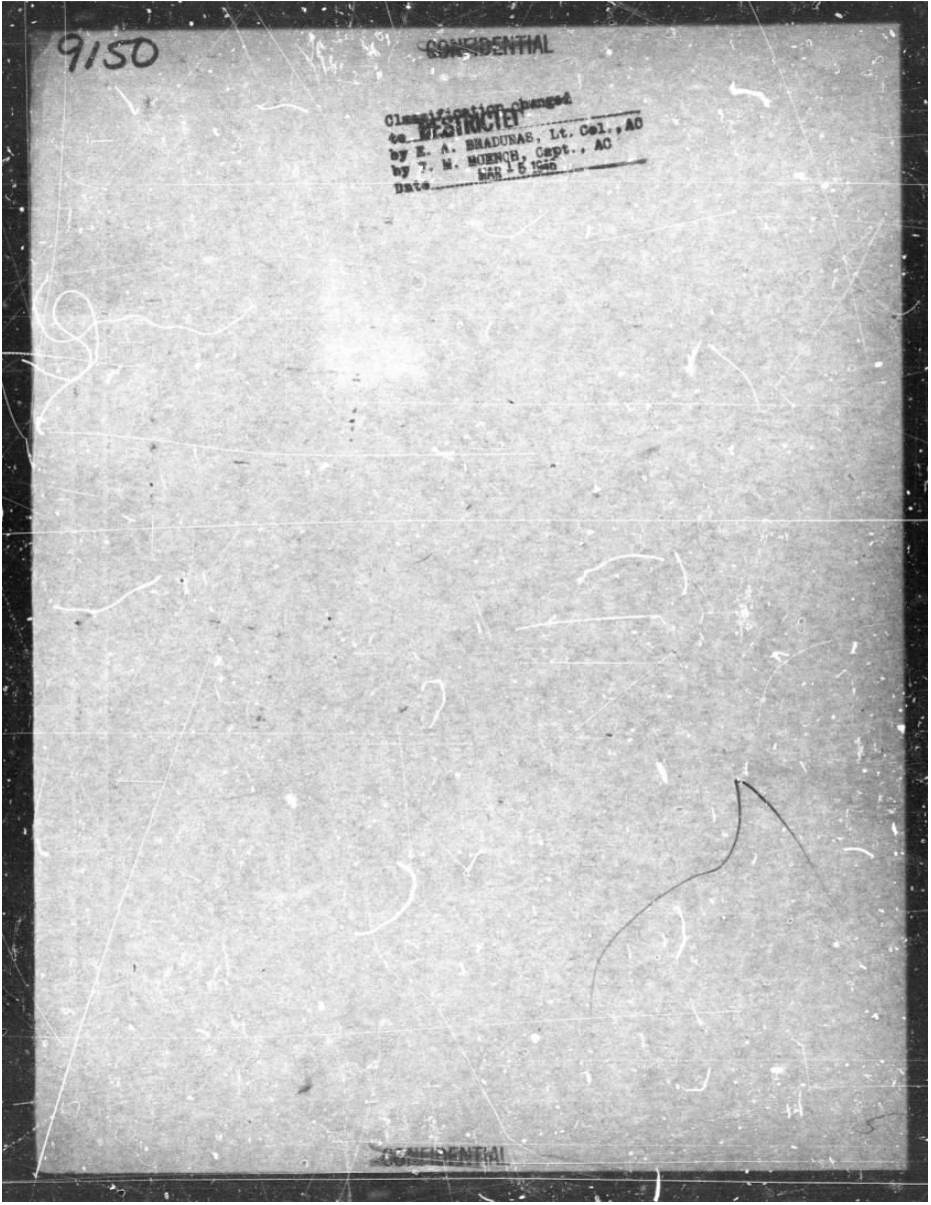


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Classification Control  
RESTRICTED  
CONFIDENTIAL  
by F. S. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. BRADSHAW, Capt., AG  
Date: 15 Oct 1944

**MISSING AIR CREW REPORT** 9150

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Castelluccio, Italy Command or Air Force 15th A.F.  
Group 451st Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 428th Bombardment Squadron H

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Castelluccio, Italy Base 434th Base - 4329 1647  
Target Gerhart Oil Refinery, Germany Type of mission Bombing 1578-TP-Target

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Cloud overcast

4. GIVE: (a) Date 14 Oct. 44 Time 1330 Last known position 45-29 N 17-14 E over Yugoslavia  
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, ( ) Seen to crash,  
( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (XXXX) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)  
( ) Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24-J AAF Serial Number 42-51947

