

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

7117

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 5/10 to 9/10 cum undercast
4. GIVE: [a] Date 25 July 1944 Time 1105 Last known position between 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 42-95257
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP-370623
[b] CP-311342 [c] CP-311413 [d] CP-311414
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
[a] LU 1187356 [c] LB 1187244 [i] LW 1187896
[b] RU 1187265 [f] RB 1186782 [j] RW 11527133
[c] LN 1186126 [g] LT 1194301
[d] RN 119495 [h] RT 1186996
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
[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	Olson, Rolland T., 2 nd Lt. 0-705781	RTD	Mrs. Lucille G. Olson (Wife) 1712 Long Ave., Iron Mt., Michigan
[2] Co-pilot	Keoppel, Harold G., 2 nd Lt. 0-770689	RTD	Mr. August Koeppel (Father) 739 Perry Ave., Cape Girardeau, Missouri
[3] Nav	Ray, Howard T., 2 nd Lt. 0-722888	RTD	Mrs. Birdie M. Ray (Mother) Grand Junction, Tennessee
[4] Bomb	Drew, Robert E., 2 nd Lt. 0-772947	RTD	Mr. Emmett J. Drew (Father) Harmon, Illinois
[5] NTG	Iles, Harry H. Jr., Cpl. 13133414	RTD	Mrs. Henrietta G. Iles (Mother) 5923 Hampton St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
[6] TTG	Rice, Cyril B., Cpl. 36456735	RTD	Mrs. Celia B. Rice (Mother) Box 414, Lanse, Michigan
[7] RWG	Norton, Robert L. Jr., Sgt. 34822745	RTD	Mrs. Mary S. Norton (Mother) Rt #1, Lithonia, Georgia
[8] LWG	Ferguson, Bobbie C., Sgt. 17169724	RTD	Mrs. Sylvia B. Ferguson (Mother) Urbana, Iowa
[9] BTG	Rader, Joseph G., Cpl. 37497055	RTD	Mrs. Dorothy M. Rader (Wife) Rt #1, Dardin, Missouri
[10] TG	Schaeffer, Earl S., Cpl. 33833119	RTD	Mr. Samuel Schaeffer (Father) RD #1, Bernville, Pennsylvania
[11] Instr	Hewitt, Arthur L., 2 nd Lt.	RTD	Mrs. Ida M. Hewitt (Mother)

Bomb 0-1691610

Box 114, League City, Texas

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

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 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

After the second pass made by the fighters, I was standing in the open bomb bay of our ship and I saw #72, flown by Lt. Olson, go under us with #3 and #4 engines flaming. The plane slid over on its right wing and blew up. From the altitude it was flying while in flames I think a majority of the men should have been able to bail out, though I personally did not see any chutes open.

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

I was flying in the top turret of Lt. Henry's ship when the fighters attacked. I definitely saw ship #72 get hit. She seemed to burst right into flame the minute she was hit. She bucked and rolled over on her back and spun in. It seemed impossible from what I saw that anybody could have gotten out. I did not see any chutes open up until the time it passed out of my sight.

/s/ Edward W. Scherr
12221108
Sgt. 767 Bomb Sq

Meldong uber den Abschub elnes

US-amerikanischan Flugzenges

Abschudtag und Ielt: **25.7.44 – 15.00,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-1699**
Abschubert: **Farrach**
Flugzenges: **Liberator**
Meiderde Dieastateile: **Fl.H.Kdtr. A (0) 10/KVIX**

Name und Versamen: Gaberstag und –ert:	Dienst grad	Erk- Marks:	Gef.: Varw.: Tet:	Verbleib: Wekhes Lager Art d. Warwasdaag Grablege
Norton, Robert Lee	Sgt.	34822745	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Schaeffer, Earl Samuel	Cpl.	36733119	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Ray, Howard Thomas 20.9.22 Grand Junction, Tenn.	2nd Lt.	0-722838	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Rice, Cyril B. 3.6.24 Iron Mountain, Mich.	Cpl.	36456735	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Olson, Rolland Thomas - White Rock, Minn	2nd Lt.	0-705781	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Rader, Joseph Galen	Cpl.	37497055	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Drew, Robert Everett - Wisc, Rice Lake	2nd Lt.	0-772947	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Koeppel, Harold G. 1.10.23 Cape Girardeau, Mo.	2nd Lt.	0-770689	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Iles, Harry Needham	Cpl.	13133414	Gef.	Dulag-Luft

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 3.8.44. Wo.

		U.S.A.	ME-1699
On: July 25 – 44 at 1500	Rank	Name	ASN
PLACE:	2nd Lt.	Olson, Rolland Thomas	0-705781
Tapfish/Steiermark	2nd Lt.	Koeppel, Harold G.	0-770689
TYPE: Liberator	2nd Lt.	Drew, Robert Everett	0-772947
MARKS 295 257	2nd Lt.	Ray, Howard Thomas	0-722868
767 (N.B.) Sqd	Sgt.	Norton, Robert Lee	34822745
461st Group	Cpl.	Schaeffer, Earl Samuel	33833129
BASE: Cerignola	Cpl.	Rader, Joseph Galen	37497055
Airbase H.Q. A (0)	Cpl.	Rice, Cyril B.	36436735
1Q/IVII	Sgt.	Ferguson, Bobbie C.	17169724
	Cpl.	Iles, Jr., Harry	13133414
		Needham	
	2nd Lt.	Hewitt, Arthur Lyle	0-
			1691613

Military Police Ardwisz district Leasen, Staiemark.

BY/L-52 – LI-Me: 32/44(g.)

(12a) Ardming, 11 August 1944.

Pussil-estes: Frake. L

Regarding: Paper booty from enemy airplane, security.
Refer to: Order of Eds Gras, 6 November 1943 and order of district Lissex, 20
January 1944.
Appendix: -1-

To
Resparek Canber West
Oberereal district xxxxx, NR

The above pest deliver according to above orders one map with instructions of airplane for Model B-24 No: 95237 of pilot FROCK written in English weight: 2 kg.

The paper booty was found by farmer Mane WAI, living in Ardning, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx No: 3 on 11 August 1944, 0700 near xxxxxxxxxxx, community Ardning district Liesen. He found the booty during work on the field and delivered it here.

The booty was in a gray sack for protection against wet.
It may be that the booty is from the assault of 25 July 1944.
Further establishment could not be made.

Signed: Chester of M.P.

2nd Lt. Howard T. Ray	Mrs. Birdie M. Ray (Mother) Grand Junction, Tennessee
2nd Lt. Holland T. Olson	Mrs. Lucille G. Olson (Wife) 1712 Long Avenue Iron Mountain, Michigan
2nd Lt. Arthur L. Hewitt	Mrs. Ida M. Hewitt (Mother) Box 114 League City, Texas
2nd Lt. Robert E. Drew	Mrs. Lewette M. Drew (Mother) Harmon, Illinois
2nd Lt. Harold G. Koeppel	Mr. August Koeppel (Father) 739 Perry Avenue Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Sgt. Robert L. Norton, Jr.	Mrs. Mary S. Norton (Mother) Route Number One Lithonia, Georgia
Sgt. Bobbie C. Ferguson	Mrs. Sylvia B. Ferguson (Mother) Urbana, Iowa
Cpl. Harry H. Iles, Jr.	Mrs. Henrietta G. Iles (Mother) 5923 Hampton Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Cpl. Cycil B. Rice	Mrs. Celia B. Rice (Mother) Box 414 Lanse, Michigan
Sgt. Joseph G. Rader	Mrs. Dorothy M Rader (Wife) Rural Free Delivery Number One Dardin, Missouri
Cpl. Earl S. Schaeffer	Mr. Samuel Schaeffer (Father) Rural Free Delivery Number One Bernville, Pennsylvania