

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**  
 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG  
 by P. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
 Date OCT 15 1945

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 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG  
 by W. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt., AG  
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ACQUISITION BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL  
 AIR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON  
 MISSING AIR CREW 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.

1. Organization: Location DECIMOMANU, SARDINIA; Command or Air Force 12th Air Force  
 Group 320th Bomb (M) Squadron / 43rd Bomb; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_  
 SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_; Course See reverse side
2. SIGHTED: Point of Departure Decimomanu; Type of Mission Combat  
 Extended Destination Marziani-Decimomanu; I/O of Mission \_\_\_\_\_  
 WEATHER, CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR LAST REPORTED: CAVU
4. GIVE: (a) Date 29-1-44; Time 14:45; and Location 41 deg 30' N, 11 deg 05' E  
 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 LCST, OR IS TO HAVE BEEN BELIEVED LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
 (X) Enemy Aircraft: ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft: ( ) Other circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26H16; AAF Serial Number 41-24922  
 ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-41; AAF Serial Number (a) 1-42-16708  
(b) 1-42-16517 (c) \_\_\_\_\_
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnished below make, Type and Serial Number  
 (a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_; Serial numbers  
 (e) \_\_\_\_\_; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_; not available.
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (c) Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_ Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_  
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_  
 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6; Passengers 0;  
 TOTAL 6

(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	(Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	WHEELER, WILLIAM R.	2nd Lt.	0-680562
2. Co-pilot	SCHMIDT, EDWARD A.	2nd Lt.	0-680518
3. Bombardier	HARRIS, JOHN E.	S/ Sgt.	16028811
4. Radio Gunner	GAFFNEY, RAYMOND J.	S/ Sgt.	31084856

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5. Engineer Gunner ALBNEY, JOHN E., JR. Sgt.  
6. Tail Gunner LONG, RICHARD A. Sgt.

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

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
				radio	Sighted	Person	Landing
1.	HAYE, RICHARD S.	T/O	T-120426				Saw Crash
2.	HARTE, ROBERT D.	2nd Lt.	O-672091				Saw Crash

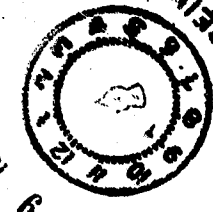
4. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, LIST THEM TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used; (b) persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) any other reason (Specify) None
13. ATTACHED TO PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH, OR CHART SHOWING AIRCRAFT'S LOCATION WHERE LAST AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN.
14. ATTACH BRIEF 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 SMALL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. Air-Sea Rescue notified immediately through channels.

2. Course: 42 deg. T for 242 miles; 62 deg. T of Report for 18 miles; 289 deg. T 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



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41° 30'

41° 20'

TYRRHENIAN SEA

11° 00'

11° 10'

S T A T E M E N T

Lt. Wheeler's Plane was attacked by fighters just after making the turn north of Rome at 1412 hours. Its tail was partially shot away and one engine caught on fire. The pilot stayed in formation until about 15 miles west of the coast, then headed for Corsica with an escort of 3 B-26's. No radio contact could be made with it by the escort, and escort saw it go down to 2000', fall sharply to 1100', and explode at 1445 hours at 41° 30' N, 11° 05' E. No chutes were seen. An oil slick and one Mae West, partially on fire, was seen.

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

X

M.A.C.R. # 2309

Date - Jan 29, 1944

Crew.

Name	Rank	Serial #	
1. Aughey, Jr., John E.	Sgt.	3332453-7	KIA
2. Yamachi, Raymond J.	S/Sgt.	31084856	KIA
3. Harris, John E.	S/Sgt.	16028811	KIA
4. Long, Richard A.	Sgt.	38149205	KIA
5. Schumier, Edward A.	2nd Lt.	0-680518	KIA
6. Wheeler, William R.	2nd Lt.	0-680562	KIA

copy statement  
X

Second Lt. William R. Wheeler

Mrs. Margaret L. Wheeler, (Wife)  
1416 - 11st Avenue North,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

Second Lt. Edward A. Schmar

Mrs. Nettie E. Schmar, (Mother)  
81 Dudley Avenue,  
Rosburg, New York.

Staff Sergeant John E. Harris

Mrs. Pauline Harris, (Mother)  
629 South 22nd Street,  
Bellwood, Illinois.

Staff Sergeant Raymond J. Gansche

Mrs. Mary T. Gansche, (Wife)  
69 Hollis Street,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Sergeant Richard A. Long

Mrs. Clara E. Long, (Mother)  
1224 17th Street,  
Boulder, Colorado.

Sergeant John E. Aughey, Jr.

Mr. John E. Aughey, Sr., (Father)  
4922 Westminister Avenue,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.