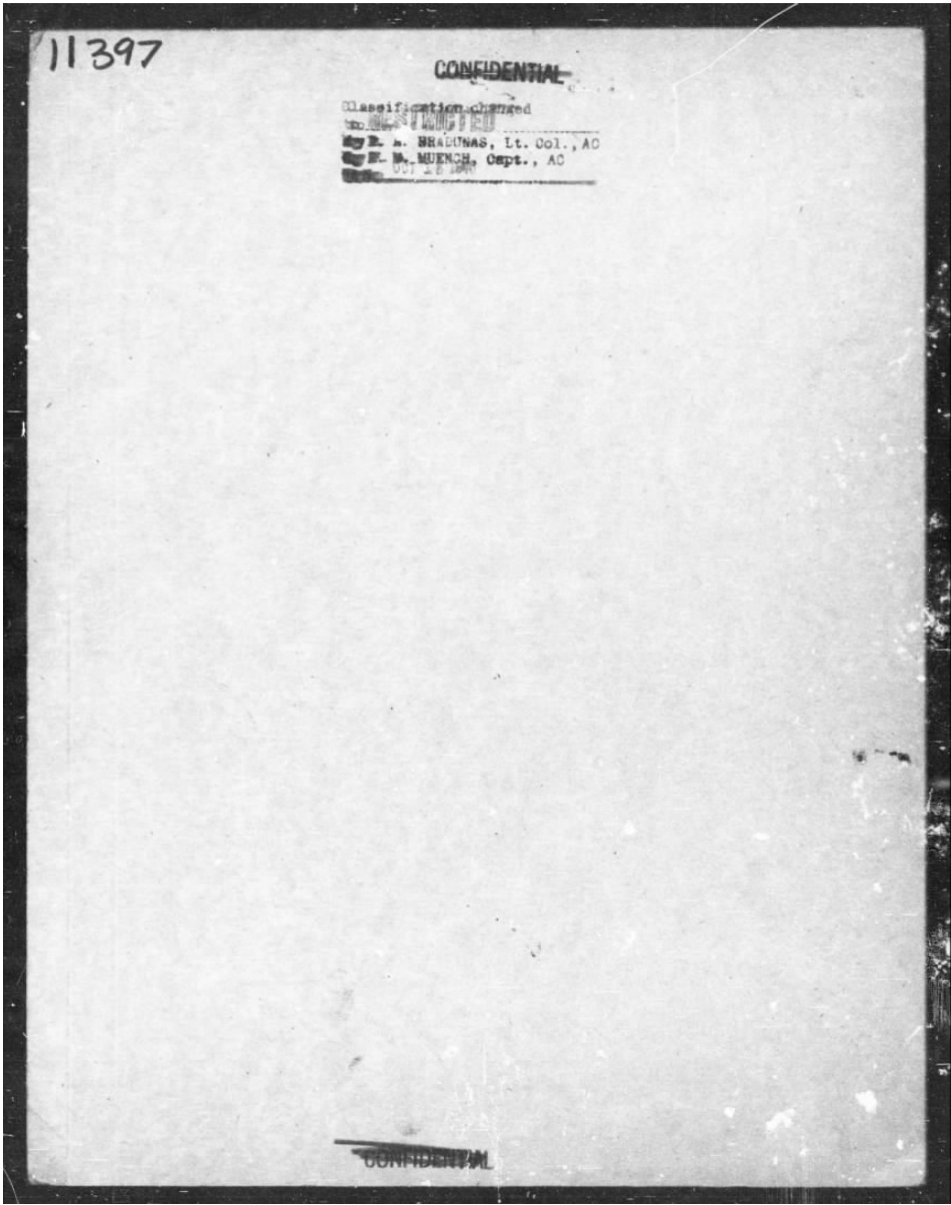


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MISSING AIR CREW REPORT 11397

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Castelluccio, Italy Command or Air Force 16th Air Force
 Group 461st Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 724th Bombardment Sq. (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Castelluccio, Italy Course Base 1317N 1652E-621N 1748E
 1742N 1725E-621N 1738E-17
 1742N 1725E-621N 1738E-17
 Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombardment to target

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear, C.A.V.U.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 16 Jan 1946 Time 1400 Last known position 470041N - 169171E
 (b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last contacted by radio, No information.

