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# MISSING AIR CREW REPORT 2206

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
   Group 455th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 742d Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Course Direct
   Target Augsburg M/I, 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 1345 Last known position 48°20'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, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft ( ) Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 44-48775
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT none
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) BP-434079
   (b) CP-328015 (c) CP-328438 (d) CP-328439
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
   (a) 1757583 Browning Cal 50 (e) 1757834 (i) 1758025
   (b) 1757890 M-2 (f) 1757879 (j) 1758026
   (c) 1549885 (g) 1549409 (k)
   (d) 1757838 (h) 1549449 (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 | Grooms, Ray M. 1st Lt 0823505 | INT MIA | Mrs. Emma Rose Grooms, Mother Evergreen, N. C. RTD. |
| (2) Co-Pilot | Connelly, James J. 2d Lt 02001259 | INT MIA | Mrs. Annie Connolly, Mother 160 Beach 113 St, Rockaway Park, L. I., N.Y. RTD |
| (3) Navigator | DePiano, Angelo W. 2d Lt 02001260 | INT MIA | Mr. Patrick DePiano, Father 38 Bennett St, Everett, Mass. RTD |
| (4) Bombardier | Muise, George A. Jr. 2d Lt 02001262 | INT MIA | Mrs. Florence K. Muise, Mother 248 Vauxhall St, New London, Conn. RTD |
| (5) Radio Oprr & Gunner | Hammer, Robert J. T Sgt 17050603 | RMC MIA | Mr. Arthur C. Hammer, Father Sanish, North Dakota RTD |
| (6) Engineer & Gunner | Alfino, Felice J. T Sgt 32893739 | RTD MIA | Mrs. Lucy Alfino, Mother 220 E. 204th St, Bronx, New York RTD |
| (7) Armorer Gunner | Stine, David E. S Sgt 32731827 | INT MIA | Mrs. Sarah C. Stine, Mother 4313 Groveland Ave, Baltimore, Md. RTD |
| (8) Gunner | Siles, Joseph P. S Sgt 36767114 | INT MIA | Mrs. Aurelia C. Siles, Mother 4510 North Marmora Ave, Chicago, Ill. RTD |
| (9) Gunner | Sink, Robert E. S Sgt 36773204 | INT MIA | Mrs. Vivian H. Healy, Mother 2003 Roosevelt Ave, Decatur, Ill. RTD |
| (10) Gunner | West, Marshall F. S Sgt 7070307 | INT MIA | Mr. Marshall West, Father 10 Rivington Ave, Long Branch, N.J. RTD |
| (11) Photographer | Clayton, Wynfield S. Sgt 32076093 | [illegible] | Dr. Walter M. Troesmen, Friend, The Francis Military Academy, Laurel Springs, New Jersey 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 LAST BY RADIO | SAW SIGHTED | SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Theodore R. Combs | 2d Lt | 0827613 | | X | |
| (2) | | | | | |
| (3) | | | | | |

