

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

7113

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, 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:
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 25 July 1944 Time 1120 Last known position 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 41-28867
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] BP-400161
[b] BP-400165 [c] BP-400264 [d] BP-42-64254
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| [a] <u>226866</u> | [e] <u>226304</u> | [i] <u>228708</u> |
| [b] <u>979965</u> | [f] <u>980117</u> | [j] <u>228746</u> |
| [c] <u>226836</u> | [g] <u>228508</u> | |
| [d] <u>930099</u> | [h] <u>979906</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	Githens, Kenneth O., 2nd Lt. 0-759219		Mrs. Marian M. Githens (Wife) 1653 S.E. Tenino St., Portland, Oregon
[2] CP	Gidez, Melvin D., 2nd Lt. 0-825834		Mrs. Mirian C. Gidez (Wife) 67 B. Washington St., Dorchester, Mass.
[3] Nav	Harp, Leland J., 2nd Lt. 0-703876		Mrs. Rita A. Harp (Wife) 201 Merritt, Turlock, California
[4] Bomb	Patterson, William E., Jr., 1st Lt. 0-739050		Mr. Wiliam E. Patterson (Father) 2640 West 5th St., Santa Ana, California
[5] TTG	Esser, George (NMI), S/Sgt. 39557583		Mrs. Pauline Esser (Mother) 3670 Keystone Ave., Los Angeles, California
[6] NTG	Harrison, Kermit C., S/Sgt. 37085916		Mrs. Rhoda G. Harrison (Mother) Route #1, Lovell, Wyoming
[7] TTG	Wendte, Donald D., S/Sgt. 37476049		Mrs. Marie J. Wendte (Mother) Newcastle, Nebraska
[8] BTG	Farr, Howard J., S/Sgt. 16138734		Mr. Howard E. Farr (Father) 2103 So. 20th Ave., Maywood, Illinois
[9] RWG	Sipple, James E., S/Sgt. 13081570		Mrs. Keturah Sipple (Mother) 110 North Chestnut St., Mt. Carmel, Penna.

[10] LWG **Peterson, George C., T/Sgt.**
31100358

Mrs. Alma Peterson (Mother)
Box 4, New Sweden, Maine

[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] Eric C. English	T/Sgt.	18056588		X		
[2] Robert L. Molyneur	Sgt.	12080900		X		
[3]						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**

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 made by this organization.**

Date: **27 July 1944**

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

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

26 July 1944

STATEMENT

On 25 July 1944 at approximately 1120, I the undersigned saw plane (B-24) number 21 hit by five (5) enemy aircraft (ME-109's) in a pursuit curve. I being the left waist gunner in ship number 24, fired upon the lead ship in the pursuit curve attack. I set this ship on fire and it went down in a spin. The remaining four (4) enemy aircraft fired up ship number 21 setting it on fire in the bomb bay. It then fell up in a slid on fire. I saw at least three men bail out, two chutes opened. The pilot seemed to still have control of the ship at this time but it was losing altitude. At this time I had to take my eyes off the ship as another enemy aircraft was coming in on our ship. It is possible that more men did bail out after I lost sight of the ship.

/s/ Eric C. English
T/Sgt. 18056588
765th Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

On 25 July 1944 at approximately 1120 A.M. I the undersigned witnessed ship number 21, a B-24 type aircraft, peel off to the left of the flight and go down, bomb bay on fire. One parachute was seen from the plane.

/s/ Robert L. Molyneux
Sgt., 12080900
765th Bomb Sq (H)

AG 360.33/030 – C.
HQ., NATOUSA, APO 534, U.S. Army, 15 August 1944.

Wrapper Ind.

OB/rf

TO: CG, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C. (Att: Statistical Control
Division).

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Reports carrying AG Casualty Branch Control Numbers
206 thru 224 inclusive.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

/s/ OWEN ELLIOT
Major, A.G.D.,
Assistant Adjutant General

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Leland J. Harp Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-703876
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Applegate Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month July day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Linz, Austria, target, Goering Tank works, target time, 1130, altitude, 24,500 ft route scheduled, , route flown briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Approx 12 miles ENE Linz.
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". Entire crew bailed out. I saw most of them on the ground after capture. Others have had letters from jmee our return home entire crew safe.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Blew up in the air.
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 OK.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None. Most of our crew are now separated from active duty. I know for sure that all are safe and back in the USA from correspondence. As far as information regarding other crews is concerned I have no accurate knowledge.

Meldung über den Abschub eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschub-Nr. ME 1702

Abschubtag und Zeit: 25.7.44 -11-12.00
Abschubort: b. Linz a. D.
Flugzeugtyp: Liberator
Neidende Dienststelle: F1.H.Kdtr. Hoersching
Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst grad	Erk.- Marke:	Gef: Verw.: Tot:	Verbieb: Weiches lacer Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
Patterson, William Earl	1 st Lt.	0-739050	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Farr, Howard Joseph 10.11.24 Chicago, Illinois	S/Sgt.	16138734	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Wendte, Donald D.	S/Sgt.	37476049	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Gidez, Melvin David	2 nd Lt.	0-825834	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Githens, Kenneth Oliver	2 nd Lt.	0-759219	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Sipple, James Earl	S/Sgt.	13091570	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Peterson, George Conrad	T/Sgt.	31100358	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Esser, George	S/Sgt.	39557583	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Harp	2 nd Lt.		Verw.	Las.

Remerkungen: Dulag-Luft. Den 7.8.44 Wo.

1st Lt. William E. Patterson, Jr.	Mr. William E. Patterson, Sr. (Father) 2640 West 5th Street Santa Ana, California
2nd Lt. Leland J. Harp	Mrs. Rite A. Harp (Wife) 201 Merritt Turlock, California
2nd Lt. Melvin D. Gidez	Mrs. Mirian C. Gidez (Wife) 67 B. Washington Street Dorchester, Massachusetts
2nd Lt. Kenneth O. Githens	Mrs. Marian M. Githens (Wife) 1653 Southeast Tenino Street Portland, Oregon
T/Sgt. George C. Peterson	Mrs. Alma Peterson (Mother) Address unreadable
S/Sgt. James E. Sipple	Mrs. Keturah Sipple (Mother) 110 North Chestnut Street Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. Howard J. Farr	Mr. Howard E. Farr (Father) 2103 South 20th Avenue Maywood, Illinois
S/Sgt. Donald D. Wendte	Mr. Henry J. Wendte (Father) New Castle, ??????
S/Sgt. Kermit C. Harrison	Mr. R. Floyd Harrison (Father) 1705 Second Street Lovell, Wyoming
S/Sgt. George Esser	Mrs. Pauline Esser (Mother) 3670 Keystone Avenue Los Angeles, California