4650

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by [illegible] Lt. Col., AC
by [illegible] MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

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

Check only one column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Moore, Willie W.	1st Lt	0-680679			X	
2. Deppisch, Richard G.	2nd Lt	0-752984		X		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____;,or (c) Any other reason (Specify)_____

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 GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None

Date of Report 26 April 1944

Joe B Goodrich
(Signature of Officer Preparing)
JOE B. GOODRICH
Capt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.



~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
(Equals ~~British~~ CONFIDENTIAL)

Classification changed to RESTRICTED Col., AC by E. A. MOEN Capt., AC Date MAR 15 1946

66-99

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

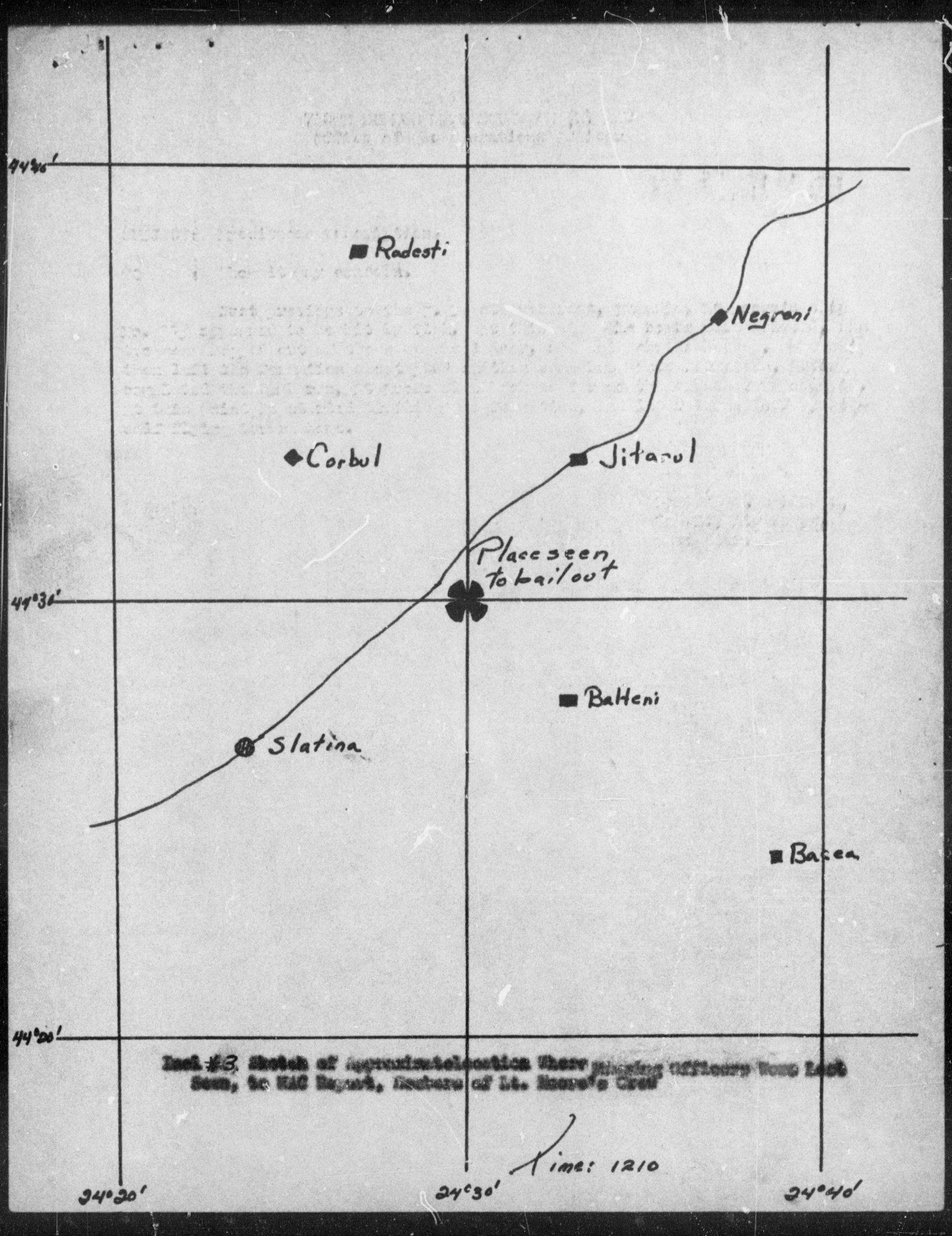
IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location ~~APO 520 NYX~~ San Giovanni Air Fld ; Command or Air Force 15th Group 455th ; Squadron 740th Bomb Sq (H) ; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Fld ; Course Direct Intended Destination 44° 25' N 26° 10' E ; Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Cloudy
4. GIVE: (a) Date 4/21/44 ; Time 1630 ; and Location 41° 45' N 15° 26' E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
   (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; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (X) Other circumstances as follows: Aircraft was damaged by enemy aircraft and anti-aircraft, exhausted gasoline supply
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24 H ; AAF Serial Number 42-52223
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43 ; AAF Serial Number (a) CP-301610 (b) CP-301575 ; (c) 301626 ; (d) 301664
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number) Browning Cal.50, M2, Aircraft Machine Gun: (a) R.N.1149846 ; (b) L.N.1151191 (c) R.M.1152433 ; (d) L.M.1152568 ; (e) R.S.1152599 ; (f) L.S.1152606 ; (g) R.W.1152869 ; (h) L.W.1152777 ; (i) R.C.1152807 ; (j) L.C.1152733 .
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty; or ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers None ; Total 10 .
    (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 12 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	Moore, Willie Warren	1st Lt	0-680679	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	Butler, Raymond Curtis	F/O	T-2110	RTD
3. Navigator	Erickson, Leif Erik	2nd Lt (M.Ea.)	0-811596	MIA POW RTD
4. Bombardier	Gall, James William	2nd Lt (M.Ea.)	0-748065	MIA POW RTD
5. Engineer	Fowle, Sheldon Lewis	T/Sgt	11084238	RTD
6. Asst Engineer	Greland, Paul Francis	S/Sgt	11113931	RTD
7. Radio	DeRock, Charles Edward	T/Sgt	32581956	RTD
8. Asst Radio	Schweisberger, Robert Keith	S/Sgt	15330349	RTD
9. Gunner	Koutsky, Robert Edward	S/Sgt	37437393	KIA
10. Gunner	Smith, Theodore James Isaac	S/Sgt	38363812	RTD
11.				
12.				

