

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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000377

S T A T E M E N T

13 July 1943

Half a minute after we had completed our bomb run at about 1615 hours on 11 July 1943, from my position as waist gunner in the fourth ship of the first flight, I saw a B-26 two or three flights behind us being attacked by two Me 109's. Its left engine caught on fire with smoke and flame coming from it. It dropped off at once on its right wing, losing about 600 feet altitude. A lot of flames then burst from the left engine, obscuring the smoke. It then fell to about 700 feet above the ground and exploded. One wing fell one way and one the other. I saw no parachutes.

Billy D. Simpson

BILLY D. SIMPSON

S/3gt., 13040675

438th Bomb. Squadron (M)

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PDD 1st Lt. Thomas C. Roberts

Mrs. Virginia L. Griswold (Mother)
1311 Bayview Road
Oakland, 18, California

PDD 1st Lt. Jack F. Thomas

Mrs. Jane L. Thomas (Wife)
411 Broadway
Cumberland, Maryland

371 PDD 2nd Lt. Evan H. Rice

Mrs. Eleanor D. Rice (Wife)
Black Creek, New York

PDD S/sgt. William R. Neville

Mrs. Mattie A. Neville (Mother)
645 Highland Street
Houston, Texas

PDD S/sgt. Arthur H. Raines

Mr. Frank Wilson (Brother)
928 South Park Avenue
Tacoma, Washington

PDD S/sgt. Joseph H. James, Jr.

Mr. Joseph H. James, Sr. (Father)
111 Honey Street
Greenville, South Carolina

*nothing on
previous records.*

RESTRICTED

TO: 1st Ind.
HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 13 May 45.

AAP.GAH-ns-30

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512, US Army. Atts Casualty Section.

1. Forwarded as a supplement to MACR pertaining to 1st Lt Thomas G. Masters, O-885676, 440 Bomb Sq, 319 Bomb Gp, and crew, which was forwarded your headquarters 10 August 1943.

2. It is requested that any change in status regarding the subject airmen be furnished this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

D. S. Jackson
D. S. JACKSON
Lt. Col., AGH
Asst. Adj. General

1 Incl: n/c

AG 360.33/030 - C 2nd Ind. JKR/hk
(7 May 45)
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 18 May 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
(Attn: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Report carrying AG Casualty Branch Control Number 2130.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

Frank Roberts
FRANK K. ROBERTS
Captain, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:
(as stated)

235
-2-

Nº. —

2130

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

AO 360.33/030 - C
(7 May 45)

2nd Ind.

JER/hk

HQ., W JUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 18 May 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
(Attn: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Report carrying AO Casualty
Branch Control Number 2130.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

1 Incl:
(as stated)

JACK K. ROBERTS
Captain, AOC
Asst Adj Gen

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED
RE S T R I C T E D

2616 REPATRIATION UNIT (OVHD)
APO 650

7 May 45

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation (Case No. B20-1)

TO : Commanding General, 12th Air Force, APO 650, U.S. Army.
Attn: Battle Casualty Section A-1

1. Inclosed herewith for your information and action is a report of investigation conducted by Graves Registration Service in Sicily concerning the following personnel now carried as MIA.

✓ MASTERS THOMAS G.	1st Lt.	0-885676
✓ RICE, EVAN H.	2nd Lt.	0-667557
✓ THOMAS, JACK D.	2nd Lt.	0-664846
✓ NEVILLE WILLIAM R.	S/Sgt.	18060343
✓ RAINES, ARTHUR M.	S/SGT	16053523
✓ JAMES, JOSEPH H. JR.	S/Sgt.	14037407

2. It is requested that information copies of any action taken based upon data contained herein be furnished this unit.

* changed out to ALS 2/12/46

Paul W. Vineberg
PAUL W. VINEBERG
1st Lt. Air Corps

I Incl. Rpt. Invest. (quad.)

RESTRICTED

No. — 2130

RESTRICTED

2 6 March Hq Det GRO PBS
1945 4th Fl
3044th
QM (GR)
Co.

