

7997

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7997

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by **L. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG**  
by **F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG**  
Date **15 1 1946**

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.

Sardinia

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Decimomannu; Command or Air Force 12th  
Group 320th (M); Squadron 444th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECIFY Place of Departure Decimomannu, Sardinia 1201 to Lake Tiras  
Target or Intended Destination Covigliano Rd. Block Mission Bombing  
GSGS 4164 Sheet #98 (W) L-841076 and (W) L-843081
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF DEPARTURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clear and Hazy
- GIVE: (a) Day 23 Month Aug Year 1944; Time 10:05P and Location 44°05N  
11°22E 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 ( ).
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft ( ); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (X); Other Circumstances as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26 G Battle # 97  
: AAF Serial Number 43-34240
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any "Pancho Villa" "Reever Bats" "Kiss Me Honey"  
Red and White Sharks mouth on nose. AMERICAN and a girl.
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2600 - 43 AAF Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) FP-063110; (b) FP-062674; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number); 50 Cal  
(a) No record in; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) squadron; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_; (j) \_\_\_\_\_; (k) \_\_\_\_\_; (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle Casualty  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7; Passengers 0; Total 7  
(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	Current Status
1. Pilot	WEISS, WILBERT L.	1st Lt.	0-688882	MIA
2. Co Pilot	HALLENBECK, WILLIAM H.	F/O	T-62069	MIA
3. Bombardier	BETENJANY, JOSEPH B.	Sgt.	32337357	MIA
4. Eng G.	GIUFFRÈ, ALBERT A.	S/Sgt.	32145242	MIA
5. Radio G.	IVEX, RAY T.	S/Sgt.	34447308	MIA

(Over)

Nº. 461

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	<u>Crew Position</u>	<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
6.	<u>Avn. G.</u>	<u>KADEL, WALTER E.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>32741967</u>	<u>MIA</u>
7.	<u>Photo G.</u>	<u>YAVOBOSKY, HILARY B.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>33186876</u>	<u>MIA</u>
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					

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

<u>Name in Full</u> (Last Name First)	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Contacted by</u> <u>Radio</u>	<u>Last Contacted</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Check</u> <u>Circle</u>	<u>Radio</u> <u>Circle</u>	<u>See</u> <u>Column</u> <u>for</u> <u>Person</u> <u>Location</u>
1. <u>DEATLY, ROBERT N.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-801609</u>					<u>X</u>
2. <u>GEORGE, JOHN G.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-568270</u>	<u>Consolidated S</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>Interrogation</u>		
3.							

13. IF PERSONS 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

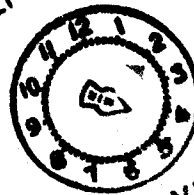
Date of Report 24 August, 1944

*Myer Gelfand*  
(signature of Preparing Officer)

**MEYER (NMI, GELFAND)**  
**1st Lt. Air Corps,**  
**Ass't Statistical Officer.**

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

SEP 23 1944



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RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE  
STATISTICAL OFFICER  
DISPATCHED

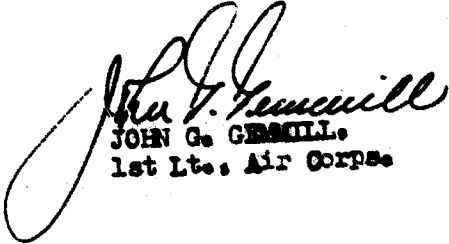
HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer  
APO 650

24 August 1944.

~~S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T~~

1 B-26, Battle No. 97 was lost due to flak over the target. It sustained a hit in the right engine at 10:05 hours, and fire was seen enveloping the right engine and bomb bay. The bombs were salvaged, and a/c was held in level flight for 45 seconds, while 3/4 chutes emerged. The a/c banked sharply and at 44° 05' North/ 11° 22' East spun to 1,000', where it exploded. The a/c went into a spin at 44° 05' North/ 11° 22' East.

(Silver)

  
JOHN G. GEMILL.  
1st Lt., Air Corps.

