

**RESTRICTED**

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE  
APO 633  
US Army

O/CSP/sj

Wiesbaden, Germany

SUBJECT: Report of Finding B-17 No. 43-39338, Missing Since 1 November 1946.

TO : Commanding General  
European Air Transport Service  
APO 633, US Army.

1. On 1 November 1946, B-17 No. 43-39338, pilot, Colonel Hudson H. Upham, Headquarters EATS, departed Capodichino Air Base, Naples, Italy at 0054Z for Bovingdon, England with eight people on board. One radio contact was made five minutes after take-off with Capodichino tower after which nothing more was heard from this aircraft.
2. After eighteen days of extensive land-sea and air search, orders were issued to abandon formal search. Subsequently numerous reports of crashed aircraft were investigated in hopes that this aircraft would be located, but without success.
3. On 25 July 1947 a patrol of the French 99th Bataillon D'Infanterie Alpine under command of Lt. Noel Mollard discovered the wreckage of an aircraft on a mountain named Aiguille des Glaciers, 45° 47' N. Lat., 6° 48' E. Long. The wreckage was discovered on a glacier at approximately 3750 meters (12,187 feet). Papers discovered at the scene indicated that this was B-17 No. 43-39338 which had been missing since 1 November 1946. This information was reported to Commandant Chalandon in command of the 99th Bataillon D'Infanterie Alpine who relayed the information through French Military channels to the American Legation in Paris.
4. On Friday, 1 August 1947, the American Legation notified Hqs. American Graves Registration Command, 3rd Region, Nancy, France and on Saturday, 2 August 1947, 1st Lt. Louis A. Beckstahler of that Headquarters with a crew of six men proceeded to Headquarters 99th Bataillon D'Infanterie Alpine, Bourg St. Maurice, France.
5. On Saturday, 2 August 1947, TACE Headquarters EATS quizzed Associated Press correspondent, Paris as a result of AP news release and news broadcast on AFN. Associate Press in Paris stated that their news release originated in Grenoble, France and reported that the B-17 had been found on Mont Blanc, five hundred feet from the top of the mountain. This was the first information received by this Headquarters.
6. On Sunday, 3 August 1947, <sup>acp</sup> a team of US personnel from EATS Headquarters proceeded in a C-47 aircraft to Grenoble, France. The following personnel made up the team:

Capt. Clarence S. Parker

Chief of Flying Safety, Hqs.  
EATS.

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