

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority: NND 735001  
 By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

8002

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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Castelluccio, Italy Command or AF 15th AF  
 Group 451st Bomb Gp; Squadron 726th Bomb Sq (B); ~~Base~~ Base 464th
  2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Castelluccio, Italy Course 1722E-4737N 1714E-4757N 1728E-4817N 1706E-IP - Target  
 Target or Intended Destination Vienna, Austria; Type of Mission Bombing
  3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Weather: good, Visibility: Good
  4. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month Aug Year 1944; Time 1006; and Location 47° 15' N. 17° 18' E.  
 (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 (X) ; Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) ; Other Circumstances as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
  6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24 J; AAF Serial No. 42-51 300
  7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Hot Dross
  8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R 1850-45; AAF Serial Number  
 (a) CP 306578; (b) CP 306585; (c) CP 306588; (d) CP 306468
  9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number); Browning MG, M-2;  
 (a) 945384 (b) 950332 (c) 704709 (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (e) 243376 (f) 955330 (g) 704710 (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) 942789 (j) 802636 (k) \_\_\_\_\_ (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (m) 942790 (n) 802638 (o) \_\_\_\_\_ (p) \_\_\_\_\_
  10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_ or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
  11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers —; Total 9  
 (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 12 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   | Next of Kin Relationship   | Address    | Current Stat |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Pilot         | <u>Klein, Valerian E.</u>       | <u>2nd Lt</u> | <u>O-819407</u> | <u>Mrs Clara Klein</u>     | <u>NTA</u> |              |
| Co-pilot      | <u>Beckerman, James S.</u>      | <u>2nd Lt</u> | <u>O-820702</u> | <u>Mrs Margery E.</u>      | <u>NTA</u> |              |
| Bombardier    | <u>Macey, Richard F.</u>        | <u>2nd Lt</u> | <u>O-772863</u> | <u>Mrs May Lou Macey</u>   | <u>NTA</u> |              |
| Top Turret    | <u>Morrow, Robert E.</u>        | <u>S/Sgt</u>  | <u>32736929</u> | <u>Myrtle Becker</u>       | <u>NTA</u> |              |
| Ball Turret   | <u>Friend, Chauncey M., Jr.</u> | <u>Sgt</u>    | <u>33755818</u> | <u>Mrs Olive M. Friend</u> | <u>NTA</u> |              |

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No. 45618  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CPWT POSITION	(Name in Full) (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Next of Kin Re- lationship, address	Current Status
16. <i>MLO</i> Waist Gunner	Lewis, William J. G. <i>RTD</i>	Cpl 15026212	Mrs Martha Lewis (Mother) 1 1/2 Florence St., So. Wales, Great Britain	MIA
17. <i>MLO</i> Waist Gunner	Clark, Earl B. Jr.	Sgt 35601873	Mrs Mary G. Clark (Mother) 1808 Dartmouth Ave. S.W., Canton, Ohio	MIA
18. <i>MLO</i> Tail Gunner	Barker, Morris P.	Cpl 38872350	Mrs. Lois A. Rodgers (Mother) Star Route, Electra, Texas	MIA <i>RTD</i>
19. <i>Eur</i> Nose Gunner	Holman, William B.	S/Sgt 39915901	Mrs Clara S. Holman (Mother) Sassaquin, Utah	MIA <i>RTD</i>
10.				
11.				
12.				

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)	Serial Rank Number	Contacted by	Last Radio Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Whiting, Roman J.	2nd Lt 0-712715			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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 reasons (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 None - Plane crashed over enemy territory

Date of Report 25 August 1944

*Albert F. Cogg*  
**ALBERT F. COGG**  
 (Captain, Adjutant General)  
 Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

3 Incls:  
 Incl 1 - Statement of S-2 Officer.  
 Incl 2 - Statement of Eye Witness.  
 Incl 3 - Sketch.



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

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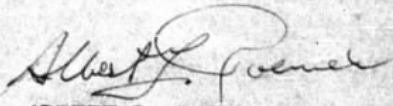
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C O N F I D E N T I A L726th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

24 August 1944

STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES

On 22 August 1944, Second Lieutenant Valerian E. Klein, O-819407, was pilot of a B-24J type aircraft, AAF Serial Number 42-51300, Wet Dream, on a bombing mission over the Lobau oil storage installations located at Vienna, Austria. At approximately 1005 hours at 47° 15'N, 17° 18'E in Hungary, enemy fighters attacked his formation and severely damaged his airplane. The airplane pulled off to the left of the formation and four distinct explosions were seen before the aircraft went down totally destroyed. Approximately eight (8) or (9) parachutes were seen. In view of the fact that there were nine (9) men aboard the aircraft, there is reason to believe that several, if not all of the crew members landed in enemy occupied territory. It is the opinion of the undersigned, based upon interrogation, that there is a possibility that all members of this crew are either prisoners of war or evaders.



ALBERT L. ROEMER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer.

