

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

4917

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 Piombino, Italy Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Hazy, 7/10 to 10/10 covered
4. GIVE: [a] Date 22 May 1944 Time 1214 Last known position 20 miles west of Viaraggio, Italy.
[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 **Engine trouble, number one engine failed.**
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 G AAF Serial Number 42-78228
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R1830-65 AAF serial Number [a] BT-432275
[b] BT-432352 [c] BT-432347 [d] BT-432350
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| [a] <u>978782</u> | [e] <u>978624</u> | [i] <u>978720</u> |
| [b] <u>967776</u> | [f] <u>967779</u> | [j] <u>978879</u> |
| [c] <u>978465</u> | [g] <u>978597</u> | |
| [d] <u>979134</u> | [h] <u>968132</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	Bennett, James T., 1st Lt. 0-742937		Mrs. S. A. Bennett (Mother) Jamesville, California
[2] Co-pilot	Peterson, Edward W., 1nd Lt. 0-672188		Mrs. Elsi Peterson (Mother) 6605 S. Keating Ave., Chicago, Illinois
[3] Nav	Owen, Robert W., 2nd Lt. 0-740666		Mrs. Colleen F. Owen (Wife) 416 W. 22nd St., Spokane, Washington
[4] Bomb	Bartlett, Albert E., 2nd Lt. 0-741442		Mrs. Anne Bartlett (Wife) 409 Pagoso Springs, Colorado
[5] TTG	Evans, John E., S/Sgt. 33248732		Mrs. Anna Evans (Mother) 79 Pickering St., Brookville, Pennsylvania
[6] NTG	Ivy, Lloyd G., S/Sgt. 18047513		Mr. Lloyd A. Ivy (Father) General Delivery, London, Texas
[7] TTG	Harzdorf, Otto W., T/Sgt. 36124475		Mr. Walter Harzdorf (Father) 11310 Pinehurst Ave., Detroit, Michigan
[8] BTG	Frehulfer, Don R., S/Sgt. 33185897		Mrs. Martha S. Frehulfer (Mother) 312 N. 1st St., Lehighnton, Pennsylvania
[9] RWG	Werner, Richard C., S/Sgt. 31240992		Mrs. Grace Werner (Mother) Harding St., Medfield, Massachusetts

[10] LWG Berends, Carl J., S/Sgt.
38182065

Mrs. Leona Berends (mother)
General Delivery, Englewood, Kansas

[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] Warren O. Ludlum	2 nd Lt.	0-813535		X		
[2] Thomas R. Moss	1 st Lt.	0-799435		X		
[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 seemed to be under good control at time last sighted.

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 by this organization.**

26 May 1944

/s/ Samuel B. Sinai
1st Lt., AC Adj.

HEADQUARTERS
765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
APO 520

26 May 1944

STATEMENT

We were about five minutes from our IP when Lt. Bennett seemed to lose number one engine. His ship first swerved to the left and then returned to normal. Then it turned to the right, and then began to fishtail. I pulled out to the side slightly, and several seconds later his wheels came down. He made a left turn and started to lose altitude. It appeared to me as if the plane was under good control.

Time: 1214
Place: 4350N, 0954E
Altitude: 18,000 ft.

/s/ Warren O. Ludlum
2nd Lt., Air Corps
765th Bomb Sq (H)

26 May 1944

STATEMENT

We were number 2 in C flight, second section. Our altitude at the time was about 17,500 feet indicated. Our position was 43.50 N, 09.54 E and the time was 1214 local. The first indication that something was wrong was that ship #31 started losing altitude at about 3-400 ft/min. The next thing that happened was the ship started to fishtail violently. The two wing men spread out somewhat, not knowing what was the matter. A few seconds later, the ship dropped its gear and dove out of the formation, apparently still under control of the pilots. I took over the lead of the flight at once and saw nothing more.

/s/ Thomas R. Moss
1st Lt., Air Corps
765th Bomb Sq (H)

HEADQUARTERS
765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

26 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group
APO 520, U.S. Army

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-G, AAF Serial No., 42-78228, 1st Lt. James T. Bennett and Crew.

2. Subject crew personnel are battle casualties as defined by Par 2, Section II, Circular no. 10, NATOUSA.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters 23 May 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ Samuel B. Sinai
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

AG 360.33 1st Ind. LCP/rfq
Headquarters, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, U.S. Army, 27 May 1944.

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

Forwarded for necessary action.

For the Group Commander:

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

AG 360.33 2nd Ind.
HQ 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 28 May 44.

C-WRT-10

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

/s/ J. E. M.

AG 360.33 3rd Ind.
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 2 June 1944.

GP-hm/dhm

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

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR #L-88, 25 May 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 25 May 1944.

For the Commanding General:

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

1st Lt. Edward W. Peterson	Mrs. Elsie E. Peterson (Mother) 6605 South Keating Avenue Chicago, Illinois
2nd Lt. Albert E. Bartlett	Ideutenant Ann A. Ludrovec (Wife) 409 Irving Street Joliet, Illinois
2nd Lt. Robert W. Owen	Colonel Robert W. Owen (Father) Army Air Force Presque Isle, Maine
1st Lt. James T. Bennett	Mrs. Nattie L. Bennett (Mother) Jamesville, California
T/Sgt. Otto W. Harsdorf	Mr. Walter Harsdorf (Father) 11310 Pinehurst Detroit, Michigan
S/Sgt. John E. Evans	Mrs. Walter Evans (Mother) 79 South Pickering Street Brookville, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. Lloyd G. Ivy	Mrs. Helen L. Ivy (Wife) 618 Santa Clara Walk San Antonio, Texas
S/Sgt. Don R. Frehulfer	Mrs. Martha S. Frehulfer (Mother) 312 North First Street Leighton, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. Richard C. Werner	Mrs. Grace K. Werner (Mother) Harding Street Medfield, Massachusetts
S/Sgt. Carl J. Berends	Mrs. Leona Berends (Mother) Star Route Englewood, Kansas