

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**5641**

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 15<sup>th</sup> AF  
Group 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course direct to target  
Target Guirgiu Type of mission bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 11 June 1944 Time 0905 Last known position near Giurgiu, Rumania.  
[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 M AAF Serial Number 42-78260
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: \_\_\_\_\_
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series x 1830 65 AAF serial Number [a] BP-492435  
[b] BP-492484 [c] BP-432156 [d] BP-491970
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] **Browning .50 cal**  
[a] LN 977974 [e] LB 999536 [i] LW 979037  
[b] RN 978001 [f] RB 978616 [j] RW 96874  
[c] LU 991644 [g] LT 369427  
[d] RU 988646 [h] RT 369509
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	Heald, Robert Lancy, 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. 0-799399	MIA	Mrs. Sidney E. Heald (Sister) 101 Second St., Orange, N.J.
[2] Co-pilot	Cocking, Byron Day, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-810828	MIA	Mr. William R. Cocking (Father) 390 Bennett St., Luserne, Penn.
[3] Nav	Gavora, John, Jr., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-692983	MIA	Mrs. Anne Gavora (Mother) 34 Capion St., Newark, New Jersey
[4] Bomb	Walker, Horace Allen, F/O T-122588	MIA	Mr. C. S. Walker (Father) 649 Walnut St., Louisville, Kentucky
[5] RWG	Brusso, Robert Francis, S/Sgt. 32383384	MIA	Mrs. Rose Brusso (Mother) 755 Linden Place, Elmira, New York
[6] TTG	Myers, Michael, T/Sgt. 33082304	MIA	Mr. Abraham Myers (Father) 136 Buscombe Ave., North Hills, Pennsylvania
[7] TG	Laclef, Densal Eugene, S/Sgt. 37208899	MIA	Mr. August Laclef (Father) Hollie, Kansas
[8] LWG	Barnes, Lloyd Edward, Pfc. 17032175	MIA	Mrs. Martha Barnes (Mother) 732 Roswell St., Batesville, Arkansas
[9] BTG	Lizotte, Robert Anthony, S/Sgt. 11085542	MIA	Mrs. Alberta G. Lizotte (Mother) Fordham Hospital, Bronx, New York
[10] NTG	Linhares, Carl John., S/Sgt. 19002136	MIA	Mr. John Linhares (Father) Rt 1, Box 106 A, Caruthers, California

[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] <b>George D. Dickie, Jr.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-709311</b>		<b>X</b>		
[2] <b>Clarence E. Stauffer</b>	<b>F/O</b>	<b>T-61480</b>		<b>X</b>		
[3] <b>Richard J. Malott</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-756806</b>		<b>X</b>		
[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]..

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; plane went down in enemy territory.**

Date: 14 June 1944

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



767<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
461<sup>ST</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

AG 360.33

APO #520, c/o PM  
New York, New York  
**14 June 1944**

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report

TO: Commanding Officer, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group  
APO #520, c/o PM, New York, New York

1. In compliance with Letter, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 w **42-78260, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Heald** and crew.

2. Subject crew personnel are battle casualties as defined by Paragraph 2, Section II, Circular No. 10, Headquarters, NATOUSA.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters, **12 June 1944**.

For the Squadron Commander:

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

AG 360.33  
Headquarters, 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group APO 520, 15 June 1944

1<sup>st</sup> Ind.

LCP/rfg

TO: Commanding General, 49<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, APO 520.

/s/L.C.P.

SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY SIXTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
ARMY AIR FORCES

APO 520 c/o PM New York, N Y  
14 June 1944

SUBJECT: Combat Flying

TO: All Concerned.

1. On 11 May 1944 I was flying in No One Position "C" Flight. I could see Ship Seventy-one flying No Four Position in the "A" Section very well. As I seen it, flak hit No two engine of ship seventy-one and it was burning very badly. Three men from the back of the plane jumped immediately. The tail turret gunner on my plane saw four more parachutes. The ship dropped out of my sight then. Some of the parachutes landed in the river near the target.

/s/ Richard J. Malott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps  
766<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

Shortly after we passed over the target I saw plane number 71 off to the right a little ahead and higher than us. I think number two engine was smoking some and Flight Officer Walker bailed out of the nose wheel door. He went past our right wing close enough for me to identify him. His parachute started to trail out behind him as he went past me.

/s/ Clarence O. Stauffer  
Flight Officer, Air Corps

I noticed white smoke out our left wing and looked to see what it was. I saw that number one engine on ship seventy-one was afire. It was about five seconds after the fire started that I saw the ship. About five seconds after that the nose wheel door opened and a man bailed out. The ship then dropped behind our wing so that it was not visible to me.

