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H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification change
to
by ~~RESTRICTED~~
on 11/11/54
by ~~RESTRICTED~~
on 11/15/54

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification Secret
by F. A. [redacted] Lt. Col., AO
by P. M. MOENCH, Capt., AO
Date MAR 15 1948

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 APO 520, U.S. Army. Command or AF 15th A.F.
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanella, AAB, Italy Course E.N.E.
Target Ploesti Oil Fields, Rumania. Type of Mission Bombing

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather - Hazy, scattered alto-stratus. Visibility about 15 miles.

GIVE: (a) Date 6 June 1944 Time 0934 Location 45° 20' N. - 25° 23' E.
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: () Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
(X) 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 41-29410

I-E-1830-43

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series 3-E-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) GP-309449

(b) EP-43-1383 (c) EP-43-1128 (d) EP-43-1347

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

(a) <u>Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #940827</u>	(b) <u>Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #973449</u>
(c) <u>" " " 941313</u>	(d) <u>" " " 941008</u>
(e) <u>" " " 943618</u>	(f) <u>" " " 941135</u>
(g) <u>" " " 942017</u>	(h) <u>" " " 941287</u>
(i) <u>" " " 973766</u>	(j) <u>" " " 941819</u>

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
Pilot	Ullman, Victor H.	2d Lt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Valentina L. Ullman, Wife, 137-41 Francis Lewis Blvd., Laurelton, L.I., N.Y. <u>RTD</u>
Co-Pilot	Buckmaster, Duane M.	2d Lt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Lulu M. Carpenter, RTD Buckmaster, Wife, Box #204, Siloam Springs, Ark.
Navigator	Pieper, Donald J.	2d Lt.	[redacted]	Miss Norma R. Pieper, Sister, 1509 North Main, Decatur, Illinois, <u>RTD</u>
Bombardier	McCaslin, Robert B.	2d Lt.	[redacted]	Mr. John M. McCaslin, Father, 5800 Glenview Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, <u>RTD</u>
Radio Operator-Gunn.	Snyder, Franklin H.	S/Sgt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Florence Sarter, Wife, Sykesville Rd., Williamstown, New Jersey.
Top Waist-Gun.	Peck, Milton H.	T/Sgt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Lillie B. Peck, Wife, c/o H.I. Barnes, Vivian, Louisiana, <u>RTD</u>
Waist Gunner	Ward, John R.	Sgt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Virginia E. Ward, Wife, 300 Ave. C., Bismark, North Dakota.
Waist Gunner	Danaher, William A.	Sgt.	[redacted]	Mrs. Elsie Danaher, Mother, 717 North 13th St., Lafayette, Indiana.

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[REDACTED]

Tail Gunner *Kinzey, Dexter E. *Rmc* Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. Norma E. Madsen, Mother,
RFD #2, Torrington, Wyoming.
 Tail Turret Gun. Sanders, Paul L. ✓ Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. Lelan Sanders, Mother,
1202 Grayson Street, Benton, Illinois.
R1D1

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 Last		Saw
			by Radio	Sighted	
Byron A. Lockrem	Sgt.	[REDACTED]			X
Donald (NMI) Tate	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) _____

1. ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
2. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
3. 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 could be made for missing aircraft due to group being attacked by enemy ME 109 fighters and being over enemy territory.

Date of this Report: 7 June 1944.

Signature of Officer *Harold E. Blehm*

HAROLD E. BLEHM,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Sketch of approx location of aircraft last seen.
- Incl 2 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Byron A. Lockrem
- Incl 3 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Donald Tate.

RECEIVED



7761 96 MAIL

[REDACTED]

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776th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 520 U.S. Army

313.3

7 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, Hq. 464th Bombardment Group (H), APO 520, US Army.

1. Transmitted herewith are the Missing Air Crew Reports on combat crews assigned to this Squadron who were Missing In Action as of 6 June 1944, near Ploesti, Rumania:

2d Lt. (1024)	VICTOR H. ULLMAN	[REDACTED]	MIA
2d Lt. (1024)	DUANE M. BUCKMASTER	[REDACTED]	MIA
2d Lt. (1034)	DONALD J. PIEPER	[REDACTED]	MIA
2d Lt. (1035)	ROBERT B. McCASLIN	[REDACTED]	MIA
S/Sgt. (757)	Franklin H. Snyder	[REDACTED]	MIA
T/Sgt. (748)	Milton H. Peck	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (748)	John R. Ward	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (612)	William A. Danaher	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (612)	Dexter E. Kinzey	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (612)	Paul L. Sanders	[REDACTED]	MIA

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular #10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944, as amended.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your Headquarters, 7 June 1944.

Harold E. Blehm
HAROLD E. BLEHM,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:

Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report w/3 Incls.
(8 copies).

1st Ind.