5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] ~~RECOVERED~~ AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]
 Enemy aircraft, Enemy anti-aircraft, Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24-H AAF Serial Number 42-24877

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Jane Lee

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1850-45 AAF Serial Number (a) 42-44574
 (b) RP-401623 (c) GP-312346 (d) GP-312042

9. INSTALLED WFAPCNS: (Make, type and serial number)
 (i) 1186531 Brn.Auto.50 Cal. (ii) 1143249 Brn.Auto.50 Cal. (iii) 1186612 Brn.Auto.50 Cal.
 (iv) 1186596 " " " (v) 1149794 " " " (vi) 1186533 " " "
 (vii) 1187542 " " " (viii) 1187410 " " " (ix) " " "
 (x) 1188251 " " " (xi) 989141 " " " (xii) " " "

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
1) Pilot	<u>Broom, Maurice R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-713695</u>	<u>RTD</u>
2) Co-Pilot	<u>Fisher, Kenneth L.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-717618</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3) Navigator	<u>Doran, Robert J.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2001372</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4) Upper Turret	<u>McNichols, James J. Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16081367</u>	<u>RTD</u>
5) Left Waist	<u>Varies, Randolph P. Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>17159820</u>	<u>Mr. Randolph Varies Sr. (Father) 2225 Duncan, St. Joseph, Missouri</u>
6) Nose Gunner	<u>Winters, John R.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>39210042</u>	<u>RTD</u>
7) Tail Gunner	<u>Learnard, Edwin O.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>31367193</u>	<u>Mrs. Louise C. Learnard (Mother) Silver Leaf Ave. Chatham, Mass.</u>
8) Lower Turret	<u>Juha, Edward J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>13187740</u>	<u>Mr. John Juha (Father) 1100 Sarah St. Pittsburg, Pa.</u>
9) Right Waist	<u>Wolsch, Walter</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16198207</u>	<u>Mr. Aaron Wolsch (Father) 330 Washington Blvd. Oak Park, Ill.</u>
(10)				
(11)				
(12)				

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST BY RADIO	SAW	FORCED
(i) <u>Broom, Maurice R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-713695</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) <u>McNichols, James J. Jr.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16081367</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii)					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 Parachutes were used. Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 Other reasons (specify)

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None

3. Inclosures:
 Incl.1-Statement, Date 20 January 1946
 Lt. Brown, (7 copies)
 Incl.2-Statement, S/Sgt. McNichols, (7 copies)
 Incl.3-Map, (7 copies)

Norman W. Mochel
 Signature of reporting officer
NORMAN W. MOCHEL,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. 520, US Army.

20 January 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

On 15 January 1945, I was flying as upper turret Gunner on Aircraft #877 returning from a mission over Vienna, Austria. About 35 minutes after leaving the target we were flying in #7 position of the lead flight and received a burst of flak below the plane which knocked out #1 engine and caused damage to #2 engine. The Pilot called for a gas check and as I was doing so I heard the Pilot tell the crew to stand by and prepare to bail out. About 10 minutes later the Pilot called the waist several times and receiving no answer asked me to check. I went into the waist section and found no one there. I believe the 4 (four) crew men in the waist bailed out when the standby order was given.

James J. McNichols Jr.
James J. McNichols Jr.,
S/Sgt. 16061367.

Jan 17

~~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 L724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520, US Army.

