

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6399

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 270°
Target Korneuberg, Austria Type of mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
2/10 low stratus

4. GIVE: [a] Date 26 June 1944 Time 0940 Last known position Korneuberg, 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 **Aborted and failed to return to home base**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 41-28679

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Heaven Can Wait

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] 42 91365
[b] 42 62384 [c] 42 85847 [d] 42 62471

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

[a] <u>966413</u>	[e] <u>966602</u>	[i] <u>966778</u>
[b] <u>967107</u>	[f] <u>966205</u>	[j] <u>967271</u>
[c] <u>966271</u>	[g] <u>967271</u>	
[d] <u>966348</u>	[h] <u>966956</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	Zive, Samuel M. 2nd Lt. 0-1683594		Eva Zive (Mother) 2036 Sheridan St., Los Angeles, California
[2] CP	Mailhot, Bertrand R. F/O T-123185		Gertrude Mailhot (Wife) 87 Calder St., Pawtucket, Rhode Island
[3] Bomb	Schonzeit, Marvin (NMI) 2nd Lt. 0-668790		Charles Schonzeit (Father) 269 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y.
[4] Nav	Laulis, James C. 2nd Lt. 0-692029		Helen Louise Laulis (Mother) 24 Main St., Shinnston, West Virginia
[5] RWG	Carlock, Alfred F. T/Sgt. 39455785		Nora Carlock (Mother) Rt 2 Lower Monitor Rd., Wenatchee, Washington
[6] TTG	Schwartz, Murray (NMI) S/Sgt. 12191951		Benjamin Schwartz (Father) 1225 49th St., Brooklyn, New York
[7] BTG	Thomas Perry J. T/Sgt. 18194676		Frances Anna Thomas (Mother) Box 23, Sharon, Oklahoma
[8] NTG	Clark, Bevins (NMI) S/Sgt. 15108354		Imogene Clark (Wife) 4623 S. Calhoun, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
[9] TTG	Turner, Robert M. Sgt 32378584		Minnie Turner (Mother) 12 Scriba St., Oswego, New York
[10] LWG	Wiemann, Ned W. S/Sgt. 37553636		Benjamin F. Wiemann (Father) Arlington, Minnesota

[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] Kelly, James	S/Sgt.	38108785		X		
[2] Brnetich, Joseph	S/Sgt.	16083427		X		
A.						
[3] Alexander, Robert	S/Sgt.	18169376		X		
D.						
[4] Steles, Jack G.	T/Sgt.	18004992		X		

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] **Impossible to determine fate of crew.**

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

27 June 1944

STATEMENT

Ship number 47 didn't seem to have the power to stay in the formation. We finally took forty seven's position and they took over number seven in B Flight, first section. As we approached the I.P. they aborted and that was the last we saw of them

/s/ T/Sgt. Jack G. Steles
ASN 18004992

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

27 June 1944

STATEMENT

They salvoed their bombs soon as we turned on the I.P. Then about two or three minutes before we dropped bombs they left the formation.

/s/ S/Sgt. Robert D. Alexander
ASN 18169376

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

27 June 1944

STATEMENT

Number forty-seven was in number seven position and far out of formation. His two and four engines were trailing some smoke. On the bomb run he turned off to the left. At that time someone called out fighters and I turned my attention to them. They didn't come at our formation but appeared to go after forty-seven. I couldn't pick up number forty-seven after that and didn't see him actually go down.

/s/ S/Sgt. Joseph A. Brnetich
ASN 16083427

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

27 June 1944

STATEMENT

Number forty-seven airplane was flying in position seven and in "B" flight of the first attack unit. Upon reaching the I.P. number three and four engines were smoking slightly. It was then that number forty-seven began to lose altitude and lag behind. He banked to the left of the city of Vienna to avoid the flak and to turn back, at this time a formation of about fifteen ME-210s attacked from twelve o'clock. The B-24 immediately went into a slow nose spin. No chutes were seen to open and the plane fell short of the general target area.

/s/ S/Sgt. James Kelly
ASN 38108785

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Turner, Robert M.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **32378584**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Was said to have been hit in stomach by comm. (Wieman waist gunner said).**

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

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **In waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Any info I have concerning these men, other than seeing their burned dog tags & being told by Cheks that they were burned, was related to me by N. W. Wieman waist gunner.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **It is supposed that Turner was wounded seriously enough that he was unable to leave the plane.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **3rd mission with us as TTG.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Thomas, Perry J.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **18194676**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unknown.**

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

Was he injured? **Not at time Wieman left plane.**

Where was he when last seen? **Standing in waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Wieman said Thomas was ready to follow him out waist and there is no known reason why he didn't follow.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Could have been wounded after Wieman left plane or stayed too long in the plane.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **27 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Carlock, Albert F.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **39455785**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not?;

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

Was he injured? **Wounded in leg – but able to move around.**

Where was he when last seen? **In waist by Wieman.**

Any hearsay information: **Was ready to leave plane but reason for not leaving unknown.**

Source: **Wieman.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **27 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Bevins Clark** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **15108354**
2. Organization **461th Gp Commander Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Dooley** Rank **Capt.**
3. What year **1944** month **June** day **26** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Vienna**, target, **oil refinery**, target
time, **0930**, altitude, **22,000 ft** route scheduled, **Lake Balentone Route**, route
flown **Same**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Over Checkoslovakia – visible was flak
area of Wiener Neustadt.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **6 others.**
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". **Zive – pilot – out bomb bay; Schonzeit –
bomb – bomb bay; Schwartz – upper turret – wounded but out bomb bay; Wieman –
out waist window; Laulis – nav – out nose wheel well; other three, Thomas, Turner,
Carlock – did not leave plane .**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Checko – southwestern tip.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should
cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Carlock, Thomas and Turner.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **Waist.**
12. What was their condition? **Burned to death.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already
described above? **Being nose turret gunner last time I saw them was beginning of
mission. I saw their burned dog tags the 27th of June in the small village where the
plane landed.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have
knowledge. Indicate source of information. **None.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Thomas, Perry J.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **18194676**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unknown.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **When order "Prepare to bail out" was given.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **Getting out of turret.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **It is to my belief that S/Sgt. Thomas was shot by fighters still attacking our ship while crew was in process of abandoning the aircraft.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 20.**

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Turner, Robert M.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **32378584**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unknown.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **When order "Prepare to bail out" was given.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Still in turret.**

Any hearsay information: **Shot in turret – either unconscious of dead.**

Source: **Left waist gunner S/Sgt. Ned Wieman.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No.**

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Carlock, Albert F.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **39455785**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unknown.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **When order "Prepare to bail out" was given.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **At position.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Was shot by fighters while preparing to bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 30.**

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

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Zive, Samuel M.** Rank **2nd Lt.** Serial No. **0-1683594**
2. Organization **461th Gp Commander Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Dooley** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **June** day **26** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **oil refineries**, target, **Korneuberg (Vienna) Austria**, target time, **1000**, altitude, **24,000 ft** route scheduled, **?**, route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Approx. 15 mi. from 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". **All but the three who went down with the ship made safe parachute jumps. The left waist gunner made his exit through the waist window. The rest of the crew made exits through proper hatches.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Near Gajary, Checkoslavakia.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Tail turret gunner, ball turret gunner and right waist gunner.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **See above.**
12. What was their condition? **Tail gunner was hit – others unknown.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Saw all six of crew after liberated from prison camp. The one I did not see was S/Sgt. Murray Schwartz whom I have since contacted.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.;

6-3862, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Turner, Robert M.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **32378584**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **As far as I know he did not.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **I was told he was dead or wounded in turret.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Don't recall believe when we left formation.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **In tail turret.**

Any hearsay information: **All foregoing information was given to me by Sgt. Ned Wieman our waist gunner & only survivor of the rear of the plane.**

