

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**12359**

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 15<sup>th</sup> AF  
Group 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 766<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 308°  
Target Vienna Austria Type of mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 21 Feb 1945 Time 1335 Last known position Vienna, Austria  
[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 difficulties**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 G AAF Serial Number 42-78408

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: none

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] 42-38668  
[b] 42-65145 [c] CP-312693 [d] 41-43073

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>1249059</u>	[e] <u>978501</u>	[i] <u>1248825</u>
[b] <u>1249756</u>	[f] <u>1249105</u>	[j] <u>1248714</u>
[c] <u>1239325</u>	[g] <u>977694</u>	
[d] <u>1249008</u>	[h] <u>978380</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	<b>Hooper, Josiah R., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-7188642</b>		<b>Glenwood P. Hooper (Father)</b> <b>Barrens Road, Milford, New Jersey</b>
[2] Co-pilot	<b>Mac Donald III, Charles A., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-830877</b>		<b>James A. Judie (Grandfather)</b> <b>1515 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, Ind.</b>
[3] Nav	<b>Bennehoff, Frederick C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-2070235</b>		<b>Doris M. Bennehoff (Wife)</b> <b>920 Virginia St., Graham, Texas</b>
[4] Bomb	<b>Beach, W. B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-1175637</b>		<b>W. B. Beach, Jr. (Father)</b> <b>Continental Oil Co., Ponca City, Okla</b>
[5] RWG	<b>Taylor, Everett G., Sgt.</b> <b>36568446</b>		<b>Mable Taylor (Mother)</b> <b>Kingsley, Michigan</b>
[6] LWG	<b>Wolff, James R., Sgt.</b> <b>16008277</b>		<b>Mr. George C. Wolff (Father)</b> <b>959 So. 56<sup>th</sup> St., West Allis, Wisconsin</b>
[7] TTG	<b>Schmitt, Robert C., Sgt.</b> <b>32772743</b>		<b>Hattie Schmitt (Mother)</b> <b>Fairtown, New Jersey</b>
[8] BTG	<b>Emmons, Jr., M. D., Sgt.</b> <b>38282169</b>		<b>Cora E. Emmons (Mother)</b> <b>2117 Holmes Street, Dallas, Texas</b>
[9] TG	<b>Delanzo, James, Sgt.</b> <b>33414762</b>		<b>Giovinna Delanzo (Mother)</b> <b>247 Alder Drive, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania</b>
[10] NTG	<b>Gee, James R., Sgt.</b> <b>36858524</b>		<b>Lucile Gee (Mother)</b> <b>Rt. #5, 1285 Venice Court, Pontian, Michigan</b>

[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] <b>Mitchell F. Hall, Jr.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-823363</b>		<b>X</b>		
[2] <b>Frederick G. Wiemann</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-825726</b>		<b>X</b>		
[3] <b>Charles T. Courtney</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-696752</b>		<b>X</b>		

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 was still in flight 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.:

Date: 24 Feb 1945

/s/ Robert A. Preciado  
Capt., AC

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

23 February 1945

Lt. Hooper was flying off my right wing during the bomb run. Just after we started to rally right my tail gunner reported Lt. Hooper had feathered No. 1 engine and that he was breaking away from the formation to the right. That was the last I heard of him. I never saw his ship myself.

/s/ Mitchell F. Hall, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

23 February 1945

As we came off the target ship No. 49 had No. 1 engine feathered and No. 4 was smoking. He was trailing behind the formation and losing altitude slowly. The ship was still under control. He was last seen heading in the direction of the Russian lines.

/s/ Frederick F. Wiemann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

23 February 1945

Just after bombs away one of the crew in the waist called and said Lt. Hooper in ship No. 49 had No. 1 engine feathered and was falling back and down but was staying fairly well with us. I said to keep a close watch on him and right after that they called again and said No. 4 engine looked like it was on fire and smoking badly. At that time the flight broke up and the ships scattered. For a time the crew in the waist could see him and he was following in our general direction and looked like he had leveled off and was holding his altitude. No. 4 engine was still running but smoking badly. Then we came back to join the formation and I called ship No. 49 on channel B. He answered back but that is all I could get. I called several times and asked how he was but he just called my code name. So I called our lead ship and asked them to see if they could contact him. We lost sight of him before we rejoined the formation but about ten minutes later the crew in the waist thought they saw him off to the left and below us but couldn't identify him for sure. There were several single ships scattered in the area but all appeared to be coming back to join the formation.

/s/ Charles T. Courtney  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Josiah R. Hooper</b>	<b>Mr. Glenwood P. Hooper (Father) Barrens Road Milford, New Jersey</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles A. Mac Donald, III</b>	<b>Mr. James A. Judie (Grandfather) 1515 East Jefferson Blvd. South Bend, Indiana</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frederick C. Bennehoff</b>	<b>Mrs. Doris M. Bennehoff (Wife) 920 Virginia Street Graham, Texas</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W. B. Beach</b>	<b>Mr. W. B. Beach (Father) Continental Oil Company Ponca City, Oklahoma</b>
<b>Sgt. Everett G. Taylor</b>	<b>Mrs. Mable Taylor (Mother) Kingsley, Michigan</b>
<b>Sgt. James R. Wolff</b>	<b>Mr. George Wolff (Father) 6032 West Stevenson Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin</b>
<b>Sgt. Robert C. Schmitt</b>	<b>Mrs. Hattie Schmitt (Mother) 94 Skillman Terrace Fairlawn, New Jersey</b>
<b>Sgt. M. D. Emmons, Jr.</b>	<b>Mrs. Cora E. Emmons (Mother) 2117 Holmes Street Dallas, Texas</b>
<b>Sgt. James De Lanzo</b>	<b>Mrs. Giovinna De Lanzo (Mother) 247 Alder Drive Bon Avon, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Cpl. James R. Gee</b>	<b>Mrs. Lucile J. Gee (Mother) 1285 Venice Court Pontiac, Michigan</b>