20 January 1945.

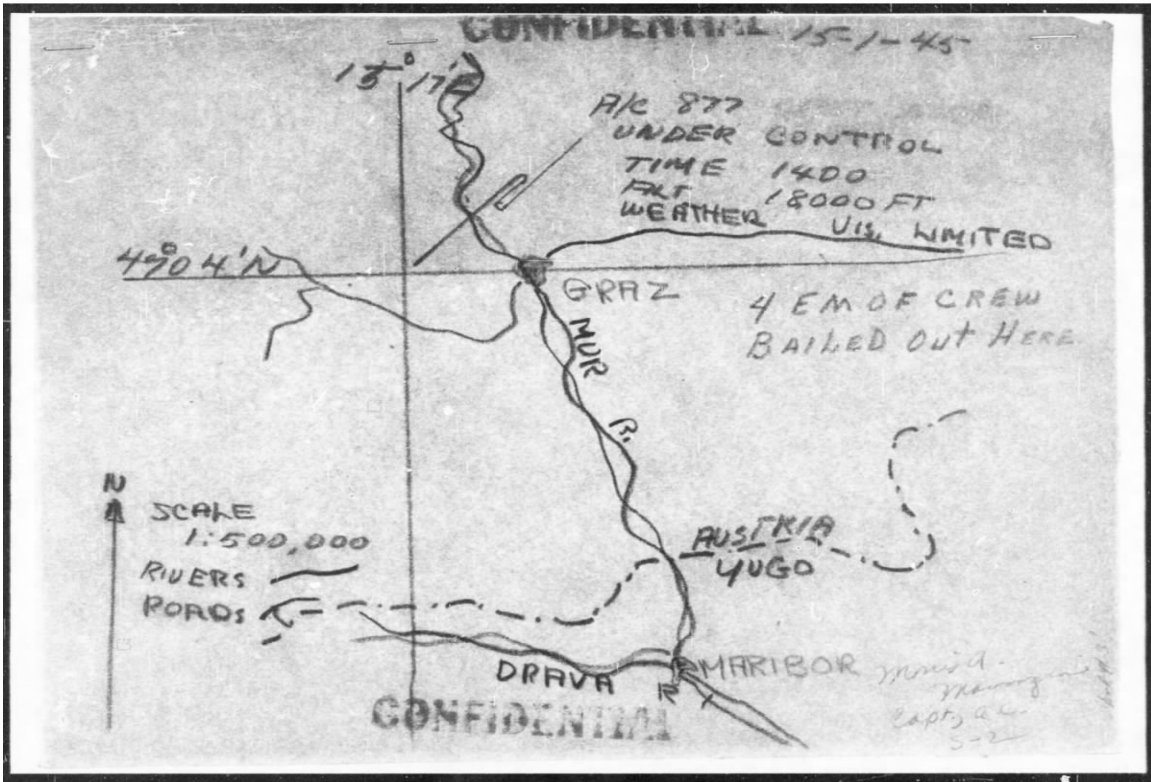
S T A T E M E N T

On 15 January 1945, I was flying as Pilot of Aircraft #677, returning from a mission over Vienna, Austria. Approximately 35 minutes after leaving the target I was flying in #7 position of the lead flight, and as we passed over a small town in Austria we were hit by anti-aircraft fire which knocked out #1 engine, which I was unable to feather. I was then unable to keep in the formation and trailed the formation losing altitude at the rate of about 200 feet per minute. Approximately fifteen minutes later #2 engine also failed temporarily and it was at this time I informed the crew to stand by and prepare to bail out. I believe the crew misinterpreted my order and bailed out at this time. Almost immediately #2 engine was again operating and we continued on course and crossed the mountains and upon hitting the coast I headed for Vis. About 100 miles northe of Vis after contacting Big Fence, #2 and #3 engines were out of gas and I then gave the order to bail out to the remainder of my crew. The remaining 4 crew men and myself parachuted safely to earth.

Approximate location of where the first 4 crew men bailed out was 47°04' N- 15°16' E, time 1400, altitude 16,000 feet. The Aircraft crashed at 44°N- 15°50'E, time 1515.