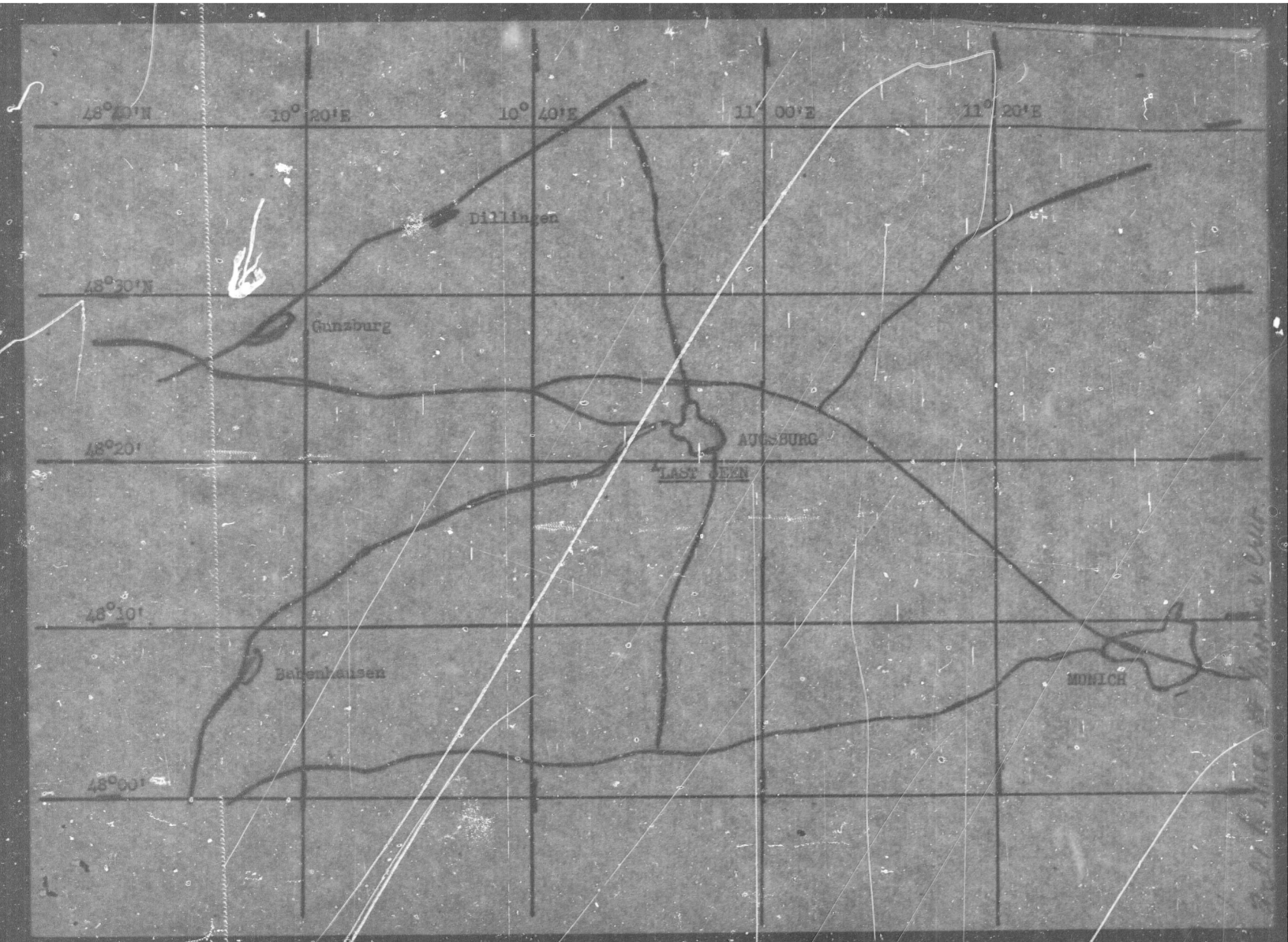
13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
    ( ) Parachutes were used. ( ) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
    (X) Other reasons (specify) Plane was under control when last seen.
14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION 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 Inclosures.
Incl 1-Sketch of area. Date 2 March 1945
Incl 2-Statement of Lt Combs

Charles E. Ziegler
Signature of preparing officer
CHARLES E. ZIEGLER, 1st Lt, AC
Personnel Officer

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



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742D BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945

STATEMENT

Just before reaching target on 27 February 1945 at 1345 hours, plane No. 775, piloted by Lt Grooms, has #1 and #3 engines shot out by flak. The plane continued on to the target and dropped the bombs. The plane then turned from the target and headed toward Switzerland on a 270° heading. Two engines were still operating and the plane was under control.

Theodore R. Combs

THEODORE R. COMBS,
2d Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot.

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2nd Ltr to Maj Gen Lt Grooms & crew