

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

6996

Pantanello A/B Italy
 464th Bn (H) 777th Bn
 Pantanello AAB, Italy
 Florenti Oil Refinery Roumania

15th AF
 325⁰
 Bombing

3/10 Cumulus to 10,000 ft. Visibility 15 miles in haze
 28 Jul 44 1020H
 44°56'N 26°02'E

x

x

	B-24 H B-1830-45	41-29275	42-42577
	L2-92620	HP-429075	42-89613
RB-369393 RB-40629	RT-232354 LR-370663	LB-231162 LR-370025	RB-362573 RB-369189
			X
		10	0 10

	Jones, Ellsworth D.	2nd Lt.	0 818 696	KIA
	Bumbarry, Paul, Jr.	2nd Lt.	0 764 306	KIA
B	Murphy, Francis P.	F/O	7 124 724	MIA
B	Sullivan, John F. —	2nd Lt.	0 708 861	KIA
AMJ	Stein, Robert C. —	T/Sgt.	33 426 036	MPD
AMM G.	Griffin, Walter S.	S/Sgt.	12 005 169	KIA
RCM G.	Yang, Robert M.	T/Sgt.	11 119 850	MPD
AMM G.	Bottoms, Charles L.	S/Sgt.	33 628 053	KIA
APMD G.	Payne, James L.	S/Sgt.	17 054 081	KIA
AMM G.	James, Don G., Jr.	S/Sgt.	38 388 017	KIA

Gardner, Lawrence E.	S/Sgt.	36 580 208	X
Hoore, Edward D.	S/Sgt.	16 175 856	X
Gresham, Arthur M.	2/Lt.	0 822 423	X *cont'd

No parachutes were seen

No search, as plane blew up over enemy territory

30 July 1944

E. M. O'BRIEN

Adjutant

*Blum, Harry H. 2nd Lt. 0 690 352 Last sighted

~~11A~~ ARM G BOTTOMS, CHARLIE L. S/Sgt 32628053 Mr & Mrs Curtis L. Bottoms (M & F) 205 Hansmond Circle, Norfolk, Va.
~~11A~~ ARM G PAYNE, JAMES L. S/Sgt 17056021 Mrs Nardine M. Payne (M) Northport, Nebraska
~~11A~~ ARM G JAMES, BEN G. JR. S/Sgt 38382017 Mr Ben G. James Sr. (F) 832 Linden St. Shreveport, La.

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND GIVE APPROPRIATE (only one) - CIRCLE IN LEFT HAND COLUMN:

NAME IN FULL	AFSC	SERIAL NO	See also	Lighted	Crash	Forced Landing
GARDNER, LAWRENCE E.	S/Sgt	36580208		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
MOORE, EDWARD D.	S/Sgt	16175856		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
GRESHAMER, ARTHUR M.	2 Lt	0-522123		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
BLAU, HARRY H.	2 Lt	0-690352		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE OBSERVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 Parachutes were used Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
 Any other reason (specify): No parachutes were seen

- ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, ANY OTHER DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- 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 reasons) No search, as plane blew up over enemy territory.

Date of this Report: 30 July 1944.

Signature of Officer

E.M. O'Reilly
 E.M. O'REILLY
 Capt AC,
 Adj.

- 6 Incls:
 Incl 1. Statement, S/Sgt Gardner
 Incl 2. Statement, S/Sgt Moore
 Incl 3. Statement, Lt Greshamer
 Incl 4. Statement, Lt Blau
 Incl 5. Aerial Photograph
 Incl 6. Location Sketch.



ARC

2nd Lt Ellsworth D. Jones ✓

Mrs. Edna D. Jones, (Mother)
Waco, Kansas.

2nd Lt Paul Hennesberry, Jr. ✓

Mrs. Louise J. Hennesberry, (Mother)
38 Ware Street,
San Francisco, California.

P/O Francis P. Murphy ✓

Mr. Frank P. Murphy, (Father)
Bartlett, New Hampshire.

2nd Lt John F. Sullivan ✓

Mrs. Gladis J. Sullivan, (Wife)
One Lincoln,
Westboro, Massachusetts.

T/Sgt Robert C. Stein ✓

Mr. Thomas Stein, (Father)
3034 Lehigh Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

S/Sgt Walter S. Griffin ✓

Mrs. Rena Griffin, (Mother)
21 Maple Street,
Whitchell, New York.

Mrs. Geneva Griffin, (Wife)
30 South Governor's Avenue,
Dover, Delaware.

