BROWNING 50CAL RWAIT 966246
(i) BROWNING 50CAL LTAIL 966257 (j) BROWNING 50CAL RTAIL 965956

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

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 0 Total 10
(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
RTD P Pilot WARE	JOHN F ✓	1 LT	[REDACTED]	MRS ELSA P WARE (WIFE) 220 FERNWOOD AVE, UPPER MONTCLAIR, N.J.
RTD CP JOHNSON	ROBERT W ✓	2 LT	[REDACTED]	MRS MACY LOUISE JOHNSON MOTHER, MERIDIAN ST. RUTJERFORDTON, N.C.
RTD RTD N JOHNSON	HERBERT M ✓	1 LT	[REDACTED]	MRS ELEANOR H JOHNSON (WIFE) 3214 CRAWFORD ST. HOUSTON, TEXAS
RTD B SMITH	GORDON B JR ✓	1 LT	[REDACTED]	MRS JACQUELINE SMITH, JR, WIFE 242 S 9TH AVE, POCATELLO, IDAHO
EGW FITZGERALD	OUEL B ✓	1SGT	[REDACTED]	MRS IRENE L FITZGERALD, WIFE 3137 ZUNI ST. DENVER, COLORADO
RTD AEG KENT	JAMES W ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	MRS LILLIAN DUGAN, MOTHER 3120 WALL STREET, FT WORTH, TEXAS
ROG INFUSINO	JOSEPH J ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	MRS ROSE PALMA INFUSINO, MOTHER, 4045 W ARTHINGTON ST. CHICAGO, ILL
AG HIER	ROLAND J ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	MRS MABEL HIER, MOTHER 48 KILLINGTON AVE, RUTLAND, VT

continued on page #1
10/2 June 44
from

(See Reverse Side)

RTD.

AG ✓ TUCEK ✓ CHARLES J JR SGT ██████████ MRS CHARLES TUCEK SR, MOTHER
 408 CALDWELL, DALLAS, TEXAS

AG ✓ SMITH FLOYD W SGT ██████████ MR MILES SMITH, FATHER RTD.
 RFD #2, HOULTON, MAINE

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.	Contacted		
			By Radio	Last	Saw
CARTMILLE, CHARLES E	SGT	██████████			X
DI TORE, MICHAEL J	SSGT	██████████			X
HARER, HAROLD W	SSGT	██████████			X
WEIK, MERLE O	SGT	██████████			X

7. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (3) Parachutes were used () Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
 () Any other reason (specify) _____

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

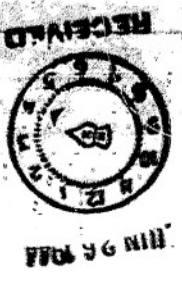
ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

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

Date of this Report: 8 JUNE 1944

Signature of Officer: Carl V. Hardy
 CARL V. HARDY
 CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS
 ADJUTANT

- 5 Incls:
 INCL 1-STATEMENT CARTMILLE
 INCL 2-STATEMENT DI TORE
 INCL 3-STATEMENT HARER
 INCL 4-STATEMENT WEIK
 INCL 5-SKETCH



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 US ARMY

CVH:LS

8 JUNE 1944

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H),
BASE

1. TRANSMITTED HERewith IS THE MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
ASSIGNED TO THIS SQUADRON REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION AS OF 6
JUNE 1944 ON MISSION OVER PLOESTI, ROUMANIA.

RANK	NAME	ASN	
1 LT	WARE, JOHN F	██████████	RTD
2 LT	JOHNSON, ROBERT W	██████████	RTD
1 LT	JOHNSON, HERBERT M	██████████	RTD
1 LT	SMITH, GORDON B JR	██████████	RTD
TSGT	FITZGERALD, ODEL B	██████████	
SSGT	KENT, JAMES W	██████████	
SSGT	INFUSINO, JOSEPH J	██████████	
SSGT	HIER, ROLAND J	██████████	
SGT	TUCEK, CHARLES J JR	██████████	
SGT	SMITH, FLOYD W	██████████	

2. SUBJECT PERSONNEL ARE BATTLE CASUALTIES AS DEFINED BY
PAR 2, SECTION II, CIRCULAR 10, NATOUSA, DTD 24 JAN 44.

3. BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT, FORWARDED YOUR HEADQUARTERS,
6 JUNE 1944.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

1 INCL:
INCL 1-MAC RPT, LT WARE & CREW,
8 JUN 44, W/5 INCLS (8 COPIES)

Carl V. Hardy
CARL V. HARDY
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS
ADJUTANT

1st Ind.

