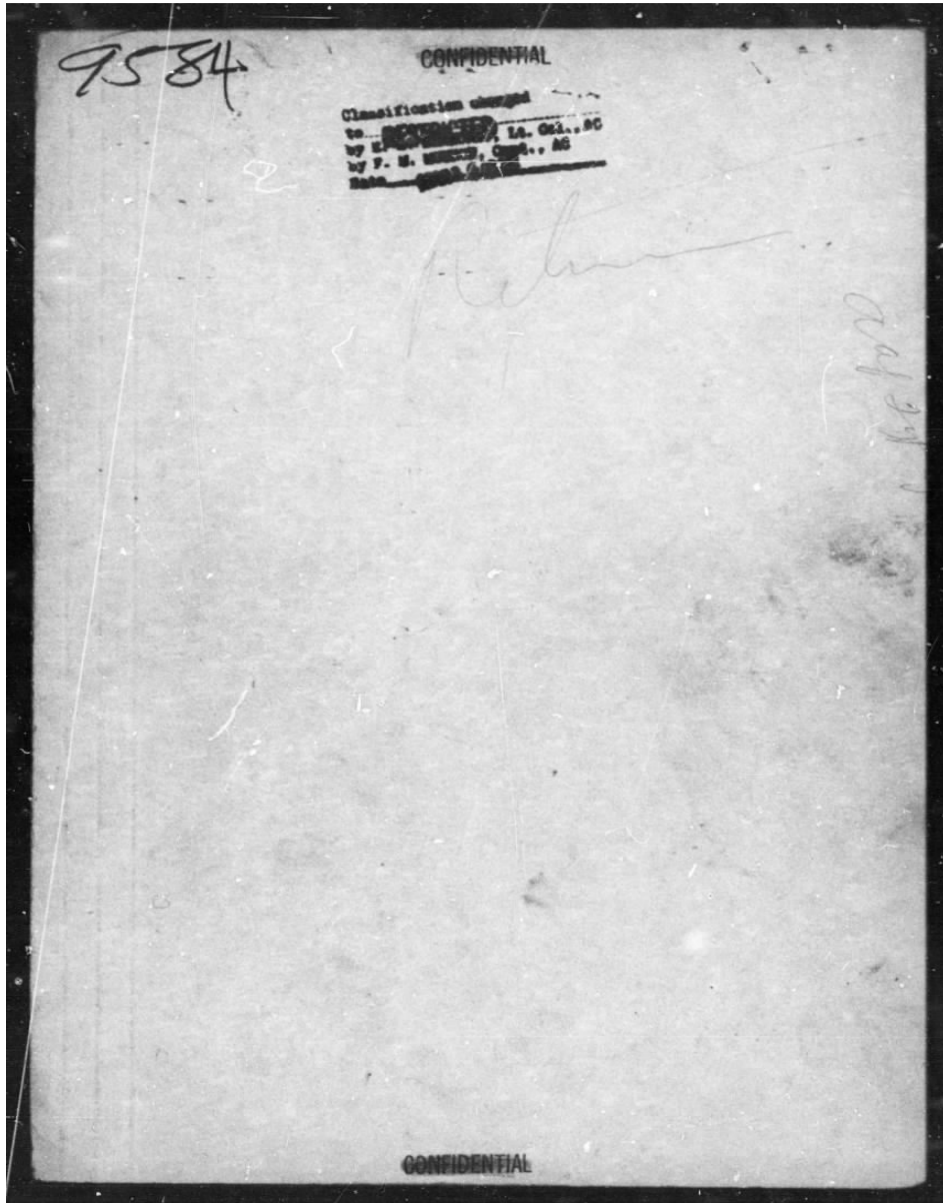


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WESLEY, John changed
 to: WESLEY, Lt. Col. WESLEY AIR CREW REPORT 9584
 by: F. M. MURKIN, Capt., AG
 ORGANIZATION: 15th Air Force, Castelluccio, Italy
 Group: 72nd Bomb Squadron (H)
 Base: 4200N-1350E-7738N 1215E
 Course: 4611N 1611E 7738N 1215E
 Type of mission: Bombing 4752N 1557E-17 Target

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure: Castelluccio, Italy
 Target: Vienna, Austria
 WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
 Visibility limited to five (5) miles - cloud coverage 7/10ths

4. GIVE: (a) Date 1 November 1942
 (b) Time 1542
 Last known position 43° 20' N - 14° 11' E
 (c) Last sighted, () Forced down, (X) Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (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 42-51970

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series AAF Serial Number (a)
 (b) (c) (d)

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
11A(1) Pilot	Merritt, Edward L.	2nd Lt.	O-807490	KIA	RD # 2, Mill St., Springfield, Mo.	Mrs. Hazel I. Merritt (Mother)
11A(2) Co-Pilot	Spiegel, Charles J.	2nd Lt.	O-527747	RTD		
11A(3) Nav.	Wright, Jack B.	2nd Lt.	O-2060868	MIA	3325 N.W. 26th, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Mrs. Willie B. Wright (Mother)
11A(4) Bomb.	Boyce, Lyndell J.	2nd Lt.	O-2057734	RTD		
11A(5) Right Rhodes	Rhodes, Troy L.	Waist Sgt.	38478386	MIA	RD #1, Box 169, Zaballa, Texas.	Mrs. Stella O. Rhodes (Mother)
11A(6) Left	Whiteloy, William F.	Waist Sgt.	17074510	MIA	6028 Shemondah Ave., St. Louis, Mo.	Mr. Joseph E. Whiteloy (Father)
11A(7) Lower	Ferristall, Fred B. Jr.	Turret Sgt.	31110587	MIA	74 Fairview Ave., Peabody, Mass.	Mrs. Amy M. Ferristall (Mother)
11A(8) Turret	Rudlewski, Elmer R.	Gunner Sgt.	13111390	MIA		Mr. Nick Rudlewski (Father)
11A(9) Nose	Corn, James J.	Gunner Sgt.	34888828	MIA	Wall Ave., Wall, Pennsylvania	Mrs. Fannie W. Corn (Mother)
11A(10) Upper	Campbell, John E.	Turret Sgt.	12201314	MIA	Maplehurst Hotel, Monteagle, Tenn.	Mrs. Irene W. Campbell (Mother)

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.	BY RADIO	SGHTED	SAW	FORCED LANDING
(1) Boyce, Lyndell J.	2nd Lt.	O-2057734				X
(2) Spiegel, Charles J.	2nd Lt.	O-527747				X
(3)						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (X) Parachutes were used. () Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 () Other reasons (specify)

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT, (110)

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

3 Inclosures.
 Incl 1 - Statement (Lt Spiegel) 7 copies. Date 3 November 1942
 Incl 2 - Statement (Lt. Boyce) 7 copies
 Incl 3 - Map (7 copies)

Norman W. Roche, Captain, 4th Corps, Adjutant.

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~STATEMENT

3 November 1944

I was flying as Co-Pilot in aircraft 970, returning from a mission over Austria. About forty (40) miles southeast of Ancona, directly over the Isle of Gherso, we were forced to leave the formation in order to save gas and attempted to make the Italian shore with the least delay. Over the target our planes was hit by flak which severed the control cables. After leaving the formation the Pilot made contact with Air-Sea Rescue and gave our position.

I left the Co-Pilot seat to check controls in the nose, when the Pilot rang the bell to bail out. I returned to the Bomb Bay and opened the doors, and saw the men bail out. I believe all the chutes opened but I was unable to follow their course. After they bailed out the plane seemed under control so we decided to circle the area. The bombardier who also stayed in the ship and myself circled for about one and one-half (1 1/2) hours, then we obtained our position and headed for the Italian shore. The plane was losing altitude and it was impossible to turn the ship back to sea.

I bailed out at 6,000 feet after which the plane circled and crashed about seven (7) miles north of Loretta. The crew bailed out at about 43° 20' N - 14° 11' E at about 1542.

Charles J. Spiegel
CHARLES J. SPIEGEL,
2nd Lt., O-827747.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~STATEMENT

On 1 November 1944, I was flying as Bombardier on aircraft #970, which was hit by flak over the target. Immediately after bombs away a burst of flak rendered the controls inoperative, but we were able to continue in the formation flying on Automatic Pilot. Directly off the coast of Yugoslavia and over the Isle of Cherso, we left the formation in order to save gas. We were in direct contact with air-sea rescue after we left the formation.

I was helping the Co-Pilot and Engineer fix the controls when the signal to bail out was given by the Pilot. I was in the nose at the time and when I got back on the flight deck the Co-Pilot and myself were alone and decided to make another attempt to ride the plane over land. I saw only one parachute open but my position made it impossible to see if any more opened.

