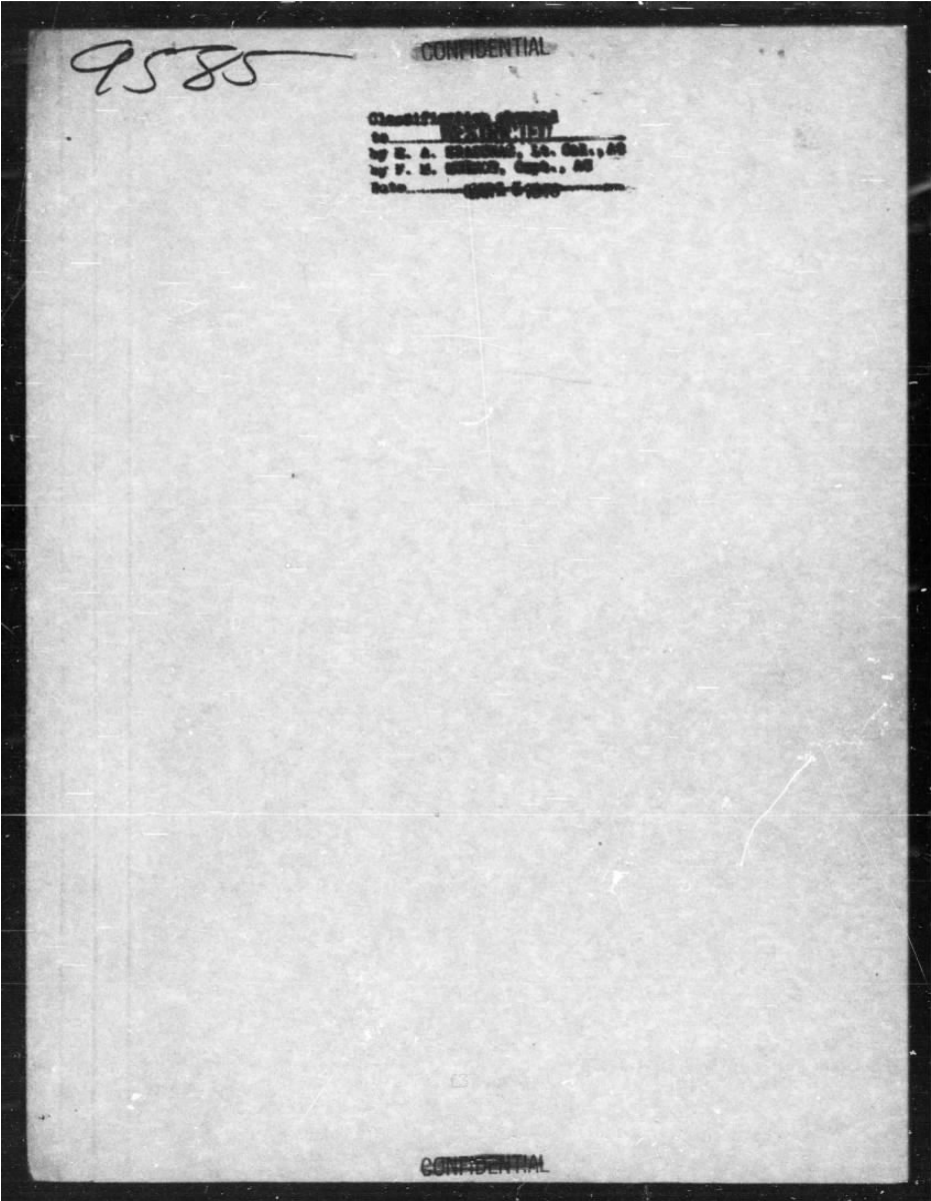


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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~726TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

2 November 1944

STATEMENT

First Lieutenant Rosser I. Bodycomb, O-683950, was pilot of aircraft #42-52321, nicknamed "Bad Penny", on a combat mission to bomb the Vienna Ordnance Depot, at Vienna, Austria, on 1 November 1944. Lieutenant Bodycomb was leading a flight over the target when he sustained serious flak damage to his aircraft. Shortly after leaving the target he dropped out of the lead position with one engine feathered and his number two engine smoking badly. He lost altitude rapidly and was followed by eight P-38 type aircraft. Lieutenant Bodycomb was last sighted at approximately 1432 hours, at 45° 30'N, 15° 10'E at an altitude of approximately nine-thousand feet through an eight-tenths cloud coverage. No parachutes were seen to leave the aircraft.

Nothing further has been heard from Lieutenant Bodycomb or his crew and the undersigned has no opinion as to their fate.

Following is a list of officers and men who were aboard this aircraft on 1 November 1944.

