

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

3698

IMPORTANT: 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 Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 765th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Zagreb, Yugoslavia Type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 6 Apr 1944 Time 1630 Last known position Asinello Isl Yugoslavia
[b] Specify whether: [] 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, [] Other **Explosion of fragmentary bomb inside of aircraft**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 42-52361

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-183043 AAF serial Number [a] 301884
[b] 301893 [c] 301367 [d] 301361

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>1152802</u>	[e] <u>218664</u>	[i] <u>1153088</u>
[b] <u>1153444</u>	[f] <u>681801</u>	[j] <u>621318</u>
[c] <u>2188620</u>	[g] <u>681357</u>	
[d] <u>1152685</u>	[h] <u>1153349</u>	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] 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
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[1] Pilot

[2] Nav **Milne, Harold E. 2nd Lt.**
0-811743

[3] Bomb **Sullivan, William S. 1st Lt.**
0- 392692

[4] NTG **Marszalkiewicz, John J. Sgt.**
33552298

[5]

[6]

[7]

[8]

[9]

[10]

[11]

[12]

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRAITE [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] Applegate, Robert	Major	0-22933		X		

E

[2] **Specht, John K.** **1st Lt.** **0-745968** **X**

[3]

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**

Parachutes were used, Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,

Other reasons [specify] _____

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:.

Date: 11Apr 1944

/s/ SAMUEL B. SINAI
1st Lt., AC, Adj.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

At approximately 1630B on 6 April 1944 shortly after leaving Zagreb, Yugoslavia a violent explosion occurred in the bomb bay of the B-24-H airplane we were flying. Both rudder controls, one aileron and all trim tabs were shot out and the inboard gas tanks were leaking severely. The waist compartment of the ship was on fire. There was no alarm system available and no interphone. The Bombardier, Navigator and nose gunner were seen to have abandoned ship at the point 44° 30' N. and 14° 30' E. All three parachutes were seen to open but due to the haze it is not known where these men landed. The rest of the crew managed to reach the coast of Italy in the crippled ship before bailing out successfully.

/s/ ROBERT E. APPLGATE
Major, Air Corps.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

Shortly after leaving the target at Zagreb, Yugoslavia and as we crossed the coast heading for home, the Bombardier, 1st Lt. Sullivan called up that he was going to drop our fragmentary bombs in the sea, no target being available. He opened the doors and started dropping the bombs. A violent explosion was felt, rocking the ship and causing us to fall out of the formation. This was at 1630. We discovered we had one aileron, and elevator but no rudders or trim tabs. The bomb bay was a mass of wreckage and filled with gas and hydraulic fluid. The electric system was out entirely and the three men in the nose of the ship were seen to bail out at 44° 30' N 14° 30' E. A fire started in the waist which was finally extinguished, allowing us to make the coast of Italy where the remaining seven men successfully bailed out. We had no electric turbos, radio, or hydraulic pressure. Number 2 engine ran out of gas before abandoning ship.

/s/ JOHN K. SPECHT
1st Lt., Air Corps.

HEADQUARTERS 49th BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 14 April 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U.S. Army

Forwarded.

For the Wing Commander:

/s/ JOHN E. MITCHELL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 19 April 1944.

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

1. Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR #L-54, dated 13 April 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 13 April 1944.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, A.G.D.
Assistant AG.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

NG 360.35

APO #520, c/o PR
New York, New York
11 April 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO: Commanding Officer, 461st Bombardment Group,
APO #520, c/o PR, New York, New York.

1. In compliance with Letter, 15th Air Force, File AG 300.33 dtd. 5 January 1944, subject: Preparation of Missing Air Crew Reports, submitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report for B-24-H 42-52361, ? and crew.

2. Subject crew personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular No. 10, Headquarters, NATOUSA.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters, 9 April 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ SAMUEL B. SINAI
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Headquarters 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, U.S. Army, 12 April 1944.

TO: CO, 49th Bombardment Wing, APO 520, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Group Commander:

/s/ LOUIS C. PFISTER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Personnel Officer.

Second Lieutenant Harold E. Milne

Mrs. Alex N. Milne (Mother)
61 Maple Avenue
Barre, Vermont

First Lieutenant William S. Sullivan

Mrs. Mildred F. Sullivan (Wife)
1041 West Fish Street
Los Angeles 44, California

Sergeant John J. Marszalkiewicz

Mrs. Lottie J. Marszalkiewicz (Mother)
3169 Falt Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland