

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

5056

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 767th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 58°
Target Wiener Neustadt, Austria Type of mission bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
8 - 9/10 Cululus coverage - 9,000'
4. GIVE: [a] Date 24 May 1944 Time 1115 Last known position Altenmarkt, 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. Engine Trouble (anti-aircraft fire).
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 42-78267
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830 65 AAF serial Number [a] BP-432235
[b] BP-432140 [c] BP-432242 [d] BP-432698
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] Browning .50 cal
[a] 978113 [e] 391737 [i] 977733
[b] 978031 [f] 978113 [j] 391953
[c] 977758 [g] 988271
[d] 977850 [h] 965996
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 | Diggs, William E., 2 nd Lt. 0-756794 | | Mrs. Maude T. Diggs (Mother) 400 East Park St., Harvard, Illinois |
| [2] Co-pilot | Hylton, Donald W., 2 nd Lt. 0-755351 | | Mrs. Eva D. Hylton (Mother) 716 Eve St., Bakersfield, California |
| [3] Nav | Boggs, Kenneth S., 2 nd Lt. 0-690354 | | Mrs. Betty L. Boggs (Wife) 1002 Broadway, Altoona, Pennsylvania |
| [4] Bomb | Ashby, Jr., David A., 2 nd Lt. 0-669156 | | Mrs. D. A. Ashby (Mother) 3538 Kenwood, Memphis, Tennessee |
| [5] TTG | Jazwa, Walter E., S/Sgt. 32518264 | | Mrs. Julia Jazwa (Mother) 2733 East 32 nd St., Brooklyn, New York |
| [6] RWG | Bombardier, Gerald A., Cpl. 11106529 | | Mr. P. L. Bombardier (Father) 46 Cedar Street, Albans, Vermont |
| [7] NTG | Allen, Roy V., Sgt. 18184876 | | Mrs. Willie V. Allen (Mother) Route #1, Harmleigh, Texas |
| [8] LWG | Kuhar, Mike G., S/Sgt. 35318882 | | Mrs. Helen Kuhar (Wife) 1767 Bonnie Brae NE, Warren, Ohio |
| [9] TG | Karalis, Gust A., Sgt. 36648106 | | Mrs. Helen Karalis (Wife) 1635 West Pierce Ave., Chicago, Illinois |
| [10] BTG | Shea, Jr., Lester W., Sgt. 32448399 | | Mrs. Emma Shea (Mother) RFD #1, Stuyvesant, 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] William J. Abriatis | | 0-695846 | | X | | |
| [2] Donald C. Higgins | | 0-811638 | | X | | |
| [3] Harold M. Culpepper | | 14038320 | | 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]. **Plane seemed to be under control at all times.**

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.**

Date: 29 May 1944

/s/ Raymond L. Wilcovitz
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

767th Bombardment Squadron (H)
461st Bombardment Group (H)

STATEMENT

While flying in number four (4) position of A Flight, I saw Lt. Diggs get hit by a flak burst. He feathered the engine (number 4 engine) and began to drop back. I then contacted the tail gunner who reported the progress of the ship. He continued back into the second section. The tail gunner then saw a ship break away from the second section. However, at this point he could no longer say what ship fell out due to the distance. In addition, when the ship was hit, at no time did any bombs drop from it.

/s/ William J. Abristia
2nd Lt., Air Corps
0-695846

STATEMENT

I saw the plane piloted by Lt. William E. Diggs dropping back from his position in the formation after having my attention called to it by one of my gunners. He was flying number two (2) position in C flight. Lt. Diggs had number four (4) engine feathered and was attempting to stay abreast of the formation when I last saw him.

/s/ Donald C. Higgins
2nd Lt., Air Corps
0-811638

STATEMENT

About thirty-five (35) minutes out from the target I saw Lt. Diggs feather number four (4) engine. We were not up to altitude and he followed us for five (5) minutes. He peeled off from the number two (2) position, C Flight, 2 Section and headed back.

/s/ Harold M. Culpepper
S/Sgt., 14038320

HEADQUARTERS
767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

29 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Are 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-H, AAF Serial No., 42-78267, 2nd Lt. William E. Diggs 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 25 May 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ Raymond L. Wilcovitz
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

/s/ R. E. W.

AG 360.33 1st Ind. LCP/rfq
Headquarters, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, 29 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. C-WRT-58
Hq 49th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 30 May 44.

TO: C.G., 15th Air Force, APO 520.

/s/ J.E.M.

AG 360.33
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 4 June 1944.

3rd Ind.

GP-hm/gow

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

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR No L-91, dated 28 May 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU 28 May 1944.

