

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

4838<sup>2d</sup>

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

**MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT**

IMPORTANT: 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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Castelluccio, Italy. Command or Air Force 15th Group 451st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 727th Bomb Sq (H) Base 1450H 4408H
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Castelluccio, Italy; course 1455H 4448H 1712H 4416H  
 Intended Destination Weiner-Neustadt, Austria; type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS: WFS LAST REPORTED

**C A Y U**

4. GIVE: (a) Date 10 May 44 Time 1140 hours, and location Saint Margerathen, Austria, of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft  
 (b) Specify whether  last sighted;  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  in any aircraft;  in any para-aircraft;  other circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24H; S.N.F. Serial Number 41-52501
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43; S.N.F. Serial Number(s) CP-302534  
 (f) CP-320089; (g) CP-302123; (h) CP-302448
8. INSTALLED TURRETS (Furnish below make, type and serial number) Browning, 50 Cal, M2,  
 (e) 998400; (f) 885044; (g) 996837; (h) 1055030  
 (i) 998617; (j) 885078; (k) 996582; (l) 884534
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty   
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10  
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: if more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Remarks
1. Pilot	Whitfill, Gilbert M.	2nd Lt	0-547093	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	Quigley III, John B.	2nd Lt	0-699729	RTD
3. Navigator	Lukaszik, John A.	2nd Lt	0-695936	RTD
4. Bombardier	Comly, Norman	2nd Lt	0-694436	RTD
5. Upper Turret	Wachter, John B.	S/Sgt	33676651	RTD
6. Lower Turret	Fifer, Donald D.	S/Sgt	16014552	RTD
7. Right Waist	Wintter, Archie H.	S/Sgt	34164052	RTD
8. Left Waist	Overhurf, Arnon A.	T/Sgt	17121770	POW
9. Tail Turret	Catone, Orlando R.	Cpl	31088776	RTD
10. Nose Turret	Grandy, Leonard N.M.V.	S/Sgt	6226565	RTD

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF AIRCRAFT LOSS AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE BASIC LOSS FACTS

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Lost	Seen	Forced Down	Crash Landing
1. Evans, Clayton E.	Major	0-437435	X				
2. Monninger, Earl F.	1st Lt	0-747298	X				
3. Larson, Merle D.	1st Lt	0-504310	X				

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

4 Incl:  
 Incl 1 - Sketch (quad) Date of report 13 May 1944  
 Incl 2 - Statement, Major Evans. (quad)  
 Incl 3 - " Lt. Larson, (quad)  
 Incl 4 - " Lt. Monninger. (quad)

Serial #1

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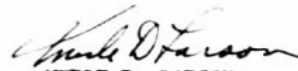
By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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

11 May 1944

S T A T E M E N T

On 10 May 1944, I was pilot of a B-24 type aircraft in a formation headed against enemy installations at Weizener Neustadt, Austria. Our formation was attacked by enemy aircraft about fifteen minutes before we reached the target. Aircraft # 41-52501, in which 2nd Lieutenant Gilbert M. Whitfill, O-547093, was pilot, and which was flying number five position in the low flight, seemed to have been hit by the fighters and began to lose altitude steadily and to fall out of the formation. The plane was under control at all times, and there was no fire or smoke seen. Six or seven parachutes were counted before the plane was lost from sight. The aircraft was last seen between Lake Neusiedler and Saint Margarethen, Austria.



MERLE D. LARSON  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
O-504310.

*Incl #3-13*  
C O N F I D E N T I A L

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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

11 May 1944

S T A T E M E N T

On 10 May 1944, I was pilot of a B-24 type aircraft in a formation headed against a target at Weiner Neustadt, Austria. As we approached the target area, we were attacked by enemy fighters. A/C # 41-52501, in which Second Lieutenant Gilbert M. Whitfill, O-547093, was acting as pilot, was attacked by fighters, and seemed to have been hit. The aircraft started to lose altitude and to fall out of the formation. Six or seven parachutes were seen to open before the aircraft was last seen. This was a few miles southeast of Saint Margarethen, Austria.

