

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

785072

By WCL Date 12/1/80

RESTRICATED

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MUENCH, Captain AC

Date MAR 15 1946

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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Decimomannu, Command or Air Force 12th
Group 320th; Squadron 441st; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Decimomannu, Sardinia Course: 344 OT 107 SM. to Portofino
Target or Intended Destination SW. of Tropez, France. Type of Mission: Precision Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Cav

4. GIVE: (a) Day 13 Month Aug Year 1944; Time 07:08; and Location 2 - 3 Miles East of Signes, France 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 (X); Other Circumstances as follows: _____

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-26 B-41; AAF Serial Number 42-43297
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any Lady Eve III. 62 Small yellow bombs painted on side.

8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R - 2800-43 AAF Serial Number
(a) FP-062433; (b) 41-37946; (c) _____; (d) _____

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):

(a) <u>400966</u>	;	(b) <u>388397</u>	;	(c) <u>401172</u>	;	(d) <u>295117</u>
(e) <u>400833</u>	;	(f) <u>388482</u>	;	(g) <u>401056</u>	;	(h) <u>388542</u>
(i) <u>388538</u>	;	(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 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
1. Pilot	<u>WHIPPLE, JAMES H.</u>	1st Lt	<u>0-808997</u>	<u>MIA</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>RUDOLPH, OSTERMUELLER</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0-817733</u>	<u>MIA</u>
3. Bombardier	<u>BURG, VINCENT T.</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0-760033</u>	<u>MIA</u>
4. Eng. Gunner	<u>WALDROP, HAROLD T.</u>	Cpl.	<u>38390011</u>	<u>MIA</u>
5. Radio Gunner	<u>LARGENT, JESSE W.</u>	T/Sgt.	<u>15085277</u>	<u>MIA</u>

(Over)

No. -

341

51

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

	Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
6.	Arm. Gunner	ALLEN, ROBERT L.	Sgt.	18232454	MTA
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	Check Only One Column		
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Force Landin
1. KLUG, John J.		1st Lt 0-808854				X
2.						
3.						

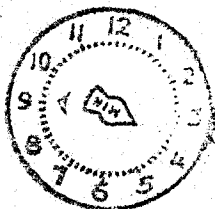
13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used X; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash 5 Parachutes cleared the ship and were seen to land in water.; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, 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 14 August, 1944

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

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

SEP 4 1944



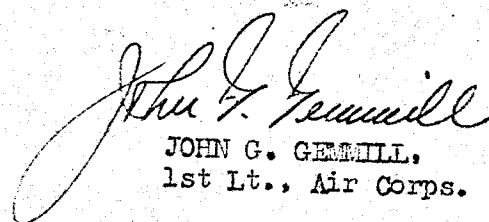
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

13 August 1944.

EYEWITNESS STATEMENT

1 B-26 was lost due to flak over the target, one mile short of lanfall on the bomb run over Point De La Cride. A/C Battle No. 20, sustained a direct hit in the right wing just outboard of the right engine and wing caught fire. A/C fell out of the formation and 3 chutes came from the waist window. A/C continued on course for 15/20 seconds, dropping bombs, 2 more chutes came from the plane, then the wing fell off. A/C went into a spin and crashed and exploded at 43° 17' N, 05° 55' E. Chutes landed at the following points: 1 in the water at 43° 06' N, 05° 48' E; 2 at 43° 08' N, 05° 45' E; 1 at 43° 18' N, 05° 52' E; 1 at 43° 22' N, 05° 55' E.


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

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

13 August 1944.

STATEMENT ON MISSING AIRCRAFT

1. One (1) B-26 type aircraft, battle no. 20, Army serial number 42-43271 piloted by 1st Lt. James H. Hipple was lost due to flak over target at 0725 hours on combat mission of this date. At a point 2 - 3 miles east of Signes, France, while on the bomb run this aircraft sustained a direct hit in the right wing just outboard of the right engine. The wing caught fire and the aircraft fell out of formation. Three chutes came from waist window. The aircraft continued on course for 15 / 20 seconds, dropping bombs, after which two more chutes came from the plane. Then the wing fell off; aircraft went into a spin; crashed and exploded at $45^{\circ} 17' N$, $05^{\circ} 55' E$. Chutes landed at following points: 1 in the water at $45^{\circ} 06' N$, $05^{\circ} 48' E$; 2 at $45^{\circ} 08' N$, $05^{\circ} 45' E$; 1 at $45^{\circ} 18' N$, $05^{\circ} 52' E$; 1 at $45^{\circ} 22' N$, $05^{\circ} 55' E$.

Ralph I. Barge
RALPH I. BARGE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.



43° 20'

(X)

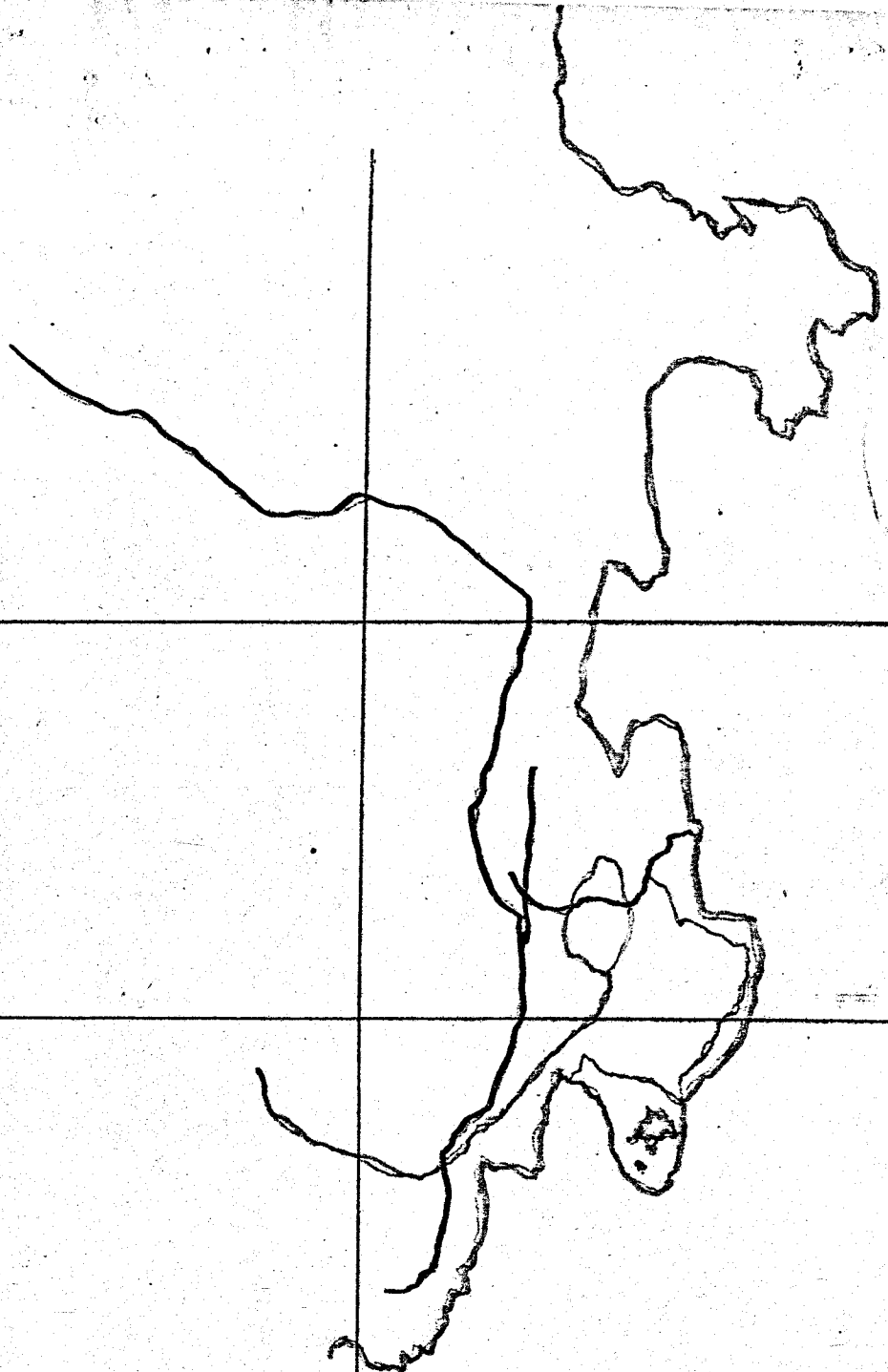
43° 10'

43°

5° 40'

5° 50'

6°



655-

CONFIDENTIAL

AG 319.11

2nd Ind

²⁴⁵
XAG-LHG-ms-26

HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 19 August 1944.

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

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B221) was forwarded your headquarters on 18 August 1944.

For the Commanding General:

4 Incls: n/c(dup)

D. S. Jackson
D. S. JACKSON, 1142 RS
Major, A.C.D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

By LSL 785072
1B EARS, Date 12/1/80

No. —

341

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

HEADQUARTERS, 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
APO 650, US ARMY, ARMY AIR FORCES

15 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

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

1. Transmitted herewith, in compliance with letter War Department, File No. AG 704 (5 Jul 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject same as above, dated 7 July 44, and 1st Ind. Twelfth Air Force, dated 4 August 1944, and 2nd Ind your headquarters dated 7 August 44, is Missing Air Crew Report. Original & Dup. Copied of BCR forwarded to XII AF, 13 Aug 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

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

4 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 2 - Statement of 1st Lt. Gemmill.
- Incl 3 - " " Capt. Berge.
- Incl 4 - Sketch.

AG 319.11 1st Ind. C-3
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND BOMB WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 15 August 1944.

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

F. J. G. Jr.
F. J. G. Jr.

4 Incls:

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

Mac 7303

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Auth: C.G., N.Y.P.E.

Initials: *BM*

Date: *SEP 28 1944*

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: *9/27/44*

NARRATOR	: <i>Robert L. Allen</i>	SQUADRON	: <i>441</i>
ARMY SERIAL NO.	: <i>18232454</i>	GROUP	: <i>320</i>
HOME ADDRESS	: <i>3103 San Gabriel, Austin, Tex</i>	TYPE AIRCRAFT	: <i>B-26</i>
EX-REPORT NO.	:	DATE OF MISSION	: <i>Aug. 13, 1944</i>

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
Pilot	<i>1st LT. Hipple</i>	<i>KIA</i>
co-pilot	<i>LT. Ostermuellen</i>	<i>RD</i>
Bombardier	<i>LT. Burg</i>	<i>RD</i>
Radio Operator	<i>T/Sgt. Wargent</i>	<i>RD</i>
Engineer	<i>Cpl. Harold Waldrop</i>	<i>RD</i>
Tail Gunner	<i>Sgt. Robert L. Allen</i>	<i>RD</i>

Hearsay

INFORMATION:

Pilot was killed either by crash or Germans. He is known to be dead beyond a reasonable doubt.

HEARSAY INFORMATION: *None.*

WACR-7303

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Auth: C.G., N.Y.P.E.

Initials: *jam*

Date: *27 Sept 44*

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: *27 Sept 44*

NARRATOR	: <i>Redolph Ostermuller 2nd Lt.</i>	SQUADRON	: <i>441st</i>
ARMY SERIAL NO.	: <i>0-817733</i>	GROUP	: <i>320th</i>
HOME ADDRESS	: <i>12 Rutgers St. Irvington N.J.</i>	TYPE AIRCRAFT	: <i>B-26</i>
EX-REPORT NO.	:	DATE OF MISSION	: <i>13 Aug 44</i>

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
Pilot	<i>1st Lt. Hipple</i>	<i>Killed in Action</i>
Co-pilot	<i>2nd Lt. Ostermuller</i>	<i>Evaded capture - Ret.</i>
Bomb.	<i>1st Lt. Burg</i>	<i>" " "</i>
Eng.	<i>Cpl. Waldrop</i>	<i>" " "</i>
Radio	<i>T/Sgt Largent</i>	<i>P.W. -- Returned</i>
Gunner	<i>Sgt Allen</i>	<i>Evaded Capture "</i>

KNOWN INFORMATION:

Ostermuller, Burg, Waldrop and Allen all evaded capture and returned to Allied controlled Areas. All but Burg are at this station. Largent was injured and taken prisoner but with the invasion of S. France he was returned to Allied hands.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

1st Lt. Hipple's death is rather certain since it was witnessed by several persons and then related to 1st Lt. Burg and myself.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-4

GIA 84 (18 Sept 44)

~~SECRET~~

785072

By *LVL* *DB* NARS, Date *12/11/0*

14/2

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Auth: C.G. F.Y.P.E.

Initials: *BM*

Date: *SEP 20 1944*

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: _____

NARRATOR	: <i>Harold Waldrop</i>	SQUADRON	: <i>441</i>
ARMY SERIAL NO.	: <i>38390011</i>	GROUP	: <i>320</i>
HOME ADDRESS	: <i>577 RT. 6 GRAYSON, L.I.</i>	TYPE AIRCRAFT	: <i>B-22</i>
EX-REPORT NO.	:	DATE OF MISSION	: <i>8-12-44</i>

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
<i>Pilot</i>	<i>HIPPLE</i>	<i>KIA</i>
<i>Co-P</i>	<i>ORSTOMELLER</i>	<i>RD</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>BURG</i>	<i>RD</i>
<i>E.G.</i>	<i>WALDROP</i>	<i>RD</i>
<i>R.G.</i>	<i>LARGENT</i>	<i>RD</i>
<i>A.E.</i>	<i>ALLEN</i>	<i>RD</i>

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

PILOT KILLED IN ACTION

GIA 84 (18 Sept 44)

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX "D"

(For Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C.)

