

~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

Class Restriction changed
to **RESTRICTED**

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
WAR 15 1948

by E. BRODINAS, Lt. Col., AG
By Wm. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AG
Date

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 Decimomannu, Sardinia; Command or Air Force XII Air Force
Group 320th Bomb; Squadron 443rd Bomb Sq.; Detachment
Course See Page 2
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Decimomannu, Sardinia; Type of Mission Combat
Intended Destination Decimo, Corte, Decimo; Type of CRASH OR WHEN LAST OBSERVED:
MISSIONS AND TRAIL
- WF CAMU; and location Vicinity of Lake Vico
- GIVE: (a) Date 16 Jan 44 Time 12:35
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify Whether (X) Last Sighted: () Last Contacted by Radio;
() Specified: () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
() Forced Down: () Seen to HAVE BEEN BELIEVED LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
(X) Enemy Aircraft: () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other circumstances as follows _____
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS TO HAVE BEEN BELIEVED LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
() _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B26C11; AAF Serial Number 41-34900
- ENGINES: Type: Model and Series R-2800-43; AAF Serial Number (a) 42-51336
(b) L-42-51243; (c) _____ (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnished below make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 10 MG Cal .50; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle Casualty
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____; Passengers _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6; Passengers _____
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.)

Serial Number	Name in Full		Rank
	(Last Name First)		
1. Pilot	X SPACE, JOHN R.	1st Lt.	0-792319 ✓
2. Co-pilot	X RADER, GORDON L.	2nd Lt.	0-738463 ✓
3. Bombardier	X WRIGHT, HENRY H.	Sgt.	15019670 ✓
4. Crew member	X RYDAL, STEPHEN S.	Sgt.	32076524 ✓

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33219553
13029532

CREEDIE, BUFORD B. ✓ s/sgt.

RUDOLPH, FRANCIS G. ✓ Sgt.

- 5. AERIAL GUNNER
- 6. ENGINEER GUNNER

D
DED

10. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT,

AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check only one column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. COONS, HENRY L.	32447578		X		
2.					
3.					

4. 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) Unknown

Ship was last seen heading south in vicinity of Lake Yico, with both engines smoking. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, OR SKETCH, OR CHART SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE LAST AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN.

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

14. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. No Search

2. Course - 41° T for 242 miles,
30° T for 24 miles, 66° M for
15 miles, 228° T for 27 miles
221° T for 242 miles.

Date of Report 18 January 1943

1944

James R. Edwards

(Signature of preparing officer)

JAMES R. EDWARDS,

Captain, Air Corps,

Statistical Officer.



(2)

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S T A T E M E N T

After making landfall, I saw the right engine of Lt. Spaces' ship start to smoke and the next time I looked which was approximately two minutes later, I noticed both engines smoking. Then Lt. Spaces' ship began to lag behind and lose altitude. He salvoed his bombs and it looked like he was going to catch up to us. Then I saw 3 fighters, BE-109, making passes at him. Just as we entered our bomb run, Lt. Spaces' ship went off to the right. I thought Lt. Spaces' ship was going to the right to catch up to us after we turned to the right after the bomb run. The ship at that time was at about 4000 feet and seemed to be under control. That was the last time any of us saw his ship.

Sgt. Harry L. Coons

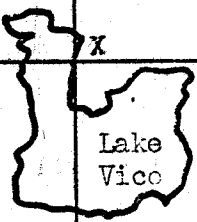
HARRY L. COONS, S/Sgt., 32447578,
443rd Bomb Squadron.

Viterbo

When last sighted plane was proceeding southward, with both engines smoking.

42°
20'

