

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

4649

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 Budapest, Hungary Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 13 April 1944 Time 12:56 Last known position
[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 **Mid Air Collision**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 42-52336

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT:

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R 1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP 302026
[b] CP 302052 [c] CP 1153175 [d] CP 302008

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

[a] 681365	[e] 1153423	[i]
[b] 681431	[f] 1153250	[j]
[c] 1153175	[g] 681626	
[d] 680075	[h] 1153120	

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

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

[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	Mowery, Paul Slichter, Jr. 2nd Lt. 0-544487		
[2] CP	Owens, George Lenon, Jr. 2nd Lt. 0-813566		
[3] Bomb	Hovey, Robert Bane 2nd Lt. 0-1286838		
[4] Nav	Reed, George Ebersole 2nd Lt. 0-692074		
[5] TTG	Zillilli, Joseph Stephen. S/Sgt. 32480166		
[6] LWG	Yaw, Myron Theodore Sgt. 15334468		
[7] NTG	Moreno, John Valers. S/Sgt. 20344522		
[8] TG	Dean, Harry Eugene S/Sgt 15377798		
[9] RWG	Childs, Jr., Clayton Allen S/Sgt. 12199335		
[10] BTG	Blalock, Earl D. S/Sgt. 34128099		
[11] Obser	Caroselli, Phillip J. 2nd Lt. 0-915791		

[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] De Welles, Theodore R.	Sgt.	12168104		X		
[2] Burrell, Henry B.	S/Sgt.	34590922		X		
[3] Baumann, Edwin (NMI)	2 nd Lt.	0-681308		X		

[4]

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

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

Other reasons [specify] **Mae Wests were seen near wreckage.**

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: 18 April 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

As we were over the target there was a lot of flak. There were two parachutes opened and drifted to our tail. They were still drifting the last time I saw them. They were going through the clouds.

/s/ S/Sgt. Henry B. Burrell

Ship #44 flying in #2 position of A flight was struck by a direct hit by flak and the left wing tip apparently 4 feet disintegrated. The ship immediately peeled up to the left, did a 180° turn and crashed into ship #49 which was flying #4 position in the same flight. The left wing of ship #44 struck ship #49 between the two right engines, and went into a spin. Ship #49 appeared to have lost #3 and #4 props, dropped back and went into a spin and pulled out in level flight at about 2,000 feet above the ground. This ship may have made a crash landing north of the target. Ship #44 crashed in the target area. No chutes were visible.

/s/ Robert T. Edwards
2nd Lt., Air Corps

I was flying in second section A flight. I saw flak hit the left wing of Lt. C. W. Naumann's ship. After being hit the ship turned on its back and fell hitting Mowery's ship.

/s/ 2nd Lt. Edwin A. Baumann

I saw the left wing from Number 1 engine out come off. The flak burst right under it. It was a 766th ship. It also took another ship down with it but I couldn't see them hit the ground.

/s/ Sgt. Theodore P. De Welles

I saw what seemed to be a direct hit on Lt. Baumann's No. 1 engine and fuel tank. He lost control, made a sharp turn into Lt. Mowery tearing off part of Lt. Mowery's right wing and at least one prop from either No. 3 or No. 4 engine. Lt. Baumann spun on down out of control. The last time I saw Lt. Mowery's ship it was level and seemingly descending under control. The ships passed under me to the left out of view.

/s/ 2nd Lt. Robert K. Dyment

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOVEY, Robert Bane**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-1286838**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Budapest, Hungary.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **We talked about chutes at time of jump.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **He is alive, in prison camp.**

Any hearsay information: .

Source: **I was with him.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Unknown.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **OWENS, George Lenon Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813566**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where? **Nowhere.**

If not, why not? **Probably dead.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He said he had spotted more enemy fighters overhead.**

Was he injured? **Unquestionably.**

Where was he when last seen? **In co-pilot seat – saw only his feet.**

Any hearsay information: **His legs looked pretty bloody and very still.**

Source: **Saw his feet from under instrument panel.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was probably killed at time of crash by propeller of other plane.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **four.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MOWERY, Paul Slichter Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-544487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over target.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He rang bail out order.**