/s/ George D. Dickie, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps

AFFPA/RJH/mat/V6810  
Rm 4309 7/25/44

AFFPA-4

AAF B01 – (5541) Linhares, Carl J.  
19002136

July 26, 1944

Mr. John Linhares  
Route Number One, Box 106 A  
Caruthers, California

Dear Mr. Linhares:

I am writing you with reference to your son, Staff Sergeant Carl J. Linhares, who was reported by the Adjutant General as missing in action over Rumania since June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Further information dated June 14<sup>th</sup> has just been received which indicates that Sergeant Linhares was a crew member of a B-24 (Liberator) bomber which departed from southern Italy on a bombardment mission to Guirgiu, Rumania on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Full details are not available, but the report indicates that during this mission, at about 9:05 A.M., your son's plane sustained damage from enemy anti-aircraft fire and left the formation. Subsequently, eight parachutes were seen to leave the damaged bomber and land in the vicinity of the target. Inasmuch as the crew members of accompanying planes were unable to make further observation of this aircraft, there is no other information presently available with reference to its disappearance.

Due to necessity for military security, it is regretted that the names of those who were in the plane and the names and addresses of their next of kin may not be furnished at the present time.

The great anxiety caused you by failure to receive more details concerning your son's disappearance is fully realized. Please be assured that any additional information received will be conveyed immediately to you by the Adjutant General or this headquarters.

Very sincerely,

/s/ E. A. Bradumas  
Major, A.G.D.  
Chief, Notification Branch  
Personal Affairs Division  
Assistant Chief Air Staff, Personnel

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNES, Lloyd Edward**  
Rank: **Pfc.**  
Serial number: **17032175**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **?**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Was in waist of ship.**

Was he injured? **His back when he landed. If any other injuries, I do not know.**

Where was he when last seen? **Camp Pat Henry, USA.**

Any hearsay information: **Was picked up about same time as I and was in prison camp till we were released and returned to States with me.**

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **28.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **???**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert Anthony Lizotte Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 11085542
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander ? Rank Maj Sqn CO Benedict Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Guirgiu, target, , target time, 9:30 am, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, ?, route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? No. 4 position over 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". Bomber bail out over target as soon as we got hit – Walker, Heald, Gavora, Laclef, Linhares, Myers, Brusso, Barnes and myself bailed out about 10:30 am place unknown. We were all picked up except Gavora. You did not send a list as you have said you are. But will try to answer your questions. Lt. Walker (bomb) bailed out thru nose wheel door over target – met him a month later in prison camp. Lt. Heald (pilot), ?? (co-pilot), Gavora (navigator), T/Sgt. Myers (engineer) and T/Sgt. Brusso (radio) – all these men bailed out bomb bay doors at 10:30 am after we hit the target and got hit we went another 1 ½ hours. Barnes, Laclef, Linhares and Lizotte – we all bailed out camera hatch door at same time our pilot ordered us to go at 10 am we were all picked up soon and we always stayed together.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? ?
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft? ;
12. What was their condition? ;
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ;
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. ;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNES, Lloyd Edward**  
Rank: **Pfc.**  
Serial number: **17032175**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Bulgaria.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **Not before bail-out.**

Where was he when last seen? **Sept. 17, 1945 upon liberation from Bulgarian POW camp and return to US custody at Cairo, Egypt.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source: **Witnessed safe return personally**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **None.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 35.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Horace A. Walker Rank 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-1692843
2. Organization Gp Commander Rank Col. Sqn CO Knapp Rank Col.
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Guirgiu, Ro., target, barge loading station on Danube, target time, about 9:30 am, altitude, 22,000 ft route scheduled, direct, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Guirgiu, Ro.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes - all.
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 crewmen landed safely and were interned in Shuman POW camp. Liberated Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 1944.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft? .
12. What was their condition? .
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All safely returned to Allied jurisdiction.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNES, Lloyd Edward**  
Rank: **Pfc.**  
Serial number: **17032175**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Vicinity of Vratza, Bulgaria.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Don't recall.**

Was he injured? **Not in the air.**

Where was he when last seen? **Constantinople, Turkey. He was prisoner of war along with rest of crew at Shuman, Bulgaria. All were released in Sept 1944. Last saw Barnes in Constantinople. Have picture taken there in my possession.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source: **Personal observation.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Am surprised to learn he is missing. In fact I believe your records are in error because of the fact he was released with us. I have no specific recollection of seeing him after Constantinople.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **See records of 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, 767 Bomb Sq.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John Gavora, Jr. Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-691983.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO Knapp Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing, target, Giurgiu, Roumania, target time, 0800 – 0830 (approx), altitude, 21,000 ft route scheduled, almost direct to target, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes – entire crew of 10 men.
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". H.A. Walker bailed out over target. The other nine bailed out 100 miles from target in vicinity of Vratza, Bulgaria.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately 15 miles ENE of Vratza.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None – all members bailed out successfully.
11. Where were they in aircraft?;
12. What was their condition? ;
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Entire crew was repatriated in Sept 1944 and returned to Italy. S/Sgt. Brusso was left in hospital at Constantinople with an infected foot. The other nine of us returned to our organization – 461<sup>st</sup> BG, 767 BS – for processing in preparation to return to US.
- 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: **BARNES, Lloyd Edward**  
Rank: **Pfc.**  
Serial number: **17032175**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **About 10 miles north of Vratza, Bulgaria.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Fort Patrick Henry, Virginia.**

Any hearsay information: **Crew member, Barnes, Lloyd Edward was in prison of war camp with me. Returned to the USA with me at the time of our liberation. To my knowledge he has been discharged from service & now resides in Batesville, Ark.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Now residing in Batesville, Ark.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 32.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Giurgiu, Romania June 11, 1944.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Heald, Robert L. Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-799399.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO Knapp Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Giurgiu, Roumania, target, , target time, 0905, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, as briefed, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target – Guirgui, Romania.
6. Did you bail out? Yes – about 10 miles north of Vratza, Bulgaria.
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 members of my crew bailed out near Vratza, Bulgaria except F/O Horace A. Walker. Walker bailed out over the target (Guirgui, Roumania) when our aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. All 10 of us eventually met in POW camp at Shuman, Bulgaria and were liberated at the same time. All crew members returned to the USA except F/O H. A. Walker who returned to Bulgaria to testify at war criminal trials.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About 10 miles north of Vratza, Roumania.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft?;
12. What was their condition? ;
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? In POW camp at Shuman, Bulgaria (all members). All 10 in fair condition.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNES, Lloyd Edward**  
Rank: **Pfc.**  
Serial number: **17032175**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Northwestern Bulgaria.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before leaving the ship we shook hands.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Newport News, Virginia.**

Any hearsay information: **The last I heard of him was in Larry Field, Colo.**

Source: **Capt. Robert L. Heald, our pilot.**

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **The mission he was shot down on was June 11, 1944, Giurgiu, Roumania.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Laclef, Densal E. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 37208899.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO Knapp Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing, target, Giurgiu, Roumania, target time, about, altitude, 18,000 ft route scheduled, don't recall, route flown don't recall.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just after bombs away - Over target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes – the whole crew got out.
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". Bombardier F/O Horace A. Walker bailed out right over the target and the rest of the crew bailed out in northwestern Bulgaria. Capt Heald, Lt. Cocking, Lt. Gavora, Sgt. Brusso and Sgt. Myers through front bomb bay; Sgt. Lizotte, Sgt. Linhares and myself through the camera hatch. I was a prisoner of war camp with all these including F/O Horace A. Walker and Pfc. Lloyd E. Barnes. Our whole crew was there and were freed together.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? A short ways from a small village in northwestern Bulgaria.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) There was nobody in the ship when it struck the ground.
11. Where were they in aircraft?;
12. What was their condition? ;
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?;
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. There were 291 Americans in the prison where I was and were all freed at the same time.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert L. Heald</b>	<b>Mrs. Sidney E. Heald (Sister-in-law) 101 Second Street South Orange, New Jersey</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Byron D. Cocking</b>	<b>Mrs. William R. Cocking (Mother) 390 Bennett Street Luserne, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Gavora, Jr.</b>	<b>Mrs. Anna Gavora (Mother) 143-15 Nineteenth Avenue Irvington, New Jersey</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Horace A. Walker</b>	<b>Mrs. Horace A. Walker (Wife) 53 Gordon Street New Haven, Connecticut</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Robert F. Brusso</b>	<b>Mrs. Rose Brusso (Mother) 755 Linden Place Elmira, New York</b>
<b>T/Sgt. Michael Myers</b>	<b>Mr. Abraham A. Myers (Father) 136 Buscombe Avenue North Hills, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Densal E. Laclef</b>	<b>Mrs. August Laclef (Mother) Hollie, Kansas</b>
<b>Pfc. Lloyd E. Barnes</b>	<b>Mrs. Martha A. Barnes (Mother) 732 Roswell Batesville, Arkansas</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Robert A. Lizotte</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Edmond Codora (Grandparents) 64 East Avenue Burlington, Vermont</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Carl J. Linhares</b>	<b>Mr. John Linhares (Father) Route Number One, Box 106A Caruthers, California</b>