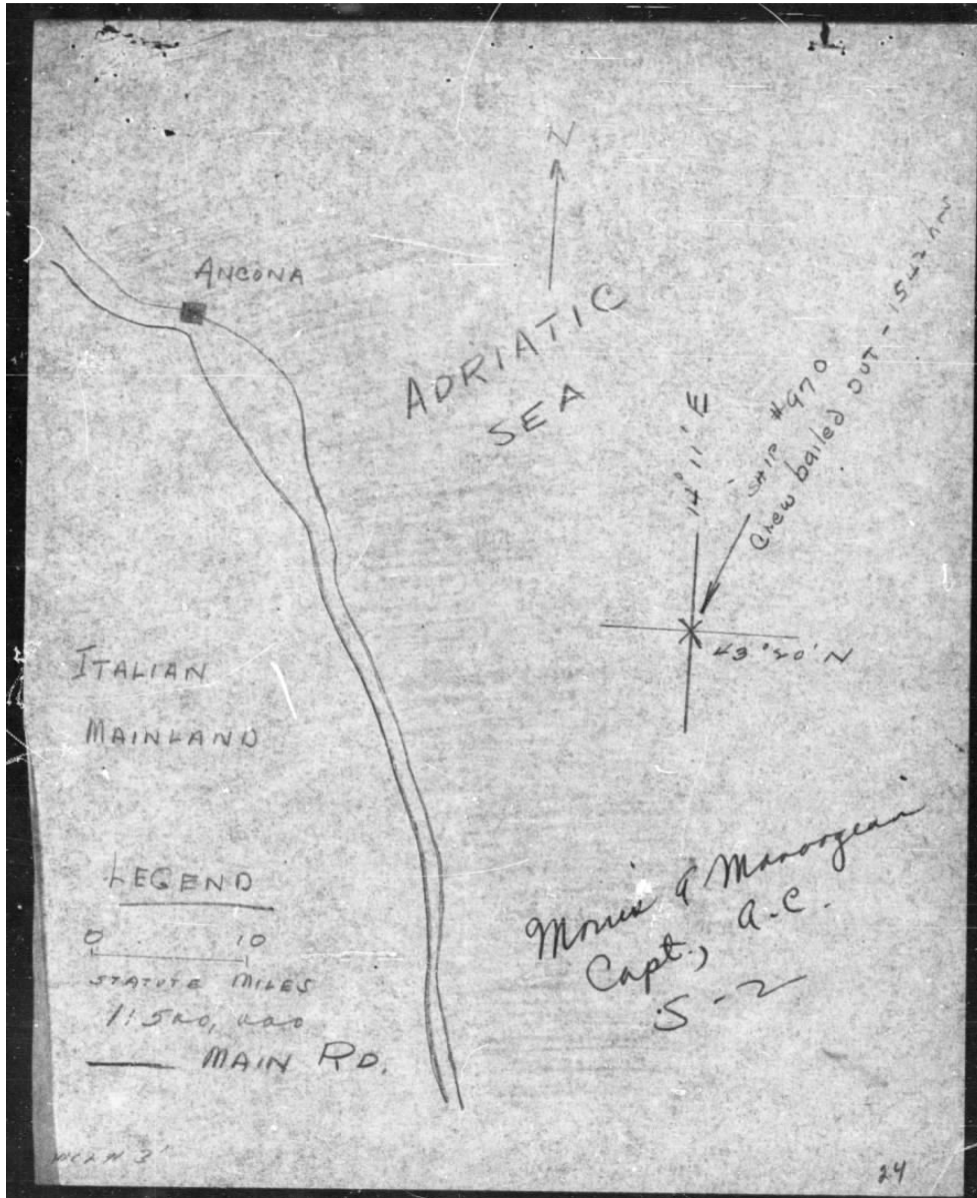
After circling the area for about one (1) hour, we brought the plane under control and headed to the Italian shore where I bailed out at about seven thousand (7,000) feet. The plane then circled, and crashed on Italian soil.

The crew, with the exception of the Co-Pilot and myself, bailed out at approximately 1542 hours, at about ten thousand (10,000) feet.

Lyndell J. Boyce
LYNDELL J. BOYCE,
2nd Lt., AC.

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eb/1/15/45

2nd Lt. Jack B. Wright

✓ Mrs. Willie H. Wright (mother)
 3325 North West 26th Street,
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma ✓

Sgt. Troy L. Rhodes

✓ Mr. Barney Rhodes (father)
 Route Number One, Box 169
 Zavalla, Texas ✓

Sgt. William F. Whiteley

✓ Mr. Joseph E. Whiteley, (father)
 4223 Shennadoch Avenue
 Saint Louis, Missouri ✓

271 Sgt. Fred B. Forristall, Jr.

✓ Mrs. Amy M. Forristall, (mother)
 74 Fairview Avenue
 Peabody, Massachusetts. ✓

Sgt. Elmer R. Rudlowski

✓ Nick Rudlowski (father)
 Wall Avenue
 Wall, Pennsylvania ✓

Sgt. James J. Corn

✓ Mrs. Fannie W. Corn (mother)
 Monteagle, Tennessee ✓

Sgt. John E. Campbell

✓ Mrs. Irene W. Campbell (mother)
 72 East Avenue
 Wellstone, Pennsylvania ✓

2nd Lt. Edward L. Merritt

✓ Mrs. Hazel L. Merritt, (mother)
 Route #2, Mill Street,
 Springfield, Missouri ✓