

5840

Note: The number 5480 is handwritten on several pages in this document.

That number is actually assigned to a B17 42-39887

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

5840

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG
Date ~~18 MAR 1916~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to (D)
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AO
Date 15 MAR 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

103-72
5480

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 Pantanello, 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 0930 Location 45° 16' - 26° 1' 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 42-50411

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP-435123
(b) BP-434892 (c) BP-434254 (d) BP-434853

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #124967 (b) Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #448149
(c) " " " 1249954 (d) " " " 1242889
(e) " " " 1242657 (f) " " " 1242787
(g) " " " 1249973 (h) " " " 1250012
(i) " " " 1250055

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

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11 Passengers 0 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, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
Pilot	Leggat, George W.	Capt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Lorraine E. Leggat, Wife, RTD 14676 Archdale Road, Detroit, Michigan.
Co-pilot	Stout, Eugene W.	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Sara P. Stout, Wife, RTD 1 Magnolia Curve, Montgomery, Alabama.
Tail Gunner	Bronstein, Harvey W.	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Clara Bronstein, Mother, RTD 99 Townsend St., Roxbury, Mass.
Bombardier	McCabe, William F.	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Barbara T. McCabe, Mother, RTD 64-07 Woodbine St., Ridgewood, New York.
Navigator	Schieres, Edward K.	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Berahine Schieres, Wife, RTD 47 Ruggles Street, Dunkirk, New York.
Top Turret-Gun	Ballard, Eugene H.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Margaret S. Ballard, Wife, RTD Riverton, Utah.
Radio-Oper-Gun	Richardson, Stanley W.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. Joseph Richardson, Father, RTD 211 22nd Avenue, San Mateo, California.
Ball Turret-Gun	Hall, Ronald E.	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Oleita S. Hall, Mother, RTD 537 South Plumer, Tucson, Arizona.

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Waist Gunner Clement, Warren G. ✓ Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. Ruth Clement, Wife, RTD
 3016 Bluefield Ave., Bluefield, West Virginia.
 Waist Gunner Thurmond, Robert H. ✓ Sgt. [REDACTED] Mr. Charlie R. Thurmond, Father, RTD
 Cotton Plant, Mississippi.
 Photographer Allinder, James E. ✓ Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. Frances Allinder, Mother, RTD
 Box #384, Heavener, Oklahoma.

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ON BOARD OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES

NAME IN FULL	RANK	STATUS	REMARKS
CHARLES R. SKINNER	2d Lt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X
Peter (MM) Suchar	Sgt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	X

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ON BOARD OF AIRCRAFT, CHECK FOLLOWING:
 Parachutes were used () None used () Other (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 FACTS CONCERNING REASONS FOR MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, GRADE, 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 2d Lt. SKINNER.
- Incl 3 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Suchar.



[REDACTED]

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

HEB/sjh

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:

Capt. (1024)	GEORGE W. LEGGAT	0-399672	MIA
2d Lt. (1024)	EUGENE V. STOUT	0-313972	MIA
2d Lt. (1024)	HARVEY V. BRONSTEIN	0-802986	MIA
2d Lt. (1035)	WILLIAM F. McCABE	0-699523	MIA
2d Lt. (1034)	EDWARD M. SCHIERES -	0-706913	MIA
S/Sgt. (748)	Eugene H. Ballard	39904078	MIA
S/Sgt. (757)	Stanley V. Richardson -	39125963	MIA
Sgt. (612)	Ronald E. Hall	39858914	MIA
Sgt. (611)	Warren C. Clement	6915689	MIA
Sgt. (611)	Robert H. Thurnond	14136617	MIA
Sgt. (748)	James E. Allinder	38467062	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. Flehm
HAROLD E. FLEHM,
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 (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 cc.

DDJ
D. D. J.

S/Sgt. Stanley W. Richardson

Mr. Joseph Richardson (father)
241 22nd Avenue,
San Mateo, California.

S/Sgt. Eugene H. Ballard

Mrs. Margaret S. Ballard (wife)
Riverton, Utah;

2nd Lt. Edward M. Schieres

Mrs. Geraldine W. Schieres (wife)
47 Ruggles Street,
Dunkirk, New York.

2nd Lt. William F. McCabe

Mrs. Barbara F. McCabe (mother)
61-07 Woodhine Street,
Ridgewood, New York.

2nd Lt. Harvey W. Bronstein

Mrs. Clara Bronstein (mother)
99 Townsend Street,
Roxbury, Massachusetts.

2nd Lt. Eugene H. Stout

Mrs. Sara P. Stout (wife)
1 Magnolia Curve,
Montgomery, Alabama.

Capt. George W. Leggat

Mrs. Lorraine E. Leggat (wife)
11676 Archedale Road,
Detroit, Michigan.

T/Sgt. Ronald E. Hall

Mrs. Glaita Sabina Hall (mother)
537 South Plumer Street,
Tucson, Arizona.

Sgt. Warren G. Clement

Mrs. Elsie Steary (mother)
Box 272,
Keystone, West Virginia.

Sgt. Robert H. Thurmond

Mr. Charlie R. Thurmond (father)
Cotton Place, Mississippi.

Sgt. James E. Allinder

Mrs. Mary F. Allinder (mother)
Box 344
Beaver, Oklahoma

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S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as Bombardier on Ship #355 in No. 12 easy box position. We had just passed over the target and rallied left when we were attacked by fighters.

Immediately after the attack by fighters I observed Ship #411 had been hit on the left rudder by a twenty millimeter shell from a enemy fighter.

The ship dropped out of our formation, losing altitude. I observed one (1) crew member bail out from this plane. The ship then went out of my observation.

Charles R. Skinner
CHARLES R. SKINNER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
[REDACTED] Bombardier,
B-24 Plane #355,
776th Bomb Sq-461th Bomb Gp(H),
APO 520, US Army.

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S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as right waist gunner on Ship #355 in No. 12 easy box position. We had just passed the target when I saw five ME 109's attack our box. After the fighters peeled off, I saw one B-24 plane which could have been Ship #411 sliding towards our tail.

He seemed to bank toward the left and passed under our tail. I noticed one (1) parachute open from that ship. I watched the ship as long as I could and could see no more parachutes blossom from it.

Peter Suchar

Peter (NMI) Suchar,
Sgt., [REDACTED]
Right Waist Gunner, B-24 Plane #355,
776th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H),
APO 520, U.S. Army.