

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**8933**

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 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course direct to target  
Target Athens, Greece Type of mission bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 25 Sep 1944 Time 1255 Last known position near Batsi, Greece  
[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. **Probably engine trouble.**
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 4441069
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] BP-439688  
[b] BP-439579 [c] BP-439646 [d] BP-440773
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] **All Browning Cal. 50**
- |                       |                        |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| [a] <u>LU 1537950</u> | [e] <u>LB 1202231</u>  | [i] <u>LW 1261328</u> |
| [b] <u>RU 1253655</u> | [f] <u>RB 1203822</u>  | [j] <u>RW 1261925</u> |
| [c] <u>LN 1538224</u> | [g] <u>LT 15388268</u> |                       |
| [d] <u>RN 1204063</u> | [h] <u>RT 1203649</u>  |                       |
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	Newton, Ralph E., 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. 0-701949	MIA	Mrs. Mary Newton (Mother) 2656 Alden St., Salt Lake City, Utah
[2] Co-pilot	Vaughn, Dwaine J., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-715409	MIA	Mrs. Sadie F. Kennedy (Aunt) 2403 S. 17 <sup>th</sup> St., Omaha, Nebraska
[3] Nav	Grimsted, Edward G. Jr., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-719058	MIA	Mr. Edward G. Grimsted (Father) Box 110, Constantia, New York
[4] Bomb	Erdmann, John A., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-716848	MIA	Mrs. Billie Ruth Erdmann (Wife) 115 W. Washington, Elkhart, Indiana
[5] TTG	Leith, Sidney, T/Sgt. 20613708	MIA	Mrs. Aileen W. Leith (Wife) 5331 Schubert Ave., Chicago, Illinois
[6] LWG	Gessner, Bernard C., T/Sgt. 32037363	MIA	Mrs. Martha Geener (Mother) 105 Fox St., Buffalo, New York
[7] NTG	Crawford, Robert D., S/Sgt. 19151648	MIA	Mrs. Dorothy R. Crawford (Wife) 1270 W. 6 <sup>th</sup> St., Colby, Kansas
[8] BTG	Boushall, Edward P., S/Sgt. 31308715	MIA	Mrs. Catherine R. Boushall (Mother) 2 Lexington St., Charlestown, Mass.
[9] TG	Bushing, Raymond C.M., S/Sgt. 15328410	MIA	Mrs. Ringgold Grace Bushing (Mother) 103 E. Masterson Ave., Ft. Wayne, Indiana
[10] RWG	Lung, Raymond C., Jr., S/Sgt. 35235519	MIA	Mrs. Glenda L. Lung (Wife) Rd #5, Sherman Church Rd., Canton,

[11]	<b>Boykin, Henry W. Jr., Pfc.</b>	<b>MIA</b>	<b>Ohio</b>
<b>Camera</b>	<b>14075464</b>		<b>Mrs. Cordia Boykin (Mother)</b> <b>Rt #1, Ellisville, Mississippi</b>
[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>Howard R. Sossaman</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-723234</b>		<b>X</b>		
[2] <b>Robert U. Roswurm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-705436</b>		<b>X</b>		
[3] <b>Michael J. Ucci</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-2058585</b>		<b>X</b>		
[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]. **Plane under control when last sighted.**

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: 28 September 1944

/s/ Herald D. Bennett  
 Major, Air Corps  
 Adjutant

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

On September 25, 1944, on a scheduled combat mission, Lt. Newton and his crew were flying on our right wing. We were approximately thirty five miles inside Greece, near Batsi, when Lt. Newton's plane pulled out of formation. Number one engine was on fire, but he extinguished it and flew along with the formation for a few minutes. Then he turned around as if he were heading home. The last time I saw him all four engines were running and there was no fire in number one engine. The plane was under control and holding its altitude.

In my opinion, he is safe because there is no possibility of the ship going down in the sea. From the altitude at which he was flying, he could have glided over the narrow strip of water to land.

/s/ Howard R. Sossaman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps

On 25 September 1944, while proceeding on a mission to Greece, Lt. Newton was flying no. 2 position. From all appearances everything was satisfactory until reaching the border of Greece. My waist gunner reported that Lt. Newton's number one engine was on fire. He put down his wheels and dropped out of formation. The waist gunner reported the engine fire was out and he was returning home. From all appearances there was no reason why Lt. Newton and entire crew should not have had time to bail out.

/s/ Robert V. Roswurm  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

Ship #72 aborted shortly after the formation entered Greece. The ship peeled off to the right of the formation and I noted that the No. 1 engine was afire. Shortly after the ship peeled off from the formation, the fire appeared to be out. When last seen, the ship's position was (39° 10' N, 20° 55' E) just north of the Gulf of Amviakia, in Greece. The ship seemed under control and I think that there was ample time for the crew members to bail out in the event it became necessary.

/s/ Michael J. Ucci  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

**CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO**

Prepared by  
MIS-X Section  
CPM Branch

DATE: **21 Nov 1944**

---

NARRATOR:	<b>S/Sgt. Edward Boushall</b>	SQUADRON:	
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	<b>31308715</b>	GROUP:	<b>767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq.</b>
HOME ADDRESS:	<b>2 Lexington St., Charlestown, Mass.</b>	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	<b>B-24 Liberator</b>
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	<b>9/25/44</b>

---

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
<b>Pilot</b>	<b>Lt. Ralph E. Newton</b>	
<b>Co-Pilot</b>	<b>Lt. Dwaine Vaughn</b>	
<b>Navigator</b>	<b>Lt. Edward G. Grimstead</b>	
<b>Bombardier</b>	<b>Lt. John A. Erdmann</b>	
<b>Engineer</b>	<b>T/Sgt. Sidney Leith</b>	
<b>Radio Operator</b>	<b>T/Sgt. Bernard Geener</b>	
<b>Tail Gunner</b>	<b>S/Sgt. Raymond D. Bushing</b>	
<b>Nose Gunner</b>	<b>S/Sgt. Robert D. Crawford</b>	
<b>Waist Gunner</b>	<b>S/Sgt. Raymond C. Lung</b>	
<b>Cameraman</b>	<b>Pfc. Henry Boykin</b>	

---

KNOWN INFORMATION: **Entire crew back in USA.**

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.