Hq. 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 9 June 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 cc.

D. D. J.
D. D. J.

6 JUNE 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

ON 6 JUN 44 I WAS ON A MISSION, THE TARGET BEING, PLOESTI, ROUMANIA. I WAS THE BALL GUNNER ON LT MACDONALD'S SHIP. ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE TARGET, APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES, I SAW A SHIP (LT WARE'S) AT ABOUT 500 FT BELOW ME AT 4 O'CLOCK, GOING ALONG LEVEL FLIGHT. I SAW TWO MEN BAIL OUT, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, ONE OF THE CHUTES ONLY OPENED. SHIP APPARENTLY WAS HIT BY FLAK CAUSING CONTROLS TO BE DAMAGED. SHIP WAS ON OUR PLANE'S RIGHT SIDE AND STARTED NOSING DOWN. THEN FIGHTERS SOUNDED, THE FIGHTERS ATTACKED FROM THE LEFT OF OUR SHIP, SO APPARENTLY DID NOT GET THE RANGE OF LT WARE'S SHIP.

Charles E. Cartmille

CHARLES E. CARTMILLE
SGT [REDACTED]
778TH BOMB SQ

Incl 1'

6 JUNE 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

ON A MISSION TO A TARGET OVER PLOESTI, ROUMANIA,
I WAS BALL TURRET GUNNER ON LT DRAKE'S SHIP. ON THE RETURN,
ABOUT TEN OR 12 MINUTES FROM THE TARGET, I GLIMPSED A SHIP
(LT WARE'S) BENEATH THE CLOUDS. IT WAS IN APPROXIMATELY
AT 30 DEGREE NOSEDIVE TO MY LEFT AT ABOUT 0930 O'CLOCK
POSITION. THERE WAS NO SMOKE, AND IT SEEMED TO BE IN
CONTROL, YET IN A DIVE. I SAW NO CHUTES APPEAR. IT WAS
ATTACKED FROM THE REAR AT APPROXIMATELY 3 O'CLOCK POSITION.
THIS WAS THE LAST I SAW OF THE SHIP.

S/Sgt. Michael J. DiTore

MICHAEL J. DI TORE
S/SGT [REDACTED]
778TH BOMBARDMENT SQ

Duel 2'

6 JUNE 1944

S T A T E M E N T

ON 6 JUN 44 I WAS THE NOSE GUNNER ON LT GILLEN'S SHIP. ABOUT FIVE OR TEN MINUTES AFTER LEAVING PLOESTI, ROUMANIA, WE WERE AGAIN ATTACKED BY ME 109'S AT APPROXIMATELY 0950. IN ABOUT THE CENTER OF THE FORMATION I SAW A SHIP (LT WARE'S) SLIDE OUT TO THE LEFT OUT OF THE FORMATION, UNDER CONTROL, APPARENTLY, IT DROPPED ITS NOSE IN A DIVE, THEN I SAW TWO CHUTES BAIL OUT AND OPEN AND SAW THREE OR FOUR BODIES COME OUT PERHAPS MAKING DELAYED JUMPS, THIS IS THE LAST ~~MR~~ I SAW OF THE PLANE.

S/Sgt Harold W. Harer
HAROLD W. HARER
S/SGT [REDACTED]
778TH BOMB SQ(H)

Serial 5'

6 JUNE 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

I WAS TOP TUBRET GUNNER ON LT MACDONALD'S SHIP, RETURNING FROM TARGET, PLOESTI, ROUMANIA, ON 6 JUN 44. WE WERE FLYING IN FORMATION IN FOX BOX 13. I SAW A SHIP (LT WARE'S) PEEL OFF TO MY LEFT (TO THE RIGHT FROM THE PLANE). I SAW TWO MEN BAIL OUT IN THE SLIP STREAM AND SAW ONE CHUTE OPEN. ABOUT TWO MINUTES LATER I SAW ANOTHER CHUTE BAIL OUT AND OPEN. THERE WAS NO SMOKE, COULDN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED AS THE PLANE WAS IN FULL CONTROL, FLYING LEVEL. APPARENTLY FLAK MIGHT HAVE SHOT OFF SOME OF THE CONTROLS. THEN THE ENEMY FIGHTERS APPEARED AND THAT TOOK ALL OF MY ATTENTION, SO I DID NOT NOTICE THE PLANE AFTER THAT.