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None

8. ENGINES: Type, make & series R-1820-65a AAF Serial Number (a) BP-44874  
(b) BP-44854 (c) BP-44817 (d) BP-44879

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)  
(a) Browning MG M-2 1034041 (c) Browning MG M-2 1316959 (i) Browning MG M-2 1758965  
(b) Browning MG M-2 1037972 (f) Browning MG M-2 1316948 (j) Browning MG M-2 124410  
(c) Browning MG M-2 1316747 (g) Browning MG M-2 1758847 (k)  
(d) Browning MG M-2 1758846 (h) Browning MG M-2 1037860 (l)

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.  
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11  
(If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
(1) Pilot	<u>Forster, Eugene H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-710507</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Golda Y. Clark</u> <u>26 S. Yorktown, Tulsa, Okla.</u>	<u>(Mother) RTD</u>
(2) Pilot	<u>Sparby, Clifford M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-766965</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Jean E. Sparby</u> <u>Rio Highland Sts., Minneapolis, Minn.</u>	<u>(Sister) RTD</u>
(3) Nav.	<u>Gain, Harold E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2058460</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. Carl A. Gain</u> <u>Fairfield, California.</u>	<u>(Father) RTD</u>
(4) Bomb	<u>Berrow, William G.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-773264</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Mary B. Berrow</u> <u>1619 Bridge Ave., Oakland, Cal.</u>	<u>(Mother) RTD</u>
(5) Photo	<u>Miller, Harvey B. Jr.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>13022062</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. Harvey Miller</u> <u>EPD #3, Lititz, Pennsylvania.</u>	<u>(Father) RTD</u>
(6) Nose	<u>Clifton, Estel L.</u>	<u>Gnr Sgt</u>	<u>35526554</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Elizabeth E. Clifton</u> <u>Hubbard Springs, Virginia.</u>	<u>(Mother) RTD</u>
(7) Tail	<u>Dougherty, Paul R.</u>	<u>Gnr Sgt</u>	<u>13134289</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. Edwin A. Dougherty</u> <u>Box 57, Cloo, Pennsylvania.</u>	<u>(Father) RTD</u>
(8) Waist	<u>Fugua, Clyde M. Jr.</u>	<u>Gnr Sgt</u>	<u>13105619</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Clara J. Fugua</u> <u>1202 Western Ave., Amarillo, Texas.</u>	<u>(Wife) RTD</u>
(9) Waist	<u>Gates, Henry</u>	<u>Gnr Sgt</u>	<u>39329761</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Mary A. Gates</u> <u>RR #1, Box 241, Rainier, Oregon.</u>	<u>(Mother) RTD</u>
(10) Upper	<u>Groeschel, Peter H.</u>	<u>Turret Sgt</u>	<u>17063526</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Eetty K. Groeschel</u> <u>2304 Bryant Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.</u>	<u>(Wife) RTD</u>
(11) Ball	<u>Smith, Karl C.</u>	<u>Turret Sgt</u>	<u>39917953</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Norma J. Smith</u> <u>292 E., 2nd North St., Springfield, Wash.</u>	<u>(Wife) RTD</u>

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
(1) <u>Robert A. Johnson</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>38342460</u>			<u>X</u>	
(2)						
(3)						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
( ) Parachutes were used, ( ) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.  
(X) Other reasons (specify) Plane was flying level when formation was contacted they were going

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT, to ball cut

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None. Plane down in enemy territory.

3-Inclosures.  
Incl 1- Statement Date 15 October 1944 ALBERT F. OGDEN, Captain, AG, Adjutant.  
(S-2 Officer) CONFIDENTIAL Signature of reporting officer  
Incl 2- Sketch.  
Incl 3- Statement (S/Sgt Johnson)

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

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

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

15 October 1944

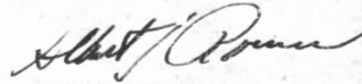
S T A T E M E N T

Second Lieutenant Eugene H. Porter, O-710507, was pilot of aircraft #42-51947, no nickname, on a combat mission to bomb the Odertal Oil Refinery near Kosel, Germany on 14 October 1944. On the return journey at approximately 46° 29'N, 17° 14'E, Lieutenant Porter, who was in radio communication with an airplane in his formation, informed them that he was about to run out of gasoline and was preparing to bail out, but would try to make Yugoslavia. Nothing further was heard from Lieutenant Porter or his crew. No one in his formation saw him bail out.

Nothing further has been heard from Lieutenant Porter 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 14 October 1944.