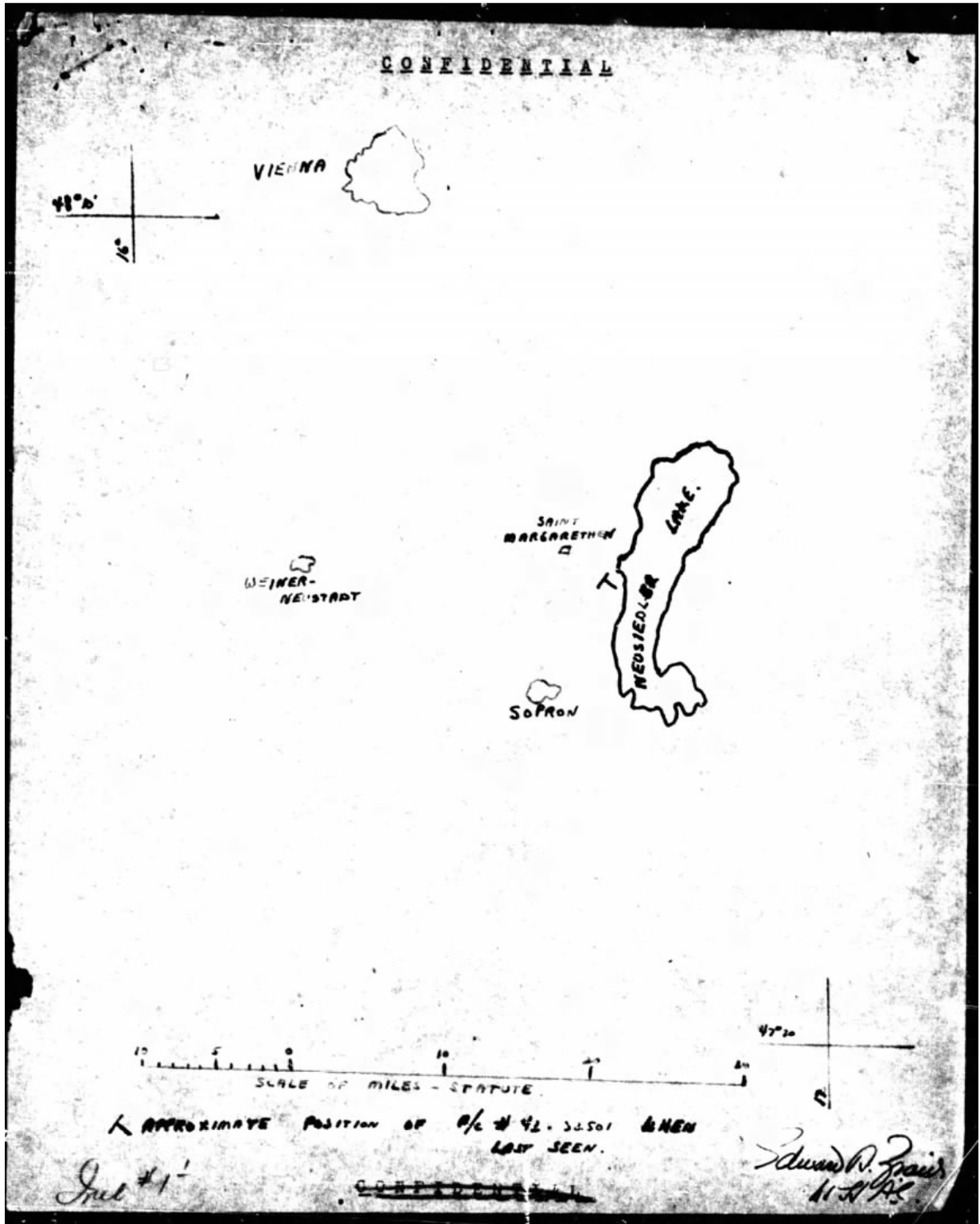
*Earl F. Monninger*  
EARL F. MONNINGER  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
O-747298.

*Incl #6!*  
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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2nd Lt. Gilbert M. Whitfill RTD	Mrs. Mary E. Whitfill (Mother) Route Number One, Ennis, Texas.
2nd Lt. John F. Quigley, III RTD	Mrs. Emma J. Quigley (Wife) 1245 Gerson Court, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
2nd Lt. John A. Lukasik RTD	Mrs. Olga Lukasik (Wife) Rural Free Delivery Number One, Maybee, Michigan.
2nd Lt. Norman F. Coaly RTD	Mrs. Ethel J. Swamy, (Mother) 5 Lake Road, Morristown, New Jersey.
S/Sgt. John B. Wachter RTD	Mr. Charles B. Wachter (Father) Kilbuck Road, Sewickley, Pennsylvania.
S/Sgt. Donald D. Fifer RTD	Mr. Frank L. Fifer (Father) Commonwealth Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.
S/Sgt. Archie H. Winter RTD	Mr. John A. Winter, (Father) Route One, Bessemer, Alabama.
T/Sgt. Amon A. Overturf RTD	Mrs. Violet V. Overturf (Wife) 6940 Manchester Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.
Cpl. Orlando R. Catone RTD	Mrs. Clara Catone (Mother) 85 Fountain Street, East Boston, Massachusetts.
S/Sgt. Leonard Grady Dead	Mrs. Elizabeth L. Grady, (Mother) 134 South 77th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.