

859TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
Office of the Operations Officer

22 April 1945

S T A T E M E N T

1. B-24H No. 42-50428F departed its base at 0925 hours 19 April 1945 on a day mission to Northern Italy. No R/T or W/T contact was ever established with the A/C after its departure from the airfield.
2. There was contact made with the A/C by Bacon, VHF Sector Control Station, when the A/C left the coast on course.
3. The pilot, Lt Sacke, of A/C 42-94758A, which took off approximately five (5) minutes after 428, heard the A/C when it checked in with Bacon while circling over the base for altitude. Both A/C were scheduled for the same target on the same route but the crew of 758 stated that A/C 428 was unsighted throughout the entire mission. About the time that A/C 758 was entering the Lugano Area they heard a call from A/C 428 stating that they were being attacked by fighters. At about the same time as the transmission from 428 was heard, Lt Sacks spotted a single engine fighter at about two o'clock, approximately twenty (20) miles away but had no encounter with it.
4. There has been nothing reported as to the whereabouts of the missing A/C since the mission. Fighters have looked over the general area but have found no trace of the A/C.

5. Crew members were as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK OR GRADE</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>DUTY</u>
WALTER L. SUTTON	Captain	0-405214	Pilot
FRANK A. STOEHRER	1st Lt	0-825707	Co-Pilot
RALPH F. ANDERSON	1st Lt.	0-2065208	Navigator
ROBERT W. BRIMMER	1st Lt.	0-2063224	Bombardier
William V. Marck	S/Sgt	33562560	Engineer
Kenneth C. Lail	S/Sgt	34436199	Radio Operator
Edward J. Veasey	Sgt	18248368	Tail Gunner
William J. Burke	Sgt	37097711	Waist Gunner
Charles W. Schaeffer	T/Sgt	11089131	Waist Gunner
Earl D. Cartmill	1st Lt	0-773295	Observer

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

EARL F. McKENNEY,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer