

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

11838

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 764th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course straight to target
Target Moosebierbaum, Austria Type of mission Combat

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

4. GIVE: [a] Date 31 Jan 45 Time _____ Last known position 46°16'N, 16°32'E approx
[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-24J AAF Serial Number 44-51324

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series Engine numbers not obtainable AAF serial Number [a] _____
[b] _____ [c] _____ [d] _____

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

[a] <u>1236162</u>	[e] <u>1236174</u>	[i] <u>896525</u>
[b] <u>1236606</u>	[f] <u>1236450</u>	[j] <u>1236179</u>
[c] <u>1236354</u>	[g] <u>896629</u>	
[d] <u>1236556</u>	[h] <u>896913</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	Taylor, James G., 1st Lt. 0-776125	MIA	Mr. Thomas I. Taylor (Father) Rt 1, Ridgeway, Missouri
[2] CP	Chojnowski, Edward J., 2nd Lt. 0-2058706	MIA	Mrs. Martha H. Chojnowski (Mother) 1640 W 18th St., Chicago, Illinois
[3] Bomb	Robinson, Donald J., 2nd Lt. 0-2001251	MIA	Mr. William J. Robinson (Father) Florence St., Ridgeway, Pennsylvania
[4] Nav	Scott, Jr., Theodore R., 2nd Lt. 0-2065635	MIA	Mrs. Beulah Scott (Mother) 419 Casey St., Mt. Vernon, Illinois
[5] RWG	Austin, Jack J., Sgt. 36867317	MIA	Mrs. Merna Austin (Mother) 718 Fairview Ave., Lansing, Michigan
[6] LWG	Murphy, Thomas I., Sgt. 38172570	MIA	Mrs. Tressie B. Murphy (Mother) 304 Oak St., Tallulah, Louisiana
[7] BTG	Zehfuss, Edward F., Sgt. 13188915	MIA	Mrs. Anna Zehfuss (Mother) 1331 Hopkins St., Pittsburgh, Penna.
[8] TTG	Cain, Jr., Alfred., Sgt. 35760647	MIA	Mrs. Bertha M. Arthur (Mother) 2010 N. Monroe St., Baltimore, Md.
[9] TTG	Hollern, Joseph D., Sgt. 13158659	MIA	Mrs. Eva M. Hollern (Mother) 9 Indiana St., Homer City, Penna.
[10] NTG	Carroll, Edgar R., Sgt. 12239327	MIA	Mrs. Elvira Carroll (Mother) 41 N. Canal St., Greene, New York
[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] Howard O. Lund	Capt.	0-904725				
[2] Edward F. Veiluva	Capt.	0-682924				
[3]						
[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] **Plane last sighted in level flight.**

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: **No search made.**

Date: **4 February 1945**

/s/ William L. Hallauer
 Capt, Air Corps
 Adjutant

764TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

JOINT STATEMENT

Regarding the whereabouts and destiny of 1st Lt. James G. Taylor and crew, no statements from men participating in the raid of 31 January 1945 to Moosbierbaum, Austria are available.

All crew returning from this mission were interrogated by Squadron and Group S-2 and none were able to throw any light on the exact circumstances surrounding the disappearance of this missing air crew.

The only fact which can be accurately ascertained is that the missing plane did not go over the target area. About forty-five minutes from the target Lt. Taylor started to fall back from his flight seemingly due to mechanical failure in the plane. Efforts to contact him on the radio were unsuccessful, and he was lost sight of in the undercast. When last sighted he had his plane in level flight and all four engines appeared to be functioning

/s/ Howard O. Lund
Capt, Air Corps
S-2 Officer

/s/ Edward F. Veiluva
Capt, Air Corps
Operations Officer

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **31 Jan 45,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2774**

PLACE OF CRASH **Hungary**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Mast near Pressburg**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Chojnowshi, Edward Joseph USA	2nd Lt.	0-2058706	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Taylor, Jams Gilbert 3 Nov 23	1st Lt.	0-776125	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Scott, Theodore R., Jr. 7 Dec 24 USA	2nd Lt.	0-2065635	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Robinson, Donald James 9 March 25 USA	2nd Lt.	0-2001251	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Murphy, Thomas J. Oct 23	Cpl.	38172570	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Zehfuss, Edward Francis USA	Cpl.	13188915	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Carroll, Edgar Read USA	Cpl.	12239327	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Austin, Jack J.	Cpl.	36867317	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Hollern, Joseph D. 24 Nov 25	Cpl.	13158659	Captured	Dulag-Luft West

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft on February 1945.

31 January 1945

Liberator B 24
764

Hungaria

Meter defect before BAW

Prisoner of War Concentration Center West/Pressburg, Fbl. V. 6 February

Pilot	1 st Lieut.	Taylor, James, Gilbert
Co-pilot	2 nd Lieut.	Chojnowski, Edward Joseph
Navigator	2 nd Lieut.	Scott, Theodore R., Jr.
Bombardier	2 nd Lieut.	Robinson, Donald James
Engineer	Cpl.	Murphy, Thomas J.
R.	Cpl.	Austin, Jack
Gunner	Cpl.	Zehfuss, Edward Francis
Gunner	Cpl.	Hollern, Joseph D.
Gunner	Cpl.	Carroll, Edgar Read
Gunner	Cpl.	Cain, Alfred

POW TRANSIT-CAMP
MAST/PRESSBURG
 Eck./Rau

6. Feb. 45

Reg.: Transferring of a captured American "B24"- crew, downed on 31.Jan.45 near Tet.
 Between Raab and Fapa.
 Belongs to: 764.Squ. 461.Gr., 49 Wing.

