

CONFIDENTIAL

by H. A. WASHINGTON, J.C. Clerk, AS
by D. M. WASHINGTON, J.C. Clerk, AS

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanella Air Base, Italy Command or Air Force 79th AF
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bomb Squadron (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanella Air Base, Italy Course Augsberg, Germany
 Target Augsberg, Germany Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10.6 Cirrus 18,000 to 27,000 feet.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 29 Oct 1944 Time 1111 Last known position ADRIATIC SEA Coast of Italy (45° 15' N 13° 35' E)
 (b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.
5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, () Enemy anti-aircraft, (X) Other Aircraft turned on its back and fell from sight.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J. AAF Serial Number 42-50867
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No nickname. Call letter "Black Zebra".
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-312934
 (b) CP-313310 (c) CP-313275 (d) CP-313151
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.) Browning 50 Cal M2
 (a) 1532067 (e) 1534577 (i) No ball turret guns,
 (b) 1527536 (f) 1534223 (j) Radar Aircraft.
 (c) 1534643 (g) 1195399 (k) _____
 (d) 1527785 (h) 1527510 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, () Non-Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 11
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial) RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
<i>Dec 1</i> Pilot	<u>Burton, Weldon K.</u> E. T. Burton, 716 W. Monroe St, Magnolia, Arkansas	<u>Major</u>	<u>01699310</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mother Mrs
<i>Dec 2</i> Co-Pilot	<u>Sheldon, Brooks (NMI)</u> Jane W. Sheldon, 621 Hillcrest, Moultrie, Georgia	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0789613</u>	<u>MIA</u> Wife Mrs
<i>Dec 3</i> Nav	<u>Dickason, Larry H.</u> William R. Dickason, 5922 Wabada, St. Louis, Missouri	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0733030</u>	<u>MIA</u> Father Mr
<i>Dec 4</i> Nav	<u>Spiller, Kyle (NMI) Jr</u> Kyle Spiller Sr, Jacksboro, Texas	<u>Major</u>	<u>0430026</u>	<u>MIA</u> Father Mr
<i>Dec 5</i> Nav	<u>Whittmore, Frank (NMI) Jr</u> Ouida R. Whittmore, 1320 No. Cleveland, Sherman, Texas	<u>3d Lt</u>	<u>0723488</u>	<u>MIA</u> Wife Mrs
<i>Dec 6</i> Bomb	<u>Cato, Royal F.</u> Verna Mae T. Cato, POB 1505, Hollywood, California	<u>Major</u>	<u>0402902</u>	<u>MIA</u> Wife Mrs
<i>Dec 7</i> Eng Gnr	<u>Boyd, Raymond I.</u> Marie Boyd, 2211 W. 11th St, Duluth, Minnesota	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>037554921</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mother Mrs
<i>Dec 8</i> Aerial Gnr	<u>Ottinger, Roscoe L.</u> Claude S. Ottinger, Rt. #4, Greenville, Tennessee	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>34889707</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mother Mrs
<i>Dec 9</i> HQ Gnr	<u>Makey, Herman O. Jr</u> Herman O. Makey Sr, 913 W. Wildwood, Fort Wayne, Indiana	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>6668728</u>	<u>MIA</u> Father Mr
<i>Dec 10</i> Aerial Gnr	<u>Dirnbaauer, Robert H.</u> Emma M. Dirnbaauer, 2235 N. 114th St, Watwatoosa, Wisconsin	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>16108073</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mother Mrs
<i>Dec 11</i> Arm Gnr	<u>Czesniuk, John A.</u> Kazimiera Czesniuk, 469 Hampshire St, Lawrence, Massachusetts	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>31562447</u>	<u>MIA</u> Mother Mrs

(12)

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		
			BY RADIO	SAW SIGHTED	FORCED CRASH LANDING
(1) <u>Charles H. Foote</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0673588</u>		<u>X</u>	
(2) <u>George (NMI) Vaskovich</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>13044271</u>		<u>X</u>	
(3) _____					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

() Parachutes were used. () Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 (X) Other reasons (specify) At no time was anyone seen to parachute from the aircraft.

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
 16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No search was made for the aircraft.

3 Inclosures.

- Incl 1 - Statement of Capt Foote (septup)
 Incl 2 - Statement of Sgt Vaskovich (septup)
 Incl 3 - Map of area where plane last seen (septup)

Walter J. Lewis
 Capt, Air Corps, Adjutant

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

30 October 1944

On the 29 October 1944 we were on our way to bomb a target in Germany. I was flying number 22 position in Able Box. At about 1110 number 11 position rolled into a turn to the left. I followed him in this turn, and as I was flying wide, had an opportunity to alternately watch him and my instruments. I stayed in the turn which seemed to increase in bank and speed until I was in a 45° bank and was indicating 225 MPH. When I saw this condition, I rolled out and returned to straight and level. I then watched position 11, 13, and 21 continue their turn. Position 11 rolled over on his back and split-essed out of sight into the clouds. At no time did I see anyone parachute from the aircraft.

Charles H. Foote
CHARLES H. FOOTE,
Capt, 0672588
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

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

30 October 1944

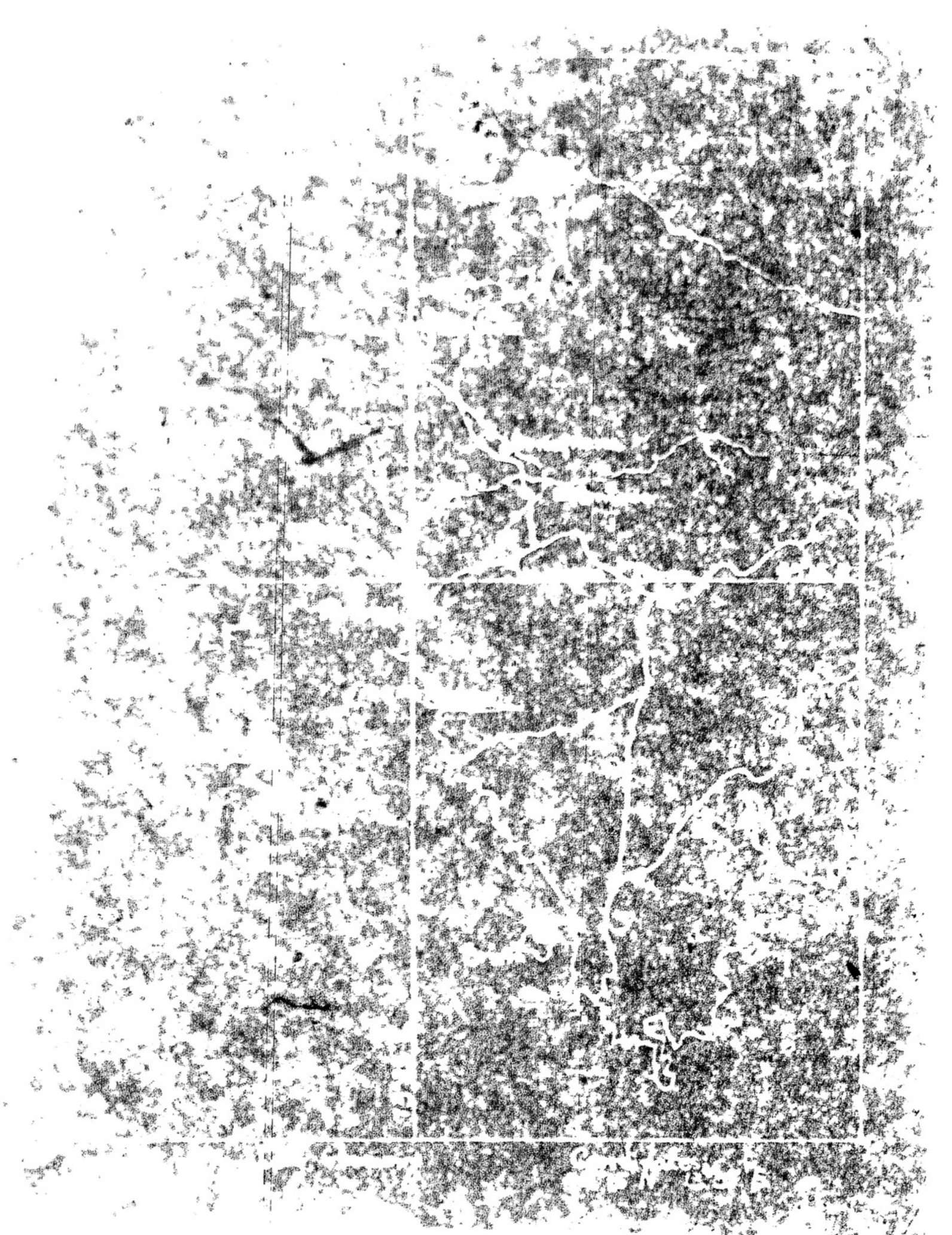
On the 29 October 1944 we were on our way to bomb a target in Germany. At about 1110 I saw Black Zebra, flown by Major Burton, out of the left waist window and it was completely on it's back. I watched it for awhile until our aircratt lurched and I could not see it anymore. The air- craft seemed to be in a flat spin on it's back, spinning to the left. I did not see any men parachute from Black Zebra. We were flying Black Charlie in position Able 23.

George Vaskovich

GEORGE VASKOVICH,
Sgt, 13044271
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

Draft # 2

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Major William L. Burton

Mrs. E. E. Burton, (Mother)
714 East Adams Street,
Englewood, Chicago.

Major Kyle Spiller, Jr.

Mrs. Kyle Spiller, (Mother) ✓
Jamboree, Texas.

Major Royal F. Gato

Mrs. Susan M. Gato, (Wife) ✓
First Street, Box 1249,
Hollywood, California.

Capt. Francis Madden

Mrs. Jane F. Madden, (Wife) ✓
621 Millmont Street,
Macon, Georgia.

1st Lt. Murray K. Robinson

Mrs. William K. Robinson, (Mother) ✓
918 Indiana Street,
South LaSalle, Missouri.

2nd Lt. Frank Whitman, Jr.

Mrs. Edna M. Whitman, (Wife) ✓
1240 North Cleveland Avenue,
Sherwin, Texas.

S/Cpt. Raymond L. Boyd

Mrs. Marie Boyd, (Mother) ✓
222 West 11th Street,
Duluth, Minnesota.

S/Cpt. Ernest J. Chlinger

Mrs. Claude J. Chlinger, (Mother) ✓
Rifle Harbor Farm,
Greenville, Tennessee.

S/Cpt. Herman C. Spiny

Mrs. Herman C. Spiny, Sr., (Mother) ✓
724 West Broadway,
Fort Worth, Texas.

S/Cpt. Robert L. Hanchman

Mrs. Ruth Hanchman, (Mother) ✓
3225 North 134th Street,
Grandview, Missouri.

S/Cpt. John A. Gumbert

Mrs. Elizabeth Gumbert, (Mother) ✓
449 Hampshire Street,
Lawrence, Massachusetts.

file my

9465

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: Pantanello A/B, Italy Command or Air Force _____
GROUP 464th Bomb GP; SQUADRON 779th Bomb GP DETACHMENT _____
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure _____; Course _____
Intended Destination Angsburg, Germany; Type of Mission _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Date 29 Oct 44 Time _____; And location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft _____
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last contacted by radio; () Forced down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check only one: () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows Plane last seen on its back over Adriatic, Germany. Going 9
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B 24 J; AAF Serial No. 42-50867
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. (a) _____
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, type and Serial Number)
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Status
1. Pilot	✓ <u>Durton, Weldon K.</u>	Major	0-1699310	✓
2. CP	✓ <u>Sheldon, Brooks</u>	Capt.	0-799613	✓
3. Navigator	✓ <u>Dickson, Larry H.</u>	1st Lt	0-733930	✓
4. Navigator	✓ <u>Spiller, Kyle</u>	Major	0-430036	✓
5. Navigator	✓ <u>Whittemore, Frank</u>	2nd Lt	0-723458	✓
6. Bombardier	✓ <u>Gale, Royal T.</u>	Major	0-402993	✓
7. EngineGunner	✓ <u>Boyd, Raymond A. J.</u>	S/Sgt	37554831	✓
8. Arm Gunner	✓ <u>Ottinger, Rocca O. Jr.</u>	S/Sgt	3488 8 707	✓
9. Radio Oper G.	✓ <u>Mahey, Herman O. Jr.</u>	S/Sgt	6668728	✓
10. Arm Gunner	✓ <u>Dickbauer, Robert H.</u>	S/Sgt	16018073	✓
11. Arm Gunner	✓ <u>Czaemink, John A.</u>	S/Sgt	31362417	✓

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

9465

WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
2.						
3.						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report _____

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

REMARKS: * down at 45° 15' N - 13° 35' W.

Call Letter "Black Zebra".

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Wm. J. C.
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AG 360.33/030-C Wrapper Ind.
HQ., MFOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 11 November 1944.

JRH/ak

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C. ✓
(Act: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Reports carrying AG Casualty Branch
Control Numbers 879 and 880.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

Jack K. Roberts
JACK K. ROBERTS,
1st Lt., AGC,
Asst. Adjutant General.

2 Incls: n/s

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NAT-F1011

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE

1 NO.	2 FROM-	3 TO-	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1	Iden. Br. Search Info. Sec. Mackenburg	Admin. Pentagon Liaison Mackenburg	4 Apr. 1949	Request status with date and verification of spelling, rank and serial number for the following individuals: Burton, Weldon K. Maj. 0-1699310 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Sheldon, Brooks Capt. 0-789613 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Dickason, Larry H. 1 Lt. 0-733030 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Spiller, Kyle Jr. Maj. 0-430026 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Whittemore, Frank Jr. 2 Lt. 0-723488 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Cato, Royal F. Maj. 0-402902 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Boyd, Raymond I. S/Sgt. 37554921 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Ottinger, Roscoe L. S/Sgt. 34888707 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Makey, Herman O. Jr. S/Sgt. 6668728 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Dirnbauer, Robert H. S/Sgt. 16108073 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> Czesniuk, Jon A. S/Sgt. 31362447 <i>DED 30 Oct. 45</i> JOHN LWR Rogers 72000
2	QM Pent. Liaison Office	Search Inf Sec Id Br Mem Div Mackenburg	7 Apr 49	Information as requested is furnished above. SEKOWSKI X-6679 E. M. D. DYER X73090