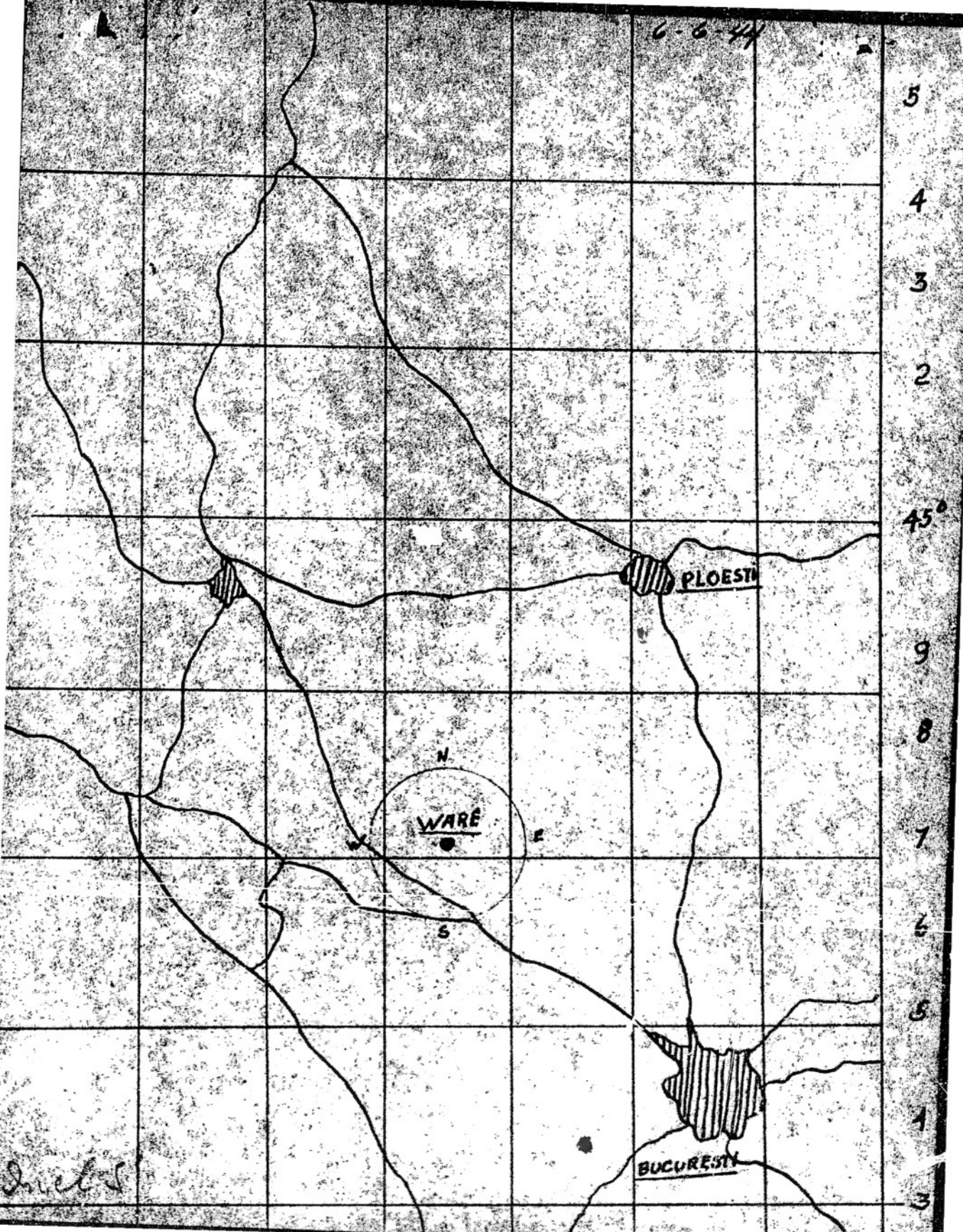
Sgt. Merle O. Weik

MERLE O. WEIK
SGT [REDACTED]
778TH BOMB SQ

Sub 2

6-6-44

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Inlet

BUCURESTI

WARE

PLOESTI