

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 11/11/2011 BY 60322 UCBAW/SJS

CONFIDENTIAL  
 TO RESTRICTED  
 BY 1. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO  
 BY 11. MAF/FORMAS 1st Lt. AD  
 Date

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON  
 MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

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.

- Organization: Location DECIMO MANU, SARDINIA; Command or Air Force 12th Air Force  
 Group 320th Bomb (M) Squadron; Detachment 442nd Bomb
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Decimomannu; Course see reverse side  
 Intended Destination Marziani-Declimonanu; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: CAUW
- GIVE: (a) Date 29-1-44; Time 14:29; and Location 1 mile west of Ladispoli, Italy  
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
 (b) Specify Whether ( ) Last Sighted; ( ) Last Contacted by Radio;  
 ( ) Forced Down; (X) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS TO HAVE BEEN BELIEVED LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
 (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_
- AIRCRAFT TYPE, Model and Series B-26B-45; AAF Serial Number 42-95763
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-43; AAF Serial Number (c) 1-42-262801  
 (b) R-42-263061 (c)
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnished below make, Type and Serial Number  
 (a) 916924; (b) 920652; (c) 400896; (d) 402143 933834  
 (e) 632311; (f) 632365; (g) 933657; (h) 933792 932898
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty; Battle Casualty  
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty; Passengers 0;  
 TOTAL 7

(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full		Rank	Serial Number
	(Last Name First)	Rank		
1. Pilot	STEPHENSON, ELBERT O.	1st Lt.		0-724653
2. Co-Pilot	CONLEY, ROBERT J.	2nd Lt.		0-688908
3. Bombardier	MESSEMER, JOSEPH J.	1st Lt.		0-725465
4. Bombardier-Gunner	YOUNG, HOWARD W.	S/ser		13046272

DED  
 DED  
 DED  
 DED

US CONFIDENTIAL EQUALS BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL (L)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**DED** 5. Radio Gunner STRASBURGER, HARRY I. Col 120/1077 ✓  
**DED** 6. Special Radio Oper. GILBERT, ALBERT R. S/Sgt 31110612 ✓  
**DED** 7. Tail Gunner GARR, GEORGE A. Sgt 21218932 ✓  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Rank	2nd Lt. 0-671891	Contacted		Saw	
				by Radio	Lost	Forced Landing	Crash
1. CONRAD, OLIVER R.							
2. _____							
3. _____							
4. _____							

12. 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 No. \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) 7 Parachutes were seen to open.

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH, OR CHART SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE LAST AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE Air-Sea Rescue was notified immediately through channels.

Date of Report 31 January 1944

2. Course: 42 deg. T for 242 miles; 62 deg. T for 18 miles; 289 deg. M for 14 miles; 180 deg. T for 12 miles; 222 deg. T for 242 miles.

*James R. Edwards*  
(Signature of preparing officer)

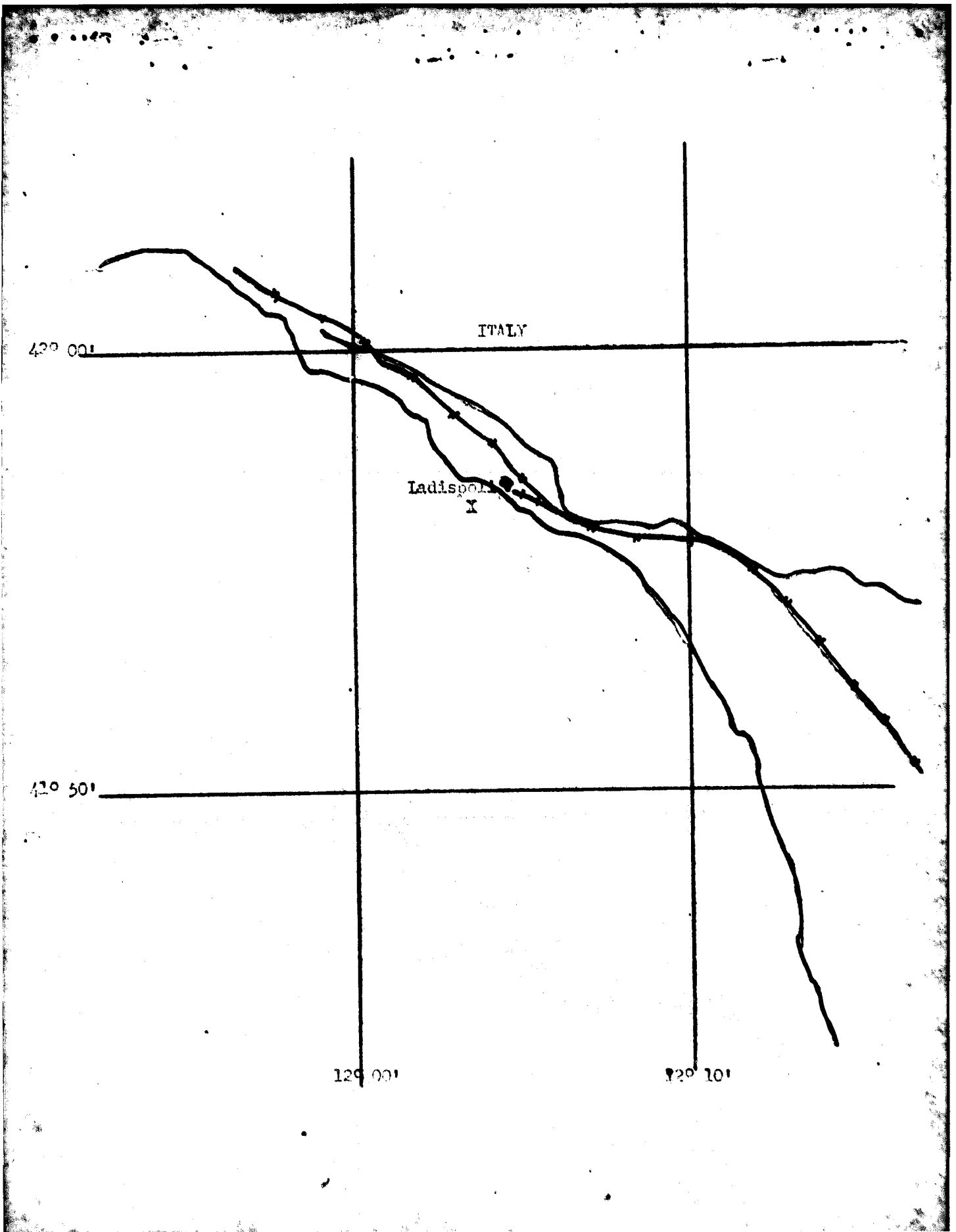
JAMES R. EDWARDS  
Captain, Air Corps  
Statistical Officer

