

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED** by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AO by F. M. MURKIN, Capt., AO Date **MAR 15 1948**

WAR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON

**MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

Goble D.O.  
2791

IMPORTANT: This report will be completed and indicated by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Sta. F-368; Command or Air Force VIII F Comd  
Group 20th Fighter Group; Squadron 55th F Sq; Detachment
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Sta. F-368; Course 299°  
Intended Destination BERLIN, GY; Type of Mission BOMBER ESCORT
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU
- GIVE: (a) Date 3/7/44; Time UNKNOWN; and Location UNKNOWN  
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.
- 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 Engine trouble, caught on fire.

8-2140/1411  
17F40/1411  
SFC/37743

- AIRCRAFT Type, Model and Series P-38J 10-10; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-37705
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1710-91; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-95155  
(b) V-1710-89; (c) 42-30A14; (d)
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) Cal. 50 Fridge.; (b) IL 407160; (c) UL 411163; (d) UR 407063  
(e) LR 397474; (f) 20 mm Int. Harv.; (g) 122232; (h)
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty I  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1  
(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
1. Pilot	<u>GORTE, DON DAVID</u>	<u>2nd Lieutenant</u>	<u>0-746511</u>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>MC LARY, MAURICE</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0-441851</u>	<u>X</u>			
2. <u>BISHOP, HARRY E.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-730348</u>	<u>X</u>			

(1)

April 2'

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Missing Air Crew Report cont'd.

12. IF PERSONNEL WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \*See Notes; (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. Unknown
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 TIME MADE, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None

Date of Report 6 March 1944

*Charles F. Salter*

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CHARLES F. SALTER  
Major, Air Corps  
Adjutant

Reproduced at Hq VIII FC  
C-D-2 26 June 1943

\* It is believed that Lt. Goble used parachute.

(2)



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4 March 1944.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1. I certify that I, Maurice R. McLary, Captain, Air Corps, had radio contact with Don D. Goble, 2nd Lt., Air Corps, prior to his failure to return from an Operational Mission on 3 March 1944.

2. As we were leaving the R/V point, I heard Lt. Goble say that his right engine was going out. At the time, we were bounced by the ME 109's, I heard him say, "If they bounce me, I'm bailing out". I had just left the enemy coast when I heard Lt. Goble say that he was South of the Zuider Zee, coming out to the coast. I told him that we were coming in to get him. While I was orbiting to collect my flight, he replied, "Don't come back, save your gas, I can't make it. My left engine is getting rough, go on home." I then heard Denton call and tell him to go down the Enemy Coast to the narrow part of the channel and cross there. The last I heard from Lt. Goble was that he was five (5) miles inland headed South. I heard someone say over the R/T that, "He caught on fire and bailed out!" I don't know who that was.

3. The above narrative is true and correct.

*Maurice R. McLary*  
MAURICE R. MC LARY,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
55th Fighter Squadron.

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4 March 1944.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1. I certify that I, Harry E. Bisher, 1st Lt., Air Corps heard Don D. Goble, 2nd Lt., Air Corps, prior to his failure to return from an Operational Mission on 3 March 1944.

2. My story is the same as Captain McLary's. I tried to contact Lt. Goble several times but I evidently could not reach him as he did not answer. I could hear him clearly. I also heard, "He caught on fire and bailed out", but I do not know who it was.

3. The above narrative is true and correct.

HARRY E. BISHER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
55th Fighter Squadron.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*Harry B. Baker*  
HARRY B. BAKER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Ass't Operations Officer.