Source: **Above.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Based on supposition Sgt. Wieman was not sure why Turner did not leave his turret. He was either wounded or dead as main attack came at tail & top turret.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 20.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Thomas, Perry J.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **18194676**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Don't know – Wieman claims & I believe ge went to Turner's aid.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **When we left formation and I alerted gunners.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **According to Wieman he was out of turret in waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Sgt. Wieman claims he was out of his turret & had his chute on when he last saw him.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Based on supposition we believe and knowing the character of Thomas & Carlock – that they both could have jumped but went to Turner's aid & then it was too late.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 25.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Carlock, Albert F.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **39455785**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Hearsay doesn't explain it – he had his chute on.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Same as Thomas – when we left formation & I alerted gunners.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **In waist at position.**

Any hearsay information: **Based on supposition he and Thomas tried to help Turner & then it was too late.**

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Was shot by fighters while preparing to bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 25.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Marvin Schonzeit** Rank **2nd Lt.** Serial No. **0-668790**
2. Organization **461th Gp Commander Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Dooley** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **June** day **26** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Korneuberg, Austria**, target, **oil refineries**, target time, **0945**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, **?**, route flown **as scheduled**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Don't recall.**
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". **All bailed out about the same time as I except Sgts Turner, Carlock & Thomas who crashed with ship or so Germans told us.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **In eastern Checkoslovakia.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Tail turret gunner, ball turret gunner and right waist gunner.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **In rear of plane.**
12. What was their condition? **According to Wieman, Thomas & Carlock were okay; Turner dead or wounded.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Prior to take off morning of June 26, 1944, all enlisted crewmembers grumbled about assignment of ship - #9 "Heaven Can Wait" known as a lemon in Sqdn.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **None.**

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ME 1518</u>
Date: 26 June 1944	2 nd Lt.	Zive, Samuel Martin	0-1683594	Captured
Time: 10:40	F/O	Mailbot, Bertrand Roger	T-123185	Captured
Place: Durakrut, 40	2 nd Lt.	Laulis, James Cooper	0-692029	Captured
km NE Wien	2 nd Lt.	Schonzeit, Marvin	0-668790	Captured
Type: Liberator	T/Sgt.	Carlock, Alvin		Dead
Markings: 59	S/Sgt.	Clark, Bevins	15108354	Captured
Unit: 766 HB Sqd,	S/Sgt.	Schwartz, Murray	12191951	Hospital
461 GR, 49 Wing	T/Sgt.	Thomas, Gerry J.		Dead
Air Base: Torretta	Sgt.	Turner		Dead
Target: Air Field	S/Sgt.	Wieman, Ned William	37553636	Captured
Headquarters A (0)				
4/XVII				

Sergeant Robert M. Turner	Mrs. Minnie Turner (Mother) 13 Scriba Street Oswego, New York
Technical Sergeant Perry J. Thomas	Mrs. Frances Anna Thomas (Mother) Box 23 Sharon, Oklahoma
Flight Officer Bertrand R. Mailbot	Mrs. Gertrude M. Mailbot (Wife) 87 Calder Street Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Second Lieutenant Marvin Schonzeit	Mr. Charles Schonzeit (Father) 69 Ocean Park Way Brooklyn, New York
Second Lieutenant James C. Laulis	Mrs. Helen L. Laulis (Mother) 24 Main Street Shinnston, West Virginia
Staff Sergeant Murray Schwartz	Mr. Benjamin Schwartz (Father) 122B 49th Street Brooklyn, New York
Staff Sergeant Bevins Clark	Mrs. Imogene W. Clark (Wife) 4623 South Calhoun Street Fort Wayne, Indiana
Staff Sergeant Ned W. Wieman	Mrs. Anna Wieman (Mother) Route Number Two Arlington, Minnesota
Second Lieutenant Samuel Zive	Mrs. Eva Zive (Mother) 2036 Sheridan Street Los Angeles, California
Technical Sergeant Albert F. Carlock	Mrs. Nora Carlock (Mother) Route #2, Lower Monitor Rd. Wenatchee, Washington