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

Encls #1

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OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

24 August 1944

S T A T E M E N T O F E Y E - W I T N E S S

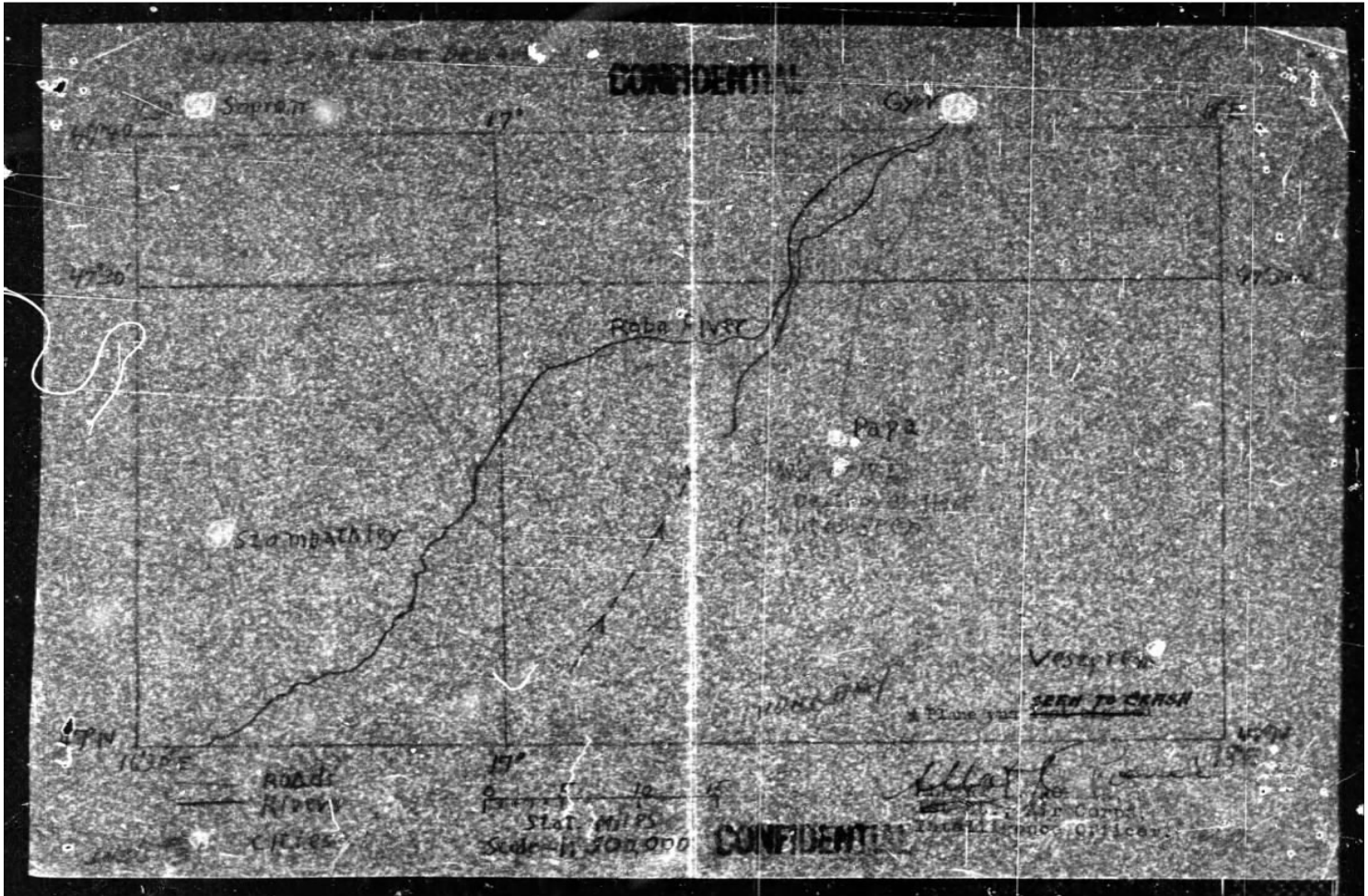
I, Second Lieutenant Roman J. Whiting, O-712715, was navigator in the number two airplane of the number three flight of our formation on 22 August 1944, on a bombing mission over the Lobau oil storage installations near Vienna, Austria. At approximately 1005 hours at 47° 15'N, 17° 18'E, our formation was attacked by approximately thirty (30) FW 190's of a light blue color. The enemy aircraft fired upon Lieutenant Valerian E. Klein, flying number six position in our flight in aircraft number 42-51300, "Wet Dream". His number two engine began to burn and he flew off to the left about a mile and a half from our formation. I saw an explosion and two parachutes blossomed out, then there was another explosion and two more parachutes came out. There was still another large explosion and the tail separated from the rest of the airplane, simultaneously I saw four more parachutes. Then the airplane went fluttering down without a tail section and in flames, a complete torch. The weather was about three-tenths covered with scattered cumulus clouds at this time.

*Roman J. Whiting*  
ROMAN J. WHITING,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Incls = 2

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abn/12/8/44.

✓ 2nd Lt Richard F. Hasty °	Mrs. Mae F. Hasty, (Mother) 1413 North 22nd Street, Birmingham, Alabama.
✓ 2nd Lt James S. Beckerman °	Mrs. Margery R. Beckerman, (Wife) 28708 Cresthaven Drive, Willoughby, Ohio.
✓ 2nd Lt Valerian E. Klein °	Mrs. Clara E. Klein, (Mother) 2004 State Street, Peve, Illinois.
✓ S/Sgt Robert E. Hester	Mrs. Thelma H. Hester, (Sister) 421 South Clinton Street, Carthage, New York.
✓ S/Sgt Chassey H. Friend, Jr. °	Mrs. Olive H. Friend, (Mother) Friendville, Maryland.
✓ S/Sgt William B. Holman °	Mrs. Clara S. Holman, (Mother) Santogin, Utah.
✓ Sgt Earl B. Clark, Jr.	Mrs. Mary C. Clark, (Mother) 808 Dartmouth Avenue Southwest, Carters, Ohio.
✓ Cpl Morris F. Barker °	Mrs. Lois A. Rodgers, (Mother) Star Route, Kleatra, Texas.
✓ Cpl William J. G. Lewis °	Mrs. Thomas A. Hughes, (Aunt) 219 Main Road, Asher, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.