

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

5814

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~BY [REDACTED], [REDACTED]~~
~~BY [REDACTED], [REDACTED]~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classified by E. A. HENDONAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. HENNING, Capt., AG
Date 15 MAR 1948

5814

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or AF 15th Air Force.
Group 454th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course 180 degrees.
Target Lobau Oil Blending Plant of Mission Bombing Mission.
Vienna, Austria.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
2/10 to 3/10 ALTO Cumulus, top 16,000 ft. Visibility 15 miles.
4. GIVE: (c) Date 16 June 1944. Time 1217. B Location 12° E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Near Slivno, Yugoslavia.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
() Forced Down () Seen to Crash; or
() Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
() Enemy Aircraft (X) Enemy Anti-aircraft () Other circumstances as follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 H AAF Serial No 42-95332
7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) #1-CP-306147
(b) #2-CP-306314 (c) #3-CP-306322 (d) #4-CP-306355
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) RW 1184573 (b) RM 1184096 LB 1184156
(c) LW 1184573 (d) LM 1184489 RB 1194808
(e) RT 1184004 (f) RN 1184942
(g) LT 1184609 (h) LN 1185274
9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas.
10. 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)

	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
1. Pilot	Leet, Edmund (NMI), Jr.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Dorothy A. Leet (W) 4775 Williams St, Denver, Colo. Mr. Edmund Leet (F), 2233 W.B. St, Torrington, Wyoming.
2. Co-Pilot	Vaughan, Leonard A.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Lillie C. Vaughan (M) Ogden, Iowa.
3. Navigator	Hollmann, William H.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Frances L. Hollmann (Wife) 107-23 114th St, Richmond Hills, Queens, L.I. New York.
4. Bombardier	Rickenbach, Franklin (NMI)	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Ella Rickenbach (M) Blandon, Penn.
5. Radio Gunner	Hickson, Robert E.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Hickson (M & F) 184 Glennwood Ave, Leonia, New Jersey.
6. Eng. Gunner	Madigan, Robert P.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Nellie J. Waalin (M) Britton, Oklahoma.
7. Radio Gunner	Reimer, Russell H.	T/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Florence Reimer (W) 526 Fullerton Pkwy., Chicago, Illinois.
8. Aerial Gunner	Deck, Lawrence H.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Mary R. Deck (W) 2330 W. Maple St., Wichita, Kansas. Mrs. May Deck (M), 19-E-5th St. Hutchinson, Kansas.

[REDACTED]

9. Aerial Gunner Stai, Perry C. S/Sgt. [REDACTED] Mr. Peter Stai (F)
 Route #1, Kerkhoven, Minnesota.
10. Aerial Gunner Waldrop, James D. S/Sgt. [REDACTED] Mr. & Mrs. James F. Waldrop
 (F & M) 601 Ivy St. Knoxville, Tenn.

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

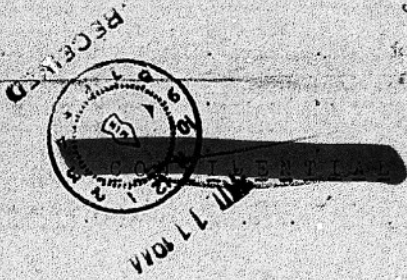
NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	b. Radio		
			Sighted	Crash	Forced Landing
Harvey R. Wyant	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]			X
Lillard O. Brooks	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]			X
Cecil S. Overturf	Sgt.	[REDACTED]			X
Frederick L. Lawson	Sgt.	[REDACTED]			X
Robert K. De Lawder	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]			X

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (10 Parachutes were used) () Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
 () Any other reason (specify) _____
13. ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART,
 OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEFN. (X)
14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH,
 FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. (X)
15. 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 as plane
crashed in enemy occupied territory.

Date of this Report: 18 June 1944

Signature of Officer *Clayde Crabtree*
 CLAYDE CRABTREE,
 Capt., Air Corps,
 Executive Officer.

- 6 Incls:
 Incl 1- Statement of Lt. Wyant.
 Incl 2- Statement of S/Sgt. Brooks.
 Incl 3- Statement of Sgt. Overturf.
 Incl 4- Statement of Sgt. Lawson.
 Incl 5- Statement of Lt. De Lawder.
 Incl 6- Location sketch.



16 JUNE 1944

OVER THE TARGET THERE WERE SEVERAL BURSTS OF FLAK. I NOTICED THAT NO 1 AND THEN, LATER, NO 3 ENGINE ON LT LEET'S PLANE WERE FEATHERED AND I KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN HIT. TWO OTHER PLANES, LT JUDY'S AND LT TUDBURY'S, ON WHICH I WAS THE BOMBARDIER, ACTED AS AN ESCORT FROM THE TARGET TO THE TIME WHEN THE PLANE WENT DOWN. LT LEET ORDERED ALL EXCESS EQUIPMENT JETTISONED FROM THE SHIP. ON THE DALMATIAN COAST THERE WERE SEVERAL BURSTS OF ACCURATE FLAK OVER IMOTSKI AND THE CREW BAILED OUT SOON AFTER NEAR SLIVNO. LT LEET DROPPED SLIGHTLY BEHIND OUR SHIP. THOUGH I COULD NOT SEE THE MEN JUMP FROM THE PLANE I DID SEE NINE PARACHUTES FLY OPEN. A TENTH MAN BAILED OUT BUT HIS CHUTE DID NOT OPEN. WHEN I LAST SAW THE PLANE IT WAS GLIDING DOWN OUT OF SIGHT BELOW US TOWARD THE EARTH.