Was he injured? **Yes, there was blood on his feet and legs.**

Where was he when last seen? **At controls working very hard.**

Any hearsay information: **He recovered our ship from spin after we had lost part of our wing and our right engines #3 & 4 – though wounded he gave us the order to bail out allowing all living members to escape though he himself was killed bailing out.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **His chute failed to blossom after it had opened.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Unknown.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John V. Moreno. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 20344522
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Dooley Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month April day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, target, Air Field, target time, 12:00, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, unknown, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". Lt. Hovey, Lt. Caroselli, Lt. Reed, Sgt. Zippilli, Sgt. Childs, Sgt. Dean, Sgt. Blalock, and Sgt. Yaw all bailed out over target same as I did.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In outskirts of Budapest.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt. George Owens, co-pilot.
11. Where were they in aircraft? On ground aircraft was demolished.
12. What was their condition? Dead and burned.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Saw only feet of pilot and co-pilot when I bailed out. Pilot was getting plane back under control and gave signal to bail out. Co-pilot's feet were crossed and undoubtedly dead as a result of crash with other plane. Piloted by First Lt. Bowman.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. First Lt. Bowman and crew were all undoubtedly lost. Their plane was hit in wing tank and blew up crashing into us. They were afire and heading straight down when I last saw them.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOVEY, Robert Bane.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-1286838**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **After leaving target.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Navigator to bombardier telling him one bomb had hung.**

Was he injured? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **I was with him next day and came to the States with him.**

Any hearsay information: :

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Five.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **OWENS, George Lenon Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813566**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **He was hit and killed in the plane.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Pilot to co-pilot change the RPM.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **The tail gunner & ball turret gunner say they saw the plane on the ground & saw Lt. Owens remains.**

Source: **S/Sgt. Dean & S/Sgt. Blalock.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Lt. Owens was hit in his seat by flak & by the ship that collided with ours.**

Total number of missions of above crew member:;

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MOWERY, Paul Slichter Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-544487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes, but his chute did not open.**

Where?;

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Pilot to co-pilot to change the RPM.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **On the ground close to the ship.**

Any hearsay information: **Tail gunner & ball gunner saw him.**

Source: **S/Sgt. Dean & S/Sgt. Blalock.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Lt. Mowery bailed out his chute came out of the pack but did not open.**

Total number of missions of above crew member:;

Dates and destinations if possible:;

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Yaw, Myron Theodore. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 15334468
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Dooley Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month April day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 5, target, Budapest, Hungary aircraft factory, target time, 12:15, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown .
5. Where were you when you left formation? Turning off bomb run.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". The following persons bailed out approximately the same time, a few minutes after the aircraft was hit. 2nd Lt. Reed, S/Sgt. Zippilli, S/Sgt. Moreno, S/Sgt. Childs, S/Sgt. Dean, S/Sgt. Blalock, 2nd Lt. Caroselli.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) One the co-pilot and 2nd Lt. Owens George Lenon, Jr.
11. Where were they in aircraft?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? .
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOVEY, Robert Bane.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-1286838**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **On outskirts of Budapest.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before we were hit, he told us over interphone that one bomb was stuck.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **In prison camp at Stalag VIIA, Mooseberg, Germany.**

Any hearsay information: **He was with us in POW camp when we were liberated. There was some talk about men taking off as soon as we were liberated so he may have taken off on his own. I haven't seen him since we were liberated. We were kept in the prison camp for a week after we were liberated. He may have gotten discusted and taken off. I don't know for sure.**

Source: **I know that a lot of men did take off on their own.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I haven't heard that anything had happened to him. I supposed that he was liberated and returned to France with us. I figured that he was out of the service by now, the same as I am.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **He was on another crew and only came on that mission with us. His missions unknown.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **OWENS, George Lenon Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813566**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **He was killed instantly in the cockpit.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I hadn't seen him or talked to him since taking off on that mission.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen? **Bombardier saw him slumped over in co-pilot seat.**

Any hearsay information: **Nose gunner also saw him in that position before he bailed out and later saw him in the wreckage of the plane. He said that there was nothing left of him.**

Source: **Bombardier and nose gunner.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The crew and I supposed that he was killed when our right wing plane was hit in the left Tokyo gas tank and rolled on top of us. We figured that the propeller of No. 4 engine of the other plane sliced into the right side of our cockpit where he was. My engineer and myself saw the other plane hit us. My navigator (who was at the radio table) said that that whole side caved in.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **6 (Budapest was 2 missions, others were singles).**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Can't remember all. He went on same missions that I did. All I remember is Bihac, Yugoslavia – April 3, 1944; Farraria, Italy -; and Budapest, Hungary – April 13, 1944.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MOWERY, Paul Slichter Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-544487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Outskirts of Budapest, Hungary.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called over interphone and told me to lower ball turret at the I.P.**

Was he injured? **Nose gunner and bombardier say that he way.**

Where was he when last seen? **Bailing out. Tail gunner saw and said chute didn't open.**

Any hearsay information: **Not hearsay – tail gunner said that he saw him bail out and chute didn't open. It streamed out, but didn't blossom out. He also saw him on the ground after hitting. He landed on his back and was about 4 inches in the ground. Tail gunner said that he identified him by his ring.**

Source: **Tail gunner and ball gunner.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **We supposed that his chute was either torn by flak or it caught on the ball turret guns. They were down.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **6 (Budapest was 2 missions) same as mine.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Only remember 3 – they are Bihac, Yugoslavia, April 3, 1944; Ferrara, Italy and Budapest, Hungary April 13, 1944.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Clayton A. Childs, Jr. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 12199335
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Dooley Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month April day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, target, ME-109 factory, target time, 12:50, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, unknown, route flown unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes – approx. 17,000 ft. over target.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes – all but co-pilot. Pilot's chute didn't open. Co-pilot was killed by prop of our right wing ship.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". My navigator and engineer bailed out just before I did and the rest of the crew followed. My pilot's chute didn't open. He bailed out at approx. 3,000 ft.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Just outside of Budapest.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Co-pilot – he was killed instantly when the propeller of our right wing plane chewed into our cockpit on his side.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Co-pilot's position.
12. What was their condition? Dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I last saw my pilot and co-pilot when leaving the coast of Italy. Same goes for my navigator, bombardier, nose gunner, and engineer. Just before I bailed out, my tail gunner, ball gunner, and left waist gunner were standing next to me, in the waist. They were all in good condition.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Unknown.

	Rank	U.S.A. Name	ASN	ME-84A
DATE: April 13, 1944	2 nd Lt.	Mowery		Dead
PLACE: near Budapest	2 nd Lt.	Owens		Dead
	2 nd Lt.	Reed		Captured
TARGET: Special command Budapest	2 nd Lt.	Hovey, Robert Bane	0-1286838	Captured
	S/Sgt	Childs, Jr., Clayton	12 199 335	Captured
		Allen		
	S/Sgt.	Mareno, John V.	20 344 522	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Dean, Harry Eugene	15 377 793	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Yaw, Myron T.	15 334 468	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Blalock, Earl D.	34 128 099	
	1 st Lt.	Caroselli, Philip John	0-915 791	Hospital
	S/Sgt.	Zippilli, Joseph S.	32 480 166	

The names were crossed out by red ink lines with reference to ME 1002.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Prepared by
MIS-X Section
CPM Branch

DATE: 21 Apr 45

NARRATOR:	Caroselli, Philip J., 1st Lt.	SQUADRON:	
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	0-915791	GROUP:	Hqs., 461st BG
HOME ADDRESS:	620 Pavonia Ave., Jersey City, N.J.	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:	694	MISSION DATE:	13 Apr 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
<u>PILOT</u>	2nd Lt. Paul S. Mowery	KIA
CO-PILOT	2nd Lt. George L. Owens, Jr.	KIA
OBSERVER	1st Lt. Philip J. Caroselly	Narrator
BOMBARDIER	2nd Lt. Robert B. Hovey	P/W
NAVIGATOR	2nd Lt. George E. Reed	P/W
ENGINEER	S/Sgt. Joseph S. Zippilli	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt. Harry E. Dean	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt. Clayton A. Childs, Jr.	P/W
NOSE GUNNER	S/Sgt. John V. Mareno	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	Sgt. Myron T. Yaw	P/W

KNOWN INFORMATION: During the bomb run the co-pilot was killed by flak and the pilot was seriously wounded, but was able to bail out. All other crew members bailed out successfully over Budapest. I saw all crew members at Stalag Luft 5.

HEARSAY INFORMATION: Sgt. Dean reported to me that he landed near the body of the pilot and stated that he had probably died while descending in his chute.

In Ools, Poland, I met a former Belgian P/W named Georges Flamant, Rue Abattor, vie, Lion Legiones, Nainant, Belgium, who had read the dog tags of two dead American fliers shot down over Ogealicht, Germany, on 15 October 1944. The information was as follows: Ralph Bartalow, ASN 33755668, T-43-44, blood type "A", Protestant, and Walter T. Fagens, Jr., T-12-7049, blood type "O", Protestant.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOVEY, Robert Bane.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-1286838**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Budapest.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:.