442nd BOMB BARRIMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF  
Office of the Operations Officer  
APO 650 U. S. Army

23 August 1944

SUBJECT: Aircraft lost over Target.

TO : Statistics Department, 320th Bombardment Group.

1. At approximately 1000 hours on August 23, 1944 I was flying in the lead ship, first squadron, as Flight Commander with the 442nd squadron when I looked out to the right and saw an aircraft from our second squadron (444th) on fire. The ship was in a gentle dive appearing to be under control. The left side of the ship was in flames. I personally saw the figures jump out of the ship and they seemed to come out of the bomb-bays or waist windows. I followed the forms for about five seconds but did not see the chutes open. The aircraft continued in a gentle dive for another five seconds or so and then seemed to go out of control and into a spin. I surmise the pilot let go of the control rods and then the ship started into a spin. It spun about 2,000 or 3,000 feet and blew up. Some large pieces of the aircraft which did not disintegrate in the air hit the ground shortly thereafter and another large explosion occurred. I personally did not see any more than three figures bail out of the aircraft and I did not see their chutes open.

2. An enlisted man, S/Sgt. John G. Earl, 12057243, gave me his account of what he saw. This account follows:

S/Sgt. Earl saw the aircraft hit by one of the first bursts of flak and immediately saw the left engine burst into flames. Seconds later he saw two men bail out and drop quite a ways before their chutes blossomed. He saw three men bail out (probably the same three I saw) and they too dropped quite a ways before the chutes opened. He then states that after the ship went into a spin and dive, that he saw another man get out and chute open. A second or two later the ship blew up. S/Sgt Earl also stated that it appeared to him that small arms fire was coming up at the last man to bail out.

*Robert N. Deatly*  
ROBERT N. DEATLY  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Commanding

44° 20'

44° 10'

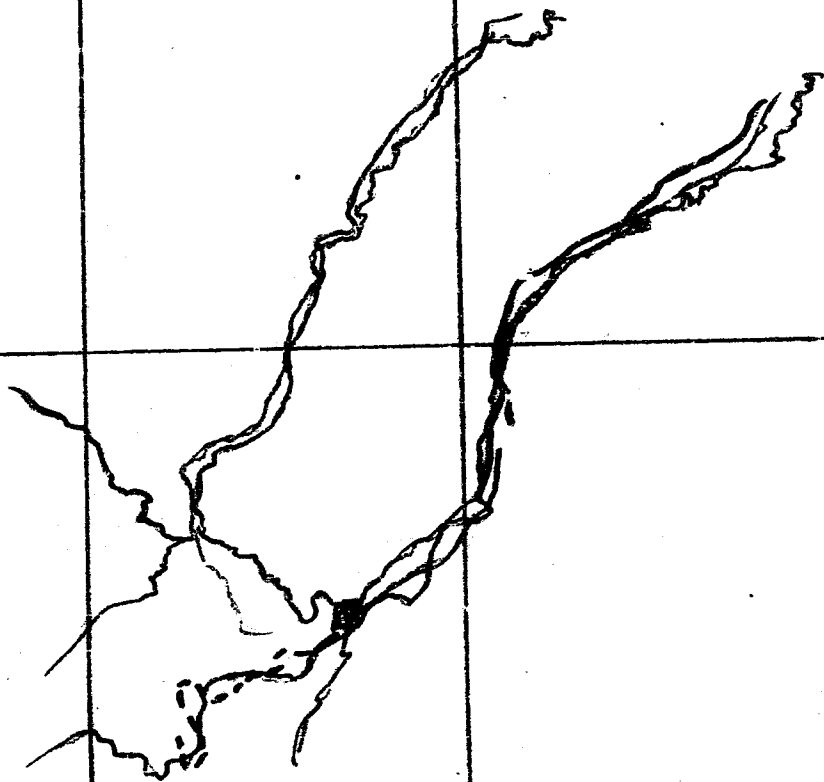
44°

11° 20'

11° 40'

X

N



HEADQUARTERS 320th BOMB GROUP (M)  
APO 650 U.S. Army

24 August, 1944

SUBJECT : Letter of Transmittal.