1. A search by a party from this detachment was conducted on 26 February 1945, in the vicinity of Gerbini, Sicily, and, by interrogation of a civilian, located at coordinates E 460-692, Sheet 27, Italian Road Map, 1/200,000 the scene of the crash of

subject aircraft.

2. Vincenzo Ponzio and other civilians living near the scene of the crash stated that on a date near the middle of July 1943, planes, one of which was hit, began to lose altitude, burst into flames, exploded, fell to the ground and continued to burn. No crew members were seen to leave the plane.

3. The greater part of the wreckage has been removed by civilians. The wreckage remaining is molten and fused, obviously having been subjected to great heat. A search of the wreckage and large surrounding area revealed no trace of the missing airmen.

4. From observation of the condition of the wreckage and considering all information obtained from witnesses, it is concluded that no person left the aircraft either before or following the crash, that all crew members went down in the plane, and that the bodies of all those aboard, together with all identifying items, were totally consumed by fire.

GCH
6 March 1945

2130

RESTRICTED

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Changed to CONFIDENTIAL per
TAGO, AG 360.33 (9 Jun 43)
British SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 319TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
ARMY AIR FORCES
APO #520

235

12 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 2686 Medium Bomb Wing (Prov), APO #520.

1. In compliance with Letter, War Department, File AG 360.33,
SUBJECT: "Missing Air Crew Report", dated 23 May 1943, find transmitted
herewith the report of a B-26B10, serial number 41-18273, of this Group
that is reported as missing in action.

For the Commanding Officer:

Joseph R. Holzapple
JOSEPH R. HOLZAPFLE,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report (in quint).

OCT 25 1943



RECEIVED

Air A. G.

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Incl 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equals British Most Secret)
Equals British SECRET

1st Ind.

C-3

HEADQUARTERS 2686TH WING (US), APO 520, US ARMY, 16 July 1943
TO: Commanding Officer, 319th Bomb Group (M) AAF, APO 520, US
ARMY.

1. Returned for completion with paragraph 13, of
Missing Air Crew Report.

By command of Brigadier General WEBSTER:



FREDERICK J. GREEN, JR.
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

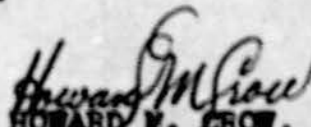
1 Incl: n/c

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS 319TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (MEDIUM), ARMY AIR FORCES
APO #520, U. S. Army, 25 July 1943. TO: Commanding general,
2686 Medium Bomb Wing, APO #520, U. S. Army.

1. Paragraph 13 of Missing Air crew report Complied
with.

for the commanding Officer.



HOWARD E. CROW,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't Operations Officer.

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(Equals British Most Secret) (Equals British SECRET)

JUL 24 1943

3rd Ind.

C-3

HEADQUARTERS 2686TH WING (US), APO 520, US ARMY, 24 July 1943.
TO: Commanding General, Northwest African Strategic Air Force,
APO 520, US ARMY.

2322

1. Forwarded.

For the Commanding General:

F. G. ...
FREDERICK G. ...
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant

1 Incl: n/c

AG 319.1

4th Ind.

(C-9)

HQ, NASAF, APO 520, 3 August 1943.
TO: CG, NAAF, APO 650.

66x3

1. Battle Casualty Report on subject personnel forwarded your head-
quarters, 15 July 1943.

For the Commanding General:

J. M. Ivins
J. M. IVINS,
Lt Col, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

1 Incl: n/c.

AG 360.33

5th Ind

G-LHC-4

HQ, NAAF, APO 650, US Army, 10 Aug/43.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534, US Army. Att: Central Records Section.