T/Sgt Robert H. Yang ✓

Mrs. Evangeline Yang, (Mother)
102 Fenton Road,
Quincy, Massachusetts.

S/Sgt Charlie L. Bottoms ✓

Mrs. Marie J. Bottoms, (Mother)
205 Hammond Circle,
Norfolk, Virginia.

S/Sgt James L. Payne ✓

Mr. Leo A. Payne, (Father)
Route 64,
Northport, Nebraska.

S/Sgt Ben G. Jones, Jr. ✓

Mr. Ben G. Jones, Sr., (Father)
632 Linden Street,
Shreveport, Louisiana.

29 July 1944

I was left Waist Gunner flying in Easy Box 11. Just before Bombs Away I heard some one shout over the interphones "Ship blew up". I was shooting some pictures at the time and looked down and saw a large cloud of smoke. I turned my camera right at it and I snapped the picture. This was right after the explosion. I saw pieces of the plane going down in flames. There were no chutes from this plane but two men bailed out of YB which was right close to YI.

Lawrence E. Gardner

S/Sgt Lawrence E Gardner
36580208
778 Bomb Sq (H)

filed

29 July 1944

I was Tail Turret Gunner on Lt Luque's plane which was flying Able Box 21. I heard an explosion and felt the concussion. I looked off to the left and saw YI in Able Box 22 in flames from in front of the wings clear back to the tail. Then it fell apart and the scattered pieces began to drop in flames. I figured that the plane got a direct flak hit in the open bombays and started the tank on fire and then it exploded. I saw no chutes.

Edward D. Moore
Sgt Edward D. Moore
16175096

29 July 1944

I was Co-Pilot on Lt Col's plane which was flying blind. I saw bombs leaving a ship in Baker Bay area surely. He was flying in formation over Able Box in which Lt Col's plane was flying. I did not see any bombs hit it but the plane blew up the moment the bombs would have struck the plane so that it looked to me as if the explosion was caused by one of the bombs hitting it.

Arthur W. Grechauer

2nd Lt Arthur W Grechauer
O-52123

29 July 1944

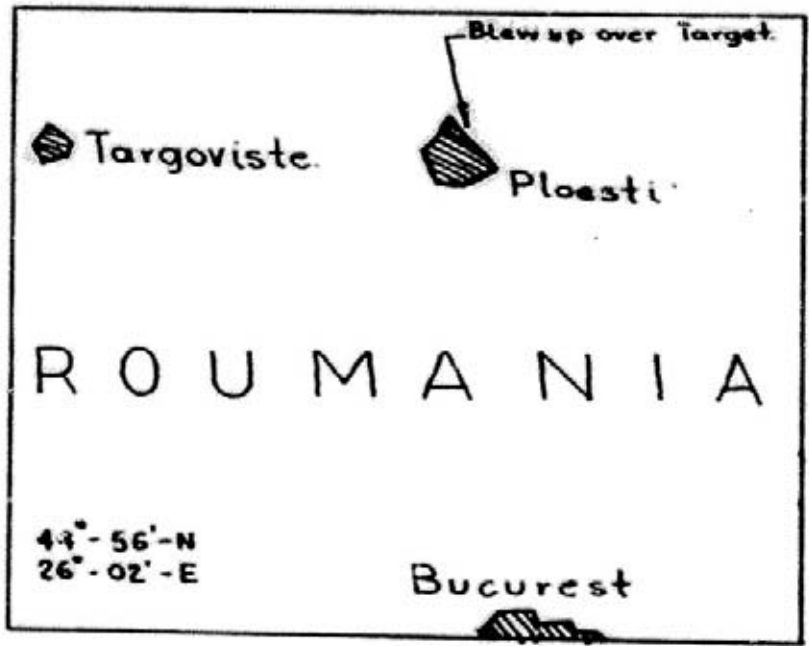
I was Navigator on Lt Schad's plane. Shortly before Bomb No. 1 was
latching out the nose window and happened to be looking right at YI. I saw
several bombs descending right over this plane, still falling in a horizon-
tal position, just as they fell out of the bomb racks. Before I had time even
to think that they might hit the plane, there was a tremendous explosion
and YI blew up in a great flash and cloud of smoke in mid air.

Harry H. Blaw
2nd Lt Harry ■ Elen
0-690352



REAR VIEW OF DEBRIS OF LT JONES' PLANE SECONDS AFTER EXPLOSION
OVER BUNTON, TEXAS, 28 JULY 1944

MADE BY CAPT LAWRENCE L. GARDNER
10440108



March 1976

Sheet 6 -