

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

6588

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Lt. Col., AC
by P. M. MURN H, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1948

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

by E. A. BRAYTON, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

6588

Date MAR 1 5 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 Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or AF 15th Air Force
Group 164th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course To Yugoslavia to Neustadt
Target Blechnhammer Type of Mission to Target to base.
N. Oil Plant
Germany

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear, Slightly windy

GIVE: (a) Date 7 July 44 Time 1410 Location Island of Korcula
of last known whereabouts of aircraft Yugoslavia
(b) Specify whether: () Last spotted () Last contacted by radio
() Force down (X) 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-24G AAF Serial No 42-78211

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP-426203
(b) BP-426225 (c) BP-432307 (d) BP-428557

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) RN-96798L (b) LN-967916
(c) LN-967706 (d) RM-967519
(e) LT-97900L (f) LW-967861
(g) RT-96807L (h) RW-977791

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 Arm G. Hughes, Hubert W. S/Sgt 36681322 Mr. & Mrs. Harry W. Hughes (F&M)
Rossville, Ill., Mrs. Muriel A. Hughes (W), Pence, Ind

RIA Pilot Arm G. Dominetto, Joe (NMI) S/Sgt 36677580 Mrs. Madeline Dominetto (M)
and Mrs. Edith Dominetto (W) 130 Edmund St. E. Peoria, Illinois

RTO Pilot JUDY, CLYDE S. 2nd Lt. 0-750505 *12/18/44*

RTO Co-Pilot DE LAWDER, ROBERT K. 2nd Lt. 0-822933 *(no record file) mtd*

EUS Nav. COSTELLO, JAMES J. 2nd Lt. 0-709297 *" " "*

NOT A CAS Bomb GUAY, FRANCIS A. 2nd Lt. 0-706850 *not a casualty 12/18/44 RKO*

C [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
IN OF
74
75
TO
ALSO

R7D Eng G. Wilson, Delbert T. T/Sgt 34645415

Notacas. Arm G. Overturf, Cecil S. S/Sgt 37258493

Rmc Arm G. Lawson, Frederick L. S/Sgt 35706938

Notacas. Arm G. ^{NO RECORD IN KS. 12/11/45} Fucello, Mark C. Pfc 32247767

1. 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 | GRADE | SERIAL NO | by Radio | Sighted | Crash | Forced Landing |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| <u>DE LAWDER, ROBERT K.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-822933</u> | | | | <u>X</u> |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
2. 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) One parachute did not open
3. ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. X
4. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, X FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. X
5. 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.
Plane examined by crew members on island after crash

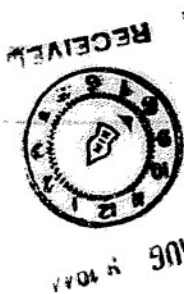
Date of this Report: 14 July 44

Signature of Officer E. D. Truett

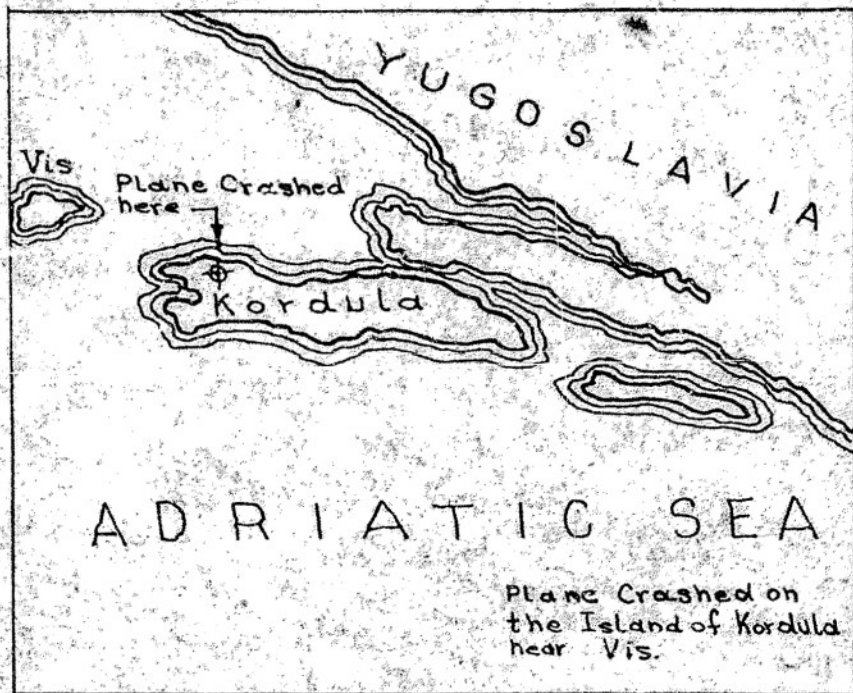
2 Incls:

Incl 1 Statement of Lt DE LAWDER
 Incl 2 Location Sketch

E.D. TRUETT,
 Capt., AC
 Adj



6583 58



Inst. 2, 1941

6588-2
13 July 1944.

I was Co-Pilot on Lt Judy's plane on 7 July 1944 when we were on a bombing mission over the Blechhammer North Oil Plant, Germany.

The plane was hit by flak over the target. Our automatic pilot, the Co-Pilot's controls, the hydraulic and electrical systems were completely shot out. We were able to stay in formation for a short time but over Lake Balatine, Austria, No. 2 engine went out of control and we dropped behind. We had difficulty feathering it but finally got it stopped. We continued our course back to the base. Then we noticed our gas was low. The engineer found a leak and stopped it. Five minutes before we reached the Adriatic No. 1 engine went out. It was then we decided to head for Vis but the plane wouldn't turn that way and kept to the left. We finally were able to turn the plane in a circle toward Vis. Just as Vis came into view the fuel pressure dropped on No. 3 engine and we bailed out five seconds later, dropping into the Adriatic near the island of Kordula. The plane crashed on the island and blew up.

All ten men bailed out. S/Sgt Dominetto's chute came out of the pack but did not blossom. I saw him falling from about 2,000 feet and I saw him hit the water but I did not see him again.

S/Sgt Hughes dropped into the water and ^{TWO} Bombardier heard him call to him. The Bombardier directed him to follow the sound of his voice. Sgt Hughes did not know how to swim and the water was rough. No one knows if his life vest worked for after his first calls he was not heard again and he may have been picked up by the enemy.

The partisans picked us up in boats and took us to Vis. The eight of us returned to U.S. Military Authority.

Robert K. De Lawder
ROBERT K. DE LAWDER
2nd Lt 0-822933