

42-52463

by

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Thursday May 25, 1944. During the allied air operations to destroy the communication complex of the German occupant in southern France, two groups of B-24 Liberator from the Fifteenth Air Force, 55th Bomb Wing, 464th and 465th Bomb Groups, dropped bombs on Givors's railway junction, located 13 miles south of Lyon, Rhône's valley.

Four B-24 Liberator from the 464th Bomb Group were very seriously damaged, three failed to return to their base of Gioia-del-Colle, in the Italian's Pouilles. The groups of American bombers were attacked on their return flight, by flak and the Luftwaffe, with Messerschmitt 109 and Focke Wulf 190 based in Istres, Salon-de-Provence and Channoines.

B-24, 42-52463, piloted by Second Lieutenant Donald L. Garniss was shot down. This aircraft was nicknamed "Table Stuff".

This aircraft couldn't reach Corsica's coasts, and crashed at sea in front of La Napoule's gulf, just after having his 11 crewmen bail out as seen by the squadron on the flight back.

There was no sign of this crew, and the wreck of their B-24, were never located.

On August 23, 1997 a monument dedicated to Second Lieutenant Garniss's B-24 was erected in La Napoule.