

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRALONAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG
Date **MAR 15 1948**

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

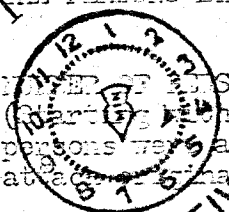
7300

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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Cimarron, Sardinia Command or Air Force 12th AF
Group 320th (M); Squadron 117th; Detachment -
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Cimarron, Sardinia; Course 319°-29 SE to Cristiano
Target or Intended Destination each 250, Sector 2; Type of Mission Bombing
M/R (B) 0115066
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAWU except for limitations of darkness and dust.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 15 Month Aug Year 1944; Time 05:00B; and Location Monte Azza, 2km
39°29'N 8°59'E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (); forced down (); seen to crash (x); or information not available ().
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); Other Circumstances as follows: Darkness and consequent lack of visibility. Aircraft apparently ran head-on into side of Monte Azza.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26045; AAF Serial Number 2-107711 Battle No. 02
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-2800-113 AAF Serial Number _____
(a) FP-061013; (b) FP-061235; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number); 50 Cal.
(a) 172479; (b) 172147; (c) 172691; (d) 172445
(e) 189104; (f) 189018; (g) 554820; (h) 682012
(i) 685610; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle Casualty
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 8; Passengers 0; Total 8
If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form.



Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
Pilot	Trunk, Paul E.	1st Lt.	0-680771	KIA <i>check</i>
Co-Pilot	Mitchell, Roland L.	2nd Lt.	0-537571	KIA <i>check</i>
Bombardier	Summer, Harmon R.	S/Sgt.	32288064	KIA
Radio Operator	Gun-Thannhauser, Heinz (MIA)	S/Sgt.	31296512	KIA <i>check</i>
Engineer Gun.	Barron, William C.	T/Sgt.	20435750	KIA

KIA
KIA
KIA
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KIA

(Over)

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338
~~338~~

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Crew Position

Name in Full

Rank Serial Number Current Status

KIA 6.
KIA 7.
KIA 8.
KIA 9.
10.
11.

Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
Armorer Gun.	Bratton, Charles T.	S/Sgt.	15333783	KIA <i>led</i>
Photo Gun. <i>1st Lt.</i>	Winters, William M.	S/Sgt.	37141794	KIA <i>led</i>
(Other Crew Member)	Bouchard, Wallace M.	Capt.	0-1518014	KIA <i>led</i>

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAID:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Check Only One Column		
				Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forces Landing
1. Berge, Ralph I.	Capt.	0-399653			X	
2. Smith, Sidney P.	Capt.	0-721650			X	
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 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

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

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT
Conrad, Cecil D. Capt., M.C., 0-123607
See Attached Statement.

Date of Report 16 August 1944

George A. Jackson
Signature of Preparing Officer
GEORGE A. JACKSON,
Captain, Air Corps,
Statistical Officer.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

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$39^{\circ}-29'N-8^{\circ}-59'-E$