Was he injured? **Not seriously, rib broken I believe.**

Where was he when last seen? **At camp Stalag VIIA – after liberation.**

Any hearsay information: **None – he is alright as fas I know.**

Source: **My own.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **None.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 5.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **OWENS, George Lenon Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813566**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?:

If not, why not? **Was killed in plane.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was lying over wheel in co-pilot seat.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Crew members saw his remains in plane.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source: **S/Sgts. Harry Dean and Blalock.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Yes – side of airplane caved in on him from mid-air collision.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Small town, Bihac, Yugoslavia, last of March 44; Nis, Yugoslavia, end of March 1944, Farrare, Italy, 1st part of April; Budapest, Hungary April 13, 44.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MOWERY, Paul Slichter Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-544487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Budapest.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Was still in cockpit at controls.**

Was he injured? **Was killed.**

Where was he when last seen? **Near airplane.**

Any hearsay information: **S/Sgt. Harry Dean & Blalock landed near plane – Mowery bailed out but they say his chute did not fill – they saw his remains near plane.**

Source: **S/Sgt Harry Dean & Blalock.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:.

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Small town, Bihac, Yugoslavia, last of March 44; Nis, Yugoslavia, end of March 1944, Farrare, Italy, 1st part of April; Budapest, Hungary April 13, 44.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Reed, George E. Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-692074
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Dooley Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month April day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, target, ME-109 plant, target time, , altitude, 23,000 ft route scheduled, thru Yugoslavia, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Budapest.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all but co-pilot (Owens).
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". Engineer Joseph Zeppilli S/Sgt bailed out ahead of me. We were both on flight deck and bailed out thru bomb bay. Nose gunner, Robert Mareno S/Sgt, bailed out thru nose hatch. Waist gunners, S/Sgts Clayton Childs and Myron Yaw bailed out of waist. Photographer (Lt. Caroselli, Philip, lower ball gunner, S/Sgt Blalock, tail gunner, S/Sgt Harry Dean also bailed out of waist The members above bailed out about the same time – none had too much trouble that I know of bailing out. S/Sgt Dean and Blalock were beaten by Hungarian soldiers, but none of above men were hurt badly.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Budapest.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt. George Owens, co-pilot.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Evidently in cockpit.
12. What was their condition? Dead (from information of crew.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.;

	Rank	U.S.A. Name	ASN	ME-1004
DATE: April 13, 1944	2 nd Lt.	Mowery	0-544987	Dead
PLACE: 15 km SE	2 nd Lt.	Owens	0-813566	Dead
Budapest	2 nd Lt.	Reed		Captured
TYPE: Liberator	2 nd Lt.	Hovey, Robert Bane	0-1286838	Captured
	S/Sgt	Childs, Jr., Clayton	12 199 335	Captured
TARGET: Hq. 2nd Air		Allen		
Force	S/Sgt.	Mareno, John V.	20 344 522	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Dean, Harry Eugene	15 377 793	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Yaw, Myron T.	15 334 468	Captured
	S/Sgt.	Blalock, Earl D.	34 128 099	
	1 st Lt.	Caroselli, Philip John	0-915 791	Hospital
	S/Sgt.	Zippilli, Joseph S.	32 480 166	

The American Charge d'Affaires a.i. at Bern forwarded on 16 December 1944 to the War Department a copy of a letter addressed on 14 August 1944, to the Swiss Legation at Berlin by the Senior American Officer at the Central Compound of Stalag Luft III in Germany, enclosing a report prepared on the basis of information received from prisoners of war at that camp regarding members of the United States Army Air Force who are known to be dead.

The letter referred to above dated 14 August 1944 reads in part as follows:

“In order to help . . . you verify reports you have on hand, a very careful and conscientious effort has been made to obtain all the names of the dead members of airplane crews represented in the Center Compound. Each crew which has a representative in this Compound has been interrogated, and when it was ascertained without a doubt that some member had been killed his name, rank and circumstances leading to his death have been recorded, and is forwarded with this letter in the hope that it will shed some light on doubtful and unknown cases. In some cases it was impossible for me to obtain enough information on the dead man to get his full name. In those cases we have given the name, rank, and serial number of a member of his crew, (the one who personally saw the dead man) and also the date, and place where the accident occurred”

Name – Owens, G.L. Rank – 2nd Lt.

Home Address – Elizabeth, N.C.

Date shot down – 13 April 1944.

Place – Budapest, Hungary.

How killed – Plane was hit by another plane in formation which had been hit by flak, prop from other ship might have killed Owens – cut beyond recognition.

Positively identified by – Blalock, Earl, S/Sgt.

Burial place – (unknown)

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Name – Mowery, P.S. Rank – 2nd Lt.

Home Address – Dillsburg, Pa.

Date shot down – 13 April 1944.

Place – Budapest, Hungary.

How killed – Bailed out – chute definitely did not open..

Positively identified by – Blalock, Earl, S/Sgt.

