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Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, 1st Col., AG  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
Date **15 1944**

WAR 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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Decimonnanu, Sardinia; Command or Air Force 12th  
Group 320th (M); Squadron 444th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Decimonnanu, Sardinia; Course: 322° N NE  
Target or Intended Destination Rattonneau, Ile, France; Type of Mission Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Clear visibility 5 miles to 8 miles, Hazy.
- GIVE: (a) Day 26 Month Aug. Year 1944; Time 10:35B and Location 43° 00' N  
05° 20' E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); 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 (); Other Circumstances as follows: Collided in Mid-Air; About 5 minutes from the target.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26 B50; Battle # 87; AAF Serial Number 42-95904
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any Red and white sharke painted on nose.
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800 - 43; AAF Serial Number  
(a) 42-52181; (b) 42-51980; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) 933836; (b) 934091; (c) 933632; (d) 933907  
(e) 56369; (f) 406163; (g) 933920; (h) 933647  
(i) 1076485; (j) \_\_\_\_\_; (k) \_\_\_\_\_; (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Battle Casualty  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6; Passengers 0; Total 6  
(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
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- |                   |                                   |                |                 |                |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| KIA 1. Pilot      | <u>W STERNS, ALBERT D.</u>        | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>0-753450</u> | <u>MIA</u>     |
| KIA 2. Co Pilot   | <u>W LIEBENDORFER, EVERETT J.</u> | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-713817</u> | <u>MIA RTD</u> |
| KIA 3. Bombardier | <u>W SCHROEDER, ARTHUR A.</u>     | <u>2nd Lt.</u> | <u>0-712230</u> | <u>MIA</u>     |
| KIA 4. Eng G.     | <u>W DYRCZ, VINCENT S.</u>        | <u>Sgt.</u>    | <u>36654728</u> | <u>MIA</u>     |
| KIA 5. Radio G.   | <u>W LAUTH, JOHN F.</u>           | <u>S/Sgt</u>   | <u>32108424</u> | <u>MIA</u>     |

(Over)

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Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
KIA 6. Arm. G.	WOLCOTT, ROBERT L.	Cpl	35053195	MIA
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Check Only One Column Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Force Landing
1. KAWANSKI, CHARLES W.	2nd Lt.	0-750251		X		
2. SULLIVAN, JAMES E.	2nd Lt.	0-699749		X		
3. GEMMILL, JOHN G.	1st Lt.	0-568270	Consolidated S-2 Interrogation.			

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) - 1 Chute was seen to open.

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

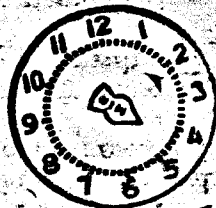
Date of Report 27 August, 1944

*George A. Jackson*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

GEORGE A. JACKSON  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Statistical Officer.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

SEP 23 1944



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✓  
1st Lt Albert D. Stearns

Mrs. Ethel M. Stearns, (Mother)  
4812 James Street,  
East Syracuse, New York.

✓  
2nd Lt Everett Liebendorfer

Mrs. Mina M. Liebendorfer, (Mother)  
802 Forty Third Street,  
Rock Island, Illinois.

✓  
2nd Lt Arthur R. Schroeder

Mr. Rudolph W. Schroeder, (Father)  
705 Prospect Avenue,  
Portage, Wisconsin.

✓  
S/Sgt John F. Lauth

Miss Madeline M. Lauth, (Sister)  
5855-59th Street,  
Maspath Long Island, New York.

311 ✓  
Sgt Vincent S. Dyres,

Mrs. Anna Dyres, (Mother)  
2028 York Street,  
Blue Island, Illinois.

✓  
Cpl Robert L. Wolcott

Mrs. Jessie G. Wolcott, (Mother)  
Route Number Two,  
Warren, Ohio.



43° 10'

43° 10'

Medeterranean

MEDITERRANEAN

43° 00'

43°

5° 10'  
5° 10'

5° 20'  
5° 20'

5° 30'  
5° 30'

WACR-# 7999

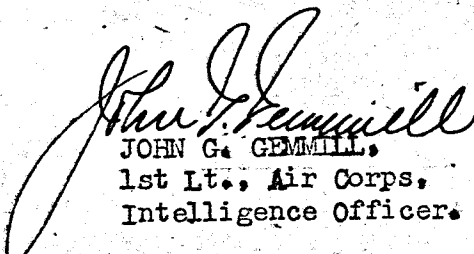
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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer  
APO 650

27 August 1944

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

1 B-26 lost to mid-air collision. As bombay doors were opened, at 10:35 hours, for the bomb run, the A/C, Battle No. 87, suddenly raised. The wing men started to move out as #87 started to move down. Then, a second time, #87 raised again, struck left wing on fuselage of A/C, Battle No. 91, tearing off 8 feet of 87's left wing. The A/C went into a flat spin to 2,000', one chute came out, A/C then went into a spiral spin and hit the water at 43° 00' North / 05° 20' East, disappearing immediately.

