

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL
WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**
 by E. A. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AO
 by P. B. GIBSON, Capt., AO
 Date 10/1/80

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Quadalcanal; Command or Air Force 13th Air Force; Group 5th Bomb (H); Squadron 31st Bomb (H); Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Henderson Field; Course South Route to Treasury Is.; Intended Destination Marilla Airbase; Type of Mission Strike
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
4. GIVE: (a) Date 6/10/43; Time 1910; and Location Marilla Area of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; (X) Last Contacted by Radio; () Forced Down; () 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; () Other Circumstances as follows Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17E; A.A.F. Serial Number 413528
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R 1820-38; A.A.F. Serial Number(a) 41-24391
 (b) 41-24890; (c) 41-24890; (d) 41-24890
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) 11 50 Cal M2 (Ser-
 (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) 1st numbers not
 (e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) available
9. THE CREWS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers _____ Total 9
 (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.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
Pilot	SMOODY, Richard A.	1st Lt	0-725217
Co-pilot	BRADLEY, Frank D.	1st Lt	0-725218
bombardier	BARBER, Lawrence G.	2nd Lt	5591281
Navigator	ROBERT, Ernest N.	2nd Lt	0-797235
Engineer	STANLEY, J. H. (I/O)	1st Sgt	14037725
Asst Engineer	WILL, Lawrence E.	1st Sgt	12063554
Radio Operator	HOCHER, Carl M.	2nd Sgt	5916132
Asst Radio Op	WATTS, Clifford M.	1st Sgt	18007047
Observer	BURNEY, Frederick E.	1st Sgt	39145535

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted By	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
SMOODY, Richard A.	Capt	0-427358	X			

12. IF PERSONNEL 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) _____
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHEN 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 Captain CARROLL, James G. 0-417186

Date of Report 6 September 1943
 Signature of Reporting Officer G. H. BRIDGEMAN
 1st Lt., Air Corps, Adj

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Search for this missing crew was made on 11 June 1943 by three(3) 31st Bomb Sq (H) planes led by Captain Carroll. Results were negative. Several Navy planes also searched and results were also negative.

On 12 June 1943 two 31st Bomb Sq (H) planes led by Captain Roberts conducted a search and again the results were negative.

Inasmuch as this missing crew apparently went down over or close to the target area search was very difficult.

X

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✓ 1st Lt. Richard A. Shady

Mrs. Ruth S. Shady (Mother)
Stratford, Oklahoma.

✓ 1st Lt. Frank E. Sprague

Mr. William L. Sprague (Father)
3316 Forest Avenue,
Des Moines, Iowa.

✓ 2nd Lt. Ernest E. Sower

Mrs. Charles E. Sower (Sister)
116 South Chesapeake,
Williamport, Missouri.

✓ W/Sgt. Earl E. Wether

Mrs. Alice Frank (Mother)
R.F.D. # 5, Box 29,
Traverse City, Michigan.

✓ T/Sgt. J. H. Swanner

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Swanner (Mother)
Route 19,
Knoxville, Tennessee.

Miss Katherine Swanner (Sister)
3006 Lee Highway,
Arlington, Virginia.

✓ T/Sgt. Lawrence C. Tabernahl

Mrs. Donna Y. Tabernahl (Mother)
243 Main Avenue,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

✓ S/Sgt. Frederick V. Tenny

Mrs. Martha F. Tenny (Mother)
8936 Kniffman Avenue,
South Gate, California.

✓ S/Sgt. Lawrence E. Till

Mrs. Lela E. Tenny (Mother)
1552 Maple Street,
Shreveport, Louisiana.

✓ Sgt. Clifford E. Wolff

Mrs. Laura E. Wolff (Mother)
1405 Madison Terrace,
V. Englewood, New Jersey.

