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10000/135/749

MISSING ALLIED AIRCREW
JAN. - APR. 1947

749

(7A)

From : Air Forces Branch, Allied Force Headquarters, A.P.O. 794.
To : Headquarters, Missing Research and Enquiry Service,
c/o A.P.O. S.442, Royal Air Force, C.M.F.
Date : 22nd April, 1947.
Ref : AFB/1108/1/INT.

IDENTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES.

Reference is made to your 1501727/COMROY,
MRES/2727/u dated 31st March, 1947.

Your letter of even reference dated 30th
November, 1946, did not reach Lt. Col. Santini, but the results
of his investigations have been obtained and are forwarded herewith.

3433

Sub

S.M. LEGAT. SQD/OFF.
for AIR COMMODORE, DIRECTOR.
AIR FORCES BRANCH.
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

1. At about 2300/7/2/44, an English aircraft crashed against a house belonging to ROMEO Romeo and GIULIANI Laurina, widow of CASTALDI Vittorio at 11 and 13 Via Cristoforo Buondelmonti.

2. When the building collapsed the following persons living in the villa were killed:

GIULIANI Laurina, taken alive from the ruins and later died as a result of wounds at S. Giovanni hospital.

CASTALDI Antonietta, same as above.

CASTALDI Francesco " " "

A railway worker from CIVITAVECCHIA, passing through Rome, unidentified, a guest for a short time in the house. He died immediately after the crash and was taken to the hospital.

A youth of about 22-23, unidentified, living in hiding with the GIULIANI's to escape the Nazi-Fascists, died immediately after the crash and was taken to S. Giovanni hospital together with the 4 others.

3. On the morning of 8th February the remains, horribly torn and burnt, of 3 persons considered to be the crew - in one coffin - were transported to the Verano cemetery.

4. The body of another member of the crew, identified as George Dean, was recovered between the houses at No. 1 and No. 3 Via ¹² ~~11~~ ¹² ~~11~~ Coronelli, at a distance of about 150 metres from the scene of the crash.

DEAN, who had probably parachuted out at too low an altitude, was completely shattered on reaching the ground. A German patrol immediately went to the spot where Dean fell. After having ascertained that he was dead they continued to look for another member of the same crew which had parachuted into a nearby field. The body of Dean was transported to Verano at about 1400/8/2 by a detachment of the U.N.P.A. (Unione Nazionale Protezione Antiaerea).

5. From the above, although the remains were of three persons and the only body identified was that of Dean who fell at 150 metres from the scene of the crash, it is possible that at the moment of the crash the aircraft hit a civilian whom it was not possible to identify.

STATO MAGGIORE DELL'AERONAUTICA

UFFICIO "I,"

Roma, il

15 aprile

194

46A

AIR FORCES BRANCH ALLIED FORCES
HEADQUARTERS A.P.O. 794

Protocollo N. 751099/2

RISERVATO

Risposta al Foglio del

Div.

Ser.

N.

OGGETTO: Identificazione di caduti.-

Riferimento AFB/1108/1/INT. del 10 aprile 1947.-

Dalle indagini esperite da questo Ufficio, è risultato quanto segue:

1. Verso le ore 23 del 7 febbraio 1944, un velivolo inglese si fracassava contro il villino, contrassegnato dai numeri civici 11 e 13 di Via Cristoforo Buondelmonti, di proprietà di certi ROSSI Romeo e GIULIANI Laurina vedova CASTALDI Vittorio.-
2. In conseguenza del crollo dello stabile trovarono la morte le seguenti persone dimoranti nel villino:
 - GIULIANI Laurina fu Luigi, estratta viva dalle macerie e deceduta, in seguito alle ferite riportate, all'Ospedale di S.Giovanni ove era stata trasportata nella notte dal 7 all'8 febbraio;
 - CASTALDI Antonietta fu Vittorio, idem come sopra;
 - CASTALDI Francesco fu Vittorio, idem come sopra;
 - un ferroviere domiciliato a Civitavecchia, di passaggio a Roma, non identificato, ospite da poco tempo in casa GIULIANI, morto subito dopo il disastro e trasportato all'ospedale di S.Giovanni;
 - un giovane di circa 22-23 anni, non identificato, viveva nascosto presso la famiglia GIULIANI per sottrarsi ai nazifascisti, deceduto subito dopo il disastro e trasportato all'ospedale di S.Giovanni assieme ai quattro precedenti.-
3. La mattina del giorno 8 febbraio furono raccolti i resti umani, orrendamente sfracellati e carbonizzati, di tre persone ritenute dell'equipaggio e - in una sola barella - vennero trasportati dopo il mezzogiorno al cimitero del Verano.-
4. La salma di un altro componente l'equipaggio, identificato per Geo DEAN, fu rinvenuta tra i villini contrassegnati dai numeri civici 1 e 3 di Via Marco Coronelli, ad una distanza di circa 150 metri dal luogo ove il velivolo andò a fracassarsi.-
Il DEAN, lanciatisi col paracadute probabilmente ad una quota troppo bassa, si sfracellò completamente al suolo. Una pattuglia tedesca accorsa subito sul luogo ove era caduto il DEAN, dopo aver constatato la morte dello stesso, proseguì per rintracciare un altro membro dell'equipaggio lanciatisi col paracadute e salvatisi in un prato vicino.

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STATO MAGGIORE DELL'AERONAUTICA
UFFICIO "I"

Roma, li

15 aprile 1947¹⁰⁴ 6A

di

Protocollo N°

41/451099/2¹

Risposta al Foglio del

Div.

Sez.

N.

OGGETTO:

- 2 -

La salma del DEAN, venne trasportata al Verano verso le ore 14 del 1°8 febbraio a cura di una sezione dell'U.N.P.A. (Unione Nazionale Protezione Antiaerea).-

5. Da quanto sopra esposto, qualora i resti fossero effettivamente di tre persone, accertato che l'unica salma identificata fu quella del DEAN caduto a 150 metri dal luogo ove si fracassò l'aeroplano, rimane verosimile il fatto che al momento dell'urto l'aeroplano abbia investito un civile, del quale però nessuna identificazione è stata possibile.-

3430
IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO "I"
(Ten. Col. Pilota = F. SANTINI)

F. Santini

5A

From : Air Forces Branch, Allied Force Headquarters, A.F.O. 794.
To : Italian Air Ministry, Ufficio "I".
Date : 10th April, 1947.
Ref : AFB/1108/1/INT.

IDENTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES.

Enclosed herewith are copies of 2 letters from the Missing Research and Enquiry Service regarding the crash of a British Aircraft at Via di Villa Servente on 7.2.44., which apparently have not been received by you.

2.

Your comments would be appreciated.

S.M. LEGAT. SQD/OFF.
for Air Commodore, Director.
Air Forces Branch, A.F.H.Q.

3429

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Ref: -1501727/COMROY.
:-MRES/2/27/U.

Headquarters,
Missing Research & Enquiry Service,
c/o A.P.O. S. 442,
Royal Air Force,
Central Med. Forces.

31 March, 1947.

T/Colonel SATELLI,
Capo Ufficio 'I',
Ministero dell'Aeronautica,
R O M A.

Copy to: - Intelligence Section,
Air Force Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission,
R O M A.

IDENTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES.

1. Further to our letter of even reference dated the 30th November, 1946.
2. May we please be informed if you have been able to establish that one of the bodies taken from the ~~crash site~~ British aircraft crashed into the side of a house at VIA DI VILLA BRUNETTE, Rome on the 7th February, 1947, was that of a civilian.
3. Your comments would be appreciated.

3428

P. J. ...
Wing Commander, Commanding,
A.C., M.R.N.S., R.A.F., C.M.F.

LO/RUR.

From: Air Forces Branch A.F.H.Q.

To : S.I.O A2H.Q. ITALY

Ref : AFB/1108/I/Int.

Date: March 26th, 1947

POSSIBLE INCARCERATION OF RAF OFFICER
BY JUGOSLAVS

Reference is made to your AHQI/S.2122/INT(SEC) dated 6th January 1947. The Italian Air Ministry Intelligence Section have supplied the following additional information:

"In Lubjans prison, where the Italian airmen DE SANTIS was in transit only, he met a British Lt. who spoke English, French Italian and Serb and had the following characteristics: Height: approx: 1.80 m.; slim; straight blond hair; thin face; clean-shaven; blue eyes and appeared to be about 23 years of age. The British officer was wearing civilian trousers and a blue pullover on which was an eagle and the initials R.A.F.

