

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

11267

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 766th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 350°
Target Blechhammer, Germany Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
7/10 cumulus 13000 feet
4. GIVE: [a] Date 7 Aug 1944 Time 1128 Last known position Lake Balaton, Hungary
[b] Specify whether: [] Last sighted, [] Forced down, [] Seen to crash,
[] Last contacted by radio, [] No information
5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]
[] Enemy aircraft, [] Enemy anti-aircraft, [] Other **Mechanical failure**
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 421-52436
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series B R1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP 301309
[b] CP 301501 [c] CP 301397 [d] CP 301316
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>951559</u>	[e] <u>951575</u>	[i] <u>951129</u>
[b] <u>951220</u>	[f] <u>951359</u>	[j] _____
[c] <u>951325</u>	[g] <u>951173</u>	
[d] <u>951480</u>	[h] <u>967168</u>	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] Battle Casualty, [] Non Battle Casualty

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10

[If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet]

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME [Last, First, Initial] RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
[1] Pilot	Sterrett, Robert E. 2nd Lt. 0-705446		Buelah Sterrett (Wife) 217 S. Cryster St., Independence, N.D.
[2] CP	Thompson Robert K. 2nd Lt. 0-715407		Francis N. Thompson (Wife) 314 Orchard Dr., Dayton, Ohio
[3] Bomb	McGara, Donald R. 2nd Lt. 0-715094		Norma McGara (Wife) 120 E. Beairegard, San Angelo, Texas
[4] Nav	Barnhart, Kenneth E., Jr. 2nd Lt. 0-718991		Kenneth E. Barnhart, Sr. (Father) 4504 Cajenway, San Diego, California
[5] TTG	Kavanaugh, Howard W. Sgt. 32862925		Helen Kavanaugh (Mother) 265 74 th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
[6] BTG	Lamb, William G., Jr. Sgt. 15119640		William G. Lamb, Sr. (Father) PO Box 485, Paducah, Ky.
[7] TTG	Reeve, Harold I. Sgt. 32368613		Katie Reeve (Wife) Mer Rouge, Louisiana
[8] NTG	Conrad, Robert B. Sgt. 17098098		Bertie B. Conrad (Father) Schuyler, Bebr.
[9] LWG	Pogerselski, Daniel J. S/Sgt 32840090		Martin Pogerselski (Father) 158 Jackson St., Buffalo, N.Y.
[10] RWG	Granchelli, Felix S/Sgt. 11099567		Juanita Granchelli (Mother) 76 Dudley St., Cambridge, Mass.
[11]			

[12]

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRAITE [one only] COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
[1] Buxton, Charles A.	S/Sgt.	31129750		X		
[2] Edinger, Robert F.	S/Sgt.	13057416		X		
[3] Robinson, James J.	Cpl	35798140		X		

[4]

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**

Parachutes were used, Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,

Other reasons [specify] **Plane under control when last seen.**

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE: **None.**

Date: 29 June 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado
1st Lt., AC

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

I saw ship number 48 feather his number three engine just before the I.P., he fell behind the formation. When we went on to the I.P., 48 made a left turn. I didn't see him after that until we were on the course for home. He was down to 12000 feet then and about four miles behind. I watched him until we got to Lake Balaton. He was losing altitude and falling behind all the time. At Lake Balaton was the last I saw of ship 48 as he fell below the clouds making it impossible for me to see him any more.

/s/ Charles A. Buxton, S/Sgt.

I saw the last time ship 48 in the Vienna area very low just above the clouds. I lost sight just after Lake Balaton.

/s/ Robert F. Edinger
S/Sgt.

Intermittent smoke was seen from engine 3 and 4 as hour and a half before the ETA (1104). Forty minutes from the IP there was a slight blue flame from atop number three engine. At this time two bombs were dropped on a small village and were seen to explode. Shortly after number three was feathered and the ship lost altitude. The ship appeared to turn inside the formation and to pick up the formation. The ship headed into the target area minutes before the I.P. was reached. After passing over the southern most part of the target about 5000 feet below the formation the ship continued on and half hour later was out of sight. After leaving the target on heading of 193° ship 48 headed 160-65. No one seen to bail out.

