

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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~~STATEMENT~~

APO 520, NATOUSSA,  
6 October 1943.

Plane 474 appeared to be in trouble shortly after the fighter attack started. They salvoed their bombs and stayed in position. There was an explosion in or around the bombay as fighters were attacking. I could see parts of the plane fly off. The plane seemed to remain in control, but I could see that 474 was badly damaged and ripped from the top turret back to the radio room. At this point 474 passed from my view. Tail gunner S/Sgt LEO ROBIN reported that he definitely saw four (4) parachutes open on men leaving the plane. At the time the men left the plane the fighters were some distance away and to Robin's knowledge made no attack on the men. The last Robin saw of the plane it was apparently out of control and losing altitude rapidly.

*Ben F. Wanger*  
BEN F. WANGER,  
S/Sgt., Air Corps,  
Waist Gunner.

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## SOURCE INFORMATION

**Image url:** <https://www.fold3.com/image/28599265>

**Publication Number:** M1380

**Publication Title:** Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs) of the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942-1947

**Publisher:** NARA

**National Archives Catalog ID:** 305256

**National Archives Catalog Title:** Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs), compiled 1942 - 1947

**Record Group:** 92

**Short Description:** NARA M1380. Over 16,000 case files of Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs) and related records of the US Army Air Forces, 1942-1947.

**Publication Declassified:** a:NND 735001|b:NARA|d:1973

**Roll:** 00301-00400


**Year:** 1943

**Serial Number:** 42-30474

**Report Number:** 929

**Location:** Near Verona, Italy

**Point Of Departure:** A P O 520, Natousa

**Original data from:**  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)