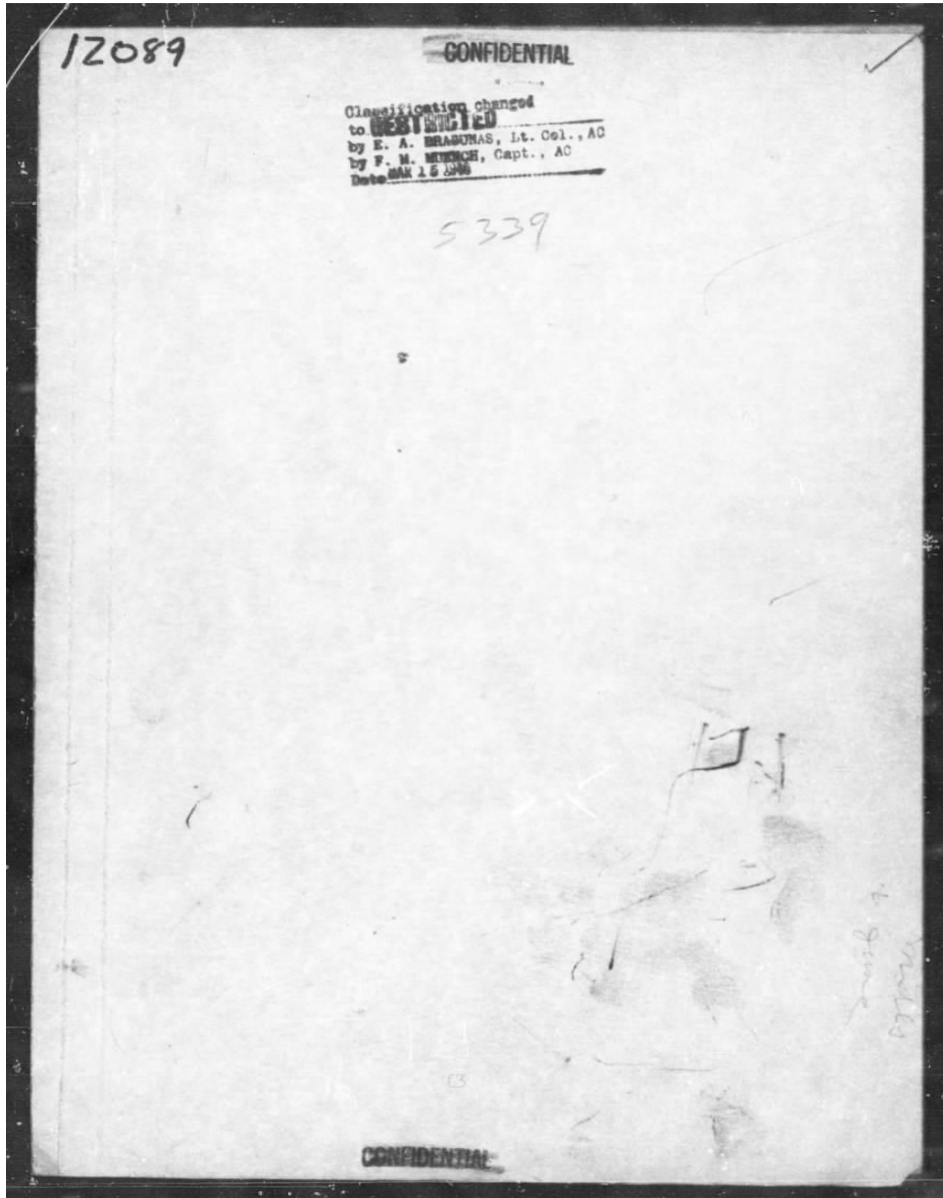


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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973



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CONFIDENTIAL 12089

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Castelluccio, Italy Command or Air Force 15th
 Group 451st Bombardment Group Squadron 725th Bomb Squadron
 Base Casalinovo-100M 1449E

