

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

8931

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
Target Munich, Germany Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 4 Oct 1944 Time 1200 Last known position Munich, Germany
[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 42-78446
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Urgent Virgin
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-65A AAF serial Number [a] 43-9299
[b] 43-9330 [c] 43-9284 [d] 43-9234
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
[a] LN 977957 [e] LB 968089 [i] LT 967690
[b] RN 977981 [f] RB 1258659 [j] RT 968108
[c] LU 1258861 [g] LW 1272448
[d] RU 978446 [h] RW 968062
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	Chester, Walter J., 2 nd Lt. 0-822378	MIA	Mrs. Patty J. Chester (Wife) 16 West Second St., Montgomery, Alabama
[2] Co-pilot	Hager, Frank J., 2 nd Lt. 0-826949	MIA	Mrs. Barbara S. Hager (Wife) 3244 Winnequah Road, Madison, Wisconsin
[3] Bomb	Langley, Forrest E., 2 nd Lt. 0-717811	MIA	Mrs. Dora L. Langley (Wife) Wilsonville, Nebraska
[4] Nav	Barth, Milton, 2 nd Lt. 0-722257	MIA	Mrs. Anna Barth (Mother) 1841 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
[5] TTG	Guthrie, William L., Sgt. 34814620	MIA	Mrs. Mavis B. Guthrie (Wife) 539 Clayton Street, Montgomery, Alabama
[6] BTG	Clippert, Emory C., Sgt. 36888974	MIA	Mr. Dale Clippert (Brother) 1115 East 16 Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan
[7] TG	Winkler, Henry J., Sgt. 33194676	MIA	Mrs. Mary Winkler (Mother) 430 1/2 North 3 rd Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania
[8] NTG	Bair, Albert M., Sgt. 17089059	MIA	Mrs. Charlotte B. Bair (Wife) Bellevue Hotel, Room #817, Washington, D.C.

[9] LWG	Fitch, Ore B. M., S/Sgt. 39409502	MIA	Mrs. Annie E. Fitch (Mother) Langford, South Dakota
[10] RWG	Walsh, James P., S/Sgt. 32463661	MIA	Mrs. Janet Walsh (Mother) 85 Spring Street, Passaic, New Jersey
[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	FORCED LANDING
[1] Joseph M. Burgio	S/Sgt.	36279044			X	
[2] Logan L. Ingram	Sgt.	33634256			X	
[3] Ernest M. Wood	S/Sgt.	38370449			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].

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.:

Date: 7 October 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado
 Capt., AC

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

4 October 1944

I saw a ship in back of us which was burning. I could not recognize the ship but believe it was ship #47. The ship blew up in mid air and I saw no parachutes. That is the last I saw of it.

/s/ Logan L. Ingram
Sgt., 33634256

4 October 1944

Just as we turned off the target I saw ship 47 catch on fire and blow up. I saw no parachutes from the ship.

/s/ Ernest M. Wood
S/Sgt., 38270449

7 October, 1944

I saw ship 47 get hit when another ship alongside it blew up. It immediately caught on fire and exploded in midair. I did not see any parachutes and I do not think it was possible for anyone to get out of the ship.

Joseph M. Burgio
S/Sgt., 37624751

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **10 October 1944 at 1240,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2190**

PLACE OF CRASH **Schleissheim**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Airbase Headquarter Schleissheim**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Walsh, James Philip				
11 Nov. 19	S/Sgt.	32463661	Captured	Stalag Luft West
Chester, Walter J.	2nd Lt.		Dead	
Hager, Frank J.	2nd Lt.		Dead	
Barth, Milton	2nd Lt.	0-722257	Dead	
Langley, Forrest E.	2nd Lt.	0-717811	Dead	
Fitch, Ore B. M.	S/Sgt.		Dead	
Clippert, Emory C.	Sgt.	36888974	Injured	Hospital
Winkler, Henry J.	Sgt.		Dead	
Guthrie, William L.	Sgt.		Dead	
Bair, Albert	Sgt.		Dead	

REMARKS:

9 November 1944.

2nd Lt. Walter J. Chester

**Mrs. Patty J. Chester (Wife)
16 West 2nd Street
Montgomery, Alabama**

2nd Lt. Frank J. Hager

**Mrs. Barbara S. Hager (Wife)
322 Douglas Boulevard
Ironwood, Michigan**

2nd Lt. Forrest E. Langley

**Mrs. Dora L. Langley (Wife)
Wilsonville, Nebraska**

2nd Lt. Milton Barth

**Mrs. Anna Barth (Mother)
1841 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Sgt. William L. Guthrie

**Mrs. Mavis B. Guthrie (Wife)
539 Clayton Street
Montgomery, Alabama**

Sgt. Emory C. Clippert

**Mr. Dale Clippert (Brother)
1115 East 16 Mile Road, Route One
Royal Oak, Michigan**

Sgt. Henry J. Winkler

**Mrs. Mary Winkler (Mother)
4301-2 North 3rd Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania**

Sgt. Albert M. Bair

**Mrs. Charlotte B. Bair (Wife)
15 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.**

S/Sgt. Ore B. M. Fitch

**Mrs. Annie E. Fitch (Mother)
Route Number ONE
Langford, South Dakota**

S/Sgt. James P. Walsh

**Mrs. Janet Walsh (Mother)
85 Spring Street
Passaic, New Jersey**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **FITCH, ORE B.M.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial Number: **39409502**
Position: **Left Waist**

Did he bail out? **Don't know**

Where? ---

If not, why not? **Plane was in dive after I bailed out**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Let's get out. The ship is on fire. She is going to blow.**

Was he injured? **Don't know**

Where was he when last seen? **In the ship just before we got hit.**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **A buddy of Sgt. Bair found them south of Munich.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **1 - Lyons France; 2 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Bair, Albert M.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial Number: **17089059**
Position: **Nose Turret**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? **Don't know**

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

Was he injured? **No knowledge**

Where was he when last seen? **Just before we got hit.**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found them south of Munich.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WINKLER, HENRY J.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial Number: **33827454**
Position: **Tail Turret**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge**

Was he injured? ---

Where was he when last seen? **Just before hitting the target**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GUTHRIE, William L.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial Number: **34814620**
Position: **Upper Turret**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge**

Was he injured? ---

Where was he when last seen? **Just before we were hit**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARTH, Milton**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial Number: **0-722257**
Position: **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge**

Was he injured? ---

Where was he when last seen? **Just before we got hit**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **LANGLEY, Forrest E.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial Number: **0-717811**
Position: **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **We just hit the IP starting the bomb run**

Was he injured? **No knowledge**

Where was he when last seen? ---

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HAGER, Frank J.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial Number: **0-826949**
Position: **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge**

Was he injured? ---

Where was he when last seen? **Just before we got hit**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 3-4 4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CHESTER, Walter J.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial Number: **0-822378**
Position: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge**

Where? ---

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge**

Was he injured? ---

Where was he when last seen? **Just before we got hit**

Any hearsay information? **He is buried 5 miles south of Munich. Has a white cross marking his grave.**

Source: **Buddy of Sgt. Bair found the graves.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **8 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Don't know what his first 4 missions were. 15 Sept 44 - Lyons France; 26 Sept 44 - Athens, Greece; 7-8 4 Oct 44 - Double mission Munich, Germany**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Clippert, Emory C.** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **36888974**
2. Organization **461 Gp Commander** Rank **Sqn CO** **Word** Rank **Major**
3. What Year **1944** month **Oct** Day **4** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **bombing**, target, **Munich, Germany** target time, **12:10 PM**, altitude **23,500** route scheduled, **able route Italy**, route flown **able route Italy**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **15 miles south of Munich Germany**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes, S/Sgt. James P. Walsh**
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". **S/Sgt. James P. Walsh bailed out just before me, was captured right away, taken to Luft I, released May 1, discharged**
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 questionnaire) **Don't know**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **No Knowledge**
12. What was their condition? **No Knowledge**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **I didn't see any of them until I saw S/Sgt. Walsh in Le Harve, France**
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **James P. Walsh** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **32463661**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander Rank **Major** Sqn CO **H.T. Worth**
Rank **Major**
3. What Year **1944** month **Oct** Day **4th** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Munich**, target, target time, **12 noon**,
altitude **26,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation?
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".
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Do not know**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck
the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual
questionnaire) **Pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, engineer,
martin gunner, nose gunner, tail gunner, sperry ball gunner, radio
operator**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **At designated positions**
12. What was their condition? **Unknown**
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.
**Sgt. Emory C. Clippert and myself bailed out avoiding to Germans
information. The other 8 members of the crew were killed. Later
verified by war department.**