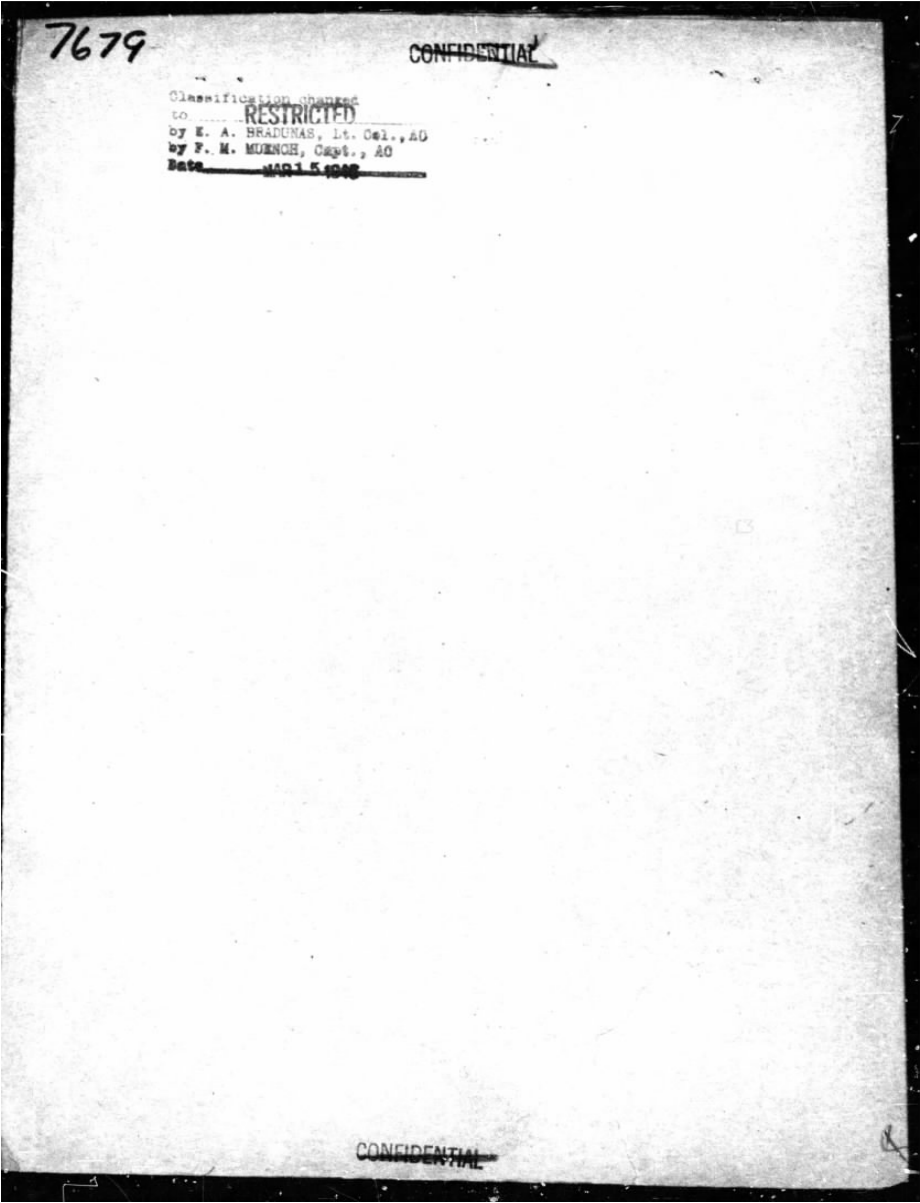


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Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. A. ~~XXXXXX~~, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUECH, Capt., AC
Date: _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Castelluccio, Italy Command or AF 15th AF
Group 451st Bomb Gp; Squadron 726th Bomb Sq (H); ~~Headquarters~~ Base 4177N
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Castelluccio, Italy Course 1927E-4259N 2217E-4355N 2304E-4428N 2340E-4440N 2417E-IP To Target
Target or Intended Destination Ploesti, Rumania; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather, fair. Visibility, good.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 17 Month Aug Year 1944; Time 1300; and Location 41g 21' N. 16g 40' E.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (X); 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: Plane ran out of Gas and crashed in Adriatic Sea.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24 J; AAF Serial No. 42-75484
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
(i) _____ (j) _____ (k) _____ (l) _____
(m) _____ (n) _____ (o) _____ (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 1; Total 12
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

	NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP, ADDRESS	CURRENT STATUS
RTD-1.	Pilot <u>Olds, John H.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-681469</u>		<u>RTD</u>
KIA-1.	Co-pilot <u>Shaner, Eugene C.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-819954</u>	<u>Mrs Emma M. Shaner MIA</u> <u>(Mother) 1622 Greshaw Blvd, Torrance, Calif</u>	
KIA-3.	Navigator <u>Witwiski, Alphonse E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-716565</u>	<u>Mr Joseph Witwiski MIA</u> <u>(Father) 521 Hulton St, Carnegie, Penna.</u>	
KIA-4.	Bombardier <u>Fuller, Clarence B.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-684648</u>	<u>Mrs Louise V. Fuller MIA</u> <u>(Mother) 836-7th Ave., Troy, NY.</u>	
KIA-5.	Passenger <u>Sharp, John L.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-863584</u>	<u>Mrs Jennie M. Sharp MIA</u> <u>(Mother) 123 Simmons Ave., Cohoes, NY.</u>	

(over)

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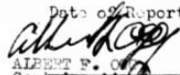
	(Name in Full)	Serial	Next of Kin	Relationship	Current Address	Status
RTD -6.	Top Turret Gunner Clower, Ervin G.	S/Sgt 13122479	Mrs. Guite L. Clower			MTA
	Ball Turret	(Wife) 402 E. 5th St.	Rowell, N.J.			
KIA -7.	Gunner Solis, Agustin	Sgt 36555852	Mr. Jose M. Solis			MTA
	Waist	(Father) Box 126,	Dobson, Tex.			
KIA -8.	Gunner Tocco, George	Cpl 33286121	Mrs. Mary D. Bruce			MTA
	Nose	(Wife) 46 Short St.,	Camdenburg, Penna.			
KIA -9.	Gunner Panland, D.L.	Cpl 4929795	Mrs. Mary Panland			MTA
	Tail	(Mother) 42 Korath St.,	Asheville, N.C.			
KIA -10.	Gunner Williams, Clyde G.	Cpl 36894658	Mrs. Lucille Hatter			MTA
	Waist	(Mother) 662 Indiana Ave.,	Chicago, Ill.			
RTD -11.	Gunner Burns, Donald E.	S/Sgt 13035012				MTA

KIA -12. Photographer Sutter, John G. Sgt. 17115937 Mrs. Mary I. Sutter MTA
 (Wife) Osborn, Kansas.

12. 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 (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by		Check Only One Column		
			Radio	Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing	
1. Olds, John W.	1st Lt	C-681469				X	
2.							
3.							

13. 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 reasons (Specify) _____
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT Air Sea Rescue Service, Foggia, Italy conducted a search. Details of search are not known by this organization.

Date of Report 21 August 1944.

 ALBERT F. O'CONNELL
 Captain, Air Corps, Adjutant
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. CHECKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:
 3 Incls:
 Incl 1 - Statement of S-2 Officer.
 Incl 2 - Statement of Lt. Olds.
 Incl 3 - Sketch.



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mlw/12/6/44

✓ 1st. Lt. John L. Sharp	Mrs. Jennie M. Sharp, (Mother) 123 Simons Avenue, Cohoes, New York.
✓ 2nd. Lt. Eugene C. Shaner	Mrs. Charles C. Shaner, (Mother) 1622 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, California.
✓ 2nd. Lt. Alphonse E. Witwiski	Mr. Joseph Witwiski, (Father) 621 Hulton Street, Carnegie, Pennsylvania.
✓ 2nd. Lt. Clarence R. Fuller	Mrs. Louise V. Fuller, (Mother) 836 Seventh Avenue, Troy, New York.
✓ 1st. Lt. John W. Olds	Dr. Fredrick C. Olds, (Father) <i>RTD</i> 529 East Main Street, Warsaw, Indiana.
✓ S/Sgt. Donald R. Burns	Mrs. Hugh L. Burns, (Mother) <i>RTD</i> Derby, Virginia.
✓ S/Sgt. Ervin C. Clower	Mrs. Ouita L. Clower, (wife) 402 East Fifth Street, <i>1200 W. Handwritten</i> Roswell, New Mexico.
✓ Sgt. Agustin Solis	Mr. Jose R. Solis, (Father) Box 126, Donna, Texas.
✓ Sgt. John C. Sutter	Mrs. Iola Sutter, (Mother) Downs, Kansas.
✓ Cpl. George Bruce	Mrs. Mary D. Bruce, (Wife) 46 Short Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.
✓ Cpl. Clyde C. Williams	Mrs. Lucille A. Ritter, (Mother) 6243 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
✓ Cpl. D. L. Penland	Mrs. Mary G. Penland, (Mother) 42 Forsyth Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

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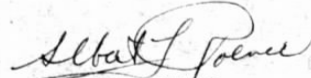
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CONFIDENTIAL726TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

21 August 1944

STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES

On 17 August 1944, First Lieutenant John W. Olds, O-681469, was pilot of aircraft Number 42-78484, on a mission over the Romano-American Oil Refinery at Ploesti, Rumania. In the target area his aircraft was severely damaged, on engine was rendered inoperative and on the return journey he was seen to abandon most of his removable equipment. At approximately 41° 21'N, 16° 40'E, in the Adriatic Sea, seven parachutes were seen to leave the airplane and the airplane was seen to crash in the sea. The location of the crash was called in to Air Sea Rescue by another airplane of this Squadron which circled the area for three quarters of an hour. Two Spitfire type aircraft were also seen circling the area. Up to the present time Lieutenant Olds and his radio operator, S/Sgt. Donald R. Burns, 13035012, have been picked up by the Air Sea Rescue Service and it is the opinion of the undersigned that two other unidentified crew members have also been picked up. The undersigned has no opinion as to the fate of the remaining crew members.

