

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

8327

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 766th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 250°
Target Ferrara, Italy Type of mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
4/10 Cumulus 1400 feet

4. GIVE: [a] Date 24 August 1944 Time 1215 Last known position 10 miles south of Rimini, Italy

[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 J AAF Serial Number 42-51336

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: none

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43A AAF serial Number [a] CP 315647
[b] CP 31671 [c] CP-315681 [d] CP 315660

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>LN 1236186</u>	[e] <u>LU 986414</u>	[i] <u>RU 986554</u>
[b] <u>RB 1236300</u>	[f] <u>RW 1236488</u>	[j] <u>RT 986539</u>
[c] <u>RN 986566</u>	[g] <u>LB 1236456</u>	
[d] <u>LW 1255395</u>	[h] <u>LT 946558</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	<u>Wren, John B., Jr., 2nd Lt.</u> <u>0-700594</u>		<u>Maude W. Wren (Mother)</u> <u>RR #1, McCradie, Missouri</u>
[2] Co-pilot	<u>Horstmann, Donald G., 2nd Lt.</u> <u>0-709491</u>		<u>Mr. George D. Horstmann (Father)</u> <u>Primghar, Iowa</u>
[3] Bomb	<u>Gould, Dwaine E., 2nd Lt.</u> <u>0-716861</u>		<u>Mrs. Helen Gould (Mother)</u> <u>253 Dueber Ave., Canton, Ohio</u>
[4] Nav	<u>Hasek, Francis J., 2nd Lt.</u> <u>0-719066</u>		<u>Mr. Joseph F. Hasek (Father)</u> <u>9 Charles St., Carterat, N.J.</u>
[5] TTG	<u>Brice, Richard D., Cpl.</u> <u>38479611</u>		<u>Mr. Eugene K. Brice (Father)</u> <u>627 Church St., Sulfur Springs, Texas</u>
[6] BTG	<u>Jones, Thomas E., Jr., Sgt.</u> <u>14065075</u>		<u>Mr. Thomas E. Jones (Father)</u> <u>133 Stonewall St., Rock Hill, South Carolina</u>
[7] TTG	<u>Ricca, Phillip, S/Sgt.</u> <u>39044893</u>		<u>Mrs. Mary Ricca (Mother)</u> <u>15949 East 14th St., San Leandro, California</u>
[8] NTG	<u>Traylor, Charlie T., Sgt.</u> <u>34652933</u>		<u>Mr. Thomas H. Traylor (Father)</u> <u>White Oak, South Carolina</u>
[9] LWG	<u>Anderson, Gerald W, S/Sgt.</u> <u>17142953</u>		<u>Helen A. Harvey (Mother)</u> <u>6636 Clinton Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota</u>
[10] RWG	<u>Wager, Howard H., S/Sgt.</u>		<u>Anna Wager (Wife)</u>

32866006

99 Benson Ave., Elmont, Long Island,
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] Quentin D. Cook	F/O	T-125607			X	
[2] Emil H. Berg	2nd Lt.	0-825726		X		
[3] Zach T. Taylor	S/Sgt.	0-696752		X		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**
[X] 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: **None.**

Date: 27 August 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado
Capt., AC

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

STATEMENT

27 August 1944

On 24 August 1944 we covered ship #46 after leaving target area. I saw it crash and explode, bursting into flame. It crashed at approximately 43°54'N - 12°45'E. Gunners reported seeing eight or nine chutes.

/s/ Emil H. Berg
2nd Lt., Air Corps.
Navigator

26 August 1944

On the 24 of August while giving cover to ship number 46, after leaving the target area, I saw number 46 crash and burn at 43°54'N - 12°45'E at 1215. Gunners reported eight or nine chutes. Just before the plane crashed there was light flak.

/s/ Quentin D. Cook
F/T, Air Corps

27 August 1944

While returning from a mission on the 24 August 1944, we covered ship #46, it turned into enemy territory and ran into light flak. I seen 8 or 9 chutes and then the plane crashed on the ground and burned.

