

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. Bradunas, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. Muench, Capt., AC
Date Mar 15 1946

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9748

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello Air Base Italy Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bombardment Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAB, Pantanello, Italy Course Linz, Austria
Target Linz, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Overcast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 15, Nov 44 Time 0830 Last known position Italy (41°08'N 15°56'E)
(b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last Contacted by radio, No Information.
5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST), AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
 Enemy Aircraft, Enemy Anti-Aircraft, Other: Circumstances Unknown; Aircraft last
seen at take off.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24L AAF Serial Number 44-49028
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No nickname. Call Name "Black Roger".
8. ENGINES: Type, model and series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-329137
(b) CP-329089 (c) CP-329123 (d) CP-329792
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Browning 50 Cal M2
(a) 450368 (e) No ball - radar plane (i) 1549545
(b) 135479 (f) 52841 (j) _____
(c) 315382 (g) 1283 (k) _____
(d) 223027 (h) 776593 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: 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	CURRNT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS	
DED✓ (1) Pilot	Mower, Homer O. 1 st Lt. O822514	MIA✓	Mrs. Norman Mower (Mother) 50 West Main St, Mechanicsburg, Pa	5
DED✓ (2) Co Pilot:	Crabtree, Robert S. 2 nd Lt., O823794	MIA	Mr. Alfred E. Crabtree (Father) Hancock, Maine	2
DED✓ (3) Bombardier	Cunningham, Calvin E. 2 nd Lt., O718079	MIA	Mr. John A. Cunningham Jr. (Father) 604 Beaver Ave, Midland, Pa.	3
DED✓ (4) Navigator:	Nagle, Vincent L. 2 nd Lt., O1540537	MIA✓	Mr. John J. Nagle Jr. (Father) 170 Reservoir Rd, Brookline, Ma	6
DED✓ (5) Radar Bomb	Wales Dennis G. 1 st Lt., O762842	MIA	Mr. Beatrice T. Wales (Father) 4720 Findlay St, Seattle, Wa	10
DED✓ (6) Eng-Gnr	Reichle, Daniel E. S/Sgt., 16089321	MIA	Mrs. Mary Reichle (Mother) 3132 N. 41 st St, Milwaukee, Wi	8
DED✓ (7) ROM-Gnr	Soloff, Milton H. S/Sgt., 35154856	MIA	Mrs. Sally Soloff (Wife) Churubusco, In	9
DED✓ (8) Arm Gnr:	Nix, Joseph H. Sgt., 30399195	MIA	Mrs. Anna Nix (Mother) 2857 Custer Ave, Pittsburgh #10, Pa	7
DED✓ (9) Eng Gnr	Berceli, Stephen J. Sgt., 36662076	MIA✓	Mrs. Theresa Berceli (Mother) 740 E. 91 st St, Chicago Ill	1
DED✓ (10) Aerial Gnr	Caryga, Peter (NMI) Sgt., 33004159	MIA	Mrs. Mary Caryga (Mother) 313 Franklin Ave, Phoenixville, Pa	4

DED✓	(11) Aerial Gnr	Watt, Joseph B. Sgt., 36448145	MIA	Mrs. Elsie M. Watt (Wife) RFD #1 Alton, Ill	11
------	-----------------	-----------------------------------	-----	--	----

954

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:

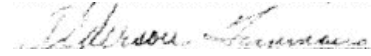
NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
(1) James H. Gilson	Lt. Col	0413958	Statement as to circumstances surrounding	Missing Aircraft		
(2)						
(3)						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
() Parachutes were used () Persons seen walking away from scene of 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 No search made

Enclosures:

Incl 1- Statement of Lt Col Gilson (septup). Date 17 November 1944
Incl 2- Map of area where plane was last sighted.
Incl 3-


ALDERSON TIMMONS,
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

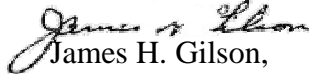
779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

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 this multilayer 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 Dinarico and Eastern Alps. Moderate icing was picked up by some crews in the Fiume Area at 17,000 feet. Occasionally severe turbulence was encountered in clouds by returning crews.


James H. Gilson,
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Commanding.

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: Pantanella 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 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 SEEN 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, 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 ARE 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	▲ Mower, Paul O.	1 st . Lt	O-822514	
2. CP	✓ Crabtree, Robert S.	2 nd . Lt	O-823794	
3. Bombardier	✓ Cunningham, Calvin E.	2 nd . Lt	O-718079	
4. Navigator	✓ Nagle, Vincent L.	2 nd . Lt	O-1540537	
5. Radar Oper.	✓ Wales, Dennis G.	1 st . Lt	O-762842	
6. Engineer Gunner	▲ Richie, Daniel E.	S/Sgt	16089321	
7. Radio Oper.	✓ Soloff, Milton H.	S/Sgt	35154856	
8. Arm Gunner	✓ Nix, Joseph J.	Sgt	30399195	
9. Engineer Gunner	✓ Perceli, Stephen J.	Sgt	36662076	
10. Aer. Gunner	▲ Caryga, Peter	Sgt	33004159	
11. Aer Gunner	✓ Watt, Joseph S.	Sgt	36448145	

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

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

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:

