

3693-1

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location Gioia Del Colle, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 451 Bomb Gp (H); Squadron 725 Bomb Sq (H) Detachment
- SPECIES: Point of Departure Gioia Del Colle, Italy Point of Destination Begensburg, Germany Type of Mission Bombing
Intended Destination Begensburg, Germany to to target
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather, Clear Visibility, Unlimited.
- GIVE: (a) Date 25 Feb. Time 1200 and Location 150 Mi SW Begensburg, Germany
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (X) Last sighted; () Last Contacted by Radio;
() Forced down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one (X) Enemy aircraft; () Enemy Anti-aircraft; () Other circumstances as follows

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1.	Pilot	ZENDER, NICHOLAS J.	2nd Lt	0-746503
2.	Co-Pilot	LANCH, GAVIN G.	2nd Lt	0-681126
3.	Navigator	GRANT, RICHARD C.	2nd Lt	0-691134
4.	Bombardier	KELLY, GEORGE W.	2nd Lt	0-751230
5.	Upper Turret	Radocy, Bartholomew J.	T/Sgt	35333600
6.	Lower Turret	Mitchell, Charles W.	Sgt	38428570
7.	Right Waist	Webb, Lloyd E.	S/Sgt	1404261
8.	Left Waist	Grooms, Kelly D. Jr	Sgt	35626042
9.	Tail Gunner	Eldridge, Griffith W.	Sgt	34686266
10.	Radio Gunner	Torres, Reyes V.	S/Sgt	38214428

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Contacted		
		By Radio	Last Sighted	Seen Forced Landing
1. Rhoads, Bennerville E Jr	T/S 35349222		X	
2. George, Theo R.	S/S 39533937		X	
3. Dieter, Henry W.	T/S 35380975		X	

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED AND IN VIEW TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. (a) Parachutes were used (X); (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) Any other reason (Specify).
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. No search made

- 4 Incls:
- Incl 1 - Statement of T/Sgt Bennerville E. Rhoads Jr. Date of report 1 March 1944
 - Incl 2 - Statement of T/Sgt Henry W. Dieter.
 - Incl 3 - Statement of S/Sgt Theo R. George.
 - Incl 4 - Sketch of Area.

EDWARD H. BOWEN
Capt., AG
Operations Officer

Incl 1

STATEMENT

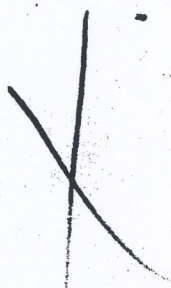
36932

I, BENNEVILLE E. RHOADS JR., did witness the destruction of one B-24R airplane No. 42-52168 on 25 February 1944.

After an enemy fighter attack, the right wing caught fire and eventually burned off, at which time the aircraft fell into a spin.

During the spin the fuselage commenced burning and four parachutes were seen to open.

Benneville E Rhoads Jr
BENNEVILLE E. RHOADS JR
T/Sgt 725th Bomb Sq



Doc #1

S T A T E M E N T

I, HENRY W. DIETER, did witness the destruction of one B-24H airplane No. 42-52168 on 25 February 1944.

After an enemy fighter attack, the right wing caught fire and eventually burned off, at which time the aircraft fell into a spin.

During the spin the fuselage commenced burning and four parachutes were seen to open.

Henry W. Dieter
HENRY W. DIETER
T/Sgt 725th Bomb Sq

Encl #2'

3693-9

STATEMENT

I, THEO R. GEORGE, D12 witness the ^{DESTRUCTION} forced landing of one B-24H airplane No. 42-52168 on 25 February 1944.

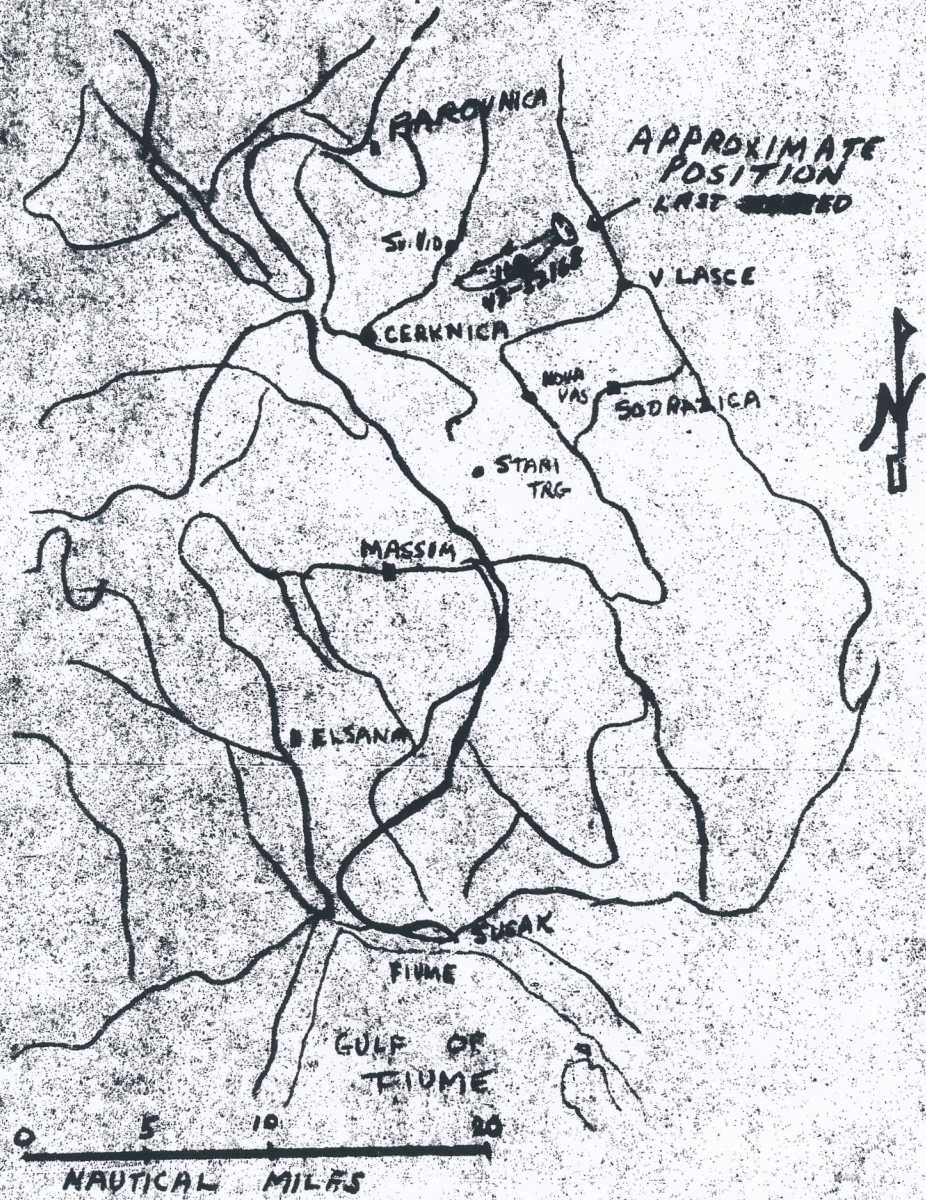
Saw number three (3) engine on fire, was flying left wing of 156 flight, dropped out of formation after being attacked by a fighter.

Ind. #3'

Sgt. Theo R. George

S/Sgt THEO R. GEORGE
ASN 39533937 725th Bomb Sq

3693-57



Edward H. Bowen

copy 4