Vetralla



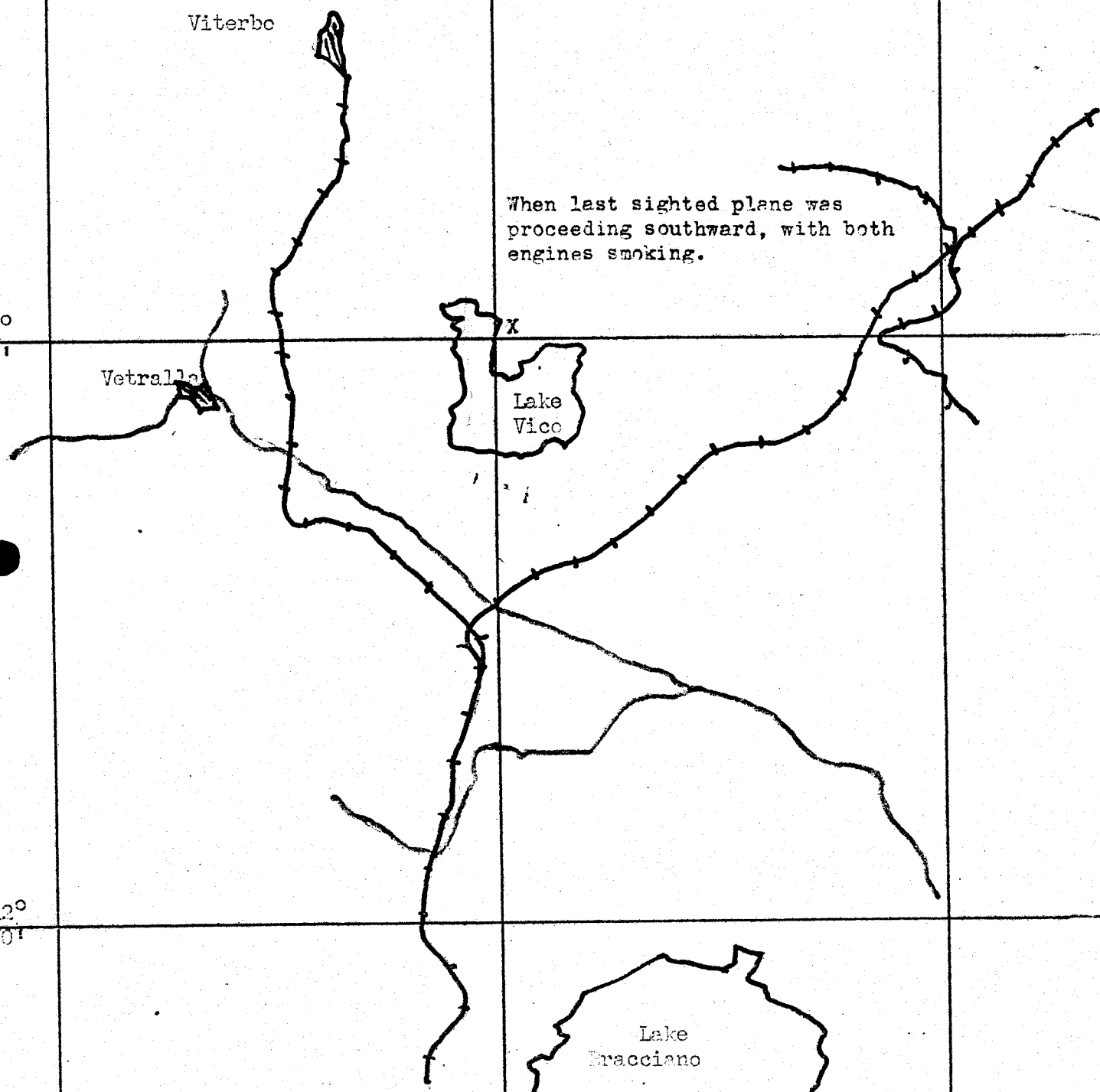
42°
10'



12° 00'

12° 10'

12° 20'



1st Lt. John R. Space

Mr. James A. Space, (Father)
88 Warrington Place,
East Orange, New Jersey.

2d Lt. Gordon L. Rader

Mrs. Marian S. Rader, (Wife)
210 Magnolia Avenue,
Oxnard, California.

Sgt. Henry H. Wright

Mrs. Thetis B. Wright, (Wife)
Arlin,
Ohio.

Sgt. Francis G. Rudolph

Mr. George W. Rudolph, (Uncle)
615 East Cornwall Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

S/Sgt. Buford B. Creedle

Mrs. Georgia H. Creedle, (Mother)
2007 Monteiro Avenue,
Richmond, Virginia.

Sgt. Stephen S. Rydel

Mrs. Mary Rydel, (Mother)
214 Maryland Avenue,
Wilmington, Delaware.

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AG 519.11 5th Ind. C-3
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 31 January 1944.

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

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

Joseph B. Bott
JOSEPH B. BOTT,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

7 Incls: n/c

J.B.

319.11 6th Ind. C-HAH-rfg
HEADQUARTERS XII BOMBER COMMAND, APO 650, US Army, 2 February 1944.

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

Attention invited to 4th Indorsement.

For the Commanding Officer:

Samuel J. Blocher
SAMUEL J. BLOCHER,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

7 Incls: n/c

AG 360.33 7th Ind XAG-LHG-jap-5
HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 18 Feb 1944.

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

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Casualties reported by this hq on consolidated Battle Casualty Report submitted 18 Feb 44.

