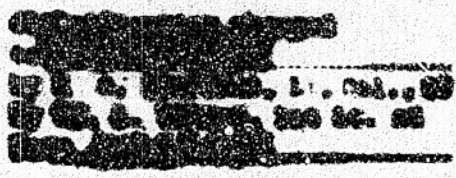


9748



*Stafus*



MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

LOCATION: Pantanella Air Base Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 484th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bombardment Sq (H)
Place of departure Pantanella Air Base Italy Course Linz, Austria
Target Linz, Austria Type of mission Bombing

OTHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Overcast

- 4. GIVE: (a) Date 18 Nov 44 Time 0830 Last known position Italy (41°08'N 15°56'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 Circumstances unknown. Aircraft last seen at
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49088 take-off.
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No nickname. Call name "Black Roger".
8. ENGINES: Type, model, & series R 1830-35 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-389137
(b) CP-389089 (c) CP-389183 (d) JP-389782
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.) Browning 50 Cal 12
(a) 450288 (e) No ball - radar plane (i) 1548545
(b) 135479 (f) 53841 (j)
(c) 315392 (g) 1263 (k)
(d) 283027 (h) 776593 (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.)

Table with columns: CREW POSITION, FULL NAME (Last, first, initial), RANK, SERIAL NUMBER, CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS. Includes entries for Pilot, Co-Pilot, Bombardier, Navigator, Radar Bomb, Eng. Car, and Serial Eng.

- 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. BY RADIO CONTACTED LAST SAW FORCED SIGHTED CRASH LANDING
(1) James E. Gilson Lt. Col. 0413958 Statement as to circumstances surrounding missing aircraft.
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) Aircraft was not seen after take-off at 0830.
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 made.

2 Enclosures.
Incl 1 - Statement of Date 17 November 1944 Lt. Col. Gilson (copy)
Incl 2 - Map of area where plane last seen (copy)
Signature of reporting officer: Lt. Col. Air Corps, Adjutant

Type 7

file no. 9748

AFPPA-14 (10 Apr 46)

MACR NO. 16170

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 Sq DETACHMENT \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure \_\_\_\_\_; Course \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Destination Linz, Austria; Type of Mission \_\_\_\_\_
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_
4. GIVE: (a) Date 15 Nov. 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 at take off. Call name # "Black Roger".)
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B 24 L; AAF Serial No. 44-49028
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mower, Paul O.	1st Lt.	0-822514	
2. CP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crabtree, Robert S.	2nd Lt.	0-823794	
3. Bombardier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cunningham, Calvin E.	2nd Lt.	0-718079	
4. Navigator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nagle, Vincent L.	2nd Lt.	0-1540537	
5. Radar Oper.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wales, Dennis E.	1st Lt.	0-762842	
6. Engineer Gunner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richie, Daniel E.	S/Sgt	16089321	
7. Radio Oper.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soloff, Milton H.	S/Sgt	35154856	
8. Arm Gunner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mix, Joseph J.	Sgt	30399195	
9. Engineer Gunner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perceli, Stephen J.	Sgt	36662076	
10. Aer. Gunner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caryn, Peter	Sgt	33004159	
11. Aer. Gunner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watt, Joseph S.	Sgt	26448145	

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

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:

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

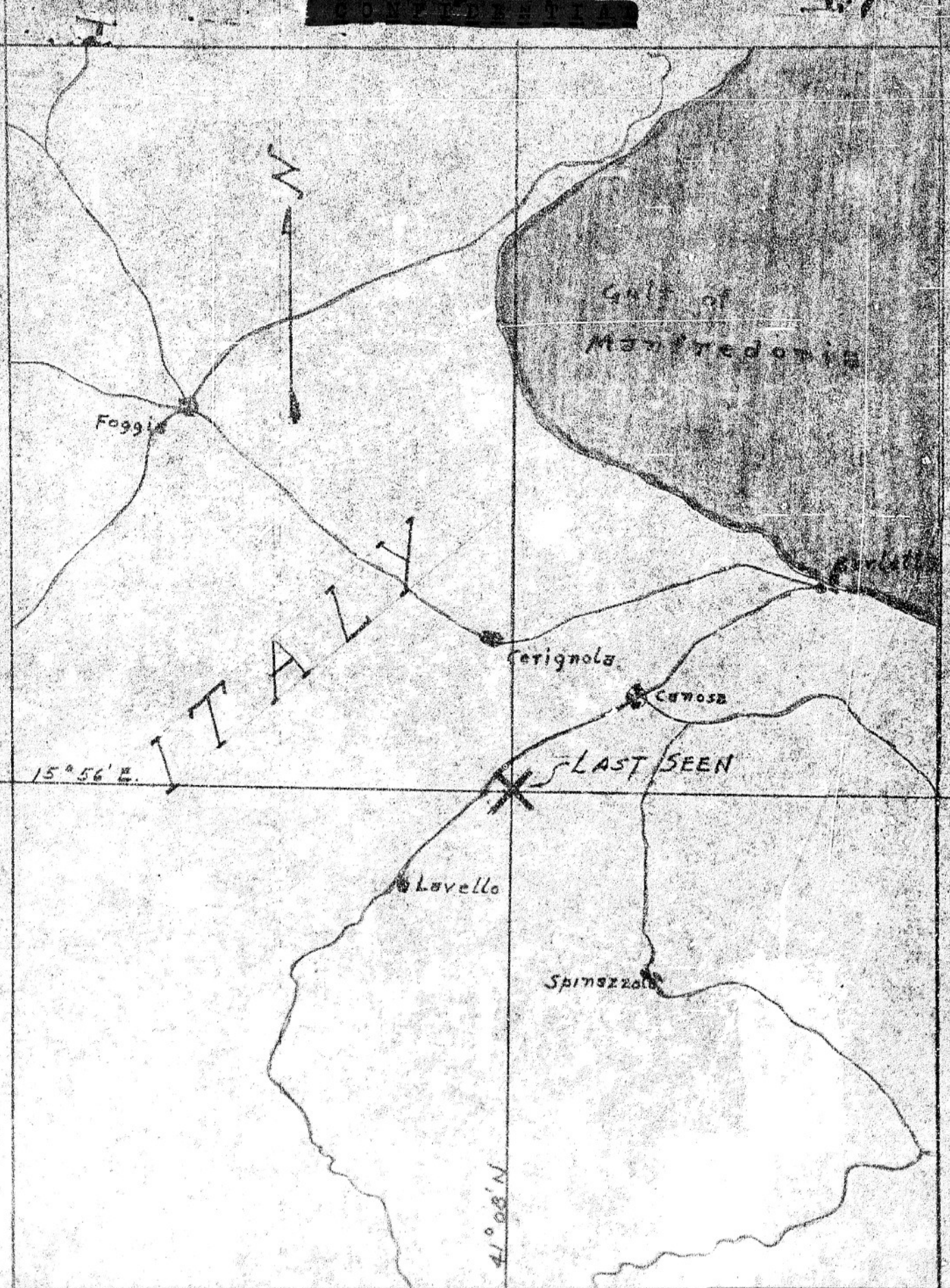
JHG/rfs

18 NOV 44.

STATEMENT

Lieutenant Mower's crew was last seen after take off from Pantanella AAB, Italy on 15 Nov 44, at 0830. His mission was a single sortie over Linz, Austria. The possible fate of this crew cannot be accurately determined. The crew may have encountered flak, enemy fighter or adverse weather. Weather conditions for the flight were as follows: Over Adriatic, 7/10 swelling cumulus and thin multi-layer clouds to 20,000 feet...thickening to the north. Tops of the clouds rose to 26,000 feet and some individual planes flew in clouds from 45° 00' N to about 30 minutes from the target. Over the target there was 10/10 altocumulus, tops of 20,000 feet. Visibility was 20 miles. Many thunderstorms were encountered by crews over the Dinarics and Eastern Alps. Moderate icing was picked up by some crews in the Fiume Area at 17000 feet. Occasionally severe turbulence was encountered in clouds by returning crews.

*James H. Gilson*  
JAMES H. GILSON,  
Lt Col., Air Corps,  
Commanding.



Foggia



Gulf of  
Manfredonia

ITALY

Cerignola

Caserta

15° 56' E.

LAST SEEN

Lavello

Spinazzola

41° 00' N

BOMBING OF LINZ, AUSTRIA  
Nov. 15, 1944

COORDINATES  
41° 00' N - 15° 56' E