

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**

to A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
Date MAR 15 1948

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 Alto, Corsica : Command or Air Force 12th  
Group 320th (M) ; Squadron 12th : Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Alto, Corsica : Course: 300 E  
Target or Intended Destination San Margherita : Type of Mission Bombing  
Railroad Bridge, Italy
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Scattered Cumulus.
- GIVE: (a) Day 16 Month Nov Year 1944; Time 14:00h and Location Ostia  
P-7157 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 (X).
- 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-26B10 ; Battle # 89  
AAF Serial Number 47-18190
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any "Judy"
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800 43 ; AAF Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) FP-062018 ; (b) 42-52306 ; (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) 58255 ; (b) 58287 ; (c) 148263 ; (d) 148310  
(e) 148566 ; (f) 148422 ; (g) 17346 ; (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 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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank    | Serial Number | Current Status |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|
| DED ✓ 1. Pilot           | JONES, MIBBELL W.                 | 1st Lt. | 0-683635      | MI DOD TH      |
| DED ✓ 2. Co Pilot        | STRZEKOWSKI, LADISLAV J.          | 2nd Lt. | 0-822132      | MI DOD         |
| DED ✓ 3. Bomb.           | MHCHEER, HENRY L.                 | 2nd Lt. | 0-762731      | MI DOD         |
| DED ✓ 4. Engineer Gunner | WORLD, ORBY T.                    | Sgt.    | 18208183      | MI DOD         |
| DED ✓ 5. Arm. Gunner     | WHESS, HENRY                      | Cpl.    | 17146350      | MI DOD         |

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Crew Position

Name in Full

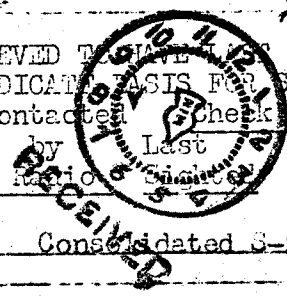
Rank

Serial Number

Current Status

- ✓ DED 6. Arm Gunner ~~WILLARD K. DINEWY~~ Pvt. 12186338 ~~ETA 10N~~
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_

DEC 7 1944



12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE KNOWN THE EDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR NAME:

| Name in Full<br>(Last Name First) | Rank | Serial Number | Contacted by | Check Last Name | Only One Column Saw Crash | One Column Saw Force Landing |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|

- 1. GIMMELL, JOHN G. Captain, 0-568270 Consolidated S-2 Interrogation.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 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)  
No chutes were seen.

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 17 November, 1944

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

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGE A. JACKSON  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Statistical Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AG 704 DEAD (19 Nov 49)

19 November 1949 *AM*

MEMORANDUM TO: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section, P A Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Reports of Death *cut*

1. The following-named Air Corps personnel were reported missing in action, in flying pay status, over Italy, 16 November 1944, by MTO Shipment No. 311, and were presumed dead as of <sup>17</sup> November 1945, under the provisions of Section 5 of the Missing Persons Act;

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1st Lt Russell W. Jones       | 0683635  |
| 2d Lt Henry L. Hooper         | 0762731  |
| 2d Lt Ladislaus J. Strekowski | 0822132  |
| Sgt Orby T. Gould             | 18208183 |
| Cpl Henry A. Hess             | 17146350 |
| Pvt Willard K. Dininny        | 12166338 |

2. SR&D Case No. 4688, dated 17 November 1945, File: AG-704 - Dead (17 Nov 45),

reviewed the circumstances of the disappearance of the subject persons, <sup>and</sup> recommended that findings of death be made, showing the presumed date of death to be 17 November 1945, in each case. Information on which the recommendation was based was obtained from Missing Air Crew Report No. 9847, now on file in Memorial Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, and from statements found in the Casualty files of the enlisted men, and attached to the officers' qualifications sheets (W.D., AGO Forms 66-2).

a. The Missing Air Crew Report names the subject officers and enlisted men of the 444th Bombardment Squadron, 320th Bombardment Group, as the complete crew of B-26B aircraft No. 41-18190, which took off from Alto, Corsica, on a bombing mission to San Margherita Railroad Bridge, Italy, on 16 November 1944, and was last sighted at 1400 hours that day in the vicinity of Ostia, Italy. Its loss was believed due to enemy antiaircraft fire. No parachutes were seen. A statement signed by Captain John G. Gemmill, Air Corps, is filed with the Report, and reads as follows:

"A/C Battle # 89 was last seen on single engine at 4,500 feet flying at 230° at 14:00 hours with 2 P-47's escorting, over Ostia, P-7157."

A sketch map attached to the Report shows Ostia to be on the Taro River, at about 44°31' N, 9°51' E (approximately 45 miles east northeast of Genoa).

b. Statements prepared by the 444th Bombardment Squadron are in the Casualty ~~files~~ files of the subject enlisted men, and furnish the following information:

"Sol MIA 16 Nov 44. Plane returning from mission over San Margherita, Italy. It had dropped its bombs on the target and was last seen by B-26s on single engine at 4500 ft, flying on a course of <sup>230</sup>~~230~~ degrees with two P47s escorting, over Ostia, Italy P7157. Later reports state aircraft seen to go down off coast of Genoa, Italy. P-47s circled for airsea rescue to come. Search maintained throughout night. Next day three empty dinghies seen; unable to reach these due to heavy seas. Search was unsuccessful and abandoned that afternoon."

3. An Addendum to SR&D Case No. 4688 cites a letter from the parents of Private Dininny, submitting information received by the mother of Corporal Hess <sup>as that on which the subject crew was lost.</sup> The following is quoted from a friend who participated in the same mission. The following is quoted the soldier's report, as submitted to this office:

" \* \* \* It was sometime during the 1st ~~2~~ weeks in Nov I gave Henry the missal of which you spoke. I gave it to him on the ~~eve~~ eve of Nov 15 we walked down to the mission board & found we were both flying next morning's mission - He was to be tail gunner on Ship 84 & I tail gunner on Ship 77. Both of these were in the same three Ship Element, 84 on the right side of the element leader, 77 on the left. We were flying <sup>parallel</sup> about 60 ft apart.

"We walked down to the briefing the following morning & found the target was the R.R. bridge at Santa Margherita, situated near the north end of L. Garda [Lago di Garda, a large lake near Verona], near the southern outlet of Brenner Pass. \* \* I never such heavy

flak. We were under fire about 6 min. My ship was hit 37 times.

AS soon as we were out of it I looked over & saw that 84's right engine was smoking & it was dropping behind slowly. I called my pilot but he knew about it because 84's Pilot (Lieutenant Jones)

had called in that he would have to cut off his bad engine to keep it from blowing up ~~the~~ the fuel tanks. By this time we were

off the target & heading for home down L. Garda - 84 was still losing Alt - fair speed but was in perfect control and I could see things

falling out the waist windows. The crew were throwing over ammunition

guns etc to lighten ~~the~~ weight. Two of our ships who were up ahead

turned back to 84's position & circled her in case enemy fighters

should come. I could see the damaged ship & the other two until

we crossed the Po. The haze obstructed the view. When we crossed

the Appenines along the western shore of Italy the other 2 ships

rejoined us & radioed in that 84 had gone under a cloud near the

Mts & they could not have followed it any lower without endangering

themselves & their Crews -- We waited until darkness when we got

back hoping 84 would straggle in. They didn't return however & were

the following morn an American Air Sea Rescue Crew reported they

saw 6 May West with 6 men in them floating in the Gulf of Genoa.

It was too rough to land their flying boat but they dropped life

rafts to the men. When they returned later they could not find them.

\* \* \*  
4. Official records of the Department of the Army mention the railroad

bridge at "S. Margherita" as one of the "Brenner Pass rail targets" hit by medium bombers on 16 November 1944.

5. The subject crew participated in a bombing mission to Santa Margherita railroad bridge, near Brenner Pass, on 10 November 1944. Their plane was hit, *flak was heavy over the target, and the plane sustained damage.* probably by flak, while in the target area, and at a point approximately 45 miles

north of Genoa, it was seen at an altitude of 4500 feet, flying on a single engine, with two P-47's escorting. Later reports, evidently from the pilots of the escorting planes, were to the effect that the bomber went down off the coast of Genoa, ~~and that~~ The P-47's circled for some time, waiting for Air Sea Rescue craft to appear. The following morning three <sup>dinghies</sup> dinghies were seen, but they could not be reached because of heavy seas. Search continued until sometime in the afternoon, but was unsuccessful. From these circumstances it must be concluded that the subject plane went down into the Gulf of Genoa, and that it was not possible to effect the rescue of any of the crew because of rough water.

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

is (faint text)

(faint stamp)

5. It is recommended, therefore, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as an official report of death, and that a casualty report be initiated stating that the ~~person~~ personnel named in paragraph one, above, ~~members of~~ the Air Corps, were killed in action, while in flying pay status, when their plane went down into the Gulf of Genoa, after ~~damagingly~~ being damaged by enemy antiaircraft fire while on a bombing mission to Santa Margherita railroad bridge, in the vicinity of Brenner Pass.

The casualty report and official report of death will include the following statement:

"Finding of Death has been issued previously under Section 5, Public Law 490, 7 March 1942, as amended, showing presumed date of death as 17 November 1945. This 'Report of Death' is issued in accordance with Section 9 of said Act, and its effect on prior payments and settlements is as provided in Section 9."

Systemat will be routed to Operating Unit for notification and processing. ~~Systemat in the case of~~ ~~Determination and Review Unit for determination of grade and notification.~~ ~~will be routed in.~~

Station ~~xxxxxxx~~ and place of death:  
Mediterranean Area

~~Classified~~

Mildred F. Bickford  
Investigator

CONCUR:

T. J. COLLUM  
Major, AGD  
OIC, Determination & Review Unit

APPROVED. Recommended action will be taken.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

SYLVIO L. BOUSQUIN  
Lt. Col., AGD  
OIC, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

COPY FURNISHED:  
OCMG, Memorial Division (one copy for each individual listed in par. 1)  
AG 201 file of each individual named in par. 1.

Source material obtained as a result of this investigation is filed in the AG 201 file of the first name listed in par. 1, unless otherwise indicated.

NOTE: If 201 classification delete paragraphs showing "Copy Furnished" and "source material" and copy the following:  
COPY FURNISHED: OCMG, Memorial Division.

1st Lt. Russell W. Jones

Mrs. Eva M. Jones, (mother) 8-9  
Lawndale, Illinois.

2nd Lt. Ladislaus J. Strekowski

Mrs. Sophia Strekowski, (mother) MIA  
5845 Trenton,  
Detroit, Michigan.

2nd Lt. Henry L. Hooper

Mrs. Josephine R. Hooper, (wife) MIA  
610 North Alaska Street,  
Butte, Montana.

Sgt. Orby T. Gould

Mr. Lyman S. Gould, (father) MIA  
1026 North Dixon Street,  
Gainesville, Texas.

Cpl. Henry A. Hess

Mrs. Wilho M. Hess, (mother) MIA  
Twenty Carilla Place,  
Pueblo, Colorado.

Fvt. Willard K. Dininny

Mrs. Fairy E. Dininny, (mother) MIA  
Rural Free Delivery One,  
Waverly, New York.

Oct 10 - 9° 51' E

44° 31' N



AG 360.33

2nd Ind.

XAG-142-bb-30

HQ, TWELFTH AF (REAR), APO 650, US Army, 23 Nov 44.

TC: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512, US Army. Att: Battle Cas Section.

9847

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B 263) was forwarded your hq on 20 Nov 44.

For the Commanding General:

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

3 Incls: n/c (dup)

No. —

967

AG 360.33

2nd Ind.

KAG-LHC-bb-30

HQ, TWELFTH AF (REAR), APO 650, US ARMY, 23 NOV 44.

TO: CG, MPOUSA, APO 512, US ARMY. Att: Battle Cas Section.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B 263) was forwarded your hq on 20 Nov 44.

For the Commanding General:

3 Incls: n/c (dup)

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

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

#451

17 November, 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

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

1. In compliance with letter WD File AG 704 Subj. "Missing Air Crew Report", dated 7 July, 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 were submitted direct to 12th Air Force, 17 November, 1944.

For the Group Commander:

*James R. Edwards*  
JAMES R. EDWARDS  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

3 Incls: 7 copies each.  
Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report.  
Incl 2 - Sketch Map.  
Incl 3 - Statement: Captain Gimmell

AG 319.11 1st Ind. C-3  
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND BOMB WING (US), APO 374, US ARMY, 17 November 1944.

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

*[Signature]*  
C. G. G. r.

3 Incls: n/c

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

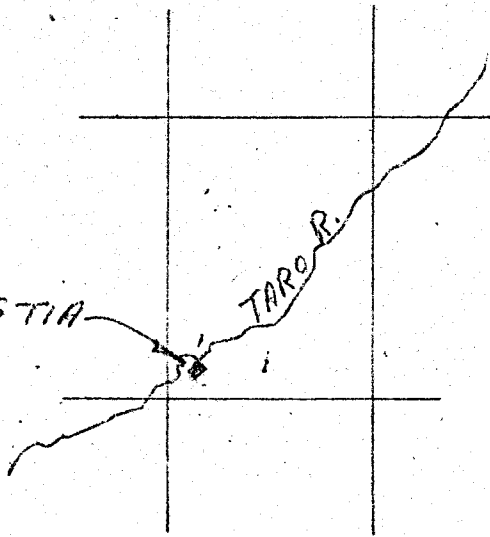
16 November, 1944

S T A T E M E N T

A/C Battle # 89 was last seen on single engine at 4,500 feet flying at 230° at 14:00 hours with 2 P-47's escorting, over Ostia, P-7157.

*John G. Gellill,*  
JOHN G. GELLILL  
Captain, Air Corps,

(P-7157) OSTIA



TARO R.

$44^{\circ} - 40'$

$44^{\circ} 30'$

$9^{\circ} 50'$

$10^{\circ}$

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY  
 REFER TO

AGPC-S



**SUBJECT:** Casualty Information

**To:**

1. War Department records show that the following member(s) of your crew has (have) been missing in action since

2. You are requested to forward a statement setting forth all information you may have concerning the fate of the above-named. Both your own and hearsay information with the source properly identified should be included. You may be guided in making reply by the following outline which covers information desired.

a. Brief description of action, giving date and place of plane crash or landing.

b. Personal knowledge of what happened to above-named. State where last seen and extent of wounds or injuries, if any. If you witnessed the death of above-named, give date, place and cause of death, place of burial and names of other witnesses.

c. Information concerning fate of above-named received from others. Name source.

3. To expedite necessary action and official notification to the families of those concerned you are authorized to reply direct to this office and not through military channels. A franked envelope is inclosed.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

It is recommended, therefore, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as an official report of death, and that a casualty report be initiated stating that

The systemat will be processed in accordance with Paragraph 2b, Operations Bulletin 35, 1945. The casualty report and official report of death will include the following statement:

Finding of Death has been issued previously under Section 5, Public Law 490, 7 March 1942, as amended, showing presumed date of death as  
This "Report of Death" based on information received since that date, is issued in accordance with Section 9 of said Act and its effect on prior payments and settlements is as provided in Section 9.

Investigator

CONCURRED:

C. G. GEDULDIG  
Lt. Colonel, AGD  
OIC, Status Review and  
Determination Unit.

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

EARLE E. EWING  
Lt. Colonel, AGD  
OIC, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

Copy for: OQMG, Memorial Division

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



IN REPLY  
REFER TO

AGPC-S

**SUBJECT: Casualty Information**

**To:**

1. War Department records show that the following member(s) of your crew has (have) been missing in action since

2. You are requested to forward a statement setting forth all information you may have concerning the fate of the above-named. Both your own and hearsay information with the source properly identified should be included. You may be guided in making reply by the following outline which covers information desired.

a. Brief description of action, giving date and place of plane crash or landing.

b. Personal knowledge of what happened to above-named. State where last seen and extent of wounds or injuries, if any. If you witnessed the death of above-named, give date, place and cause of death, place of burial and names of other witnesses.

c. Information concerning fate of above-named received from others. Name source.

3. To expedite necessary action and official notification to the families of those concerned you are authorized to reply direct to this office and not through military channels. A franked envelope is inclosed.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

1 Incl

Adjutant General