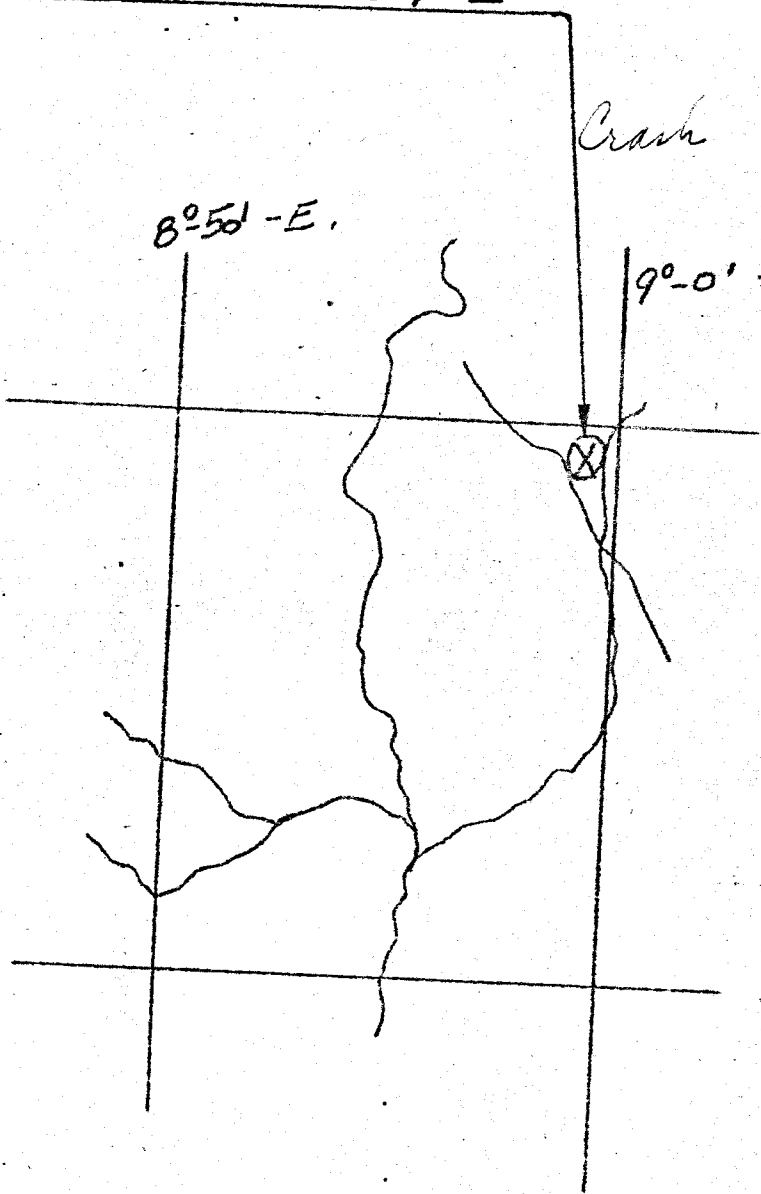
Crash

$8^{\circ}-56'-E$

$9^{\circ}-0'-E$

$39^{\circ}-30'-N$

$39^{\circ}-20'-N$



S/Sgt William M. Winters

Mrs. Maggie Winters, (Mother)
Highland, Kansas.

2nd Lt. Pollard Lee Mitchell

Mr. Cecil L. Mitchell, (Father)
Thomson, Illinois.

1st Lt. Paul Edward Trunk

Mrs. Paul E. Trunk, (Wife)
Box 42,
Shipperville, Pennsylvania.

S/Sgt Heinz H. Thannhauser

Mr. Justin Thannhauser, (Father)
165 East 62nd Street,
New York, New York.

S/Sgt Barron R. Summer

Mrs. Mary E. Summer, (Mother)
1209 West Fern Drive,
Fullerton, California.

T/Sgt William C. Barron

Mrs. Erma L. Barron, (Wife)
611 South Hobart Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California.

S/Sgt Charles T. Bratton

Mrs. Lillie M. Bratton, (Mother)
Stamping Ground, Kentucky

Captain Wallace Morley Bouchard

Mrs. Joseph Bouchard, (Mother)
19 Gilmore Court,
Old Town, Maine.

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CASUALTY

AG 201-Winters, William M., (Enl)-C 1st Ind.
(23 Mar45)

OE/hk

PPA-5
22

HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 31 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

1. The 320th Bomb Gp is no longer under the command of this headquarters. Statement of Capt. Conrad and statement of eye witnesses to the crash are attached as Incl's. No. 2 and 3.

2. Due to the violence of the crash, the resulting explosion and fire, it may be presumed that all crew members were killed instantly. This presumption is further supported by the mutilated and dismembered condition of the bodies recovered from the wrecked aircraft by Capt. Conrad next morning.

3. Of the eight (8) crew members, three (3) were identified:

- 1st Lt. Paul E. Trunk, O-680771, the pilot
- 2nd Lt. Rolland L. Mitchell, O-537571, the co-pilot
- T Sgt. William C. Barron, 20435750, the engineer grn.

4. The remaining five (5) bodies were recovered from the wreckage but individual identification was impossible. They are buried separately as "unknown".

5. If further information is considered necessary, request should be addressed to the 320th Bomb Gp through Hq. ETOUSA, APO 887, N. Y.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

3 Incls:

#1-No change
Added

#2-Statement of Capt. Conrad.

#3-Statement of Capt's. Smith
& Berge.