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:

C. G. Parks
C. G. PARKS,
Captain, AGD,
Asst Adj General.

1 Incl: n/c

S-373

000378

CLASSIFIED BY 115570003 PAB/psd
by E. A. BRADNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by P. H. MURPHY, Capt., AO
Date 10/1/50

CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

REMARKS: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Force organization within 45 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. Organization: Location Djedida North; Command or Air Force Northwest African Strategic
 Group 219th Bomb; Squadron 440th Bomb; Detachment _____
 2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Djedida North; Intended Destination Carpent 1/0 013 in Sicily; Type of Mission Bombardment
 WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: CAVU
 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: CAVU
 4. DATE: (a) Date July 22/43 Time 1600 hours; and Location over target
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether () Lost Sighted; (X) Last Contacted by Radio; () Forced Down;
 () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available
 5. AIRCRAFT TYPE, MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBER: (a) TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Bombay (X) Bombay
 Aircraft: () Bombay Aircraft; () other circumstances as follows _____
 6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial Number B-26B10; A/F Serial Number 42-50908
 7. ENGINE: Type, Model and Serial Number R-2600-43; A/F Serial Number (a) 42-50908
 (b) 42-50945; (c) _____; (d) _____
 8. INSTALLED EQUIPMENT (Furnished below make, type and serial number: AI .50 caliber
 (a) 279433; (b) 289729; (c) 294455; (d) 289486
 (e) 289787; (f) 275918; (g) 289382; (h) 289462 - 289505
 9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6; Passengers _____
 Total 6
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list stubble particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)
 Name in Full _____; Serial _____
 (Last Name First) _____; Rank _____
Waters, Thomas G. 1st Lt. 0-983676
Rice, Ryan H. 2nd Lt. 0-667557
Thomas, Jack P. 2nd Lt. 0-664846
 H/A 1. Pilot _____
 DED2. Co-pilot _____
 DED3. Navigator-Bombardier _____

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British Air Force

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DED 4.
DED 5.
H1A 6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Engineer-Cunner
Radio-Cunner
Driver

Wentz, William R.
Kaines, Arthur K.
James, Joseph H., Jr.

10060143
10061523
11031401

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check only one column		Last Sighted	Saw Crew	Saw forced landing
			Contacted	By Radio			
1. <u>Wentz, William R.</u>	<u>S/Capt.</u>	<u>11060240</u>			<u>X</u>		
2. <u>Roy, Carl J.</u>	<u>S/Capt.</u>	<u>39167791</u>			<u>X</u>		
3. <u>James, Billy D.</u>	<u>S/Capt.</u>	<u>10060675</u>			<u>X</u>		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, LIST THEM TO END OF THIS COLUMN AND STATE: (a) First names were used ; (b) First names were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

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

14. ATTACH EVIDENCE DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, PLOTTED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

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

Date of Report July 12, 1943.

Joseph R. Holzapple
(Signature of preparer)
JOSEPH R. HOLZAPPLE,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

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000376

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STATEMENT

13 July 1943

On 11 July 1943 I was waist gunner in the lead ship of the third flight. As we came over the target at about 1615 hours we were attacked by enemy fighters. Quite a ways behind our plane I saw a B-26 with its left engine on fire. It went into a spiral to the left. Before it had completed the first circle, I saw one parachute come out of it. Then the plane made two more full turns. By that time it was quite low, and I definitely saw it break into two parts in the air.

Earl J. Boyd

EARL J. BOYD
S/Sgt., 39167791
438th Bomb. Squadron (M)

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~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Equivalents SECRET

440th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (M) AAF
APO # 520

July 12, 1943.

SUBJECT: Report on Missing Aircraft.

TO : Operations Officer, 319th Bomb Group (M) AAF, APO #520.

1. I, S/Sgt Julian R. Whitman, #11050840, 440th Bomb Sq (M) AAF, while on a scheduled mission and flying as a waist gunner with 1st Lieut. John W. Robb, pilot of Airplane No. 41-34759, on the 11th day of July, 1943, saw Airplane number 41-18273, piloted by 1st Lieut. Thomas G. Masters, receive a direct hit in the vertical stabilizer near the joint of hinge, making a hole about two (2) feet in diameter.

2. In my next view of the airplane, it was descending rapidly in a controlled glide. There was no smoke or flame visible.

3. This was my last view of the aircraft.

Julian R. Whitman
JULIAN R. WHITMAN, 11050840,
Staff Sgt, 440th Bomb Sq (M)
AAF.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Equivalents SECRET