

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

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRAUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
 by F. M. MUEHCH, Capt., AO
 Date MAR 5 1949

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

7211-8001

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Castelluccio, Italy Command or AF 15th A. F.
 Group 451st Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 726th Bombardment Squadron (H)
 2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Castelluccio, Italy Course 40°N 154°E - 40°N 163°E
 Target Barat, Albania Type of Mission Bombing 4021N 1810E - 4000N 192°E IP to Target.
 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather conditions; good; Visibility; good
 4. GIVE: (a) Date 28 July 1944 Time 0806 Location 41°0' N & 19°20' E.
 of last known whereabouts of missing 16 miles off coast of Albania.
 (b) Specify whether: (x) Last Flight () Last Contacted by Radio
 () Forced Down () Seen to Crash; or
 () Information not available.
 5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
 () Enemy Aircraft () Enemy Anti-aircraft (x) Other circumstances as follows: Aircraft not lost, (two crew members bailed out)
 6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series _____ AAF Serial No. _____
 7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series _____ AAF Serial No. (a) _____
 (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
 8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
 (a) _____ (b) _____
 (c) _____ (d) _____
 (e) _____ (f) _____
 (g) _____ (h) _____
 9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (x) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas.
 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers - Total 10
 (Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)
- | CREW POSITION (Last name first) | NAME IN FULL | RANK | SERIAL NO. | NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|---|
| 1. Chief Bombardier | Cook, Roland E. | 2nd Lt. | O-706702 | Mr. Ripley E. Cook (Father) RTD
944 W. Wood St., Drumright, Okla. |
| 2. Nose Gunner | McLean, James J. | Sgt. | 32848524 | Mrs. Clyde McLean (Mother)
101 Water St., Binghamton, N. Y. |
| 3. Pilot | Beaucond, Maurice J., Jr. | 2nd Lt. | O-700893 | Present for duty. |
| 4. Co-pilot | Jeffress, Weldon H. | 2nd Lt. | O-709585 | Present for duty |
| 5. Navigator | Grapey, Sidney S. | 2nd Lt. | O-719850 | Present for duty |
| 6. Top Turret Gunner | Gibson, William T. | Sgt. | 34650016 | Present for duty |
| 7. Lower Turret Gunner | Martin, Oliver H. | Sgt. | 38512700 | Present for duty |
| 8. Tail Gunner | Bolin, Billy R. | Sgt. | 38515825 | Present for duty |
| 9. Waist Gunner | Smith, Willard E. | S/Sgt. | 37657815 | Present for duty |
| 10. Waist Gunner | Johnson, Frank A. | S/Sgt. | 37666953 | Present for duty |
| 11. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 12. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) CIRCLE TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAID

	NAME IN FULL	RANK SERIAL NO	Contacted		Lost		Saw	
			by	Radio	Sighted	Crash	Forced	Land
1.	Beaucord, Maurice J.	2nd Lt. O-70 893						X
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (X) Parachutes were used () Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
 () Any other reason (specify) _____

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search was made as crew members bailed out over enemy territory.

Date of this report 28 July 1944.

- 2 Incls:
 Incl 1 - Statement (S-2 Officer)
 Incl 2 - Statement (Pilot)
 Incl 3 - Sketch.

Al Fogg
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
 ALBERT F. FOGG,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

RECEIVED



AUG 30 1944

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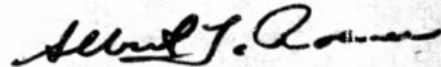
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~726TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

28 July 1944

S T A T E M E N T

2nd Lt. Roland E. Cook, O-706702, bombardier and Sgt. James J. McLean, 32848524, nose gunner, were on a bombing mission over Berat, Albania in a B-24 type aircraft piloted by 2nd Lt. Maurice J. Beaucond, O-700893 on 26 July 1944.

The aircraft was proceeding on course with the formation and had almost reached the Albanian coast when a fire broke out in the number 4 engine. The airplane turned back and left the formation. The pilot pressed the emergency button for all members of the crew to put on their parachutes. Apparently mistaking this for the signal to jump, Lt. Cook and Sgt. McClean left the aircraft by way of the nose bay doors. The ships location at that time was approximately 16 miles off the coast of Albania, 41° 0" North & 19° 20" East. They were last seen going down with open chutes, with the wind blowing them in the direction of land. The aircraft returned safely to an alternate airfield. The undersigned has no opinion as to the final fate of the two crew members.



ALBERT L. ROEMER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
S-2 Officer.

Incl # 1'~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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7261 BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

28 July 1944.

S T A T E M E N T

I, 2nd Lt. Maurice J. Beaucond, O-700893 was pilot of the B-24 type aircraft from which 2nd Lt. Roland E. Cook, O-706702, bombardier, and Sgt. James J. McLean, 32846524, nose gunner, bailed out over the Albanian coast on 26 July 1944.

We were proceeding on course with the formation and had almost reached the Albanian coast when number 4 engine caught fire and the prop came off at the same time. Number 1 engine dropped to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ its power and later quit altogether. I pressed the emergency button for all members of the crew to put on their parachutes. Apparently alarmed by the fire, Lt. Cook and Sgt. McLean, must have mistaken the signal for notice to jump. I am not certain whether they jumped before or after I gave the alarm, but they did leave the plane by way of the nose bay doors. The plane's location at that time was 41° 0" North & 19° 20" East, approximately 3 miles off the coast of Albania. Their parachutes were seen to open and they were being blown in the direction of land. The fire having been extinguished, I flew my ship to an alternate airfield and landed safely with the rest of the crew.

MAURICE J. BEAUCOND,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

Maurice J. Beaucond, Jr. 2nd Lt.

Incl. # 2'

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