  
JOHN G. GEMMILL,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

444TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
Office of the Operations Officer  
320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 650 U.S. ARMY

26 August 44

SUBJECT: Report on Plane #87

TO : Statistical Officer, 320TH Bomb. Gp., (M), AAF.

1. I was flying Plane #91 on the left wing of #87. The flight opened bombay doors, and #87 seemed to be having some trouble maintaining vertical control. I continued to fly with him until he turned slightly and began to skid toward me. When it became evident that I would be unable to stay in formation with him, I banked to the left sharply, pulling up, intending to move away from him. While I was in this bank, I felt an impact, but it was slight, so when I was clear of the formation I moved back toward it. It was then that I saw that #87 was no longer in the formation. From the time of the collision, I did not see #87 again.

2. The tail gunner of my Plane #91, stated that he saw the other aircraft strike our right wing-tip, but was not sure what part of the othership had struck us. While we were turning sharply to the left, he saw the other ship come up under us again. When he felt the impact he turned to glance back into the Plane and lost #87. On the break he saw a B-26, apparently under control, turning toward land a couple of thousand feet below us. He was unable to identify it because of its distance.

3. I learned from the radio that the ship was down, and that Naval craft were moving toward it.

*James E. Sullivan*

JAMES E. SULLIVAN,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

*Marvin W. Wells*

MARVIN W. WELLS,  
Cpl. Air Corps,

444TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
Office of the Operations Officer  
320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 650 U.S. ARMY

26 August 44

SUBJECT: Report on Plane #87

TO : Statistical Officer, 320th Bomb. Gp., (M). AAF.

1. As Plane #87 opened bombay doors the nose went up straight ahead, then down again, and I believe this was when Plane #91's right wing was bent down by Plane #87's left wing. Plane #87 pulled back up again and to the left, Plane #91 started to peel off to the left, but Plane 87's came up underneath him and damaged Plane #91's right flaps, evidently with his left props. He continued to pull up and to the left, then rolling over on his back at the same time, and started down. From this time on I did not see him again. His roll over was so fast, that he must have lost power on left engine, or the prop was torn off in collision. I saw a small piece fly off from #87, but was unable to identify it. We continued on the bomb run and as we broke, Lt. Beeby, Bombardier said he saw what he thought to be three green sea markers, and that two destroyers were moving toward the spbt, followed by three more.

*Charles W. Kamanski*

CHARLES W. KAMANSKI,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,

x 63

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

27 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

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

1. In compliance with letter W.D. File #AG. 360.33 Subject, Missing Air Crew Report dated 23 May, 1944. The following information is hereby submitted to your Headquarters.

2. Battle casualty report has been forwarded to your Headquarters and the original and 1st copy was submitted direct to 12th Air Force, 26 August, 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

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

- 5 Incls; 7 copies each.
- 1 Missing Air Crew Report
- 1 Maps or Sketches
- 3 Statements.

319.11 1st Ind. C-7  
HEADQUARTERS 42ND BOMB WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 28 August 1944.

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

5 Incls: n/c



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AF 360.33

2nd Ind

<sup>548</sup>  
XAG-1HG-bb-26

HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 1 September 1944

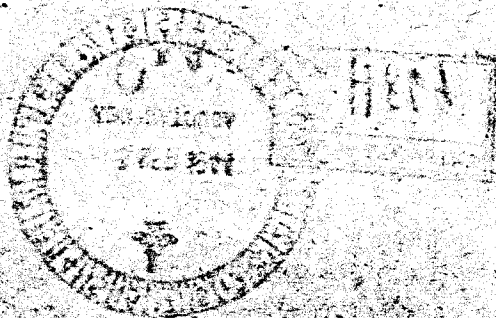
TO: Commanding General, NATOUSA, APO 534, US Army.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B226) was forwarded your Hq on 31 Aug 44.

For the Commanding General:

*D. S. Jackson*  
D. S. JACKSON,  
Major, A.G.D., 12 EC  
Asst Adjutant General.

5 Incls: n/c



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