*Maurice R. Brown*MAURICE R. BROWN,
2nd Lt. Air Corps.C O N F I D E N T I A L

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CASUALTY INFORMATION
 (Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: Brown, Maurice R. 2d Lt. O-713695
 (Name) (Rank) (ASN)
724th 451st 15 January 1945 15 January 1945
 (Squadron) (Group) (Date of Casualty) (Returned to Allied Lines)

(Information contained hereon obtained from returned crew members for use as an aid in determining status of missing U. S. personnel. When information given is considered sufficiently conclusive it will be used as basis for corrected Battle Casualty Report.)

Crew Position	Name	Rank	Status
Radio Operator	Vories, Randolph P.	S/Sgt	Bailed out over Austria
Left Waist Gnr	Wolach, Walter	S/Sgt	" " " "
Ball Turret Gnr	Juha, Edward J.	S/Sgt	" " " "
Tail Gunner	Learnard, Edwin O.	S/Sgt	" " " "

STATEMENT: After being hit by flak, I told the crew to get their chutes on as we may have to bail out. The four members of the crew in the waist bailed out then as we couldn't contact them on radio about five minutes later. I brought the plane and remaining crew members to Yugo where we bailed out into safe hands. Believe the other four men to have landed in Austria although we didn't see their chutes.

70035-11377

A TRUE COPY: *Ellis L. Burns, Jr.* /s/ Maurice R. Brown
 ELLIS L. BURNS, JR. 2nd Lt. A.C.
 CWO, USA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 US ARMY

GP-B/jmt

5513

117-11

19 January 1945
S: 29 Jan 45

SUBJECT: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report.
TO : Commanding General, 49th Wing, APO 520.

1. Inclosed information, supplementary to Missing Air Crew Report, has been obtained from:

<u>Maurice R. Brown</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-713695</u>	<u>451st B Gp</u>
(Name)	(Rank)	(ASN)	(Organization)

2. It is desired that casualty status of personnel referred to be reviewed.

a. In cases where men are declared to be dead, if the commanding officer believes evidence to be reasonably conclusive, appropriate corrected battle casualty report will be submitted. If evidence is not deemed sufficient, then a statement will be made of reasons for presumption of survival.

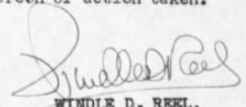
b. If place of casualty shown on original battle casualty report does not agree with statement, corrected report should be submitted for those men still missing.

c. Personnel should be reported Captured or Interned only when evidence shows actual incarceration in an established prison camp or safe arrival in a neutral country.

d. If no chance is indicated, statement has been forwarded to you for information and inclusion of copy with Missing Air Crew Report.

3. Report will be made by indorsement hereon of action taken.

By command of Major General TWINING:


WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

Incl.

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1st Ind. S: 27 January 45 C-WRT-9
HQ 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 21 January 45.
TO: CG, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520.

For report of action in particular detail is desired.

By command of Brigadier General LEE:

Frank E. Marek
FRANK E. MAREK,
Major, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

Incl: n/c

2nd Ind. C-CEC-ru
Hq, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, 22 Jan 45.
To: C. G., 49th Bomb Wg (H), APO 520.

1. Information does not warrant a change in the casualty status of personnel referred to in the inclosure.
2. Copies of correspondence retained at this headquarters, and filed with the Missing Air Crew Report.

For the Commanding Officer:

C. E. Campbell Jr
C. E. CAMPBELL, JR,
CWO, US ARMY,
Asst. Adj.

Incls: n/c.

823 3rd Ind. C-WRT-9
HQ 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 24 January 45.
TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

Incls: n/c.

F. E. M.
F. E. M.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 4th Ind. GP/B/eh
26 January 1945.

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Forwarded as supplement to Missing Air Crew Report.

For the Commanding General:

1 Incl: n/c

No mark

Supplement
Windle D. Reel
WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

W/

- 3 -

N. 1398

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