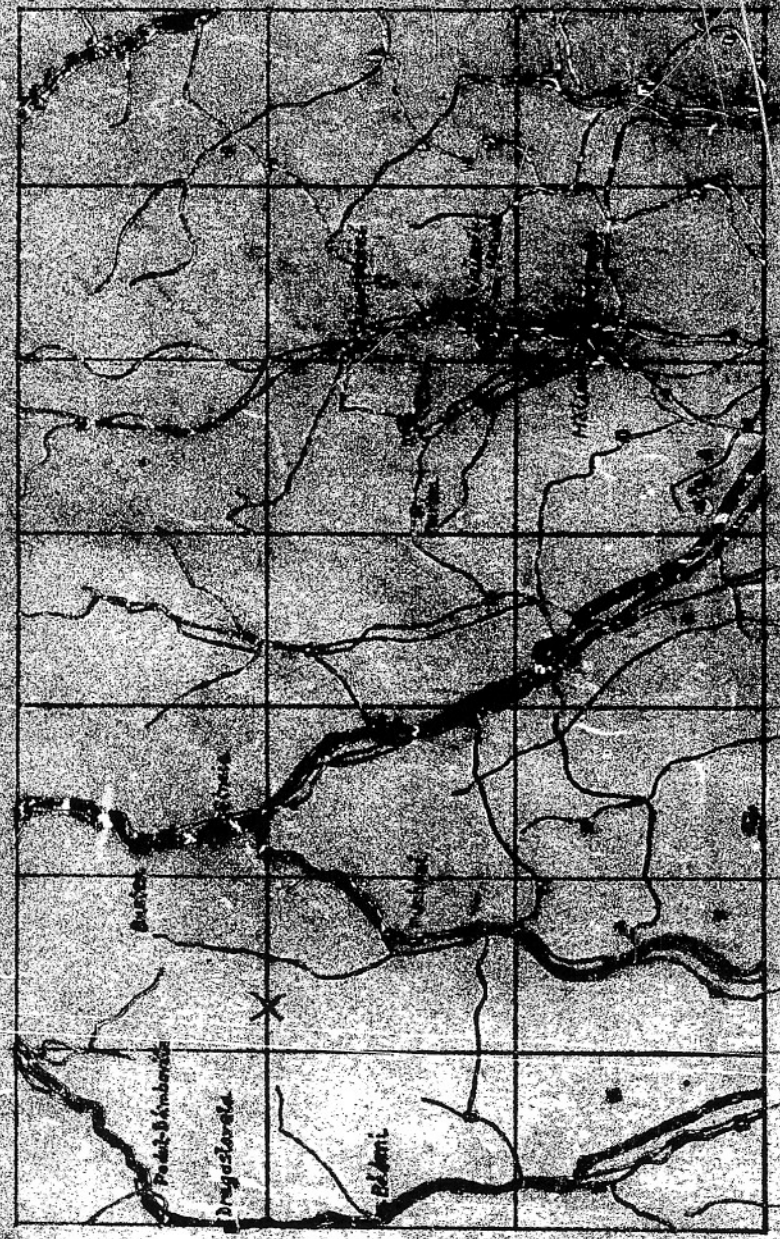
Hq. 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 8 June 1944.

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

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 inc

Harold D. Johns
HAROLD D. JOHNS
Maj AC,
Adj.

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X IS THE POINT LT. ULLMAN'S PLANE LAST SIGHTED
 BEARING - 45° 20' N. 25° 23' E.

O IS THE POINT CAPT. LEGGAT'S PLANE LAST SIGHTED
 BEARING - 45° 16' N. 26° 1' E.

2

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying left and right waist gun position on Ship # 458 in able box #¹²22. We had just come on the I.P. and I was throwing chafe out from the waist window and everything at that time was pretty quiet. We had no escort at the time. All of a sudden I saw 4 ME 109's come right through the middle of our box, a little bit underneath us. The fighters peeled off to the left and I looked over at Ship #410, Lt. Ullman's Ship, which was flying in able box position #13 and it was, at the time, flying in a level flight. It then looked to me as though it was out of control as the nose suddenly went straight up in the air and just as she was about at the climax of her climb, I noticed three chutes come out.

The enemy fighters then diverted my attention and the rudder of our ship obstructed my view. I can add that the bombs from Ship #410 dropped out when it started to nose up.

Byron A. Lockrem

Byron A. Lockrem,
Sgt., [REDACTED]
Right & Left Waist Gunner,
B-24 Plane # 458
776th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H),
APO 520, U.S. Army.

chd 2

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as lower ball gunner on Ship # 458 in No. 12 able box position.

I saw Ship #410 being attacked by 4 ME 109's and as soon as the ship was hit, it raised way up then peeled off to the left. I saw two chutes come out at the time and also the bombs drop out.

Then the ship went in a steep glide and leveled off for a second. There were three ME 109's that followed the ship down. The ship then went into a flat spin, Engine No. 2 was throwing quite a bit of smoke, but did not blow up in the air. There were so many enemy fighters coming in at our tail at the time that they caused my attentions to be taken from Ship #410. I couldn't therefore, follow the ship all the way down.

Donald Tate
Donald (NMI) Tate,
Sgt., ~~2nd Lt.~~
Lower Ball Gunner, B-24 Plane #158
776th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H),
APO 520, U.S. Army.

encl 3