12482

AEC 253/1

CONFIDENTIAL 12482

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2304

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 455th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 741st Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Course Direct
Target Augsburg M/Y, Germany Type of mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
6/10 Stratocumulus, tops 9000; visibility 15 miles in haze

4. GIVE: (a) Date 27 Feb 1945 Time 1340 Last known position 48°19'N - 10°50'E
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, ( ) Seen to crash,
( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) No information.

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

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51974

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Sissy-Lee

8. ENGINES: Type, mode. & series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) BP-449097
(b) BP-430806 (c) CP-326508 (d) BP-449003

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)

(a)	1317011 Borwning Cal 50	(e)	1361875	(i)	1758668
(b)	1316674 M-2	(f)	1316654	(j)	1758800
(c)	1758758	(g)	1757789	(k)	
(d)	1758789	(h)	1758043	(l)	

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

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 11 .
(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	Clayton, Joseph C. 1st Lt 0710448	INT	Mrs. Maurine Clayton, Mother Gen. Del., Orlinda, Tennessee	RTD.
(2)	Co-Pilot	Moore, Olin H. F/O T 62834	INT	Mrs. Jean Moore, Wife 136 Wagner Ave, Elkhart, Indiana	RTD
(3)	Navigator	Girard, Francis J. 1st Lt 02058465	MIA	Mr. Thomas A. Girard, Father 623 E. 8th St, Alton, Illinois	RTD.
(4)	Bombardier	Brobst, Russell L. F/O T 6835	INT	Mrs. Edith R Brobst, Mother 307 So. Lehigh Ave, Frackville, Pa.	RTD
(5)	Radio Op/Gunner	Gross, Walter M. T Sgt 18177443	MIA	Mrs Lillian B. Gross, Mother 3616 Dickason Ave, Dallas, Texas	RTD
(6)	Engineer/Gunner	Gill, William L. T Sgt 38505084	MIA	Mrs. Minnie R. Gill, Mother Rt 6, Box, 318, Little Rock, Ark.	RTD
(7)	Armorer/Gunner	Gagola, Edward T. S Sgt 32844180	MIA	Mr. Steve Gagola, Brother 27 Reservation St, Buffalo, N. Y.	RTD
(8)	Armorer/Gunner	Malavich, Charles S Sgt 35417092	KIA	Mrs. Anna Malavich, Mother Dilles Bottom, Ohio	RTD
(9)	Armorer/Gunner	Cook, William T. S Sgt 32754715	MIA	Mrs. Margaret H. Cook, Wife 325 Pine St., Seaford, Delaware	RTD
(10)	Armorer/Gunner	Jeffries, Ralph W. S Sgt 35701222	MIA	Mrs. Nettie Jeffries, Mother 304 E. Center St, Lawrenceburg, Ind.	RTD
(11)	Armorer/Gunner	Mazur, John Cpl 32927712	INT	Mrs. Florence P Mazur, Wife 2501 4th Ave So., Boise, Idaho	RTD
(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 BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
(1) Joseph M. Huffman	2d Lt	02060028		X		
(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.
(X) Other reasons (specify) Plane was under control when last seen

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. no search

2 Enclosures.
Incl 1-Sketch of area. Date 2 March 1945
Incl 2-Statement Lt Huffman

Charles E. Ziegler
Signature of preparing officer

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CHARLES E. ZIEGLER, 1st Lt, AC
Personnel Officer.

Incl 1

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 735001
By: NARA NARA Date: 1973



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741ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945

STATEMENT

Just before the target at 1340 hours on the mission of 27 February 1945, plane #974, piloted by Lt Clayton, dropped out of the formation with #1 engine smoking badly. Lt Clayton reported over the radio that he would try to make it to Switzerland as he had engine trouble. When last seen, the plane was gradually losing altitude but was under control.

Joseph M Huffman

JOSEPH M. HUFFMAN,
2d Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot.

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Encl's to MACR Lt Clayton & crew