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Castelluccio Field Course 711W 144E-433N 1521E
 Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombing IP to Target.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear and Visibility Unlimited

4. GIVE: (a) Date 2/7/45 Time 1324 Last known position Just past target.
 (b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) XXXXXXXXXX AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49418

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R1850-43 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-318202
 (b) CP-318278 (c) CP-318139 (d) CP-318216

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.)
 (a) No records () ()
 (b) available () ()
 (c) () (k)
 (d) () ()

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, () Non-Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	<u>Palmer, Marion A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-927929</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Margaret J. Palmer (Mother) 8360 Navy Ave, Detroit, Michigan</u>
(2) Co-Pilot	<u>Loenshal, James M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-2061734</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Myrtle G. Loenshal (Mother) 311 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, Pa.</u>
(3) Nav.	<u>Palter, John R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-2065128</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Floyd L. Mathews (Father) RR # 2, Maquon, Illinois</u>
(4) Up Tur	<u>Magistro, Carmen A.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>32420097</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Juna Magistro (Wife) 40 Union Pl, Oceanside, Long Island, NY</u>
(5) Low Tur	<u>Orth, Henry M. Jr</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>35846706</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Helen M. Orth (Wife) 644 Spruce St, Morgantown, W. Virginia</u>
(6) Right W.	<u>Wilson, Robert S.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>35536678</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mary M. Wilson (Mother) 2425 Overlook Rd, Cleveland Heights, Ohio</u>
(7) Left W.	<u>Perkins, Sidney L.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>31340836</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Phyllis C. Perkins (Wife) Derby Vermont</u>
(8) Tail Gr	<u>Heatherly, Ralph E. Sr</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>34896117</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mattie L. Heatherly (Wife) Rt # 1, Fountain Inn, S.C.</u>
(9) Nose Gr	<u>Hoffpauier, Eugene W.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>38267927</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Effie Hoffpauier (Mother) 917 Avenue J, Crowley, La.</u>
(10) Photo.	<u>Maslanek, Michael</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>6703561</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs Sophie Maslanek (Mother) 358 Lakeview Ave, Clifton, New Jersey</u>

(11) _____
 (12) _____

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	BY RADIO	CONTACTED LAST	SAW	FORCED
(1) <u>ROBERT E. SMITH</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>O-798699</u>			<u>X</u>	
(2) _____						
(3) _____						

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) Unknown

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION 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: No search made, plane missing over enemy territory

2. Inclosures:
 Incl 1 - Overlay of Date February 10, 1945 area last sighted. Malcolm B. Ogden
 CONFIDENTIAL MALCOLM B. OGDEN
 Incl 2 - Statement, Capt Smith. Capt, AC, Adj

1570

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

725TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 US. ARMY

10 February 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I, Robert E. Smith, O-798599, AC, was the Observer of a B-24 Liberator Aircraft which flew in the lead position of the formation, on 7 February 1945, with B-24 Liberator Aircraft #44-49418, piloted by Second Lieutenant Marian A. Palmer, O-827929. This ship was flying #3 position off our left wing.

The subject ship received a direct flak hit in the bomb bays, causing them to burst into flame immediately. The aircraft passed beneath our bomb bays and appeared to be completely out of control. The ship was aflame from the forward bomb bays to the tail of the ship. On the right side of our ship, their left wing tore loose. The ship then disintegrated and no parachutes were seen to emerge from the aircraft.

Robert E. Smith
ROBERT E. SMITH,
Captain, O-798599,
725th Bomb Squadron (H).

