

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

12473

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 765th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta Field, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Vienna South Station Area Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

4. GIVE: [a] Date 21 Feb 1945 Time 1927 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 .

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51610

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Marjoria H

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W ???????? AAF serial Number [a] CP 315946
[b] CP 315442 [c] CP 315258 [d] CP 315328

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]

[a] <u>R-50 1548502</u>	[e] <u>R-50 1548295</u>	[i]
[b] <u>R-50 1547224</u>	[f] <u>R-50 1549074</u>	[j]
[c] <u>R-50 1534279</u>	[g] <u>R-50 1548236</u>	
[d] <u>R-50 1548588</u>	[h] <u>R-50 1548383</u>	

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

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 12; Passengers 0; Total 12

[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	Woodruff, Lawrence O., 1st Lt. 0-705872	MIA	Mrs. ?????? Woodruff (Wife) RWB 1, Seminole, Oklahoma
[2] Co-Pilot	Baker, Robert K., Maj. 0-726551	MIA	Mrs. Countazes E. Baker (Wife) 5 Fair???? Ave., Albany, New York
[3] Nav	Polk, Andrew W. Jr., 1st Lt. 0-723429	MIA	Mr. Andrew W. Polk (Father) 705 High ?????? Ave., Columbia, Miss.
[4] Bomb	Burleson, Glenn W., 1st Lt. 0-722467	MIA	Mr. ?????? E. Burleson (Father) 1005 31 St., Euclid, Texas
[5] Misc Nav	Brown, Jack A., 1st Lt. 0-728268	MIA	Mr. Ruth M. Brown (Mother) Davenport St, Rye, New York
[6] Radar Oper	Phalen, Robert F., 1st Lt. 0-706633	MIA	Mr. Donald H. Phalen RR #1, Cortland, New York
[7] TTG	Harvey, William J., S/Sgt. 34768299	MIA	Mrs. Annie A. Harvey (Mother) ?????????. Columbus, Georgia
[8] Radio Oper	Oakley, Donald S., Sgt. 12134806	MIA	Mrs. Maria Oakley (Mother) Streak Ridge, New York
[9] RWG	Angaroni, John H., Jr., Sgt. 32926417	MIA	Mr. John Angaroni, Sr. (Father) 789 7th St., Virginia City, New Jersey
[10] BTG	Novak, Kenneth R., Sgt. 39206392	MIA	Mr. Franklin Novak (Father) 577 ?????? Ave., ??????, Washington
[11] LWG	Leibe, Edward A., Sgt. 31273489	MIA	Mrs. Joan L. Leibe (Mother) RR #1, Whistberry Ave., ?????????

[12] TG

**Carter, James E., S/Sgt.
14082463**

MIA

**Mrs. Maria Alma Carter (Mother)
Route 1, Box 361, Jacksonville,
Florida**

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] Ernest L. Skinner	2 nd Lt.	0-829574		X		
[2]						
[3]						

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] Aircraft landed safely behind the Russian lines.

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:.

27 February 1945

Alfred B. Taylor, Jr.
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520, c/o, NY, NY

27 February 1945

STATEMENT

I was flying number six position in the formation and this is a brief account of what I saw happen to the lead aircraft, #42-51610.

A few seconds before reaching the target flak began breaking directly in the formation. Almost at the same instant both #2 and #3 engines started smoking as if hit badly. There were several holes in the wings and soon after that a shell appeared to go up through the elevators and explode directly above the tail. It was evident that they were very badly shot up. Soon after the rally they left the formation and radioed that they were going to try and make it to Russia.

/s/ Ernest L. Skinner
2nd Lt., Air Corps
765th Bomb Sq (H)