Pi.	1 st Lt.	Taylor, James G.	0-776125
Co.	2 nd Lt.	Chojnowski, Ed. J.	0-2058706
Nav.	2 nd Lt.	Scott, Jr., Thoedore R.	0-2065635
Bo.	2 nd Lt.	Robinson, Donald J.	0-2001251
Ro.	Sgt.	Austin, Jack J.	36867317
Eng.	Cpl.	Murphy, Thomas I.	38172510
Gu.	Sgt.	Hollern, Joseph D.	13158659
Gu.	Cpl.	Zehfuss, Ed. F.	13188915
Gu.	Cpl.	Cain, Alfred	missed

JUDGEMENT:

Taylor: reserved, good appearance, fit for interrogation.

Chojnowski: stubborn, but to bluff. Unfit for interrogation.

Scott: Friendly, affable, good fit for interrogation.

Robinson: stubborn fellow, refuses statement.

Austin: anxious, otherwise good fit.

Carroll: anxious, shy. Good fit for interrogation.

The rest of the crew are stubborn, inaccessible fellows.

/s/ Hellmann
 S/Sgt. & in charge of office.

Garrison Command I/514
 Field-police
Day-book no 316

Tet, 9 Feb. 1945

Regard: Capture of one American member of the airforce.

On 9 Feb. 1945 at 0815 the Hungarian District Command reported by phone to the field police of the garrison command, the following statement of the village judge of Tet-Swentkut (3 km south of Tet near the highway.): a foreign soldier has hidden himself in the stable of the farm, lying about 4 km to the east, in the night from 8 to 9 Feb. 1945.

1st Lt. Hansagi Nandor and me went at once to the denoted farm and captured there in the swine-stable the American member of the airforce. After the bodily searching the –in the appendix mentioned effects – have been taken away from him. The administrator of the farm found hidden under the straw one pistol with four cartridges in the magazine.

On the way back across the fields in the direction to Tet-Swentkut, we could follow footmarks, leading to a pile of straw, where a sleeping place had been made up. While further searching, we found in a little forest the yellow vest and not far of this the parachute.

The captured American belongs to the crew of airplane, which descended by parachute on 31 Jan 1945 in the environ of Tet. Eight men have been captured already 1 Feb 1945 and have been delivered to the Hq of airfield E (v) 210 / VIII in Papa. According to phone report of the garrison command Raab the defence department for American members of the airforce has moved to an unknown place.

/s/ signature
 Lt. of field police

Garrison command I/514

Tet, 9 Feb 1945

To

Hq of airfield E (v) 210/VIII

Papa

To take cognizance and to give further orders. The American member of the airforce is transferred to and the –in the appendix mentioned effects delivered.

The Military Commander of the City
 /s/ signature

		U.S.A.		ME-2774
DATE: 31 Jan. 1945	Rank	Name	ASN	
PLACE: Hungary	2nd Lt.	Chojnowski, Edward Joseph	0-2058706	Cap
TYPE: Liberator	1st Lt.	Taylor, James Gilbert	0-776125	Cap
764th (HB) Sqd	2nd Lt.	Scott, Theodore H.	0-2065635	Cap
461 Group	2nd Lt.	Robinson, Donald James	0-2001257	Cap
TARGET: POW				
Concentration Point	Cpl.	Murphy, Thomas J.	38172570	Cap
Mast/Pressburg	Cpl.	Zehfuss, Edward Francis	13188915	Cap
	Cpl.	Carroll, Edgar Read	12239327	Cap
	Cpl.	Austin, Jack J.	36867317	Cap
	Cpl.	Hollern, Joseph D.	13158659	Cap
	Cpl.	Cain, Alfred Jr.	35760647	Cap

1st Lt. James G. Taylor	Mrs. Mildred A. Taylor (Mother) Rural Route Number One Ridgeway, Missouri
2nd Lt. Donald J. Robinson	Mrs. Ellen M. Robinson (Mother) Florence Street Ridgeway, Pennsylvania
2nd Lt. Edward J. Chojnowski (Mother)	Mrs. Martha H. Chojnowski 5521640 W. 18 Street Chicago, Illinois
2nd Lt. Theodore R. Scott, Jr.	Mrs. Beulah F. Scott (Mother) 419 Casey Street Mount Vernon, Illinois
Sgt. Edgar R. Carroll	Mrs. Elvira Carroll (Mother) 41 North Canal Street Greene, New York
Sgt. Thomas I. Murphy	Mrs. Tressie B. Murphy (Mother) 304 Oak Street Tallulah, Louisiana
Sgt. Jack J. Austin	Mrs. Merna Austin (Mother) 718 Fairview Avenue Lansing, Michigan
Sgt. Edward F. Zehfuss	Mrs. Anna Zehfuss (Mother) 1331 Hopkins Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Sgt. Joseph D. Hollern	Mrs. Eva M. Hollern (Mother) 9 Indiana Street Homer City, Pennsylvania
Sgt. Alfred Cain, Jr.	Mrs. Bertha M. Arthur (Mother) 2010 North Monroe Street Baltimore, Maryland