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AP-4469

T-5259

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444TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
Office of the Squadron Surgeon
320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 650 US ARMY

16 August 1944.

S T A T E M E N T

On 15 August 1944 about 0455 hours, while planes of this Group were taking off for a routine combat flight, an explosion was noted some distance from the end of the runway. Exact distance being very difficult to determine because of darkness. Captain Davis, MC, and one ambulance were dispatched to the scene of the accident.

Shortly afterwards two more planes crashed at the end of the runway. Captain Boylan, MC, was dispatched to the scene of one and I took the other. All members of these aircraft were treated at Base dispensary, nine being transferred to the 60th Station Hospital.

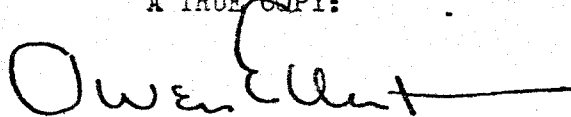
By 0600 hours Captain Davis had not returned from the scene of the first accident so Captain Boylan, MC, and two ambulances were dispatched to aid in the search of the explosion, believed to have been caused by an exploding plane.

At 0700 hours Group Operations reported that^a soldier from the 442nd Bombardment Squadron, with the aid of an Italian, had located the wreckage of an aircraft near Serenti. At 0705 hours Captain Davis and Captain Boylan returned to the Base stating they were unable to locate the plane. At 0720 hours with two ambulances and the aid of the Italian civilian, I went to the scene and recovered the remains of the bodies of the occupants of the plane.

/s/

C. D. CONRAD,
Capt., MC.,
Flight Surgeon.
ASN O-123607

A TRUE COPY:


OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

Incl #2
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S/Sgt William M. Winters

Mrs. Maggie Winters, (Mother)
Highland, Kansas.

2nd Lt. Rolland Lee Mitchell

Mr. Cecil L. Mitchell, (Father)
Thomson, Illinois.

1st Lt. Paul Edward Trunk

Mrs. Paul E. Trunk, (Wife)
Box 42,
Shipperville, Pennsylvania.

S/Sgt Heinz H. Thannhauser

Mr. Justin Thannhauser, (Father)
165 East 62nd Steet,
New York, New York.

S/Sgt Harmon R. Summer

Mrs. Mary E. Summer, (Mother)
1209 West Fern Drive,
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T/Sgt William C. Barron

Mrs. Erma L. Barron, (Wife)
611 South Hobart Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California.

S/Sgt Charles T. Bratton

Mrs. Lillie M. Bratton, (Mother)
Stamping Ground, Kentucky.

Captain Wallace Morley Bouchard

Mrs. Joseph Buchard, (Mother)
19 Gilmore Court,
Old Town, Maine.

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144TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
Office of the Squadron Surgeon
320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 650 US ARMY

16 August 1944.

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At 0700 hours Group Operations reported that a soldier from the 142nd Bombardment Squadron, with the aid of an Italian, had located the wreckage of an aircraft near Serenti. At 0705 hours Captain Davis and Captain Boylan returned to the Base stating they were unable to locate the plane. At 0720 hours with two ambulances and the aid of the Italian civilian, I went to the scene and recovered the remains of the bodies of the occupants of the plane.

C. D. Conrad
C. D. CONRAD,
Capt., MC.,
ASN O-423607,
Flight Surgeon.

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Mar. 16, 1945

Headquarters
Army Air Forces

Ray L. Owens,
Brigadier General,
U. S. Army,
Deputy Chief of Air Staff

Dear Sir:

Thanks for letter received today dated Mar 13-1945. The Records of the War Dept. I will try not to bother you to much, would you or could you tell us it was stated that our son "Staff Sergeant William M. Winters, ASN 37144794" was killed in action over Sardinia. Aug 15-1944. Of which he was gunner and photographer of a B-26 (Marauder) bomber which participated in a combat mission on Aug 15-1944. Shortly after the take-off, his air-craft collided into a hill, Monte Azza, in the vicinity north-east of Serrenti, Sardinia.

The actual cause of the accident could not be ascertained, however, it was believed that the air-plane apparently ran head-on into the side of Monte Azza. There was no "survivors". We would like to know if they lived for awhile, instantly killed, or plane take "fire" when it fell".

"Where he was "Buried", at was, he able to have a burial or just one, of those crashes that went in flames when it landed.