For the Commanding General:

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

For Military Use Only

Information on (Prime) Capture of Enemy Aircraft

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Station: | Salvage Sect. 11/XVII | Distr: |
| Place: | Gras – Thalverhof | Dulag-Air 1x |
| Time: | 25 May 1944 | |

Time Shot Down: 24 May 44 about 1100 hours
Place of crash: 1 km W of Grafendorf (about 4 km ESE of Stains) West Styria

Manner of Capture: Shot down by flak

Type of Aircraft: Liberator

Markings on Craft: burned, blue triangle on rudder

Assigned No: 264 467

Photo Equip: Burned

Rad. Equip: Burned

Condition of Craft: 98% burned out

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-1247

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **24 May 1944**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Marsin near St. Loransen**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **4 motor Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Airbase HQ A(0)11/XVII
Gras
26 May 44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Bombardier**
FIRST NAME: **Gerald**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: **11106529**

CAPTURED: **24 May place of crash** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-1247

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **24 May 1944 1100 hours**

PLACE OF CRASH: **St. Marsin on Pickelbach, Dist of Gras**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **4 motor Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Airbase HQ A(0)11/XVII
Gras
26 May 44**

CREW

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: | Ashby D A | Allen Roy | Kuhar Mike |
| DATE OF BIRTH: | | | |
| RANK: | | | |
| SERIAL NUMBER: | 0669156 | 18184816 | 35918882 |
| CAPTURED: 1140 place of crash | WOUNDED: | DEAD: | |
| DISTRIBUTION: | WHICH CAMP: | TYPE OF INJURY: | |
| GRAVE LOCATION: | | | |

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-1247

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **24 May 1944 1100 hours**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Grafendorf 4 km SE of Stains**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **4 motor Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Airbase HQ A(0)11/XVII
Gras
26 May 44**

CREW

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: | Shea Lester W | Karalis Gust A |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: **32448399** **36648106**

CAPTURED: **24 May 44 near Grafendorf about 4km SE of Stains** WOUNDED:
DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-1247

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **24 May 1944**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Faiding-Heiligenkraus on Waasen, Dist of
Leibnitz**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **4 motor Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Airbase HQ A(0)11/XVII
Gras
26 May 44**

CREW

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: | Diggs William | Hylton Donald W | Jazwa Walter |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-756794** **0-755351** **3251826**

CAPTURED: **24 May place of crash** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-1247

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH:

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Unknown**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Airbase HQ A(0)11/XVII
Gras
26 May 44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Boggs**
FIRST NAME: **Kenneth**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: **0690354**

CAPTURED: **24 May 44 Schoenstein near Cilli** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Home Guard Bn 891

Gras, 31 May 44

Daybook No. 1179/44

Subject: Recovered Articles from downed enemy aircraft

Ref: None

Encl: 3

To: Evaluation Station West
Thalerhof near Gras

The bn submits in the enclosure a piece of writing and remains of two charts which were found on 26 May 44 in a meadow in Gerbersdorf on the road Preding-Stains. The same originate from an enemy bomber which crashed there on 24 May 44 and lay in the meadow scattered over a radius of 25 meters distant from the plane of crash.

(signed-illegible)
Maj & Comdr

Original to Dulag-Air-Coerureal

(Penciled note: Examin, 2 Jan
Mat. (?) 5 Jun)

| | |
|--|--|
| Second Lieutenant Kenneth S. Boggs | Mrs. Betty L. Boggs (Wife) 1002 Broadway Altoona, Pennsylvania |
| Second Lieutenant David A. Ashby, Jr. | Mrs. Lillie M Ashby (Mother) 3538 Kenwood Memphis, Tennessee |
| Second Lieutenant Donald W. Hylton | Mrs. Eva D. Hylton (Mother) 716 Eve Street Bakersfield, California |
| Second Lieutenant William E. Diggs | Mrs. Maude T. Diggs (Mother) 400 East Park Street Harvard, Illinois |
| Corporal Gerald A. Bombardier | Mr. Phillip L Bombardier (Father) 46 Cedar Street Saint Albans, Vermont |
| Staff Sergeant Walter E. Jazwa | Mrs. Julia Jazwa (Mother) 2733 East 32nd Street Brooklyn, New York |
| Sergeant Roy V. Allen | Mrs. Willie V. Allen (Mother) Route One Harmleigh, Texas |
| Staff Sergeant Mike G. Kuhar | Mrs. Barbara Kuhar (Mother) 1767 Bonnie Brae, North East Warren, Ohio |
| Sergeant Gust A. Karalis | Mrs. Helen Karalis (Wife) 1635 West Pierce Avenue Chicago, Illinois |
| Sergeant Lester W. Shea, Jr. | Mrs. Emma Shea (Mother) Rural Free Delivery Number One Stuyvesant, New York |