Harvey R. Wyant
HARVEY R. WYANT
2ND LT, AC,

Final Copy

16 JUNE 1944

OUR PLANE, PILOTED BY LT. TUDBURN, WAS ESCORTING LT. LEET'S PLANE WHICH HAD BEEN HIT BY FLAK OVER TARGET. I SAW NO 1 ENGINE FEATHERED AND KNEW HE WAS HIT. OVER THE COAST OF YUGOSLAVIA, BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF KOZICA AND ZUOPA, I SAW TEN MEN JUMP OUT AND NINE CHUTES OPENED. WHEN I LAST SAW THE PLANE IT WAS GLID-SMOOTHLY TOWARD THE EARTH AND FINALLY IT WENT INTO A SPIN.

Lillard B. Brooks
LILLARD B BROOKS
S/SGT [REDACTED]

incl #2 copy

16 JUNE 1944

WE WERE ESCORTING LT LEET'S PLANE BACK FROM THE TARGET AND DROPPING ALTITUDE TO KEEP NEAR HIS SHIP. I WAS IN THE BALL TURRET OF LT JUDY'S SHIP. NEAR THE COAST OF YUGOSLAVIA I NOTICED SOME CHUTES ALREADY OPEN AND IN ALL I COUNTED NINE. I LOOKED HARD FOR THE TENTH BUT NEVER DID SEE BUT NINE. THE PLANE CIRCLED TWICE, GOING DOWN ALL THE TIME. ONE WING TIPPED AND SHE WENT INTO A TAIL SPIN. I LOST SIGHT OF THE PLANE WHEN IT WENT BEHIND A MOUNTAIN RIDGE. ABOUT FIVE SECONDS LATER I SAW SMOKE RISING FROM THE MOUNTAIN SIDE WHERE IT MUST HAVE CRASHED.

Cecil S. Overturf
CECIL S OVERTURF
SGT 

16 JUNE 1944

I WAS FLYING IN LT JUDY'S PLANE THE DAY LT LEET'S PLANE CRASHED. WHILE WE WERE OVER THE TARGET THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE FLAK I HEARD OVER THE INNER PHONES THAT LT LEET'S NO 3 ENGINE WAS FEATHERED AND ABOUT 15 MINUTS LATER HIS NO 1 ENGINE WAS FEATHERED. ABOUT TWO TO THREE MILES FROM THE COAST OF YUGOSLAVIA, BETWEEN TWO TOWNS, WHICH WERE SEPARATED BY A MOUNTAIN, I SAW NINE MEN BAIL OUT AND THEIR CHUTES OPENED. A TENTH MAN BAILED OUT BUT I AM NOT SURE WHETHER HES CHUTE OPENED. I SAW THE PLANE CIRCLE ONCE AND THEN I LOST SIGHT OF IT.

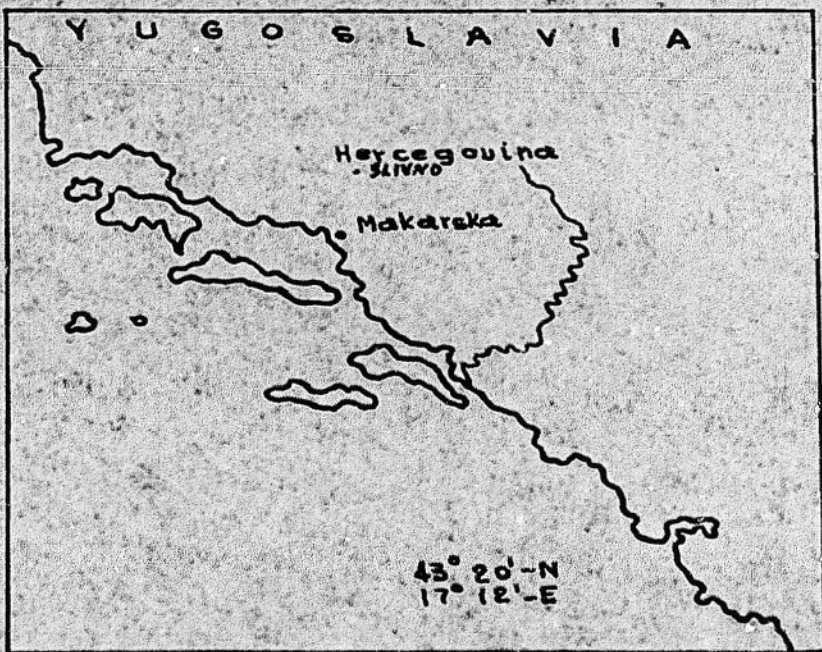
Frederick L. Lawson
FREDERICK L LAWSON
SGT [REDACTED]

16 JUNE 1944

I WAS CO-PILOT ON LT JUDY'S PLANE. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO LT LEET' PLANE BUT OUR PLANE AND ANOTHER ESCORTED IT AS WE LEFT THE TARGET BECAUSE ONE OF HIS ENGINES WAS FEATHERED. A SECOND ENGINE WENT OUT ON HIM LATER. NEAR THE DALMATION COAST LT LEET SIGNALLED THAT HE WAS ORDERING HIS CREW TO BAIL OUT. WE MOVED AWAY TO THE FRONT AND OUR TAIL GUNNER SAID THAT HE SAW TEN MEN BAIL OUT BUT ONLY NINE CHUTES OPENED. ABOUT TWO MINUTES AFTER THE SHIP WAS ABANDONED WE BANKED OUR SHIP AND AS I LOOKED BACK AND DOWN ACROSS THE WING, I COUNTED TEN PARACHUTES FAR BELOW.

Robert K. De Lawder

ROBERT K DELAWDER
2ND LT, AC,
[REDACTED]



Plane Crashed In
Mts. Between Koziac
and Zoupa.