1 Incl.

Thanks For your Trouble.

Mrs. Fred Winters Sr.

Highland Kansas

Box 547

COPY

Incl #1

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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 650 US ARMY

15 August 1944

STATEMENT ON AIRCRAFT NUMBER 42-107711

Aircraft #42-107711, piloted by Lt. PAUL E. THOME, took off in a 3 ship formation element with us, Capt. BIRME, lead ship and Capt. SMITH on the right wing. We both observed this aircraft collide into a hill about 3 1/2 minutes after take-off. At that time he was about 200 feet below us and several miles to the left of us. We cleared a higher hill by a safe margin, but he appeared to have been attempting to pull up over this lower peak, having clipped trees 100 feet below the top and finally striking the top part.

The cause of the accident cannot be accurately attributed. The aircraft may have been deflected causing him to stray from the formation. On the other hand, Lt. THOME was reported to have been quite sick this morning, vomiting and experiencing stomach cramps. His determination and courage may have caused him to proceed on this combat mission when his physical condition should have forbid it.

We made no attempt to contact us by radio so further attempts to ascertain the exact cause would be only conjecture. In our opinion the actual cause of the accident cannot be ascertained.

Sidney P. Smith
SIDNEY P. SMITH,
Capt., Air Corps.

Ralph I. Buge
RALPH I. BUGE,
Capt., Air Corps.

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ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Staff Sergeant William M. Winters, 37144794
320th Bomb Group 441st Bomb Squadron
KIA 15 August 1944

TO: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force
A.P.O. 512, Headquarters, MTOUSA
U. S. Army, Attention: M.A.A.C.C.

1. Attention invited to attached copy of letter from Mrs. Fred Winters, Sr., mother of the late Staff Sergeant William M. Winters, 37144794, reported killed in action 15 August 1944.

2. It is requested that Flight Surgeon, Captain C. D. Conrad, of the 444th Bomb Squadron, 320th Bomb Group, who went to the scene of the crash and recovered the remains of the bodies of the occupants of the aircraft, be interrogated as to whether or not it could be determined if Sergeant Winters met instantaneous death, and for any other details which may be forwarded to Mrs. Winters.

3. It is further requested that the details of Sergeant Winters' burial be forwarded on which to base a reply to Mrs. Winters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

E. A. Bradunas

E. A. BRADUNAS
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

1 Incl.

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T-5259

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AG 360.33

W/Ind.

^{PMS}
XAG-13G-MS-30

HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 23 Aug 44.

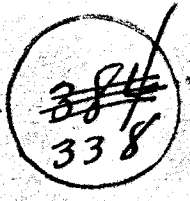
TO: CG, NATCUSA, APO 534, US Army. Att: Battle Cas Section.

1. Attention is invited to inclosed Missing Air Crew Report.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B-222) was forwarded your Hq on 20 Aug 44 reporting subject personnel as KIA.
3. Although a Missing Air Crew Report is not required, this report is being submitted in order to provide the War Department with a description of circumstances surrounding these casualties for the purposes of future reference.

For the Commanding General:

D. S. Jackson
D. S. JACKSON, MAC
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

- 4 Incls: (dup)
- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report
 - Incl 2 - Statement of Capt. Conrad
 - Incl 3 - Statement of Capt. Berge & Capt. Smith.
 - Incl 4 - Sketch.

No. — 

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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 650 US ARMY

15 August 1944

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The cause of the accident cannot be accurately attributed. The aircraft may have been deflected causing him to stray from the formation. On the other hand, Lt. TRUNK was reported to have been quite sick this morning, vomiting and experiencing stomach cramps. His determination and courage may have caused him to proceed on this combat mission when his physical condition should have forbid it.

He made no attempt to contact us by radio so further attempts to ascertain the exact cause would be only conjecture. In our opinion the actual cause of the accident cannot be ascertained.

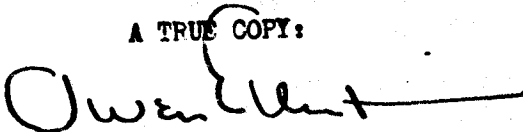
/s/

SIDNEY P. SMITH,
Capt., Air Corps.

/s/

RALPH I. BERGE,
Capt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:



OWEN ELLIOT
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

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