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

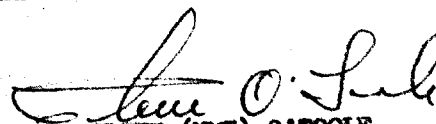
1. Transmitted herewith are two (2) Missing Air Crew Reports for this Group with the below listed personnel reported as MIA:

a. Aircraft, B-26 G, AAF No. 43-34240.  
Pilot WEIER, Wilbert L. 1st Lt. O-688882 ✓  
Co Pilot HALLENBECK, William H. F/O #62069 ✓  
Bombardier BETHENJANY, Joseph B. Sgt. 32337357 ✓  
Eng. G. GIUFFRE, Albert A. S/Sgt. 32145242 ✓  
Radio G. IVEY, Ray T. S/Sgt. 34447308 ✓  
Arm. G. KADEL, Walter E. Sgt. 32741967 ✓  
Photo G. YAVOROSKY, Hilary R. S/Sgt. 33186876 ✓

b. Aircraft, B-26B50, AAF No. 42-95946.  
Pilot DRISCOLL, Richard N. 1st Lt. O-691090 ✓  
Co Pilot HAKER, John J. 2nd Lt. O-705387 ✓  
Bombardier RYAN, James T. Cpl. 12225534 ✓  
Eng G. SMITH, Alfred A. Jr. Cpl. 12054483 ✓  
Arm. G. DE WITT, Charles H. S/Sgt. 13044081 ✓  
Radio G. FLEMING, Russell L. S/Sgt. 35633471 ✓  
Radio G. CLARK, Robert E. S/Sgt. 15115003 ✓  
Photo G. CINIELLO, Michael J. Sgt. 32468438 ✓

2. Battle Casualty for 23 August, 1944 has been submitted.

For the Group Commander:

  
CLEVE (NMI) O'TOOLE  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

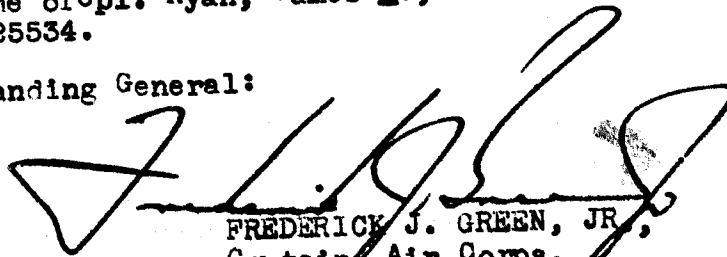
AG 319.11  
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND BOMB WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 24 August 1944. C-3  
1st Ind.

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

1. Forwarded in compliance with Letter, War Department, File No. AG 360.33, Subject: "Missing Air Crew Report", dated 23 May 1944, the following information is hereby submitted.

2. A corrected Battle Casualty Report will be forwarded your headquarters correcting the name of Cpl. Ryan, James J., 12225534 to read: Cpl. Ryan, James T., 12225534.

For the Commanding General:



FREDERICK J. GREEN, JR.,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Acting Adjutant.

9 Incls: Rec'd:

- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 2 - Statement of 1st Lt. Gemmill.
- Incl 3 - " " 1st Lt. Deatly.
- Incl 4 - Sketch.
- Incl 5 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 6 - Statement of 1st Lt. Gemmill.
- Incl 7 - " " Captain Hammond.
- Incl 8 - " " 1st Lt. Ramage.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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~~REF 34-11~~ 2nd Ind  
HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US ARMY, 1 SEP. 44

SUB  
MAP-LRP-64-26

TO: Co, H&TCOM, APO 534. ATT: Battle Cas Section.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B27) was forwarded your HQ on 30 AUG 44.

For the Commanding General:

*D. S. Jauch*  
D. S. JAUCH.  
Major, A.G.D.  
Asst Adjutant General.

9 Pages n/c

46/10



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 7997

Name of crew member: Weier, Wilbert L.  
Rank: 1st Lt  
Serial number: 0-688882  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? No knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_  
About 4 minutes before my bailing out.

Was he injured? No knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? In his position when I left cockpit to take my position at waist guns.

