

4801

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Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by **A. B. ORAN, Lt. Col., AF**  
by **R. MURPHY, Capt., AG**  
Date **20 FEB 64**

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

4801

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

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF 123 - APO 568; Command or Air Force 8th  
Group 458th; Squadron 734th; Detachment
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF 123; Course 145 MAG  
Intended Destination SPINAL, FRANCE; Type of Mission COMBAT
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR LAST SIGHTED  
AT TANGIER (15th HOURS) mil-1/10 cumulus with tops at 6000' fill middle or high clouds vis 10-  
13 miles horizontal and downward.
- DATE (a) Date 13 May 44; Time 1540; and Location SPINAL, FRANCE  
(b) Specify whether (X) last sighted; ( ) last contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forces Down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24D; A.A.F. SERIAL NO A1-28738  
ENGINE: Type, Model & Series R-1820-43; A.A.F. SERIAL NO (a) A2-62396  
(b) A2-62245; (c) A2-62396; (d) A2-62096
- INSTALLED EQUIPMENT (Furnish below Make, Type & Serial No)  
(a) MOSE RT-966824; (b) UPPER RT-966145; (c) WALSH RT-966437; (d) Ball RT-966824  
(e) RT-966812; (f) RT-966357; (g) RT-966167; (h) RT-965917
- THE PILOTS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty YES  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10  
(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).

AT TANGIER (15th HOURS) mil-1/10 cumulus with tops at 6000' fill middle or high clouds vis 10-13 miles horizontal and downward.  
Tail RT-966919  
14-966743

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	SERIAL NUMBER	
1. Pilot	<u>GOLDENWICH, STUART (MAG)</u>	<u>1ST LT</u>	<u>0-285124</u>	<u>RTD</u>
2. Co-pilot	<u>COTE, ANDREW P.</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0-541485</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>BRIDGEMAN, WILLIAM O.</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0-216505</u>	<u>RTD</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>BUTTS, RALPH T.</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0-752905</u>	<u>RTD</u>
5. Radio Operator	<u>FULLER, DANIEL G.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>3940136</u>	<u>RTD</u>
6. Top Turret	<u>BRIDGEMAN, WILLIAM S.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>1914913</u>	<u>RTD</u>
7. Ball Turret	<u>MURIN, ROBERT H. J.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>11029075</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8. Right Waist	<u>BARNET, ALBERT V.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>2894437</u>	<u>RTD</u>
9. Left Waist	<u>PAC, WALTER J.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>3125215</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10. Tail Gunner	<u>ROLAND, GERALD B.</u>	<u>SGT</u>	<u>1955219</u>	<u>RTD</u>

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LOST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK A PROPER COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR LOSS:  
Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Landing
<u>WIKER, JOHN L., JR CAPT</u>	<u>0-25522</u>			<u>X</u>		
<u>GAINES, HARLEY T., 1ST LT</u>	<u>0-74591</u>			<u>X</u>		
<u>WELSH, CHARLES W., 1ST LT</u>	<u>0-536780</u>			<u>X</u>		

- IF PERSONS 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 reason (Specify) YES, FLAME
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, MAP, OR OTHER INFO. CONCERNING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. YES UNDER CONTROL.
- ATTACH EVIDENCE DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT OF LOSS, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE WISE NONE.

Date of Report 13 May 1944

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*John H. Fletcher*  
JOHN H. FLETCHER, Major, AC, of Preparing Officer

Incl 21'

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14. 1. \*1ST GP\*, B-24, #154 JUST AFTER TARGET AT RALLEY POINT HEADED FOR SWITZERLAND.

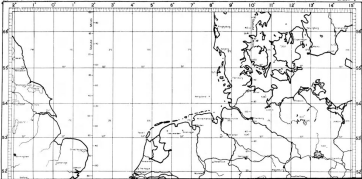
2. PEELLED OFF ON BOMB RUN, DROPPED BOMBS AND UNDER CONTROL HEADED FOR SWITZERLAND.

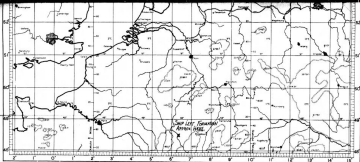
3. O'LEIGHMITH HAD 1 ENGINE FEATHERED, DROPPED HIS BOMBS, FIRED GREEN GREEN FLARES AND FAILED TO TURN WITH FORMATION. HAD A VERY GOOD FIGHTER COVER. BELIEVED HE WAS HEADED FOR SWITZERLAND.

4. WITNESS: SCHULZE, OLIVERT E., 1ST LT, O-745951.

SAW COLLESMITH SHOOT GREEN GREEN FLARES SHORTLY AFTER TARGET. SOMETHING WRONG WITH RUDDER. PEELLED OFF FORMATION, NO ENEMY FIGHTERS NEAR, WAS NEAR SWITZERLAND.

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HEIGHTS IN FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
MILES