

5711

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

Classification changed

to

by

by

Date

RESTRICTED

P. M. BLEN

4.5 MAR 1944

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RESTRICTED

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Classification ~~Chf~~ **CONFIDENTIAL**

RESTRICTED

per auth ~~Sec 1, Sec 1, WDCir 346~~
dated 5 Sept 1946 and ~~Sec 1, WDCir 346~~
dated 24 April 1947

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification ~~Chf~~ 5711
RESTRICTED Vol. 40

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

15 MAR 1946

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

- ORGANIZATION: Location: AAF Station 485 Command or Air Force Ninth ;
GROUP 322nd Bomb Gp (L) ; SQUADRON 422d Bomb Sq ; DETACHMENT _____
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 425 ; Course about 300°
Intended Destination See Remarks ; Type of Mission Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
visibility eight to ten miles
- GIVE: (a) Date 13 June 46 Time 0740 ; and Location of last
known whereabouts of missing aircraft Pilly-sur-Saulles, France
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forced down; (x) Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check
only one: () Enemy Aircraft; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series R-2GB-40-34 ; AAF Serial No. 42-43286
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-43 ; AAF Serial No (a) left:
42-53198 (b) right: 42-53238 (c) _____ (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) See remarks (b) _____ : (c) _____ : (d) _____
(e) _____ : (f) _____ : (g) _____ : (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 5 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 5
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 10
persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet
and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot:	<u>Holmes, Larry L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-671022-</u>
2. CP	<u>Shoop, James M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-615568-</u>
3. Bombardier	<u>Corones, James G.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-607153-</u>
4. Radio-Operator	<u>Fischer, Irving (JMT)</u>	<u>3. Sgt</u>	<u>12126246-</u>
5. Engineer-Gunner	<u>Dawson, George D.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>36449806-</u>
6. Tail-Gunner	<u>Rustalnik, George H.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>36121684-</u>
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

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

Remarks - Subject aircraft was returning from bombing mission on Foret D'Andaine,
France.

Installed weapons are all Browning machine guns, caliber 50, M-2, with the
following serial numbers:

Upper turret: 464326 Tail turret: 400946 Waist (r) 401277
464966 1 (l) 401283

SECRET

Upper left hand blister gun: 368740
Lower left hand blister gun: 294978 Flexible nose gun: 368591

Upper right hand blister gun: 368563
Lower right hand blister gun: 295435 Fixed nose gun: 368650

Classification ~~Chf~~

per auth ~~Sec 1, Sec 1, WDCir 346~~
dated 5 Sept 46 and ~~Sec 1, WDCir 346~~
dated 24 Apr 47

CONFIDENTIAL

21 Sept 49 JPP Bailey

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WL, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number	Last Sighted	Saw Forced Crash Landing
1. Blue, Robert E.	1st Lt.	0-87135	X	
2. Bassiga, Francis J.	1st Lt.	0-372417	X	
3. Erell, James E.	S/Sgt	14096772		X

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVE TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachute were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) No parachutes were observed.

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

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

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

Date of Report 13 June 1944.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

ERVIN WURSTEN,
Lt. Col., AC,
Commanding.

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STATEMENT

On 13 June 1944 I was co-pilot on B-26 aircraft No. 42-107836,

My ship was flying No. 8 position, low flight, second box, on a return trip from a bombing mission on Foret D'Andaine, France. At about 0740 hours I observed B-26 No. 42-43286, piloted by 1st Lt. Larry L. Holmes, to receive a hit in the bomb bay by enemy light flak. The bomb bay doors opened immediately after the hit and from six to seven bombs fell out. I then observed flames coming from the bomb bay; presumably some of the incendiaries, which the ship was carrying, had exploded. Lt. Holmes ship then pulled out of formation and disappeared from view. No parachutes were observed.

Robert E. Blue

ROBERT E. BLUE,
1st Lieut., AC.

Classification chgd to

~~RESTRICTED~~

per auths WD Cir 104, Sec. 3, dated 29 Apr 47

21 Sep 49

H. Bailey

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STATEMENT

Classification Chgd T3
RESTRICTED

per auth WDCir 104, Sec 3
dated 24 Apr 47
21 Sept 49
HOB Bailey

On 13 June 1944 I was flying as tail gunner on B-26 aircraft No. 42-107836. My ship was on a return trip from a bombing mission over Forest D'Andaine, France. At about 0740 hours I observed B-26 aircraft No. 42-13286, piloted by 1st Lt. Larry L. Holmes, to be completely aflame from cockpit to tail assembly. In a few seconds the ship seemed to bend in the middle and then went into an inverted position. After turning over, the ship plunged to the ground and crashed in flames. No parachutes were observed. //

James D. Ezell

JAMES D. EZELL.
S/Cgt, 452d Bomb Sq.