/s/ S/Sgt. Zach T. Taylor,
ASN - 16122856
Right Waist Gunner

		U.S.A.	ME-925
	Rank	Name	ASN
DATE: 8/24/44 1030	2nd Lt.	Wren, John Robert, Jr.	0-700594
PLACE: 6 km southeast	2nd Lt.	Horstmann, Donald Geo	0-709491
of Pesare	2nd Lt.	Hasek, Francis Joseph	0-719066
TYPE: Liberator	2nd Lt.	Gould, Dwaine Earl	0-716861
766 Sqd	S/Sgt.	Wager, Howard Henry	32866006
461 Group; 49 Wing	S/Sgt.	Anderson, Gerald	17142953
BASE: Torretta		Wesley	
TARGET: Airbase HQs	Sgt.	Jones, Thomas Edward,	14065075
Bologna		Jr.	
	Sgt.	Traylor, Charlie	34652933
		Thomas	
	S/Sgt.	Ricca, Phillip	39044899
	Cpl.	Brice, Richard Donald	38439611

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

Abschubtag: **24.8.44 – 10.30,** Abschud-Nr. **ME-2003**
 Abschubort: **SO Pesaro**
 Flugzeugtyp: **Liberator**
 Meldende Dienststelle: **Fl.H.Kdtr. Bologna**

Besatzung				
Name and Versamen: Geburttag und –ort:	Dienst grad	Erk. – Marke	Gef.: Verw.: Tot.:	Verbaib: Weiches Lager art d. Verwundung Grabiage
Wren, Jr., John Robert 7.1.21	2nd Lt.	0-700594	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Horstmann, Donald George 25.5.20 Pringhar, IA	2nd Lt.	0-709491	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Hasek, Francis Joseph 30.12.21 USA	2nd Lt.	0-719066	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Gould, Dwaine Earl 6.6.23 Carbolton, Ohio	2nd Lt.	0-716861	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Wager, Howard Henry 23.2.20	S/Sgt.	32866006	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Anderson, Gerald Wesley	S/Sgt.	17142953	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Jones, Thomas Edward, Jr. 1923 USA	Sgt.	14065075	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Traylor, Charlie Thomas	Sgt.	34652933	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Rica, Phillip 9.3.24 Santa Cruz, Calif	S/Sgt.	39044899	Gef.	Dulag-Luft
Brice, Richard Donald	Cpl.	38439611	Gef.	Dulag-Luft

REMARKS:
Dulag Luft: 11.9.44. Wo.

2nd Lt. John B. Wren, Jr.	Mrs. Maude W. Wren (Mother) Rural Route Number 1 McCradie, Missouri
2nd Lt. Donald G. Horstmann	Mr. George D. Horstmann (Father) Primghar, Iowa
2nd Lt. Dwaine E. Gould	Mrs. Helen M. Gould (Mother) 253 Dieber Avenue Canton, Ohio
2nd Lt. Francis J. Hasek	Mr. Joseph F. Hasek (Father) Charles Street Carterat, New Jersey
S/Sgt. Phillip Ricca	Mrs. Mary Ricca (Mother) 15949 East 14th Street Leandro, California
S/Sgt. Gerald W. Anderson	Mrs. Helen A. Harvey (Mother) Clinton Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota
S/Sgt. Howard H. Wager	Mrs. Anna Wager (Wife) AT-04 Insurance Street Flushing, Long Island, New York
Sgt. Charlie T. Traylor	Mr. Thomas H. Traylor (Father) White Oak, South Carolina
Sgt. Thomas E. Jones, Jr.	Mr. Thomas E. Jones (Father) 133 Stonewall Street Rock Hill, South Carolina
Cpl. Richard D. Brice	Mrs. Carrie E. Brice (Mother) 627 Church Street Springs, Texas