Any hearsay information: No.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Believed killed when plane crashed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 65

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 7997

Name of crew member: Hallenbeck, William H.  
Rank: F/O  
Serial number: T-62069  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_  
About 4 minutes before my bailing out.

Was he injured? No knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? In his position when I left cockpit to take my position at waist guns.

Any hearsay information: No

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Believed killed when plane crashed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: APPROX. 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 7997

Name of crew member: Betenjany, Joseph B.  
Rank: Sgt  
Serial number: 32337357  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? Injured: Slumped over bulkhead between rear bomb bay and rear compartment.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_  
About 4 minutes before my bailing out

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? In plane.

Any hearsay information: No.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Believed killed when plane crashed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 40

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Ivey, Ray T.  
Rank: S/Sgt  
Serial number: 34447308  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~: Radio Gunner

File 7997

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? Fell out of turret and slumped in corner by bulkhead

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_

About 4 minutes before my bailing out.

Was he injured? To my knowledge. Yes

Where was he when last seen? In plane.

Any hearsay information: No.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Believed killed when plane crashed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 55

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 7997

Name of crew member: Kadel, Walter E.  
Rank: Sgt  
Serial number: 32741967  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Armorer~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? Excited. Trying to open escape hatch

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_  
About 4 minutes before I'm bailing out.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? In plane

Any hearsay information: No.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Believed killed when plane crashed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 7997

Name of crew member: Yavorosky, Hilary R.  
Rank: S/Sgt  
Serial number: 33186876  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Photo - Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to Knowledge

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? Slumped over bulkhead between rear bomb bay and rear compartment

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_  
About 4 minutes before my bailing out.

Was he injured? Burnt. To what extent unknown

Where was he when last seen? In plane

Any hearsay information: No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Believed killed when plane crashed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 60

Dates and destinations if possible: Over Italy and southern France.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

PPA 22

1. Your name Albert A. Giuffre Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 32145244
2. Organization 329 Gp Commander Eugene Fletcher Rank Col. Sqn Hqs. CO Nunallee Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month August day 23 did you go down?  
(full name) (full name)
4. What was the mission, Covigliano, target, Gun Emplacement, target  
time, Approx. 10:30, altitude, 10,500 route scheduled, Corsica  
So. of Leghorn, route flown Same  
To target
5. Where were you when you left formation? Left Wing, 1st Flight
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No. Not to my knowledge
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".  
No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)  
No Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? At Waist Position
12. What was their condition? Pilot, Co-pilot; Bombardier. No Knowledge  
Rear Gunner O.K. Photo Gunner; Radio Gunner  
knocked over in corner at bulkhead
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? About ten minutes before sighting coast of Italy.  
Pilot, Co-pilot, Bombardier in perfect condition  
Rear Gunner, Photo Gunner, Radio Gunner same as above. (12)
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.  
Radio Gunner of plane on right wing bailed out.  
Met him on ground.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

3299

ob  
12/8/44

✓  
1st Lt. Gilbert L. Baker ✓

Mrs. Gilbert L. Baker, (wife)  
4307 Elizabeth Street,  
St. Clamas, Michigan.

✓  
F/O William H. Hallbrook

Mrs. Doris C. Hallbrook, (wife)  
244 Madison Street,  
Canastota, New York.

✓  
S/Sgt. Albert J. Gaffin ✓

Mrs. Mary Gaffin, (mother)  
6408 Boulevard East,  
West New York, New Jersey.

✓  
S/Sgt. Wilmy L. Tverozny ✓

Mr. Frank L. Tverozny, (father)  
208 West Michigan,  
Muncie, Pennsylvania.

✓  
S/Sgt. Roy E. Day ✓

Mrs. Ellen E. Day, (mother)  
Box 48,  
White Oak, Georgia.

✓  
Sgt. Joseph E. Rotunjoy ✓

Mrs. Mary Rotunjoy, (mother)  
300 84th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

✓  
Sgt. Walter M. Kadi, Jr. ✓

Mrs. Pauline Kadi, (mother)  
436 Clinton Avenue,  
Albany, New York.