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

Ind 1



Encl #3. Sketch of approximate location where pilot and officers were last seen, by VAC Report, Members of Lt. Moore's Crew

Time: 1210

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

APO 520 U. S. ARMY
24 April 1944

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description.

TO : Whom it may concern.

Just previous to the I. P. at Bucharest, Rumania, Lt Moore's ship No. 223 appeared to be hit by flak. At this time the bombs were salvoed, and two men dropped out of the nose wheel door, and both chutes opened. The ship then left the formation about 500' andthen came back into formation. Having completed the bomb run, Lt Moore flew back as far as the coast of Yugoslavia. At this point he started trailing the formation, and later turned off by himself flying toward home.

Richard G. Deppisch.

RICHARD G. DEPPISCH,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Navigator.

Incl #2 Statement of Lt. DEPPISCH to MAC
Report, Members of Lt. Moore's Crew.

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

26 April 1944

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description.

TO : Whom it may concern.

On 21 April 1944 I was flying plane #42-2223 as pilot. At approximately 1200 hours we were attacked by enemy fighters while in formation. My plane was hit several times by what I believed to be 20mm shells, causing very heavy damage to the aircraft. I lost control of the plane when a hit was scored in the cockpit and nose causing fire and smoke. At this time I salvoed the bombs, since the interphone was shot out, and the Bombardier and Navigator must have bailed out as two chutes were seen to open by other members of the crew. The Navigator might have been injured. After getting the plane under control again I brought it back into formation.

About one hour later the formation and I was separated and I headed for the coast of Italy. We could not hold our altitude and were at 2,000 feet when wecrossed the coast. The gas tanks were hit in the right wing and had very little gas left, both No. 1 and No. 2 engine were on fire so I ordered the men to bail out. This was at about 1600 hours and we were just north of San Severa, Italy, which at the time I thought could be either an island or the mainland. I gave the men five minutes to be clear of the plane and jumped as the plane was stalling. I bailed out of the plane and saw it crash into the mountain while I was still descending to the gound. It seemed to skim along the ground, then a small explosion and it started burning.

S/Sgt Koutsky's body was found close to the plane wreckage with chute shroud lines strung out. The last I saw him in the plane was when he was on the cat-walk. I later learned that he had gone back to the camera hatch and told the other crew members that he would bail out from there.

Willie W. Moore
WILLIE W. MOORE
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

Incl #1 ~~#2~~, Statement of Lt. MOORE to
MAC Report, Members of Lt. Moore's Crew.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

360.33 C-DB-4 2nd Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 8 May 44.
TO: CG, XVAF, APO 520.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your Headquarters, 26 April 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

15-171
(59)

Harold G. Wilson
HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: MAC Rpt Lt Moore and Crew
w/3 incls (quin)

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. S: 25 May 1944 GP-m/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 12 May 1944.

(46B)

TO: CO, 304th Wing, APO 520.

1. Returned for statement by indorsement hereon as to which members of the crew returned to duty, which members were killed and which members were MIA.

2. Inclosed MAC Report fails to clarify the status of each member of the crew.

By command of Major General TWINING:

Harold B. Neely
HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl: n/c

4650

360.33 C-DB-4 4th Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 14 May 44.
TO: CG, XVAF, APO 520.

1. 3rd indorsement complied with at this Headquarters.

2. All of the Groups in this Wing have been instructed as to the proper procedure of submitting MAC Reports in cases where only one or two members of the crew are MIA and the remainder are RTD.

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold G. Wilson
HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

AG 360.33 5th Ind. GP-hm/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 18 May 1944.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR No L-66, dated 28 April 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 28 April 1944.

For the Commanding General:

Harold B. Neely
HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 (dup).

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
APO 520 US ARMY

26 April 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bombardment Group (H), APO 520.

Transmitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report of members of Lt. MOORE's crew, Missing In Action over Rumania, on 21 April 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

Joe B. Goodrich
JOE B. GOODRICH
Capt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

4 Incls:
Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report, Members of Lt. MOORE's Crew. (quint)
Incl 2 - Eyewitness Statement, Lt. Moore. (quint)
Incl 3 - Eyewitness Statement, Lt. Deppisch. (quint)
Incl 4 - Sketch of Location Where Missing Officers Last Seen. (quint)

1st Ind.

Hq., 455th Bomb Gp (H), AAF, APO 520, U.S.Army. 26 April 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 304th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Group Commander:

C. A. Olson
C. A. OLSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

4 Incls:
n/c