

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

9133

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification change
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date: MAR 15 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classified by
 to
 by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt Col., AC
 by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
 Date 15 MAR 1965

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello AAB, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 778th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello, AAB, Italy Course Northeast
 Target Blochhammer, Germany Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Scattered Cirrus, clear below, 4 to 5/10 alto cumulus, Visibility 15-20 miles in haze.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 Oct 44 Time 11:20A Last known position Blochhammer, Germany
 (b) Specify whether: (x) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.
5. AIRCRAFT ~~COSTIC~~ (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, (x) Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J AAF Serial Number 42-51840
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-328786
 (b) CP-328054 (c) CP-328086 (d) CP-328064
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) All Browning 50 Cal.
 (a) Left Nose 1547841 (c) Right Nose 1547706 (i) Left Tail 1303150
 (b) Left Upper 1034935 (f) Right Upper 1754434 (j) Right Tail 1303858
 (c) Left Ball 1547776 (g) Right Ball 1548813 (k)
 (d) Left Waist 1034597 (h) Right Waist 1033786 (l)
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (x) Battle Casualty, () Non-Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
 (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	<u>PRICE, WILLIAM A JR</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. William A. Price Sr. father</u> <u>Dee, Oregon.</u>
(2) Co-pilot	<u>NELSON, ROBERT R.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Emma Ropes, Aunt, 1608 B</u> <u>Jefferson Hts. Jefferson City, Mo.</u>
(3) Nav.	<u>DONNELLY, RALPH E.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Ruth L. Donnelly, wife,</u> <u>117 N Weston, Rensselaer, Ind.</u>
(4) Bombr	<u>SOMMERS, VIRGIL N.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Blanche Sommers, mother,</u> <u>3714 Tilden St. Oakwood, Mo.</u>
(5) EG	<u>MASSIELLI, NICHOLAS W</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Lucy D. Masselli, mother,</u> <u>82 Spring St. Middletown, Conn.</u>
(6) ROG	<u>HOLT, JOHN</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Audrey Brooks, mother,</u> <u>301 6th Hemphill St. Ft. Worth, Tex.</u>
(7) AG	<u>LEPICH, WALTER J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. John Lepich, father, 421 W.</u> <u>6th St. Walsenburg, Colorado.</u>
(8) G	<u>HARDY, CHARLES T.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Nollie B. Hardy, mother,</u> <u>RR #3 Washington, Ill.</u>
(9) G	<u>PORTUGAL, DECOROSO M</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Dolores M. Portugal, mother,</u> <u>411 Grant St. Laredo, Texas.</u>
(10) G	<u>WILLIAMS, EARL R.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Annie Williams, mother, 151</u> <u>Harwood Ave., Syracuse, N.Y.</u>
(11)					
(12)					

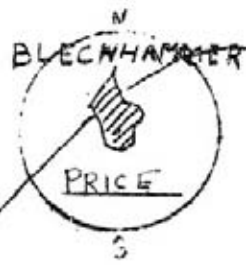
12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO A-E BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		
			BY RADIO	SAW	FORCED
(1) <u>William W. Skinner</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>18163597</u>		<u>X</u>	
(2) <u>Raymond O. Ingalls</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>33433348</u>		<u>X</u>	
(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 last sighted in full control
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.

