

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**8932**

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 15<sup>th</sup> AF  
Group 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 766<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 350°  
Target Munich, Germany Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Heavy overcast
4. GIVE: [a] Date 4 Oct. 1944 Time 1300 Last known position Zolla, 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 42-51338
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: none
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43A AAF serial Number [a] 31-5719  
[b] 31-5659 [c] 31-5728 [d] 31-5754
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] LN 1235242	[e] LB 986508	[i] LT 986996
[b] RN 986586	[f] RB 986116	[j] RT 986024
[c] LU 986596	[g] LW 986520	
[d] RU 986290	[h] RW 986620	

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	Falkner, Robert D., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-437116	MIA	Mrs. Doris M. Falkner (Wife) 21080 Lorain Ave., Fairview Village, Ohio c/o Rocky River Post Office
[2] Co-pilot	Rail, Walter O., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-1302196	MIA	Mrs. Mary Rail (Mother) Beacon Road, Bathany, Connecticutt
[3] Bomb	Beckman, Verner R., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-776498	MIA	Mrs. Mary Beckman (Mother) 724 Conrad Avenue, North Charleroi, Pennsylvania
[4] Nav	Black, William B., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-2056527	MIA	Mr. Paul S. Black (Father) 121 N. Court Street, Luray, Virginia
[5] TTG	Moritz, Robert E., S/Sgt. 17120895	MIA	Mrs. June Moritz (Mother) 308 Spring Street, Quincy, Illinois
[6] NTG	Webb, Theodore R., Sgt. 15108685	MIA	Mrs. Edith Costac (Mother) 259 Park View, Indianapolis, Indiana
[7] TTG	Bacon, Floyd A., S/Sgt. 17099963	MIA	Mrs. Maude Bacon (Mother) RFD #3, Lincoln, Kansas
[8] BTG	Davis Robert E., Sgt. 34700197	MIA	Mrs. Ellen Davis (Mother) Post Office 423, Atmore, Alabama
[9] LWG	Lehman, Jay W., S/Sgt. 33503258	MIA	Mr. Benjamin K Lehman (Father) 117 South Mt. Street, Elizabeth Town, Pennsylvania
[10] RWG	Montuori, Carl F., S/Sgt. 13082182	MIA	Mrs. Drusilla Montuori (Mother) 1244 Rockville Pike, Rockville,

**Maryland**

[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] <b>William E. Glover</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>34855119</b>		<b>X</b>		

[2]

[3]

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: 7 October 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado  
Capt., AC

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

STATEMENT

4 October 1944

There was a heavy overcast as we were coming back. As we were passing over northern Italy I saw 10 parachutes coming down. I could not see which plane they were from but I believe they were from ship 54 as they came from the position this ship was flying in.

/s/ William E. Glover  
Sgt., 34855119.

ME  
KSU-2684

4 Oct. 1944

At 1430

Liberator

At the Jugoslavian border (PB)

765

Anti aircraft (PB)

461 Gr

Unit Wels

P	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Falkner
CP	“	Rail
N	“	Black
B	“	Beckman
E	S/Sgt.	Lehman
R	“	Montuori
G	Sgt.	Webb
G	“	Davis, Robert Earl

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

PLACE: **Jugoslavia**

DATE: **4 Oct 44**

NAME AND FIRST NAME OF PRISONER:

**Davis, Robert Earl**                      **ASN: 34720197**

YEAR OF BIRTH: **13 Aug 25**      **USA**

RANK: **Sgt.**

PLACE AND DATE OF CAPTURE:

PARTICULARS CONCERNING CAPTURE:

CRASHED                      EMERGENCY LANDING                      SHOT DOWN

TYPE OF CRAFT: **Liberator**

REMARKS:

Place of internment: **Dulag-Luft West**

Reporting office: **Airbase HQ Wels**

**Dulag-Luft, 17 March 45**

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **4 October 1944** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2224**

PLACE OF CRASH **Julischen Alte**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Prisoner of War Progressing Station Verona**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND **Bacon**  
FIRST NAME: **Floyd Arnold**

DATE OF BIRTH: **1 May 1919**

RANK: **S/Sgt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **17099963**

CAPTURED: **Captured** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: **Dulag Luft West** TYPE OF  
INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

**Dulag Luft, 4 November 1944**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Beckman, Verner B. Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-776498
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Ward 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, 1205, altitude, true 8,000 ft route scheduled, direct, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? On 180 degree heading leaving Munich.
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". Tail gunner, ball gunner, radio operator, and left waist gunner bailed out from rear camera hatch and I, personally, saw all chutes pop. Nose gunner and navigator bailed out through nose wheel door. I, personally, saw their chutes pop. Co-pilot and upper turret gunner preceded me through bomb-bay and I, personally, saw their chutes pop. Following bailing out myself the pilot bailed out and I witnessed the opening of his chute. No major injuries were sustained by any of the crew prior to bailing out..
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 15 miles northwest of Gorriza in the Italian Alps.
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? Eight members of our crew were picked up by Italian partisans immediately and brought through their lines to Allied control. Sgt. Robert Davis and Sgt. Floyd Bacon were picked up by enemy forces and held prisoners of war until cessation of hostilities in Europe.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I, hereby certify that the information given above to be true to the best of my ability to recall the facts surrounding our casualty status.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Walter O. Rail Rank 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-1302196
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Ward Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month Oct day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Munich, target, Wels Marshalling yard, target time, 1205, altitude, 24,000 ft route scheduled, Foggia, Italy to Munich, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Munich or immediate vicinity.
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". All members of crew bailed out. Counted nine chutes in air – ten counting mine.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In vicinity of Locla, Italy north of Goritzia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Unreabable.
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? Eight members including myself returned to 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force after xx days MIA. Ball gunner Davis and tail gunner Bacon were taken prisoner. I did not witness capture. The last I saw of them was their chutes.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert D. Falkner**

**Mrs. Doris W. Falkner (Wife)  
Lorain Street  
Rocky River, Ohio**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter C. Rail**

**Mrs. Mary W. Rail (Mother)  
Beacon Road  
Bethany, Connecticut**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William B. Black**

**Mr. Paul S. Black (Father)  
121 North Court Street  
Luray, Virginia**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Verner B. Beckman**

**Mrs. Mary O. Beckman (Mother)  
724 Conrad Avenue  
Charleroi, Pennsylvania**

**S/Sgt. Robert E Moritz**

**Mrs. June B. Moritz (Mother)  
308 Spring Street  
Quincy, Illinois**

**Sgt. Theodore R. Webb**

**Mrs. W. Costas (Mother)  
259 Parkview  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**S/Sgt. Floyd A. Bacon**

**Mrs. Maude M. Bacon (Mother)  
Route Number Three  
Lincoln, Kansas**

**Sgt. Robert E. Davis**

**Mrs. Ellen W. Davis (Mother)  
103 South Trammel Street  
Atmore, Alabama**

**S/Sgt. Jay W. Lehman**

**Mr. Benjamin K. Lehman (Father)  
117 South Mount Joy Street  
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania**

**S/Sgt. Carl F. Montuori**

**Mrs. Drusilla L. Montuori (Mother)  
1244 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland**