

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

7037

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 direct to target
Target Linz, Austria Type of mission bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
From 5/10ths to 9/10ths cum undercast
4. GIVE: [a] Date 25 July 1944 Time 1105 Last known position bet Unt Wieszenbach, Austria and Linz, 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 H AAF Serial Number 42-94732
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Tail Dragon
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] BP-400750
[b] CP-300331 [c] CP-305340 [d] 41-14333
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
[a] LN 998163 [c] LB 999994 [i] LT 999633
[b] RN 999558 [f] RB 999749 [j] RT 999922
[c] LU 998949 [g] LW 999659
[d] RU 999190 [h] RW 1000094
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	Bowyer, Edwin W., 1 st Lt. 0-544019		Mrs. Betty J. Bowyer (Wife) 1811 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
[2] Co-pilot	Stauffer, Clarence E., 2 nd Lt. 0-695411		Mrs. Edith E. Stauffer (Wife) 1319 W 5 th St., Wilmington, Delaware
[3] Nav	Hansen, Arne P., 2 nd Lt. 0-704629		Mr. Arne K. Hansen (Father) Star Route #1, Hibbing, Minnesota
[4] Bomb	Elder, Thomas L., Jr., 2 nd Lt. 0-694909		Mr. Thomas L. Elder, Sr. (Father) 618 S. Laurence, Montgomery, Alabama
[5] NTG	Peo, Robert L., Cpl. 35092604		Mrs. Antonia Peo (Mother) RR #1, Michigan City, Indiana
[6] TTG	Cheshier, Elton E., S/Sgt. 18110627		Mrs. Dellie H. Cheshier (Wife) PO Box #421, Rotan, Texas
[7] RWG	Farrell, Edward F., Jr., Sgt. 33192948		Margaret Barlett (Sister) 1006 K Street N., E. Washington, DC
[8] LWG	McDaniel, Paul E., T/Sgt. 17159771		Mrs. Thela M. McDaniel (Wife) Box 527, Esther, Missouri
[9] BTG	Ellis, Herbert, Jr., Sgt. 31301450		Mrs. Charlotte Elis (Mother) 108 Westbourne Terrace, Brookline, Massachusetts
[10] TG	Moreau, Norbert L., S/Sgt.		Mr. Joseph Moreau (Father)

39462011

Moxee City, Washington

[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] Richard C. Brady	S/Sgt.	33496193		X		
[2] Edward W. Scherr	Sgt.	12221108		X		
[3] Paul V. Sullivan, Jr.	1st Lt.	0-794902		X		
[4] Armand D. Bottiglia	2nd Lt.	0-1295987		X		

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] **Impossible to determine.**

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 shot down over enemy territory.**

Date: 29 July 1944

/s/ Herald D. Bennett
Major, Air Corps

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

I was flying in the top turret of Lt. Henry's ship when the fighters attacked. I had a good view of ship #68 flown by Lt. Bowyer, in the top spot of the 767th Squadron. When she got hit she fell through the formation, breaking it up. I didn't see anyone get out, but there might be a possibility that some did. I couldn't say for sure as she went past our tail and out of sight.

/s/ Edward W. Sherr,
12221108
Sgt., 767 Bomb Sq

STATEMENT

After the fighters attacked, I was in the open bomb bay and saw ship #68 flown by Lt. Bowyer come under our ship in flames. It was over on its back and heading down. A few seconds later it blew up. I cannot account for any of the crew members because it was in flames when I first saw it. No chutes opened while it was visible to me.

/s/ Paul V. Sullivan, Jr.
1st Lt., Air Corps,
767 Bomb Sq

Just before the fighters attacked, ship #68 flown by Lt. Bowyer was flying to our right and a little high. One fighter raked them from tail to nose and set them afire. The bomb bay doors were open and there was a fire there. Flames were streaming from the waist windows. As it was hit the plane turned over and flew on its back. I saw no chutes open, but several bombs were released just as the fighter attacked. The plane was completely out of control when it passed out of my line of vision and I doubt whether anyone could have gotten out of it except by a miracle.

/s/ Armand D. Bottiglia
2nd Lt., Air Corps
767th Bomb Sq.

- J – 1521 24 km east-south-east Roten. 100% crash. Pilot killed. Markings: star. Admittance No: unknown. Not to identify.
- J – 1501 June 25, 1944. 07:20 Mustang near Grainville 18 km south-east Rouen. 50% crash (belly landing). Markings: C 3 star I. Admittance No. 36438. Pilot: fugitive.
- KU – 828 A June 25, 1944 about 20:00. B-17 shot down by AA near south of Saens 13 km 13 km south-west of Neufchatel (according to Prisoners statement) Conditions, markings and admittance No. unknown. 1 prisoner: S/Sgt. Simoncini, Joseph 16061240. Rest fugitive.
- KU – 2372 June 25, 1944. 20:28 Liberator 15 km north-north-western Pricheville, 9 km east of Les Audelys. 100% crash. Markings: unknown. Admittance No. 295249. 1 prisoner, name is still unknown, rest fugitive.
- KU – 2374 June 27, 1944 19:25 Liberator by AA. Near Vez 6 km west of Villers – Cotterets. 100% crash. Markings: star. Admittance No. unknown. 1 killed: Sgt. Slark R. (according to prisoners statement) 3 prisoners: Lt. Savich, K. 0-712676; Sgt. Adamson, N.W. 37553885; Sgt. Ruelle, J. 36451286. Rest fugitive.
- J – 1525 June 27, 1944 20:30 Lightning near Cortil – Moirmont, 22 km north-west of Namur. 100% crash. Very deep in the ground. Markings and admittance No.: unknown. Pilot: fugitive.
- J – 1522 June 27, 1944 20:30 Mustang by Fighter, 4 km north of Villers-Cotterets. 100% crash. Markings: G 67 G 37. Admittance No.: unknown. 1 prisoner: P/O Berkhirse, R.H. J 18814 RCAF.
- J – 1526 June 27, 1944 20:30 Mustang 5 km east of Chovrsville, 21 km south-east Senkis. 25% crash (belly landing). Markings: K star WR, Admittance No.: 2103802. Pilot: fugitive.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

Abschustag und Zeit: **25.7.44 – 11-12.00** CASUALTY NO. **ME-1703**
 Abschusort: **b. Linz a. D.**
 Flugzeugtyp: **Liberator**
 Meldende Dienststelle: **Fl.H.Kdtr. Horching**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -or:	Dienst grad	Erk.- Marke	Gef.: Verw.: Tot.:	Verbieib: Weiches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
McDaniel, Paul Elmer ? .12.21	Sgt.	17159771	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Stauffer, Clarence Eugene ? .7.18 Pa.	2nd Lt.	0-695411	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Cheshier, Elton Eugene 12.6.19	S/Sgt.	18110627	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Bowyer, Edwin Wren	1st Lt.	0-544019	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Elder, Thomas Leigh, Jr. 1921 USA	2nd Lt.	0694909	Gef.	Dulag-Luft

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft, den: 7.8.44 Wo.

1st Lt. Edwin W. Bowyer	Mrs. Betty J. Bowyer (Wife) Route 1811 North Stonewall Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2nd Lt. Clarence E. Stauffer	Mrs. Edith E. Stauffer(Wife) 1319 West 5th Street Wilmington, Delaware
2nd Lt. Thomas L. Elder, Jr.	Mr. Thomas L. Elder, Sr. (Father) c/o Mrs. W.N. ?????? 1966 Graham Street Atlanta, Georgia
2nd Lt. Arne F. Hansen	Mr. Arne K. Hansen (Father) Star Route One Hibbing, Minnesota
T/Sgt. Paul E. McDaniel	Mrs. Thela M. McDaniel (Wife) Esther, Missouri
S/Sgt. Elton E. Cheshire	Mrs. Dellie H. Cheshire (Wife) Box 421 Rotan, Texas
S/Sgt. Norbert L. Moreau	Mr. Joseph Moreau (Father) Moxee City, Washington
Sgt. Herbert L. Ellis, Jr.	Mrs. Charlotte Ellis (Mother) 108 Westbourne Terrace Brookline, Massachusetts
Sgt. Edward F. Farrell	Mrs. Margaret Barlett (Sister) 1006 K Street, Northeast Washington, D.C.
Cpl. Robert Peo	Mrs. Antonia Peo (Mother) Route Number Two Michigan City, Indiana