

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

6920

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification changed
to ~~TOP SECRET~~ **TOP SECRET**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [REDACTED] Capt., AC
Date [REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

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 PANTANELLA, ITALY. Command or AF 15th AIR FORCE
Group 464th BOMB GROUP (H) Squadron 777th BOMB SQ (H)

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure PANTANELLA A.B., ITALY Course NORTH EAST.
Target ROMANA OIL REFINERY Type of Mission BOMBING
PLOESTI.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CLEAR FROM DANUBE RIVER TO ADRIATIC SEA.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 22 JULY 1944. Time 1526 Location ADRIATIC SEA
NEAR BARLETTA
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: () Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
() Forced Down (X) 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-G AAF Serial No 42-78392

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP 436739
(b) BP 436833 (c) BP 436911 (d) BP 437023

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

(a) <u>LW 1258941</u>	(b) <u>LN 1249264</u>	<u>L. TOP 1248909</u>
(c) <u>RW 1258820</u>	(d) <u>RN 1249066</u>	<u>L. TOP 1249162</u>
(e) <u>LT 1249257</u>	(f) <u>LL 1248651</u>	
(g) <u>RT 1249003</u>	(h) <u>RL 1249572</u>	

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	NEAREST OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
KIA1.	CREW POSITION <u>Pilot</u> <u>GUTHRIE, DALE F.</u>	<u>2 LT 0-686466</u>	<u>ROLAND M. GUTHRIE (F)</u>
KIA2.	<u>Co Pilot</u> <u>WOLFE, ROBERT H.</u>	<u>2 LT 0-713677</u>	<u>TRACY J. WOLFE (F)</u>
KIA3.	<u>NAV</u> <u>SCHNEIDER, WILLIAM J.</u>	<u>2 LT 0-718431</u>	<u>2730 S. LAFAYETTE ST., ENGLEWOOD, COLO.</u>
KIA4.	<u>BOMBARDIER</u> <u>CONNORS, CLAYTON E.</u>	<u>2 LT. 0-1322894</u>	<u>ST FRANCIS, MAINE.</u>
KIA5.	<u>ENG G.</u> <u>WEBER, WILLIAM J.</u>	<u>S/SGT 36453336</u>	<u>AGNES WEBER (M) EMILY WEBER (W) RFD # 4.</u>
KIA6.	<u>ROG.</u> <u>McCLOSKEY, BERNARD F. JR.</u>	<u>SGT 13169876</u>	<u>BERNARD F. McCLOSKEY SR., 116 SEVENTH AVE. CLARION, PA.</u>
KIA7.	<u>ARMORER G.</u> <u>KENNEDY, JAMES W. JR</u>	<u>SGT 32811616</u>	<u>VIOLET KENNEDY (M) 243-22 WELER AVE. ROSEDALE, NEW YORK.</u>
KIA8.	<u>ARMORER G.</u> <u>CORNELL, WILLIAM P.</u>	<u>CPL 15119151</u>	<u>ANNETTA P. CORNELL (M) 2425 DIXIE HIGHWAY S. Ft. MITCHELL, KY.</u>

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9RTD ARMORER G. TOLEDO, LOUIS E. SGT 39274544 (FROM MIA TO IIA)
 AERIAL G.
 10WA WARD, ELWOOD J. JR. SGT 18159746 MADGE WARD M)
 425 SENAGA ST. BARTLESVILLE, OKLA.
 ROSALLA WARD (W) 227 HATNESST, KANE, PA.

11. 1. 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	Contacted Last Saw			
			by Radio	Sighted	Crash	Forced Landing
COX, CLIFFORD E.	PVT	37239771				X
HARDT, ROBERT C.	S/SGT	17032447				X

12. 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) TWO MEMBERS OF CREW ARE IN HOSPITAL.

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) THIS SQUADRON HAS NOT RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE SEARCH. Lt SCHNEIDER AND SGT TOLEDO WERE RESCUED BY PLANE, BUT HAVE NOT RETURNED TO DUTY. TO DATE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON THE REMAINDER OF THIS CREW.

Date of this Report: 25 JULY 1944.

Signature of Officer Clyde Crabtree
 CLYDE CRABTREE,
 Capt, AC, Executive Officer.

- 3 Incls:
 Incl 1. Statement of Pvt COX
 Incl 2. Statement of S/Sgt HARDT
 Incl 3. Location sketch.



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15
23 July 1944.

We were flying in Easy Box, position unknown at the time, when I saw Lt Guthrie's plane flying vertically directly under our plane. His plane went out of sight for a moment and I saw it again just after it crashed into the Adriatic Sea. I did not see any rafts or men in the water but the plane was still afloat when I last saw it.

Clifford E. Cox

CLIFFORD E. COX
Pvt 37239771

6920
23 July 1944.

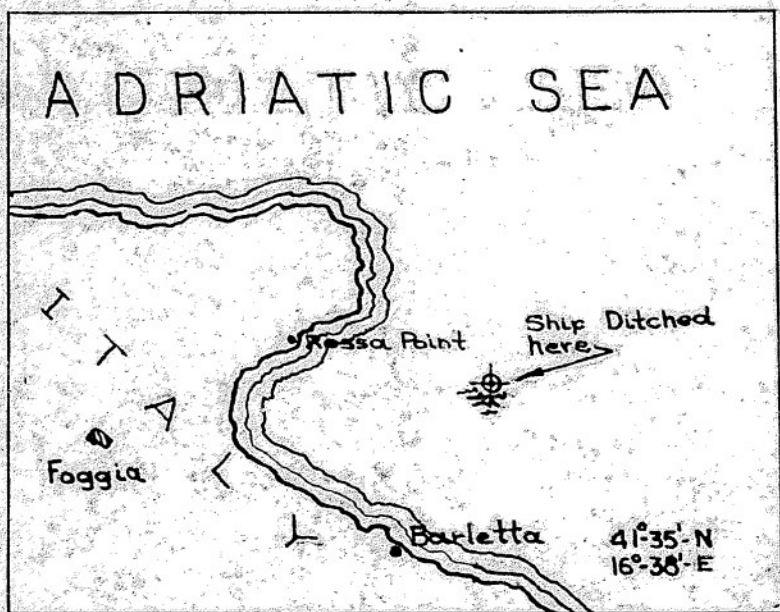
We were flying Easy Box #12 when I saw Lt Guthrie's plane at four o'clock crash into the Adriatic Sea but we were too far away to see anything very clearly. We circled back over Lt Guthrie's plane and it was broken in two at the waist. I think I saw three men holding on to the left wing but am not sure due to oxygen bottles and wreckage around the plane. The second time we circled we dropped a life raft which landed within 100 feet of the wreckage and when we circled the third time I saw a man swimming toward the raft. The fourth time we circled, the ship was still afloat but I am not sure that I saw anyone.

Robert C Hardt

ROBERT C. HARDT
S/Sgt 17032447

Encl 2

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enc 31

✓
Sgt 1st William J. Schneider

Mrs. Rose Schneider, (Mother)
2222 South Austin Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

✓
Sgt 1st Paul F. Galtier

Mr. Edward E. Galtier, (Father)
E. F. D. Number Three, Box 60,
Bassett, Wisconsin.

✓
Sgt 1st Clayton E. Gannon

Mrs. Ellen E. Gannon, (Mother)
26 Cahill Street,
Eagan, Minn.

✓
Sgt 1st Robert H. Webb

Mr. Tracy J. Webb, (Father)
2725 South Independence,
Highland, Colorado.

✓
S/Sgt William J. Weber

Mrs. Kelly G. Weber, (Wife)
Route 71, Atlantic Beach,
St. Johns Island, Georgia.

✓
Sgt Edward J. Ward, Jr.

Mrs. Rosella M. Ward, (Wife)
217 Adams Street,
New, Pennsylvania.

✓
Sgt Edward F. McKinley

Mr. Edward F. McKinley, (Father)
124 7th Avenue,
Clinton, Pennsylvania.

✓
Sgt Louis E. Tulede

Mr. Charles E. Tulede, (Father)
7125 South Mitchell Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

✓
Sgt James E. Cassidy, Jr.

Mr. James E. Cassidy, (Father)
772 62nd Street,
Brooklyn Heights,
Long Island, New York.

✓
Sgt William F. Connell

Mrs. Annette F. Connell, (Mother)
2125 State Highway, South,
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.