

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON(H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

S T A T E M E N T

We were returning from a bombing mission to Ploesti, Romania on 22 July 1944. When we were over an area about 25 miles east of Vidin, Romania the report of fire was given by the waist gunner. Lt McCrary being on the flight deck at the time took the fire extinguisher from the flight deck and proceeded to the waist. Before Lt McCrary reached the rear of the bomb bay, the plane went into a spin, resulting from the failure of nos 2, 3, and 4 engines. I believe Lt McCrary believed the ship was going down, and not being on interphone, returned to the front of the bomb bay, opened the doors, and bailed out. The ball gunner tried to motion to Lt McCrary not to bail out, but he did not understand. The tail gunner saw the chute open about 1,000 feet below the plane. This all took place at about 1200 in an area tenmiles north of Vidin on the Danube River.

CHARLES R WESTFALL,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps.

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON(H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP(H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

S T A T E M E N T

When I got out of the turret, Lt McCrary had his chute on. When I got all the engines going again, he took it off and came on the flight deck. We flew along for a while and the engines started missing and he got down on the catwalk and about that time they reported fire on the command deck. I got the fire extinguisher from the flight deck and handed it to Lt McCrary, pulled off my oxygen mask and yelled in his ear that there was a fire on the command deck and for him to go help the other boys. I then went back to working with the fuel valve and the next time I looked in the bomb bay, the fire extinguisher was laying by the APU and Lt McCrary nowhere to be seen. He had opened the bomb bay doors when I told him about the fire, and put on his chute. I called the pilot and told him I thought Lt McCrary had bailed out and they called from the waist and said he had. I don't know why he bailed out. He may have misunderstood the ball gunner and I think his nerves may have snapped.

Donald W. Jackson  
T/Sgt  
Engineer, Crew #61.

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

S T A T E M E N T

Lt McCrary jumped from the plane while three engines were out and there was a smoldering fire on the command deck. The fire was caused by shorting wires. Lt McCrary was quite calm when the engines were out but the call of fire must have made him lose his nerve and jump for there was no command given to that effect. He jumped out just east of the Danube River, and I saw his parachute open about 1,000 feet below the plane.

Thomas C Chisholm, 14061054  
S/Sgt, 767 Bomb Sq