For the Commanding General:

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

7 Incls: n/c

MAR 9 1944



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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
A.P.O. 520 U. S. Army

21 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, 42nd Wing (US), APO 520.

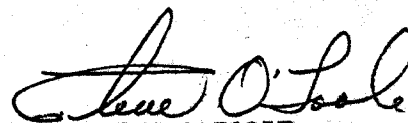
1. Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Reports for the following named battle casualties:

1st Lt. John R. Space, O-792319
2nd Lt. Gordon L. Rader, O-738463
Sgt. Henry H. Wright, 15019601
Sgt. Stephen S. Rydal, 32076524
S/Sgt. Buford B. Creedle, 33219553
Sgt. Francis G. Rudolph, 13029532

1st Lt. Joseph A. Green, O-727717
1st Lt. John B. Stewart, O-670657
1st Lt. Jerome (NMI) Banicki, O-731436
2nd Lt. Lansdale W. McDaniel, Jr., O-682203
S/Sgt. Harold W. DeLisle, 32276519
S/Sgt. William J. Gardner, 32388039
S/Sgt. William A. Harrison, 12012622
Major James L. McCrory, O-789189

2. Battle Casualty Report on the above named personnel was submitted 17 January 1944.

For the Group Commander:



CLEVE O'TOOLE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:
Missing Air Crew Reports.

AG 319.11 1st Ind. C-3
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND WING (US), APO 520, US ARMY, 21 January 1944.

TO: Commanding General, XII Bomber Command, APO 520, US Army.

J. B. B.
J. B. B.
J.B.B.

Corrected listing of Incls as Rec'd:

7 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 2 - Sketch.
- Incl 3 - Statement of S/Sgt Coons.
- Incl 4 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 5 - Sketch.
- Incl 6 - Statement of Captain Brewer.
- Incl 7 - Statement of 2nd Lt. Powers.

AG 319.11 2nd Ind. C/BIM/wm
HEADQUARTERS, XII BOMBER COMMAND, APO 650, US ARMY, 25 JANUARY 1944.

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

1. Returned for following corrections.

a. 1st Lt. Space and crew.

- (1) Battle Casualty Report indicates date of MIA to be 16 January 1944.
- (2) Under item 2 appropriate entry to be made after Course and Intended Destination.
- (3) Under item 3, make and serial numbers of installed weapons to be given.

b. 1st Lt. Green and crew.

- (1) Under item 2 appropriate entry to be made after Course and Intended Destination.
- (2) Under item 3, make and serial numbers of installed weapons to be given.
- (3) Records this headquarters indicate Major McCrory and Sgt Wright's serial numbers to be incorrect.

2. Request above corrections be accomplished and correspondence returned this headquarters as soon as practicable.

For the Commanding Officer:

J. J. Martin
R. J. MARTIN,
1st Lt, A. C.
Actg Asst Adj Gen.

7 Incls: n/c

AG 319.11

3rd Ind.

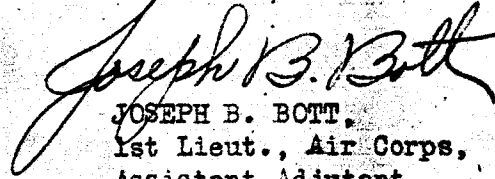
C-3

HEADQUARTERS, 42ND WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 28 January 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 320th Bomb Group, APO 650, US Army.

1. Attention directed to preceding indorsement.
2. For compliance with Section III, paragraph 1, Memo 35-2 12th Air Force, 16 September 1943, which reads: "Security classification of this report is now "CONFIDENTIAL".

By command of Brigadier General WEBSTER:


JOSEPH B. BOTT,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

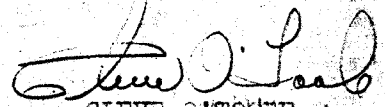
7 Incls: n/c

4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) APO 650, US ARMY, 31 January 1944.

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

1. Attached Missing Air Crew Reports have been corrected insofar as information is available.
2. The following action has been taken:
 - a. Serial numbers of Major McCrory and Sgt. Wright have been corrected.
 - b. Date of MIA has been corrected.
 - c. Course and intended destination has been entered in Item 2.
 - d. It is impossible to furnish make and serial numbers of weapons installed for no record is kept. Action has been taken to insure that information is available hereafter.
 - e. Security classification has been changed in accordance with existing regulations.
3. Request clarification of Item 2. Under Course should the entire course of the mission in miles, degrees and minutes be entered, the course to the point where the plane was last seen, or a statement giving the course in relation to Countries and names of towns.


CLEVE O'TOOLE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.