ALBERT L. ROEMER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

19 August 1944.

STATEMENT OF PILOT

I, 1st Lieutenant John W. Olds, O-681469, was pilot of a B-24 J type aircraft, AAF number 42-78484, on 17 August 1944 on a bombing mission over Ploesti, Rumania.

We were going over the target area when my plane received a direct hit by flak in the bomb bay, rupturing the fuel lines. We dropped our bombs and the ship received several more hits in the bomb bay, fuselage and left wing. My engineer made what repairs he could and switched over to the auxiliary tank. There was enough gas left for approximately one hour's flying, so I decided it would be best to try to make the Italian coast. In the meantime I called BIG FENCE for homing instructions. I called them again to take a bearing on my plane and to keep contact with me in case I had to ditch.

Approximately thirty miles off the Italian mainland at 41°21' N, 16°40' E, number one and three engines quit due to lack of gasoline. I could not say for sure as to the distance I was from shore but in my opinion it was between twenty or thirty miles from shore. I gave the order to jump at approximately 1300, at an altitude of about 5000 feet. I myself abandoned the ship a few minutes later at about an altitude of 2000 feet. To the best of my knowledge all men on the plane had jumped when I gave the order, but I did not see any parachutes after I myself had jumped. I hit the water and the plane crashed about a mile from me. I took off my clothes and swam towards the wreckage, finally finding a gas tank which I clung to until I was rescued. I had been in the water about four hours and had been drifting in a westerly direction all the time. At about 1700 o'clock I was picked up by the Air Sea Rescue plane. I was taken to the hospital for observation and found that my radio operator was also safe, having been rescued by Air Sea Rescue also. I do not know what the fate of the other men on board my plane might have been, nor do I know of the extent of the search made. The search was made by the Air Sea Rescue Service, located at Poggia Main Air Field, Italy.

John W. Olds
JOHN W. OLDS,
1st Lt., A. C.
Pilot.

INCL #2

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

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
 COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RESTRICTED



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

15 June 1945

SUBJECT: Corporal D. L. Penland, 6929795
 7/6th Bomb Squadron (H), 451st Bomb Group
 MIA 17 August 1944, later reported KIA 17 August 1944

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters, MTOUSA, A.P.O. 520
 U. S. Army, Attention: N.A.A.G.C.

Request available information relative death above FM be supplied this headquarters for preparation reply to letter Mrs. Mary G. Penland. Copy her letter inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl.

NW Reed
 N. W. REED
 Major, Air Corps
 Chief, Notification Branch
 Personal Affairs Division
 Office of the Asst Chief of Air Staff,
 Personnel

AG 201-Penland, D. L., (Enl)-C 1st Ind. RGA/hk
 (15 Jun 45)
 HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 21 June 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, US Army.

0018

1. Attention is invited to basic and inclosure thereto.
2. For compliance and reply thru this headquarters.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MCNARNEY:

1 Incl: n/c

Raymond G. Andre
 RAYMOND G. ANDRE
 CWO, USA
 Asst Adj Gen

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PPA
 NOT RECORDED

201-Penland, D. L. (Enl) 2nd Ind CP-WDR-erm

HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, US Army, 26 JUN 1945

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512, US Army. Attn: Casualty Branch

1. In reply to basic communication the following information is submitted:

Cpl. D. L. Penland was nose gunner aboard a B-24 which took part in a raid on Ploesti, Roumania on August 17, 1944. In consequence of damage suffered by enemy anti-aircraft fire the bomber was forced to ditch in the Adriatic Sea. The position was reported to Air Sea Rescue Service which picked up two members of the crew. Subsequent searches failed to reveal any traces of the other crew members.

2. In view of the above circumstances it was concluded beyond any reasonable doubt that Cpl. Penland had been killed in action.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

[Signature]

1 Incl:
 No change

WIDDLE D. REEL
 Major, Air Corps
 Actg Asst Adj Gen

AG 201-PENLAND, D. L., (Enl)-G 3rd Ind. JKR/jtj

(15 June 1945)

HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 27 June 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

[Signature]
 JACK K ROBERTS
 Captain, AGI
 Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl: n/c

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Asheville, N. C.
May 19, 1945

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regards to the death of my son, Col. D. L. Penland - (692795) He was reported on Dec. 8, 1944, as having been killed August 17, 1944, by the Adjutant General. In his letter, he told me I would soon receive a letter of explanation, concerning the death & events leading up to his death. I have been waiting & as yet, no explanation has come.

I should like to know why, I haven't received this information. Am I right in believing, we who have loved ones to make the Supreme Sacrifice in this war for freedom have a right to know, how, they were killed, where, they are buried - etc.

If you are not able to supply this information, please tell me, who is & the proper way, to go about obtaining this. Since the war is over in Europe, I should like details soon.

Thanking you,

(Mrs) Mary G. Penland (mother)

12 Forsyth St.

Asheville, N. C.

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