" The British Lt., during a short conversation held with DE SANTIS, in the prison ablutions, said he had been arrested at Lubjans some time before while on a visit to his mother who was there at the time. He did not specify however, if his mother lived in Lubjans or was only there by chance.

" Not until after his arrest did the British officer know that he was accused of belonging to the Intelligence Service, and was in consequence subjected to searching interrogations.

" DE SANTIS is unable to furnish any other information, since, as already stated, the conversation with the British officer was very short and these confidences were made during the few minutes in which they were together. "

No further information can be obtained.

3427

Juk
(S.M. LEGAT)
Flight Officer
for Air Commodore, Director
Air Forces Branch
A.F.H.Q.

STATO MAGGIORE DELL'AERONAUTICA

UFFICIO "I"

11/750739/2

Protocollo N.

Allegati

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Roma, li

F-1546
14.3.
1947
JA

A.A.F.S.S.-I.M.A.S.-A.F.H.S.-I.S.

Risposta al Foglio del 27 gennaio 1947

Div. Sez. AFSC/1108/1 Int.

OGGETTO: Probabile incarcerazione di un ufficiale della R.A.F. in Jugoslavia.-

nei confermare quanto già reso noto sull'argomento si aggiungono le seguenti precisazioni:

nelle carceri di Lubiana, ove l'aviere De SANTIS è stato solo di passaggio, incontrava un Tenente inglese che parlava inglese-francese-italiano e serbo ed aveva i seguenti connotati: statura m. 1,80 circa; snello, capelli biondi e lisci, viso magro, sbarbato, occhi azzurri e dell'apparente età di circa 23 anni. L'ufficiale inglese indossava dei pantaloni civili ed una maglia azzurra sulla quale era raffigurata un aquila e la scritta R. A.F.--

Il Tenente inglese, durante una breve conversazione avuta con il De Santis, nei lavatoi della prigione, affermava di essere stato arrestato a Lubiana parecchio tempo prima in occasione di una sua visita alla madre che ivi si trovava. Non specificava però, se la madre era di Lubiana o se vi si trovava solo accidentalmente.-

Solo dopo l'arresto il Tenente inglese sapeva che era accusato di appartenere all'Intelligence Service e pertanto veniva sottoposto a stringenti interrogatori.-

Il De Santis non è in grado di fornire altri chiarimenti in quanto, come già detto, la conversazione con l'inglese fu brevissima e queste confidenze gli furono fatte durante i pochi minuti in cui si sono trovati insieme.-

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO "I"
(Ten. Col. Pilota = F. SANTINI)

F. Santini

3426

Min. dell'Aer. - Stab. Filinterco. - (0-946 - 158/C. 5000)

I-1524

From:- Headquarters, Missing Research & Enquiry Service,
c/o A.P.O. S. 442, R.A.F., C.M.F. IA.

To :- Air Forces Sub Commission,
Allied Commission - Rome.

Date:- 14th February, 1947.

Ref :- 1805221/Tipper.

1803296 Sgt. R.G. Hibbins - Pilot.
1805221 F/Sgt. J.C. Tipper - Nav.
1582180 F/Sgt. R.E. Lapworth - Wop/Air.
1801772 Sgt. A.A. Clements - Wop/Air.

Receipt is acknowledged of your AFSC/1108/1/Int. dated 28th. January, 1947.

2. Sgt. Hibbins and crew (as above) of Baltimore V F.W. 794 took off on a leaflet dropping mission in the Ferrara area on the 26th. January 1945.

3. The aircraft subsequently crashed, presumably due to enemy action, near Occhiobello which is just north of Ferrara. All the crew were killed and the remains were taken from the aircraft by German soldiers and Italian civilians and buried in the civil cemetery at Occhiobello.

4. Whilst searching in the area a unit of the Army Graves Service located these bodies and carried out an exhumation from which identification was established. They were re-interred into Padua British Empire Cemetery on the 25th. of April last year.

PT/DA.



P. Tamison 3425
Wing Commander, Commanding,
N.O., M.R.E.S., R.A.F., C.M.F.

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