

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

5835

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to ~~TOP SECRET~~
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AS
by F. M. MUELLER, Capt. AO
Date 10 MAR 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Classification changed to RESTRICTED

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 75 MAR 1948

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

102-96

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 PANTANELLA AIR BASE Course PLOESTI RUMANIA
Target PLOESTI Type of Mission BOMBING
RUMANIA

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
1/10 CUMULUS

GIVE: (a) Date 6 JUNE 1944 Time 0955 Location 44°47'N 21°23'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)
() Enemy Aircraft () Enemy Anti-Aircraft (x) Other circumstances as follows: AIRCRAFT WENT THROUGH FLAK AREA AND ENCOUNTERED FIGHTERS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT DAMAGE BUT THROUGH SOME UNKNOWN REASON FAILED TO RETURN TO AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24-H AAF Serial No 42-50405 BASE.

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 18-3065 AAF Serial No (a) BP-434695
(b) BP-434017 (c) BP-434720 (d) BP-435795

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) BROWNING CAL 50 M2 1250005 (b) 1249646 255365
(c) 1243049 (a) 255375 255366
(e) 1249596 (f) 1249663
(g) 1249559 (h) 255370

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, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
Pilot	W HAYS, EART F. JR	2D LT	[REDACTED]	Wife MRS. BEAT HAYS JR 1925 PORTAGE AV., BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
CO-PILOT	GRINICKE, GERHARD	2D LT	[REDACTED]	MATHER RLV. I. C. MPLICK, 302 MAIN ST, SIWARD NEB.
BOMBARDIER	ROADHEAD, GORDO J.	2D LT	[REDACTED]	MOMER MRS JEANIE B. COLL, ROCKWELL AVE EXT, MIDDLETOWN, N. Y.
NAVIGATOR	WILLIS, ROBERT J.	2D LT	[REDACTED]	WIFE MRS SERIELLY THIES 2230 COLE AVE S.E., MINNAPOLIS, MINN.
ENG GNR	DEKON, THOMAS E.	S/SGT	[REDACTED]	WIFE MRS COLORES ELKON 3023 MADISON AVE, COVINGTON, KY.
ENG GNR	ERNEST, MONROE JR	S/SGT	[REDACTED]	MOTHER, MRS VEDA C. WRIGHT, HURLON, MISS.
RO GNR	G SATTY, ROBERT	T/SGT	[REDACTED]	SISTER MRS MAUD CALVERT, 724 LEXVILL, FORTSMOUTH, OHIO
ARMORER	GRUBBY, R. G. HALL	S/SGT	[REDACTED]	SISTER MR JOE BRYAN P.O. BOX 1010, CANYON CITY, COLO.

ARMORER GNR EDMUNDSON, DEL J. S/SGT [REDACTED] MOTHER MRS MARGARET [REDACTED]
 EDMUNDSON, FR #1, YORKTOWN, IND.
 ARMORER GNR FLY, WILLIAM R. SPT. [REDACTED] MOTHER MRS BARB [REDACTED]
 FLY, IDA GROVE, IOWA.

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	by		
			Radio	Sighted	Crash Forced Landing
SHOEMAKER, WILLIAM G.	CAPT.	[REDACTED]		X	
LITMAN, MAX	1ST LT	[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
 (x) Any other reason (specify) NO PARACHUTES WERE USED AS AIRCRAFT WAS STILL FLYING WHEN LAST SEEN.

- 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 WAS MADE AS AIRCRAFT WAS STILL FLYING WHEN LAST SEEN.

Date of this Report: 8 JULY 1944

Signature of Officer

Arthur B. Daniels
 ARTHUR B. DANIELS,
 Capt., Air Corps,
 Executive Officer

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 Statement of Capt. William G. Shoemaker (Octu)
- Incl 2 Statement of 1st Lt. Max Litman (Octu)
- Incl 3 Map of area where plane was last seen. (Octu)



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

1886

8 June 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 6 June 1944 on a Mission over Ploesti, Rumania.

- 2D LT. HAYS, EARL R. JR.
- 2D LT. HEINICKE, GERALD A.
- 2D LT. BROOKER, GORDON J.
- 2D LT. THIEL, ROBERT J.
- S/SGT. DIXON, THOMAS A.
- S/SGT. ERNEST, MONROE L. JR.
- T/SGT. CASSITY, ROBERT (M.I.)
- S/SGT. EYAL, GERALD L.
- S/SGT. BURTON, DEAN J.
- SGT. [REDACTED]



2. Subject personnel are Battle Casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular 15, MATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. Battle Casualty Report Forwarded to your Headquarters 7 June 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

ARTHUR W. GENDRIES,
Capt., Air Corps,
Executive Officer

1 incl:

Incl 1 SAC Rpt, Lt. Hays and Crew
5 June 1944, w/3 incls (Octu)

1st Ind.

Re. 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. U. J.

2nd Lt. Bert R. Hays, Jr.

Mrs. Kathryn A. Hays, ✓ (Wife)
1925 Portage Avenue,
Birmingham, Alabama.

2nd Lt. Gerhard A. Heinicke

Mr. Iddo C. Heinicke, ✓ (Father)
302 Main Street,
Seward, Nebraska.

2nd Lt. Gordon J. Broadhead

Mrs. Jennie B. Cole, ✓ (Mother)
Rockwell Avenue,
Extension Middletown, New York.

2nd Lt. Robert J. Thies

Mrs. Shirley M. Thies, ✓ (Wife)
2230 Cole Avenue, Southwest,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

S/Sgt. Thomas N. Dixon

Mrs. Dolores W. Dixon, ✓ (Wife)
3023 Madison Avenue,
Covington, Kentucky.

S/Sgt. Monroe H. Earnest, Jr.

Mr. Monroe H. Earnest, Sr., ✓ (Father)
Rural Free Delivery Number One,
Houston, Mississippi.

T/Sgt. Robert Cassity

Mrs. Maud Calvert, ✓ (Sister)
724 Lake View,
Portsmouth, Ohio.

S/Sgt. Gerald L. Bryan

Mrs. Mary J. Bryan, ✓ (Grandmother)
Corner Taft & Burbank Avenue,
Shafter, California.

S/Sgt. Dell J. Edmundson

Mrs. Dell E. Edmundson, ✓ (Mother)
Rural Route Number One,
Yorktown, Indiana.

Sgt. William R. Ely

Mrs. Barbara E. Ely, ✓ (Mother)
5715 South West Hood Avenue,
Portland Oregon.

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. Army.

8 June 44.

2d Lt Bert R. Hays Jr., flying in Black "O" was last seen in formation returning from Ploesti over the Danube at 44° 47' N 21° 23' E.

He was not seen in the formation over the Yugoslavian Coast, but the formation was so scattered as to make identification of every ship impossible.

No fighter or flak was encountered from the time last seen. He is presumed to have made a crash landing or bailed out along course West of Danube.

William G. Shoemaker

WILLIAM G. SHOEMAKER, 0789215
Capt., Air Corps,
779th Bomb Sq (H),
464th Bomb Gp (H).

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. Army.