Burial place – (unknown)

2nd Lt. Paul S. Mowery, Jr.	Mr. And Mrs. Paul S. Mowery (Parents) Dillsburg, Pennsylvania
2nd Lt. George L. Owens, Jr.	Mrs. George L. Owens (Mother) 1420 Raleigh Street Elizabeth City, North Carolina
2^{ns} Lt. George E. Reed	Mr. George B. Reed (Father) 6 Reed Terrace Lowville, New York
2nd Lt. Robert B. Hovey	Mr. Martin C. Hovey (Father) 1229 East 53rd Street Chicago, Illinois
2nd Lt. Philip J. Caroselli	Mrs. Isabelle M. Caroselli (Wife) 620 Pavonia Avenue Jersey City New Jersey
S/Sgt. Joseph S. Zippilli	Mrs. Grace E. Zippilli (Wife) 821 South Seventh Street Camden, New Jersey
S/Sgt. Clayton A. Childs, Jr.	Mrs. Clayton A. Childs, Jr. (Wife) 84 Clinton Street Binghamton, New York
S/Sgt. John V. Mareno	Mrs. Ida E. Mareno (Mother) 4522 Hampnett Avenue Baltimore, Maryland
S/Sgt. Harry E. Dean	Mr. Charles R. Dean (Father) Rural Free Delivery #4, Box 136 Morgantown, West Virginia
Sgt. Myron T Yaw	Mrs. Margaret A. Yaw (Wife) 1348 Second Avenue Terre Haute, Indiana

AG 360.33 6th Ind. C-FEM-9
HEADQUARTERS 49th BOMB WING (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 1 May 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

1. Battle Casualty report forwarded to your headquarters on 1 May 1944.

For the Wing Commander:

/s/ John E. Mitchell
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

AG 360.33 7th Ind. GP-hm.gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 18 May 1944.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR No L-60, dated 22 April 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 22 April 1944.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Harold B. Neely
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

G 360.33

APO #520, c/o PM,
New York, New York
18 April 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO: Commanding Officer, 461st Bombardment Group,
APO #520, c/o PM, New York, New York.

1. In compliance with Letter, 15th Air Force, file AG 360.33 dtd. 5 January 1944, subject: Preparation of Missing Air Crew Reports, submitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report for B-24 **42-52336, 2nd Lt. Mowery, Paul S. Jr.** and crew.

2. Subject crew personnel are battle casualties as defined by Paragraph 2, Section II, Circular No. 10, Headquarters, NATOUSA.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters **16 April 1944**.

For the Squadron Commander:

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

1st Ind. LCP/rfq
Headquarters, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, U.S. Army, April 19, 1944.

TO: CO, 49th Bombardment Wing, APO 520, U.S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Group Commander:

/s/ Louis C. Pfister,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Personnel Officer.

AG 360.33

2nd Ind.

C-FEM-9

HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 20 Apr 1944.

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

/s/ J.E.M.

AG 360.33
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 25 April 1944.

3rd Ind.

S: 10 May 44

GP-m/gow

TO: CO, 49th Wing, APO 520.

1. The following discrepancies are noted on attached MAC Report as compared to unit Battle Casualty Report:

Battle Casualty Report

Mowery, Paul S., Jr.	2 nd Lt.	0544487
Owens, George L.	2 nd Lt.	0813566

Missing Air Crew Report

Mowery, Paul S.	2 nd Lt.	0544487
Owens, George L., Jr.	2 nd Lt.	0813566

2. Desire applicable revisions be made on inclosed MAC Report or immediate submission of corrected NATOUSA Form 6 in compliance with paragraph 51, Section II, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. It is further desired that all future Missing Air Crew Reports be checked against the corresponding Battle Casualty Report so as to insure the accuracy of all names, ranks, and serial numbers of personnel reported as MIA.

By command of Major General TWINING:

/s/ Harold B. Neely,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

AG 360.33

4th Ind.

C-FEM-9

HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 28 April 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer 461st Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army

1. For compliance with paragraph 2 and 3 preceding indorsement.
2. Expedite action.

By order of Colonel LEE:

/s/ John E. Mitchell,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant

AG 360.33

5th Ind.

C-FEM-9

Headquarters, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, U.S. Army, 29 Apr 44.

TO: CO, 49th Bombardment Wing, APO 520, U.S. Army.

1. Submitted herewith are corrected Battle Casualty Report and corrected Missing Air Crew Report in compliance with paragraph 2 and 3 of 3rd Indorsement.
2. The names of both officers should have been followed by Jr. and have been accordingly corrected.

For the Group Commander:

/s/ Louis C. Pfister,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Personnel Officer.