

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

6920

~~SECRET~~  
Classification changed  
to ~~SECRET~~ 15 APR 66  
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. [redacted] Capt., AC  
Date: [redacted]

[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 PLOESTI. Type of Mission BOMBING
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  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. NEAR BARLETTA  
(b) Specify whether: ( ) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio  
( ) Force 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 1258911</u> | (b) <u>LN 1249264</u> | L. TOP <u>1248909</u> |
| (c) <u>RW 1258820</u> | (d) <u>RN 1249066</u> | L. TOP <u>1249162</u> |
| (e) <u>LT 1249257</u> | (f) <u>IL 1248651</u> |                       |
| (g) <u>BT 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)

	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
KIA1.	Pilot	GUTHRIE, DALE F.	2 LT	0-686466	ROLAND M. GUTHRIE (F)
KIA2.	Co Pilot.	WOLFE, ROBERT H.	2 LT	0-713677	TRACY J. WOLFE (F) RTD
EWS3.	NAV	SCHNEIDER, WILLIAM J.	2 LT	0-718431	(FROM MIA TO LIA)
KIA4.	BOMBARDIER	CONNORS, CLAYTON E.	2 LT	0-1322894	MRS ELLEN H. CONNORS (M) ST FRANCIS, MINE.
KIA5.	ENG G.	WEBER, WILLIAM J.	S/SGT	36453336	AGNES WEBER (M) EMILY WEBER (W) RFD # 4. JACKSON, MICHIGAN.
KIA6.	ROG.	McCLOSKEY, BERNARD F. JR.	SGT	13169876	BERNARD F. McCLOSKEY SR. 116 SEVENTH AVE. GLARION, PA.
KIA7.	ARMORER G.	KENNEDY, JAMES W. JR.	SGT	32811616	VIOLET KENNEDY (M) 243-22 WELKER AVE ROSEDALE, NEW YORK.
KIA8.	ARMORER G.	CORNELL, WILLIAM P.	CPL	15119151	ANNETTA P. CORNELL (M) 2425 DIXIE HIGHWAY S. Ft. MITCHELL, KY.

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997D ARMORER G. TOLEDO, LOUIS E. SGT 39274544 (FROM MIA TO LIA )  
 AERIAL G.  
 10WA WARD, ELWOOD J. JR. SGT 18159746 MADGE WARD (M)  
 425 SENAGA ST. BARTLESVILLE, OKLA.  
 ROSALLA WARD (W) 227 HAINES ST, KANE, PA:

11. 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	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 SEEN. (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.

RECEIVED



JUL 25 1944

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6720  
27  
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.

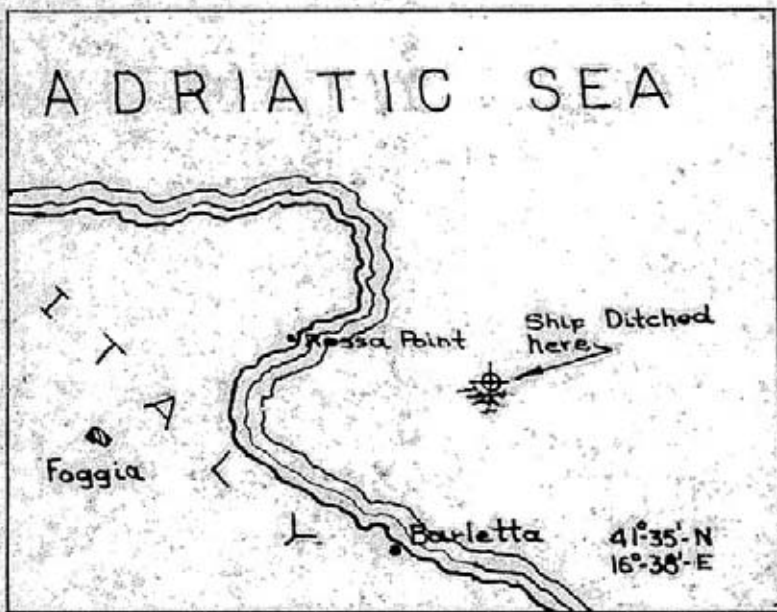
We were flying Easy Box #12 when I saw Lt Guthrie's plane at four o'clock crash into the Adriatic Sea but we were too far away to see anything very clearly. We circled back over Lt Guthrie's plane and it was broken in two at the waist. I think I saw three men holding on to the left wing but am not sure 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

*Incl 2*

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d



Sheet 3!

✓  
Sgt 10 William J. Schneider

Mrs. Ruth Schneider, (Mother)  
2929 South Avenue Street,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

✓  
Sgt 10 Duke F. Galtier

Mr. Edward E. Galtier, (Father)  
R. F. D. Route Three, Box 69,  
Dresden, Wisconsin.

✓  
Sgt 10 Clayton E. Gammere

Mrs. Ellen E. Gammere, (Mother)  
20 Cahill Street,  
Eugene, Idaho.

✓  
Sgt 10 Robert H. Telle

Mr. Tracy J. Telle, (Father)  
2725 South Indigotta,  
Highland, California.

✓  
S/Sgt William J. Weber

Mrs. Kelly G. Weber, (Wife)  
Route 71, Atlantic Beach,  
P. O. Box 1000, Georgia.

✓  
Sgt Edward J. Ward, Jr.

Mrs. Lucille E. Ward, (Wife)  
217 Nelson Street,  
New, Pennsylvania.

✓  
Sgt Edward F. McShay

Mr. Edward F. McShay, (Father)  
124 7th Avenue,  
Clarkston, Pennsylvania.

✓  
Sgt Louis E. Telle

Mr. Charles E. Telle, (Father)  
7120 South Hollywood Avenue,  
Los Angeles, California.

✓  
Sgt James E. Cassidy, Jr.

Mr. James E. Cassidy, (Father)  
3728 66th Street,  
Brooklyn Heights,  
Long Island, New York.

✓  
Sgt William F. Council

Mrs. Annette F. Council, (Mother)  
2225 State Highway, South,  
Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.