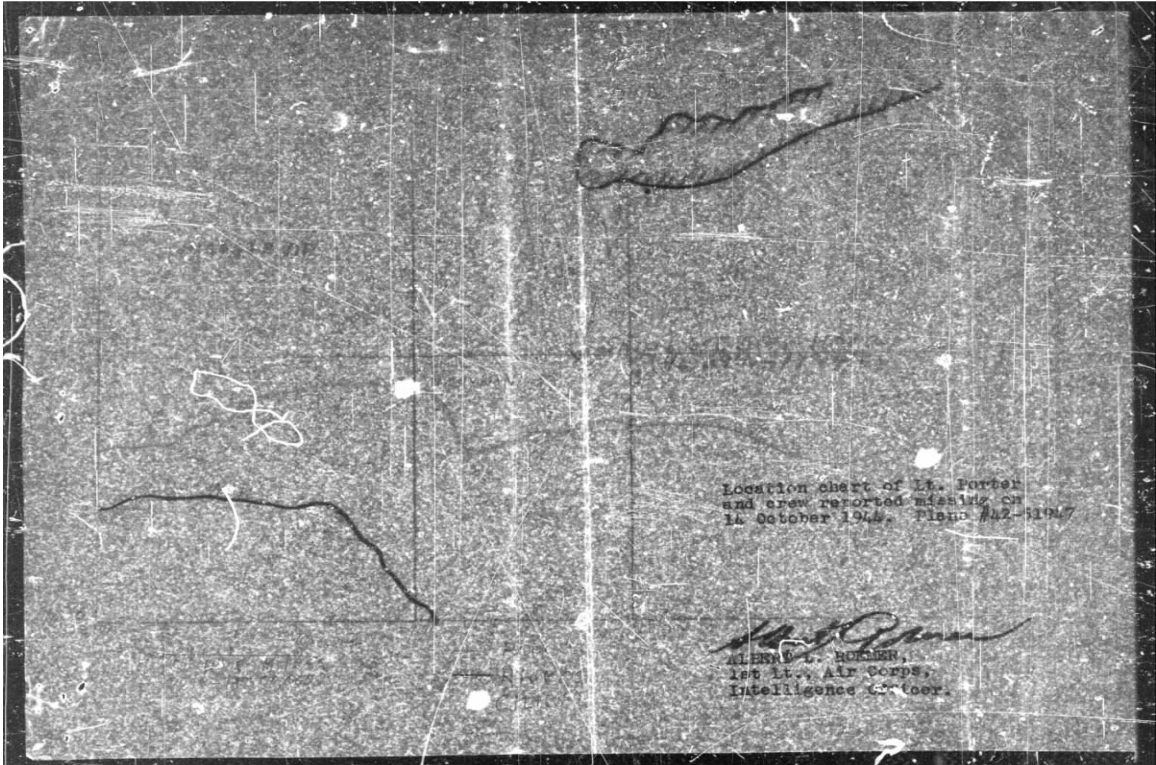
Pilot	Porter, Eugene H.	2nd Lt.	O-710507
Co-Pilot	Sparby, Clifford M.	2nd Lt.	O-766965
Navigator	Gein, Harold R.	2nd Lt.	O-2058460
Bombardier	Barros, William G.	2nd Lt.	O-773264
Photographer	Miller, Harvey B. Jr.	T/Sgt.	13022062
Nose Gunner	Clifton, Estel L.	Sgt.	33526954
Tail Gunner	Dougherty, Paul R.	Sgt.	13134289
Waist Gunner	Fugua, Clyde M. Jr.	Sgt.	18105519
Waist Gunner	Gates, Henry	Sgt.	39329661
Upper Turret	Groetsch, Peter H.	Sgt.	17063526
Ball Turret	Smith, Karl C.	Sgt.	39917953



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

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

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C O N F I D E N T I A L726TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

15 October 1944

EYE WITNESS STATEMENT

" I, Staff Sergeant Robert A. Johnson, 38342480, was tail gunner in the lead aircraft of a flight of six aircraft returning from a combat mission over Germany. Shortly before reaching Lake Balaton my pilot called me on interphone and instructed me to keep a watch on the #5 ship of our flight as he had called and told my pilot that he was running short of gasoline and preparing to bail out. I saw Lieutenant Eugene H. Porter, flying #5 position in our flight, fall back out of the formation with his #3 engine feathered. He straggled along in this position until we were approximately ten miles south of Lake Balaton. At approximately 1415 hours Lieutenant Porter dropped back out of my vision. When I last saw the airplane it was flying straight and level and I saw no parachutes leave the airplane."

ROBERT A. JOHNSON, 38342480,  
Staff Sergeant, Air Corps.C O N F I D E N T I A L

INCA #3'