

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

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT 16457

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

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

1. ORGANIZATION: LOCATION: CONTINENT OR AIR FORCE:  
 GROUP: **451st Bomb Gp.** SQUADRON: **725th Bomb Sq. Detachment**

2. SPECIES: POINT OF DEPARTURE: COURSE: **Routine**

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

4. GIVE: (A) DATE: **24 April 45** TIME: AND LOCATION OF LAST KNOWN  
 WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING AIRCRAFT: **Gulf of Naples near Capri Island, Italy**

(B) SPECIES TYPE ( ) LAST KNOWN ( ) LAST CONTACTED BY RADIO  
 ( ) FUELED DOWN ( ) SEEN TO CRASH OR ( ) INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF WHICH ONLY  
 (A) ( ) KNOWN AIRCRAFT ( ) KNOWN RPT-AIRCRAFT ( ) OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS  
 FOLLOWS:

6. AIRCRAFT: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES: **B-24** CAP SERIAL NO.:

7. ENGINE: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES: AIR SERIAL NO. (A) (B)

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (NUMBER BELOW GALE TYPE AND SERIAL NUMBER)  
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (A) BATTLE CASUALTY  
 (B) ( ) NON-BATTLE CASUALTY

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: CREW: PASSENGERS: TOTAL:

(Identify with pilot branch the following particulars: if more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars to represent about and attach original to this form)

ENOW POSITION	LAST NAME (FIRST)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	STATUS	DATE
(1) PILOT	Fish, Kendall K.	2nd Lt.	0-822126	KMB	24 Apr 45
(2) COPILOT	Gold, Thomas A.	2nd Lt.	0-833435	KMB	24 Apr 45
(3)	Burley, Robert G.	T/Sgt.	35222306	KMB	24 Apr 45
(4) Civilian	Murdock, Edward V.		Z 419718	KMB	24 Apr 45
(5)	Schneider, William B.		Z 544723	KMB	24 Apr 45
(6)					
(7)					
(8)					
(9)					
(10)					
(11)					

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

NAME IN FULL	SERIAL NUMBER	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAFELY REACHED	SAFELY LANDING
LAST NAME (FIRST)	RANK	NUMBER	BY RADIO	CRASH	LIVING
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (A) PARACHUTES WERE USED ( ) (B) PERSONS WERE SEEN WALKING AWAY FROM SCENE OF CRASH ( ) OR (C) ANY OTHER REASON ( )

13. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE.

**B-24 type airplane was on a routine mission in Southern Italy when it developed engine trouble and crashed into a lighthouse and then fell into the sea in the Gulf of Naples, near Capri Island, Italy.**

Prepared by Memorial Division, OCMG

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16457

AGC Casualty files reveal the following info:

FISH, KENDALL, K., O-822126, 2nd Lt.  
725th Bomb Sq., 451st Bomb Gp. (H)

ENB--24 Apr 45

B-24 type airplane was on a routine mission in Southern Italy when it developed engine trouble and crashed into a lighthouse and then fell into the sea in the Gulf of Naples, near Capri Island, Italy.

CREW:

Fish, Kendall K., 2nd Lt., O-822126

ENB--24 Apr 45

Gold, Thomas A., 2nd Lt., O-833435

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Burley, Robert G., T/Sgt., 35222306

"

Murdock, Edward V., Civilian Z-419715

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Schneider, William B., Civilian, Z-544723

"

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AGPC-O 201 Murdock, Edward V.  
(9 Aug 45) 2419715

10 August 1945

Mrs. Carolyn Murdock  
Plymouth Avenue  
Post Office Box 1051  
Brightwaters, Long Island, New York

Dear Mrs. Murdock:

This is in reply to your recent letter in which you expressed a desire for further information relative to the circumstances leading to the death of your husband, Edward V. Murdock, Civilian employee.

Information has now been received that your husband was killed instantly on 24 April 1945 near the Southwestern corner of the Island of Capri, when the Army airplane in which he was riding accidentally crashed. The report reveals that the plane was seen to strike the Island slightly west of the lighthouse on the southwest corner of the Island. The left wing hit and seemed to shear off. Immediately the plane spun to the left and crashed into the water. The report further states that your husband was an American civilian seaman who had been contracted by the War Department, and who had been working with the Army Transportation Corps. The arm of service, Air Corps, was indicated inasmuch as the plane in which he was riding belonged to the 451st Bombardment Group which is a part of the Air Corps.

Since all matters pertaining to personal effects, burial and return of remains come within the jurisdiction of the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C., I am referring a copy of your letter to that official.

Please accept my continued sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
Acting The Adjutant General of the Army