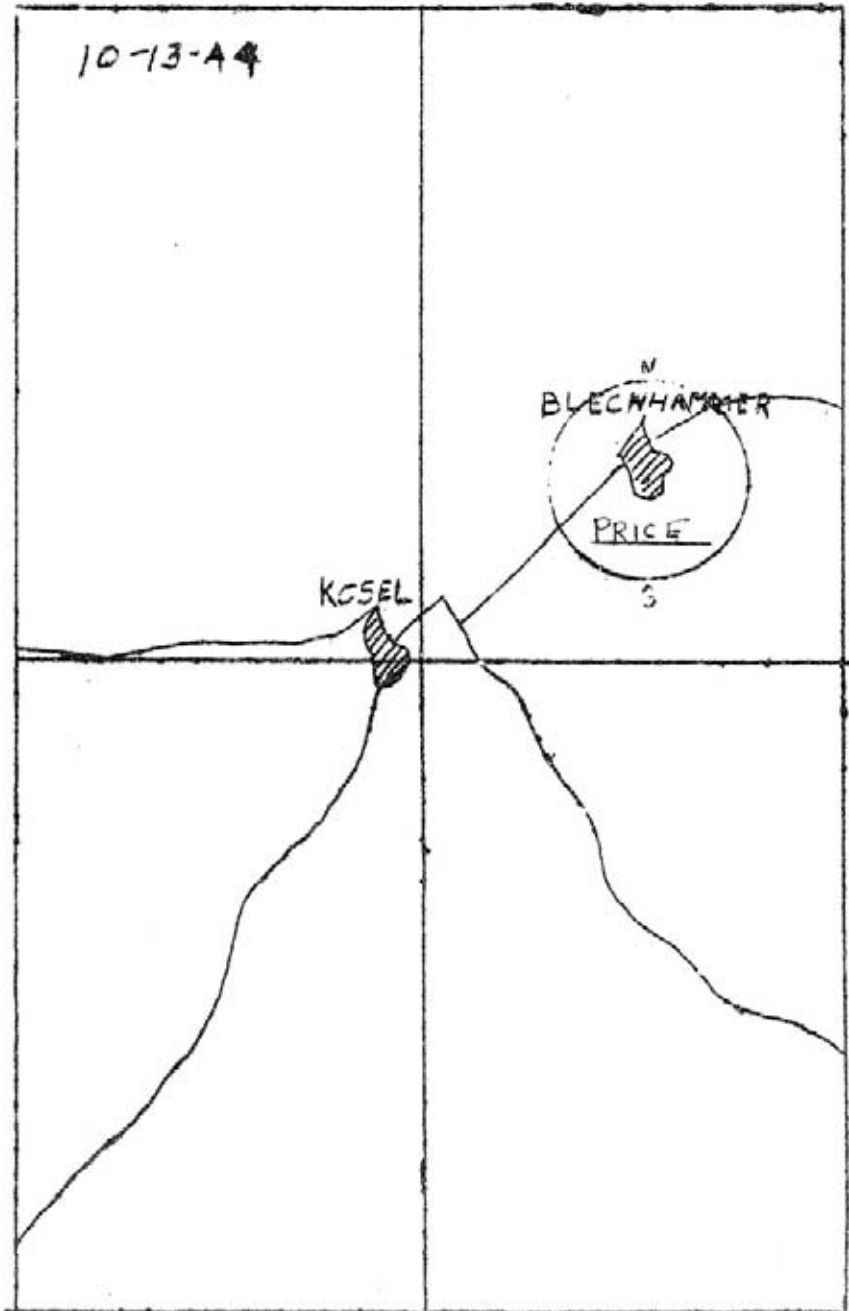
3 Inclosures.
 Incl 1-Sketch Date 16 Oct 44
 Incl 2-3-Statements

Carl V. Muesy
 Signature of reporting officer
 Capt, AC
 Adjutant.

10-13-A4



KOSEL



S T A T E M E N T

16 OCTOBER 1944

I WAS WITH CAPTAIN STEVE'S CREW IN THE NOSE TURRET ON 13 OCTOBER 1944, OUR TARGET BEING BLECHHAMMER, GERMANY. THE FLAK ENCOUNTERED OVER TARGET WAS INTENSE AND VERY ACCURATE. JUST AFTER "BOMBS AWAY" I SAW "WHITE GEORGE" (LT PRICE'S SHIP) TO THE RIGHT AND BELOW ME, MAKING A WIDE RIGHT HAND SPIRAL, LOSING ALTITUDE, APPARENTLY NOT OUT OF CONTROL. IT WENT THRU A LAYER OF CLOUDS AT ABOUT 10,000 FEET. THE PLANE WAS NOT SMOKING AND ALL FOUR ENGINES APPEARED TO BE ALL RIGHT. I DID NOT SEE ANY CHUTES COME OUT OR OPEN. THIS IS THE LAST I SAW OF LT PRICE'S SHIP "WHITE GEORGE".

William W. Skinner

WILLIAM W. SKINNER
SGT 778TH BOMB SQ.
ASN 18163507

S T A T E M E N T

16 OCTOBER 1944

ON 13 OCTOBER 1944 OUR TARGET WAS BLECHHAMMER, GERMANY. I WAS WAIST GUNNER WITH CAPTAIN STEVE'S CREW. I SAW "WHITE GEORGE" (LT PRICE'S SHIP) AT "BOMBS AWAY" AND SNAPPED A PICTURE OF IT AT THAT TIME. IT WAS FLYING ON OUR RIGHT WING. I SAW THE PLANE FLYING ALONG AT ABOUT 10,000 FEET. A FEW MINUTES LATER I THOUGHT NO. 2 ENGINE WAS HIT BUT THE PICTURE I TOOK SHOWED NO SMOKE AND ALL FOUR PROPELLORS GOING. THE PLANE, IN MY OPINION, UNDER CONTROL AT THE TIME. THIS IS THE LAST I SAW OF THE SHIP FROM MY POSITION.