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

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Authority: NND 735001
By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

WAGE # 12099

725th Bomb Sq Date February 7, 1945 A/C No. 44-49418
 451st Bomb Gp

NAME	RANK	ASN	POSITION	STATUS
FALKNER, MARION A.	2ND LT.	O-827929	PILOT	KIA 7 FEB 45 (7149)
LOUSHEAL, JAMES M.	2ND LT.	O-2061724	CO-PILOT	KIA 7 FEB 45
BAWTER, JOHN W.	2ND LT.	O-2065128	NAVIGATOR	KIA 7 FEB 45
MAGISTRO, CARVEN A.	SGT.	32426097	UP TUR.	KIA 7 FEB 45 Ex
ORSH, HENRY H., JR.	SGT.	35846706	LOW TUR.	KIA 7 FEB 45 (7046)
WILSON, ROBERT S. L.	SGT.	35048922	ENG	KIA 7 FEB 45 (70)
FERRINE, SIDNEY L.	SGT.	31340826	LWG	KIA 7 FEB 45 (7171)
HEATHERLY, RALPH E., SR.	SGT.	34896117	TG	KIA 7 FEB 45
HOFFMEIER, EDUARD W.	SGT.	38267927	NG	KIA 7 FEB 45
MARLANN, MICHAEL	S/SGT.	6709561	PH	KIA 7 FEB 45 (70)

B-24 (Liberator) Bomber which departed from Italy on mission to Vienna, Austria on 7 February 1945. Sustained damage over target at 1:25 P. M. Left formation went into a spin, and disappeared from sight.

Statement made by ARTHUR L. DAVIDSON of the 725th Bomb Sq. (H) 451st Bomb Gp. (H) indicates a direct hit on Bomb Bay doors knocking off right wing and causing a fire midships. Shortly after aircraft was seen to explode in mid-air no chutes seen to emerge from the A/C before the explosion.

Statement made by Captain ROBERT E. SMITH O-798599 on the day in question indicates plane last sighted at 1324 hours at a point just past the target. The subject ship received a direct flak hit in the bomb bays, causing them to burst into flame immediately. The aircraft passed beneath our bomb bays and appeared to be completely out of control. The ship was aflame from the forward bomb bays to the tail of the ship. On the right side of our ship, their left wing tore loose. The ship then disintegrated and no parachutes were seen to emerge from the aircraft. Coordinates 48 deg. 16' N - 16 deg. 31' E. in the vicinity of DEUTSCH WAGRAM, AUSTRIA, N. E. OF VIENNA.

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NNDG 785022
 By: lucy (ATA) Date: 12/16/83

104, 7103, 7108, 7122, 7149, 7189, 7171

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA, MID, 77117
 Rm. 4324, 3/30/45

2nd Lt. John H. Baxter ID

Mr. Floyd L. Mathews, (father)
 Route Number Two
 Nauvoo, Illinois.

2nd Lt. James M. Leenshal *to B.S. for family on 3/30/45*

Mrs. Myrtle O. Leenshal, (mother)
 311 Allegheny Street,
 Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

2nd Lt. Marion A. Palmer ?

Mrs. Margaret Jane Palmer, (mother)
 8760 Navy Street,
 Detroit, Michigan.

S/Egt. Michael MacLanck ID

Miss Sophie MacLanck, (sister)
 358 Lakeview Avenue,
 Clifton, New Jersey.

Egt. Eugene W. Hoffpauir *90 day permit 3/30/45*

Mrs. Effie Hoffpauir, (mother)
 917 Avenue J,
 Crowley, Louisiana.

Egt. Garmon A. Magistro R+

Mrs. June E. Magistro, (-wife)
 49 Union Place,
 Oceanside, New York.

Sgt. Henry E. Orth Jr. ?

Mrs. Helen E. Orth, (wife)
 644 Spruce Street,
 Morgantown, West Virginia.

Sgt. Robert S. L. Wilson ID

Mrs. Mary E. Wilson, (mother)
 2625 Overlook Road,
 Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Egt. Sidney L. Perkins ?

Mrs. Phyllis C. Perkins, (wife)
 Derby, Vermont.

Sgt. Ralph E. Heatherly Sr. ID

Mrs. Nettie L. Heatherly, (wife)
 Route Number One,
 Fountain Inn, South Carolina