

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
By WM. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AC
Date **14 NOV 1946**

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HEADQUARTERS ~~RESTRICTED~~
EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
APO 633
US ARMY

15060

PPS-2-A
(5)

P/CHC/os

Wiesbaden, Germany

7 NOV 1946

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces
Washington, 25, D. C.
ATTN: AFPPA-8

1. Enclosed herewith is Missing Air Crew Report of B-17 type aircraft reported missing 1 November 1946, on flight from Naples, Italy to Bovingdon, England.

2. The following named crew members were assigned to Headquarters, European Air Transport Service, Wiesbaden, Germany, APO 633, c/o Postmaster, New York, New York:

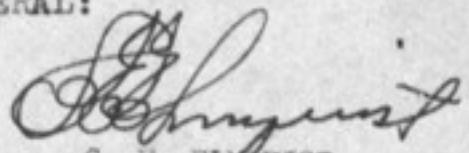
| | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| ✓ Fair, Ford L. | Colonel | 0-17029 |
| ✓ Upham, Hudson H. | Colonel | 0-19467 |
| ✓ Cobb, Lawrence L. | Major | 0-24736 |

3. The aircraft and following named crew members were assigned to Eschborn Army Air Base, Frankfurt, Germany, APO 57, c/o Postmaster, New York, New York:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| ✓ Ramirez, Alfred D. | 2nd Lt. | 0-2082524 |
| ✓ Gilbert, John E. | M/Sgt | 6990531 |
| ✓ Dobovich, Zoltan J. | S/Sgt | 33835227 |
| ✓ Cassell, William S. | T/Sgt | 34896920 |
| ✓ Hilton, William A. | S/Sgt | 38515193 |

4. Missing crew members listed above are non-battle casualties.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:


C. E. ELQUIST
Lt. Col. AC
Deputy Chief of Staff.

2 Incls:

1. Missing Air Crew Report.
2. Sketch of area involved.

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MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. LOCATION: Camp Taylor, Detzheim, Germany, APO 633, c/o FM New York, N.Y.

COMMAND: European Air Transport Service ORGANIZATION: Headquarters

2. PLACE OF DEPARTURE: Capodichino Army Air Base, Naples, Italy

COURSE: Naples, Italy to Gorgona, Island Italy - Istres, France -
Lyon, France - Paris, France - Bovingdon, England

DESTINATION AND AIRPORT OF FIRST INTENDED LANDING: Bovingdon, England

TYPE OF MISSION: Administrative

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME WHEN LAST REPORTED:

Limited surface reports at the time of flight show scattered cloud at point of departure at four thousand feet with visibility of ten to fifteen miles; at Corsica two thousand three thousand feet overcast with twelve to thirty miles visibility; at the Marseilles-Istres area two thousand to three thousand feet overcast, visibility eight to twelve miles in intermitten light rain; at Lyon clear skies with one to two miles visibility in fog; at Orly one thousand to two thousand feet overcast with visibility two to six miles in haze and intermittent drizzle. Destination at EPA was scattered to broken at six hundred to one thousand feet to one thousand feet visibility two to six miles in haze, intermittent light rain and rain showers. Weather personnel are of the opinion that the above reports fail to show the instability, turbulent and icing conditions present over the initial portion of the route over the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian seas.

4. DAY: 1st, MONTH: November, YEAR: 1946, TIME: 0054Z

LOCATION: Last known report was at take-off at Capodichino Air Field, Naples, Italy

5. AIRCRAFT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST: Due to weather conditions

6. AIRCRAFT: TYPE: B-17, MODEL: G, SERIES: 43, AAF SERIAL NUMBER: 39338

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Negative

| 8. ENGINES: | NO. | TYPE | MODEL | SERIES | AAF SERIAL NUMBER |
|-------------|-----|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| | 4 | Pratt & Whitney | R 1820 | 97 | SW 032260 |
| | 3 | Pratt & Whitney | R 1820 | 97 | SW 032441 |
| | 2 | Pratt & Whitney | R 1820 | 97 | SW 024553 |
| | 1 | Pratt & Whitney | R 1820 | 97 | SW 032281 |

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9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: Negative
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: CREW: 8, PASSENGERS: 0, TOTAL: 8

| CREW POSITION | NAME IN FULL | RANK | SERIAL NO. | CURRENT STATUS |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| Command Pilot | 4 Fair, Ford Larimore | Colonel | 0-17029 | missing |
| Command Pilot | 8 Upham, Hudson Hutton | Colonel | 0-19467 | missing |
| Co-Pilot | 2 Cobb, Lawrence Lofton | Major | 0-24736 | missing |
| Navigator | 7 Ramirez, Alfred Doroteo | 2nd Lt. | 0-2082524 | missing |
| Engineer | 5 Gilbert, John Edward | M/Sgt. | 6990531 | missing |
| Ass't Engineer | 6 Hilton, William Allec | S/Sgt. | 38515193 | missing |
| Radio Operator | 3 Dobovich, Zoltan Joseph | S/Sgt. | 33835227 | missing |
| Ass't Radio Operator | 1 Cassell, William Seldon | T/Sgt. | 34896920 | missing |

12. LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT WAS: Take-off at Naples, Italy
13. ARE PERSONNEL BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED: Unknown
14. CHART OF AREA INVOLVED ATTACHED HEREWITH:
15. NO EYEWITNESS OR CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT KNOWN AT THIS TIME.
16. NAME OF OFFICER INCHARGE OF SEARCH:

| NAME | RANK | SERIAL NUMBER | ORGANIZATION |
|--------------------|---------|---------------|---|
| Goodrich, David W. | Colonel | 0-1473 | Capodichino Army Air Base, Naples, Italy, APO 790-G, c/o PM. New York, N.Y. |

17. DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT OF SEARCH:

The following areas have been under continuous search since the aircraft was reported missing:

Isle of Corsica
Ligurian Sea
Tyrrhenian Sea
Swiss Alps
French Alps
Rhône Valley to Paris (over an area 75 miles wide)
An area 75 miles wide from Paris to Bovingdon.

All available American aircraft in Italy, France, and some aircraft in Germany are conducting the search. Aircraft from RAF are aiding in the search from Bovingdon to Paris. French aircraft are also aiding in the search in Southern France.

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- 2 -

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18. REMARKS: At present there are no further remarks. If additional information is received it will be forwarded immediately on supplemental report.

DATE OF REPORT: 7 November 1946

Jacob J. Muller
JACOB J. MULLER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Personal Affairs Officer.

Tel: EATS 197

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