Raymond O. Ingalls
RAYMOND O. INGALLS
SGT. 778TH BOMB SQ
ASN 33433348

C O N F I D E N T I A L
778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. Army

CVH/lpt

16 October 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 464th Bombardment Group (H)
Base.

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report assigned to this Squadron reported Missing In Action 13 Oct 44, over Blechhammer, Germany.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>
2d Lt	Price, William A. Jr.	0-705795
2d Lt	Nelson, Robert R.	0-699438
F/O	Donnelly, Ralph E.	T-127045-
2d Lt	Sommers, Virgil N.	0-1540402
T/Sgt	Masselli, Nicholas W.	31378320
Pvt	Holt, John	18178337
S/Sgt	Lepich, Walter J.	37343556
S/Sgt	Hardy, Charles T.	36691066
S/Sgt	Portugal, Decoroso M.	38560597
S/Sgt	Williams, Earl R.	12239954

2. Subject personnel are Battle Casualties as defined by Par 2, Section II, Circular 10 MATOUSA, dtd 24 Jan 44.

3. Battle Casualty Report, forwarded your Headquarters, 13 Oct 44.

For the Squadron Commander:

1 Incl:

Incl 1-MAC Rpt, Lt Price, & Crew,
16 Oct 44, w/3 incls (7 copies)

Carl V. Hardy
CARL V. HARDY
Capt, AC
Adjutant

2nd Lt. William A. Price Jr.

Mr. William A. Price, (Father)
Des. Oregon.

2nd Lt. Robert E. Nelson

Mrs. Emma Nelson, (Aunt)
1603 E. Jefferson Apartments,
Jefferson City, Missouri.

P/O Ralph E. Donnelly

Mrs. Ruth Donnelly, (Wife)
117 North Weston Street,
Bansselaar, Indiana.

2nd Lt. Virgil E. Sammons

Mrs. Blanche A. Sammons, (Mother)
3714 Tilden Street,
Oakwood, Missouri.

P/Sgt. Nicholas V. Masselli

Mrs. Lucy D. Masselli, (Mother)
82 Spring Street,
Middletown, Connecticut.

Pvt. John Kelt

Mrs. Audrey N. Brooks, (Mother)
2040 College Avenue,
Fort Worth, Texas.

S/Sgt. Walter J. Lepich

Mrs. Molly Lepich, (Mother)
421 West Sixth Street,
Walsenburg, Colorado.

S/Sgt. Charles T. Hardy

Mrs. Hollie A. Hardy, (Mother)
Rural Route Number Three,
Washington, Illinois.

S/Sgt. Theodore Portugal

Miss Luz M. Portugal, (Sister)
411 Grant Street,
Laredo, Texas.

S/C. Earl R. Williams

Mr. Harrison E. Williams, (Father)
151 Harwood Avenue,
Syracuse, New York.

Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

9183

Abschluß-Nr. 100-2567

Abschlußtag und Zeit: 13.10.44 - 12,30
 Abschlußort: b/ Komorn
 Flugzeugtyp: Liberator
 Meldende Dienststelle: AW Südost

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtsdag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage

✓ DONNELLY,	R.E.	F/O	T 127045	gef.	Stalag-Luft 3
✓ SOMMERS,	V.N.	2.Lt.	T 3377	gef.	dto.
✓ HOLT, 25.6.20	John Texas	T/Sgt	18178337	gef.	Stalag-Luft 4
✓ MASSELLI,	Nicholas W Conn	S/Sgt.	31378320	gef.	dto.
✓ WILLIAMS, 25.11.25	Earl, Russell Syracuse N.Y.	Sgt.	12239954	gef.	dto.
✓ LEPICH, 20.6.24	Walter, Julian Walsenburg, Colo	S/Sgt.	30343556	gef.	dto.
✓ PORTUGAL, 18.10.25	Dacorosa, Medina Laredo, Tex.	S/Sgt	38560597	gef.	dto.
✓ HARDY, 24.10.18.	Charles, Thomas Flint Michigan	S/Sgt.	36691066	gef.	dto.
✓ Price,	William A	2.Lt.		verw.	
✓ NELSON,	Robert R.	2.Lt.		verw.	

Bemerkungen:

BULAG-LUFT, den 30. November 44

Kr.