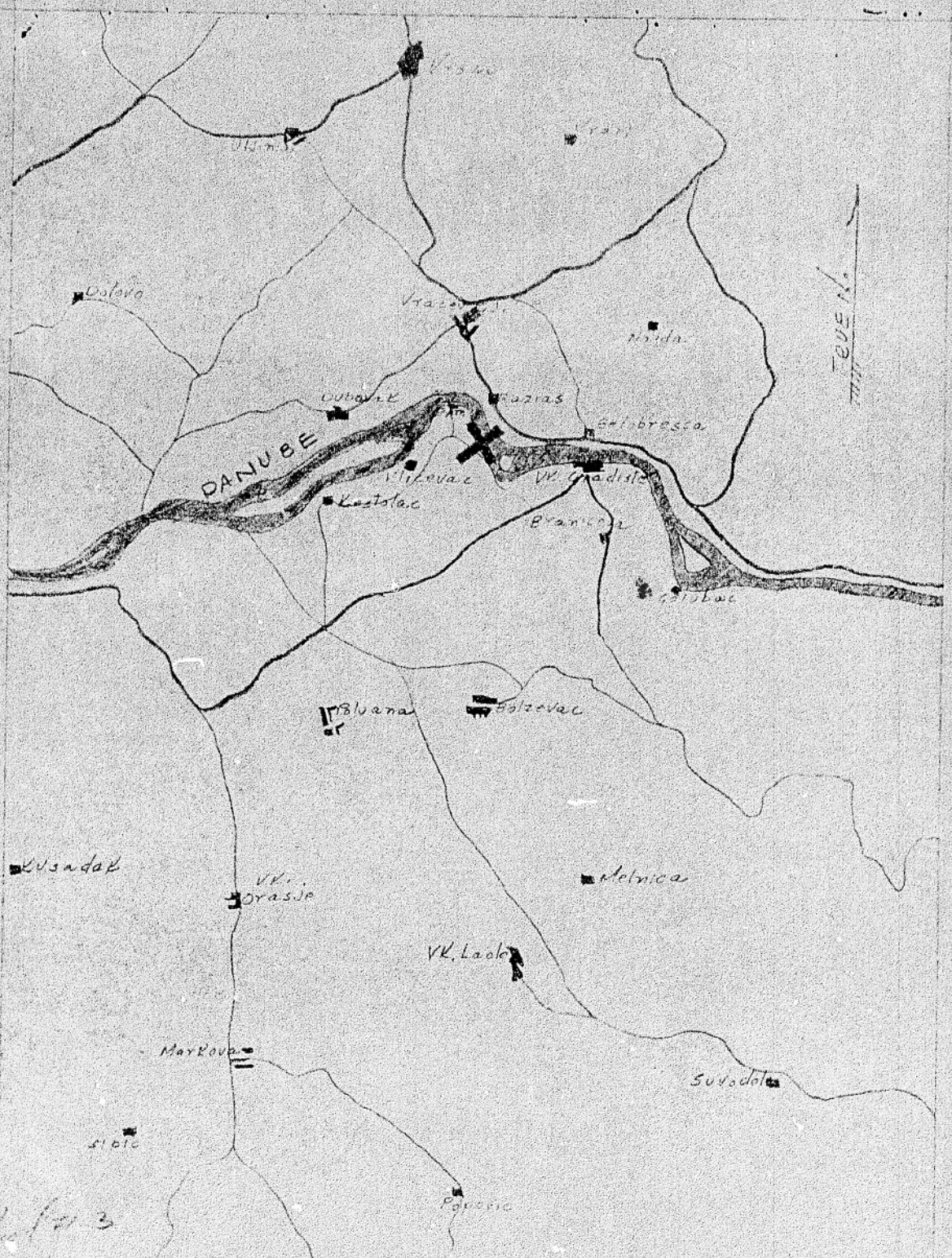
8 June 44.

Black "O", was flying formation with our Box up to a point at the Danube River, coordinates $44^{\circ} 47' N 21^{\circ} 23' E$.

At that time he was falling back out of the formation. I called to the pilot of our ship and told him that Black "O" was falling back and to slow our speed.

After that he caught up with us once again. From that point on I thought he was in formation, but could not check him again.

Max Litman
MAX LITMAN, [REDACTED]
1st Lt., Air Corps,
779th Bomb Sq (H),
464th Bomb Gp (H).



July 3

6. JUNI 1944
BOMBING OF PLCESTI

COORDINATES
49°47'N-21°23'E