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Pilot | Bodycomb, Rosser I. | 1st Lt. | O-683950 |
| Co-Pilot | Cooper, Alva S. | 2nd Lt. | O-1692892 |
| Navigator | Kautz, John I., Jr. | 2nd Lt. | O-2057941 |
| Bombardier | Wier, Charlie Y. | Capt. | O-725117 |
| Top-Turret | Richardson, Ira D. Jr. | Sgt. | 34775493 |
| Bell-Turret | Collier, K.C. | Sgt. | 18220033 |
| Waist-Gunner | Weinstein, Manuel | S/Sgt. | 11050675 |
| Waist-Gunner | Lowe, Spencer G., Jr. | Sgt. | 18004083 |
| Tail-Gunner | Hall, Curtis L., Jr. | Sgt. | 18193186 |
| Nose-Gunner | Burford, Coy | Sgt. | 18193201 |
| Photographer | Levine, Cyril G. | Cpl. | 31328125 |

Albert L. Roemer

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

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726TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

3 November 1944

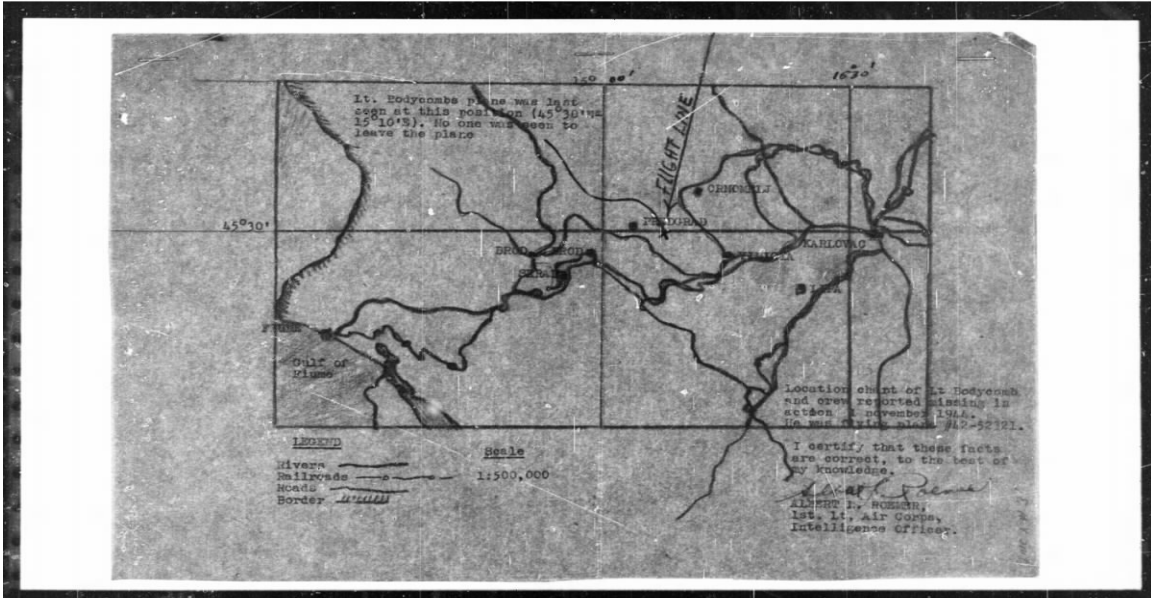
EYE-WITNESS STATEMENT

I, Staff Sergeant Thomas E. McHale, 32625830, was nose gunner on the aircraft flying number two position of our flight. when I saw Lieutenant Rosser I. Bodycomb, flying aircraft number 42-52321, pass under our formation and go off to the right of our formation. He was flying at a slight right angle away from our formation. This all took place about ten or fifteen minutes before we hit the Adriatic Coast at approximately 45° 30'N, 15° 10'E, at 1432 hours. We were just going into a mist which lasted until we were out past the coast line. It is my estimation that he was flying at about nine-thousand feet altitude. All four engines were operative and I saw no parachutes leave the aircraft.

*Thomas E. McHale*THOMAS E. McHALE,
S/Sgt. Air Corps,

JACA # 2'

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eb 1/6/45

Captain, Charlie Y. Wier

Mrs. Vivian H. Wier, (wife) ✓
Mrs. Oneita Anderson,
Port Allen, Louisiana.

1st Lt. Resser I. Bodycomb

Mr. Fred H. Bodycomb, (brother) ✓
10, Center Avenue,
Chatham, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. Alva S. Cooper

Mr. Luman A. Cooper, (father) ✓
630 East Olive Avenue,
Burbank, California.

2nd Lt. John I. Keats, Jr.

Mrs. Doris G. Keats, (mother) ✓
126 East 44th Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sgt. Ira D. Richardson, Jr.

Mrs. Ella K. Richardson, (mother) ✓
Box 187,
Boone, North Carolina.

Sgt. K. C. Collier

Mrs. Blanche A. Collier, (mother) ✓
210 Planty Avenue,
San Angelo, Texas.

S/Sgt. Manuel Weinstein

Mrs. Roxy A. Weinstein, (wife) ✓
65 Thornton Street,
Revere, Massachusetts.

S/Sgt. Spencer G. Lowe, Jr.

Mrs. Kate Lowe, (mother) ✓
505 North 17th Street,
Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Sgt. Curtis L. Hall, Jr.

Mrs. Ethel M. Hall, (mother) ✓
425 Southeast 26th Street,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sgt. Coy Buford

Mrs. Dasha Buford, (mother) ✓
Route Number One,
Stephens, Arkansas.

Cpl. Cyril G. Levine

Mrs. Anna Levine, (mother) ✓
2556 Main Street,
Bridgeport, Connecticut.