MAR 9 1944



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Air A C



### STATEMENT

After leaving the target and just before reaching the coast Lt. Stephenson's Plane with bomb bay doors still open and flame coming out started bobbing up and down and the plane came alongside the formation a few seconds after leaving the coast. The pilot succeeded in closing the bomb bay doors and turned Southeast toward land, hitting the water one (1) mile off the coast of Ladispoli, Italy. Seven (7) parachutes were seen to open before the aircraft went in. Two (2) parachutes were reported lighting on land and the other five (5) on the water.

*William Cook*  
WILLIAM COOK,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Gp. Intelligence Officer.

~~U S C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

~~(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)~~

adl  
L

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 650 US ARMY

1 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, 42nd Wing (US), APO 650.


1. Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Reports for the following named personnel:

1st Lt. Elbert O. Stephenson, O-724653  
2nd Lt. Robert L. Conley, O-611791  
1st Lt. Joseph L. Mastayer, O-725465  
S/Sgt. Howard W. Young, 13046272  
Cpl. Harry L. Strasburger, 12041077  
S/Sgt. Alfred R. Gilbert, 31110612  
Sgt. George A. Carr, 31215532

2nd Lt. William R. Wheeler, O-610562  
2nd Lt. Edward A. Schumier, O-610511  
S/Sgt. John E. Harris, 13021611  
S/Sgt. Raymond J. Gamache, 31054556  
Sgt. John E. Aughey, Jr., 33324557  
Sgt. Richard A. Long, 38149205

2. Battle Casualty Reports on the above named personnel were submitted 30 January 1944.

For the Group Commander:


  
GROVE C. COLE,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

2-Incls.  
Missing Air Crew Reports (in quint)

319.11 1st Ind. C-3  
HEADQUARTERS 42ND WING (US), APO 650, US Army, 3 February 1944.

TO: Commanding General, XII Bomber Command, APO 650, US Army.

2 Incls: n/c

  
J. B. B.  
KAB

~~U S C O N F I D E N T I A L~~  
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

319.11 2nd Ind. C/HAH/wr  
HEADQUARTERS, XII BOMBER COMMAND, APO 650, US ARMY, 5 FEBRUARY 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650, US Army.

SAB  
S. J. B.

2 Incls: n/c

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. XAG-LHG-jap-26  
HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 19 Feb 1944.

TO: CG, MATOUSA, APO 534, US Army. Att: Battle Cas Section.

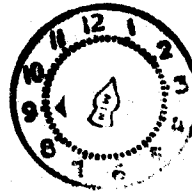
1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B 120) submitted 18 February 1944.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls: n/c

C. C. PARKS, 1234  
Major, AGD,  
Asst Adj General.

MAR 9 1944



RECEIVED  
AIR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCL A 10

2

First Lt. Elbert O. Stephenson ✓

Mrs. Norma Dale Stephenson, (Wife)  
Box 203,  
Robert Lee, Texas.

First Lt. Joseph L. Mestayer ✓

Mr. William C. Mestayer, (Father)  
Broussard, Louisiana.

Second Lt. Robert L. Conley ✓

Mrs. Mavis Conley, (Mother)  
5848 Clemens Street,  
St Louis, Missouri.

Staff Sergeant Howard W. Young ✓

Mrs. Mary E. Young, (Mother)  
5726 Leonard Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Corporal Harry L. Strasburger ✓

Mr. William R. Strasburger, (Father)  
620 West 172nd Street,  
New York, New York.

Staff Sergeant Alfred R. Gilbert ✓

Mrs. Annie Gilbert, (Mother)  
Dry Hill Road,  
Rochester, New Hampshire.

Sergeant George A. Carr ✓

Mrs. Gladys A. Carr, (Mother)  
Rural Free Delivery #7, Box 70,  
Gardiner, Maine.