1. Source:

Name - (I): Cpl. HAROLD T. WALDROP.
(II): Sgt. ROBERT L. ALLEN
Unit - 330th Bomb Group, 441st Bomb Squadron.
Aircraft - B-26, #43-43297.
Date of Mission - 13 August 1944.
Date of Interrogation - 26 August 1944.

2. Members of Crew:

<u>Position:</u>	<u>ASN:</u>	<u>Rank:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
Pilot	0-808997	1st Lt.	James H. Hipple	RIA
Co-Pilot	0-817733	2nd Lt.	Rudolph Ostermueller	RED
Bombardier	0-760033	2nd Lt.	Vincent T. Burg	RED
Radio Operator	38390011	Cpl.	Harold T. Waldrop	RED
Engineer/Gunner	15085277	T/Sgt.	Jesse W. Largent	P/W
Tail Gunner	18232454	Sgt.	Robert L. Allen	RED

3. Substantiating Facts:

Sources state that Patriots informed them an enlisted man was captured.
See HAE Report #93, account of Burg and Ostermueller.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

785072

By L64 NARS, Date 12/1/80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Edo Arca

APPENDIX "D".

(For Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C.)

1. Sources:

Name - (I) 2nd Lt. VINCENT T. BURG, O-760033.
 Name - (II) 2nd Lt. RUDOLPH OSTERMUELLER, O-817733.
 Unit - 320th Bomb Group, 441st Bomb Squadron.
 Aircraft - B-26, #42-43297.
 Date of Mission - 13 August 1944.
 Date of Interrogation - 23 August 1944.

2. Members of Crew:

<u>Position:</u>	<u>ASN:</u>	<u>Rank:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
Pilot	O-808997	1st Lt.	James H. Hipple	KIA
Co-Pilot	O-817733	2nd Lt.	Rudolph Ostermuller	RTD
Bombardier	O-760033	2nd Lt.	Vincent T. Burg	RTD
Radio Operator	38390011	Cpl	Harold T. Waldrop	RTD
Engineer/Gunner	15085277	E/Sgt.	Jesse W. Largent	P/W
Tail Gunner	18232454	Sgt.	Robert L. Allen	RTD

3. Substantiating Facts:

A Patriot stated to Sources that five parachutes were seen to emerge from the craft. One of the enlisted men broke a leg when he landed and was captured by the Germans, according to statements made by eye-witnesses (Patriots). Sources were further informed that another body left the aircraft but the chute had failed to open—obviously the Pilot, who is the only other member unaccounted for. When the co-pilot left the aircraft, the right engine was burning. The pilot seemed calm but was apparently in slightly dazed condition, for he seemed not to realize that the aircraft was ablaze until the co-pilot advised him. Pilot stated, "Jesus Christ, we're on fire", and then remained at his post until everyone left the craft. Bombardier, who was next-to-last man to leave the ship, states that the pilot was still then at the controls. The right wing snapped off the ship, and the aircraft crashed and burned.

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

785072

By WCL MARS, Date 12/1/70
CB

CONFIDENTIAL

MACR
7303

To: Evaluation Station, West Oberursel

Ref: Marauder was shot down on 13 Aug. 1944 at 8:40 o'clock near

Signes, 22 kms N. E. Toulon, 40 kms East of Marseille

Three men of the crew escaped, search in progress, one dead
burned, Nationality not ascertainable, without identification tag

Burial Location: Will be reported

Type of Aircraft: CB 28-B-4, Marauder, empennage number and identification
 not ascertainable

Condition of Aircraft: Crashed, burned, 100% destroyed

Shot down by Anti-Aircraft

Plier's Air Base Command - Berre

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

13 August 1944 - 0840

CASUALTY NO. ME 1908

PLACE OF CRASH

Signes

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Marauder

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Base Hqs Berre

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
------	------	------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

1 DEAD, UNKNOWN

Disposition of remaining crew-members unknown

REMARKS:

Dulag-Luft 25 January 1943 No.

macR 7303

Date: 13 August 1944
at 0840

Place: Near Signes,
north of Toulon

Type: Marauder

Target: Air-Base-H.Q.
Berre

Rank

Name

U.S.A.

No. ME 1908

0

3 escaped

1 dead 1st

✓ James D. Hipple
Hipple 0808997
Kia