Classification Chgd
T3

RESTRICTED

per auth WDCir 104, Sec 3, dated 24 Apr 47
21 Sept 49
HOB Bailey

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STATEMENT

Classification chg to
per auth. WDCir 104, sec 3
dated 24 Apr 47
21 Sept 49 HP Bailey

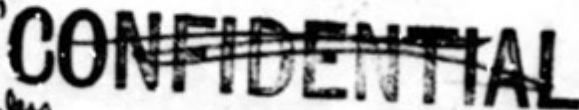
On 13 June 1944 I was pilot of B-26 aircraft No. 42-107836, flying in No. 6 position, low-flight, second box, returning from a mission over Foret D'Andaine, France. About 0740 hours I observed B-26 aircraft No. 42-43286 to receive a hit in the bomb bay from enemy flak. The incendiaries in the bomb bay apparently exploded, causing the bomb bay doors to burst open. The ship was immediately engulfed by flames. Afterwards the aircraft went into what appeared to be a 30° dive. For safety I pulled out of position and the other aircraft passed from view. No parachutes were observed.

Francis J. Rassiga
FRANCIS J. RASSIGA,
1st Lieut., AC.

Classification chg to
per auth. WDCir 104, sec 3
dated 24 Apr 47
21 Sept 49 HP Bailey

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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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: AAF Station 485 Command or Air Force Ninth; GROUP 322nd Bomb Gp (L) ; SQUADRON 432d Bomb Sq ; DETACHMENT
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 485 ; Course about 360°
Intended Destination *See Remarks* ; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Visibility eight to ten miles.
Eight to ten tenths cloud cover, medium clouds, patchy low clouds.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 June 44 Time 0740 ; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft Tilly-Sur-Seulles, France.
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () last contacted by Radio;
() Forced down; (x) Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check only one: () Enemy Aircraft; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-262-40-WA : AAF Serial No. 42-13286
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2500-L3 ; AAF Serial No (a) left; 42-53198 (b) Right: 42-53238 (c) (d)
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) See remarks: (b) (c) (d)
(e) (f) (g) (h)
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 0: Total 6
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

crew Position	NAME IN FULL (last name first)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot:	Holmes, Larry L.	1st Lt.	0-571022
2. CP	Shoop, James R.	2nd Lt.	0-815568
3. Bombardier	10 Coronado, James C.	2nd Lt.	0-807168 507428
4. Radio-Operator	Fischer, Irving (NMI)	S/Sgt	12126945
5. Engineer-Gunner	10 Dawson, George D.	Sgt	36149598
6. Tail-Gunner	Pustelnik, George R.	Sgt	35121684

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

Remarks * Subject; aircraft was returning from bombing mission on Foret D'Andains, France.

Installed weapons are all Browning machine guns, caliber 50, M-2, with the following serial numbers.

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by E. M. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
date 15 MAR 54

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Classification
RESTRICTED
per auth. w/letter 109 Sec 3 dated
24 Apr 47
21 Sept 49
H. J. Bailey

Upper turret: 464326
464936

Tail turret: 401275
400945

Waist (r) 401277
(l) 401983

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Upper left hand blister gun: 368740
Lower left hand blister gun: 294978

Flexible nose gun: 388591

Upper right hand blister gun: 368568
Lower right hand blister gun: 295435

Fixed nose gun: 328680

Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. Blue, Robert N.	1st Lt.	0-571858		X		
2. Rassign, Francis J.	1st Lt.	0-572417		X		
3. Ezell, James D.	S/Sgt	14069772				X
12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVE TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachute were used : (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) No parachutes were observed.						
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.						
14. ATTACHED EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.						
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None						

Date of Report 13 June 1944.

/s/ Ervin Wursten
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
ERVIN WURSTEN
Lt. Col., AC,
Commanding.

Classification chgd
TO

RESTRICTED

per amtl w/cir 104, Sec 3
dated 24 Apr 47

21 Sept 49

H. Bailey

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Classification
to
by E. A. [illegible], Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [illegible], Capt
date [illegible]

1st Lt. Larry L. Holmes

Mrs. Hazel E. Holmes (mother)
430 College Avenue,
Canon City, Colorado.

2nd Lt. James H. Shoup

Mrs. Myrtle C. Shoup (mother)
Saint Lawrence, South Dakota.

2nd Lt. James G. Corcoran

Mr. John H. Corcoran (father)
119 Collidge Street,
Irvington, New Jersey

S/Sgt. Irving Fischer

Mr. Elsie Fischer (father)
2441 Mallard Avenue,
Bronx, New York.

Sgt. George D. Dawson

Mr. James Dawson (father)
Elmhurst, Illinois

Sgt. George H. Pastelnik

Mrs. Emma Pastelnik (wife)
8734 Witt Street,
Detroit, Michigan.