/s/ James J. Robinson, Cpl.

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ME 1952</u>
Date: 8/7/44	2 nd Lt.	Sterrett, Robert E	0-703446	0
Time: 1222	2 nd Lt.	McGara, Donald Ray	0-715094	
Place: 2 km North of	2 nd Lt.	Barnhart, Kenneth E.	0-718991	
Ostffyassenyfa, east	2 nd Lt.	Thompson, Robert K.	0-715407	missing
of Steinamanger,	T/Sgt.	Granchelli, Felix	11099567	
Hungary	S/Sgt.	Pogerselski, Daniel John	32840090	
Type: Liberator	S/Sgt.	Conrad, Robert Beeman	17098098	
766 HB Sqd, 461	S/Sgt.	Kavanaugh, Howard	32862925	
GR, A Flight		William		
Air Base: T	S/Sgt.	Reeve, Harold Irvin	32368613	
Target: Evaluation	S/Sgt.	Lamb, William Goebel	15119640	(Hospital)
Post Sou theast				

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN **7 August 1944 - 1222,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-1952**
PLACE OF CRASH **north-east of Poyaszenyfa**
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**
REPORTING OFFICE **A.W. Sudost**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Sterrett, Robert E.	2nd Lt.	0-705446	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
McGara, Donald Ray	2nd Lt.	0-715094	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Barnhart, Kenneth E.	2nd Lt.	0-718991	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Granchelli, Felix	T/Sgt.	11099567	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Pogorzelski, Daniel John 15-3-24 – Buffalo, N.Y.	S/Sgt.	32840090	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Conrad, Robert Beeman 1-4-22 – Schuyler, Nebr.	S/Sgt.	17098098	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Kavanaugh, Howard William 27-12-10 – New York City	S/Sgt.	32862925	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Reeve, Harold Irwin 14-8-19 – W. Collingwood, New Jersey	S/Sgt.	32368613	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Lamb, William	S/Sgt.		Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Casualty No: ME-1952			First supplemental report, dated 12 October 1944	
Thompson, Robert K.	2nd Lt.	0-715407	Captured	Stalag Luft 3

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 27 September 1944. Wo.

461st Bomb Group (H)

Sergeant Alvin F. Borchert, 16116654, missing 3 July 1944

Sergeant Robert B. Conrad, 17098098, missing 7 August 1944

**HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

17 January 1945

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report

TO: Commanding General, NATOUSA, A.P.O. #534,
U.S. Army, Attention: N.A.A.G.C.

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for details concerning the circumstances under which personnel listed on enclosure were reported missing (in action) on the date shown.

2. A search of the records of this headquarters indicates that a Missing Air Crew Report, as required by A.G.O. letter, 7 July 44 (AG 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M), has not been received to date in these cases. It is requested that these reports be forwarded with the least practicable delay.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ E. A. Bradunas,
Major, Air Corps,
Chief, Notification Branch,
Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel.

HQ., MTOUSA, A.P.O. 512, U.S. Army, 22 January 1945

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, U.S. Army

1. Records of this headquarters indicate that MACR for Sgt. ALVIN F. BORCHERT, 16116654, and crew was forwarded the War Department 19 July 44. Records further indicate that soldier RTD 24 July 44. There is no record pertaining to the receipt of a MACR containing the name of Sgt. ROBERT B. CONRAD, 17098098, reported MIA 7 Aug 44. Hungary.

2. It is therefore requested that MACR be prepared in triplicate and forwarded this headquarters with the return of this correspondence.

By command of Lieutenant General Mc Narney:

/s/ Jack K. Roberts,
1st Lieut., AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 26 January 1945

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

MACR forwarded your headquarters 22 August 1944. Copies enclosed.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Windle D. Reel,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

Jones:

Give MACR control number. Process. Send dup copy to AG Records. Send orig & 1 carbon copy to Hq. AAF with this correspondence. Endorse correspondence as follows:

AG 3rd Ind AAF CONF

Attention is invited to 1st endorsement and Incl #2.

For the –

/s/ OE