

**MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**6853**

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15<sup>th</sup> AF  
 Group 461<sup>st</sup> Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Straight to target  
 Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 22 Jul 1944 Time 1125 Last known position 44° 40'N, 26° 02'E  
 [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 Not known; presumed mechanical failure and flak
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 41-29362
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: \_\_\_\_\_
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65 AAF serial Number [a] BP-42-7960  
 [b] CP-313026 [c] CP-313253 [d] FASC-P-30
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50  
 [a] 973450 [e] 973830 [i] 973632  
 [b] 973773 [f] 634244 [j] 974317  
 [c] 973521 [g] 973491  
 [d] 631626 [h] 974374

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	<b>Bloxom, Clarence W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> 0668303		<b>Helen Bloxom, Wife</b> 943 Avant Ave., San Antonio, Texas
[2] CP	<b>Paradise, William 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b> 0755748		<b>Edna M. Paradise, Wife</b> 76 Sweetbrook Rd., Eltingville, S.I., N.Y.
[3] Nav	<b>Armstrong, Jr., Carter M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> 0722254		<b>Mary B. Armstrong, Mother</b> 6313 St. Marie St., Pittsburgh, Penn.
[4] Bomb	<b>Braun, William R. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> 0716707		<b>Emma B. Braun, Mother</b> 3122 Devonshire Rd., Cleveland, Ohio
[5] Photo	<b>Morrell, Douglas W. Sgt.</b> 19048981		<b>Etola B. Morrell, Wife</b> 2422 Avenue "A", Scottsbluff, Nebraska
[6] RWG	<b>Schirner, William T. Sgt.</b> 15318769		<b>William R. Schirner, Father</b> 99 Latta Ave., Columbus, Ohio
[7] BTG	<b>Bryant, Richard R., Cpl.</b> 35914501		<b>Vera M. Bryant, Wife</b> 1175 Parkman Rd., Warren Ohio
[8] LWG	<b>Jordan, James M. S/Sgt.</b> 15338967		<b>Ruth B. Jordan, Mother</b> RFD #1, Rushsylvania, Ohio
[9] TTG	<b>Maness, Max Cpl.</b> 14076072		<b>Will S. Maness, Father</b> Biscoe, North Carolina
[10] TTG	<b>Valla, John E. S/Sgt.</b> 32456805		<b>Frank Valla, Father</b> 328 Jackson Ave., Hackensack, N.J.
[11] NTG	<b>Paul Albert I. Cpl.</b> 33871548		<b>Earl H. Paul, Father</b> Tower City, Penn.
[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>Bernard C. Cooney</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-812042</b>		<b>X</b>		
[2] <b>William G. Garrett</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0821256</b>		<b>X</b>		
[3]						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**

Parachutes were used,  Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,

Other reasons [specify] **Plane was presumably 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: **No search made by this organization.**

Date: 26 July 1944

WILLIAM L. HALLAUER

1<sup>st</sup> Lt., AC, Adj.

764TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

Before the IP, Bloxom, in plane #7 seemed to be having trouble holding his number four position in B flight. He fell behind on the bomb run, dropped his bombs, and our tail gunner reported that he disappeared in the haze.

While we were over the target, I saw a B-24 turning off to the right about one thousand feet below us. He had an engine feathered. I could not see what number the plane was.

/s/ BERNARD C. COONEY  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., AC , 0-812042.

764TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

On July 22, I was flying number six position on the left wing of the plane Lt. Bloxom was piloting. At about 15,000 feet it seemed as though the number 4 man was having trouble holding position. Somewhere between the IP and the target, I noticed that Lt. Bloxom continued to drop back out of sight and veered off to the right in a slow turn. That was the last I saw of the ship.

/s/ WILLIAM G. GARRETT,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt., AC , 0-821256.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ARMSTRONG, Jr., Carter M.  
Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Serial number: 0-722254  
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Between Ploesti and Alexandria, Rumania.

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information: The top turret gunner saw his body. No knowledge of location. It must have been near Alexandria. Apparently he had slipped out of his parachute harness.

Source: Sgt. Maness.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2.

Dates and destinations if possible: July 21, 1944, Brux, Czechoslovakia; July 22, 1944, Ploesti, Rumania.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **William Richard Braun** Rank **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.** Serial No. **0-716707**
2. Organization **764<sup>th</sup> Gp** Commander Rank Sqn CO Rank
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **22** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, , target, **Ploesti**, target  
time, **1100**, altitude, **23,500 ft** route scheduled, **-----**  
**-----**, route flown **-----**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Starting the bomb run.**
6. Did you bail out? **No.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes, co-pilot, navigator, tail gunner, radioman, top turret gunner, cameraman.**
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". **No knowledge.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **3 miles west of Alexandria, Rumania.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Engineer, pilot, nose gunner, ball gunner, bombardier.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **On the flight deck.**
12. What was their condition? **Uninjured.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **After we left the flak area. No one was injured.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ARMSTRONG, Jr. Carter M.  
Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Serial number: 0-722254  
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Approximately 25 miles southeast of Buchrest, Rumania..

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None. He was erratically told to bail out by the co-pilot.

Was he injured? He was killed.

Where was he when last seen? His body was found by Lt. Wm Paradise and Sgt. Max Maness. Exact location unknown.

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Because two crewmembers stated they saw his chute completely buckled before leaving the ship, and there was no chute found on his body. I believe he had a faulty harness and was jerked out of it when chute opened.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Two

Dates and destinations if possible: July 21, 1944 – Brux (Syn Rub Plant); July 22, 1944 – Ploesti, Rumania (Amer Romana Ref).

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Bloxom, Clarence W.** Rank **Capt. Res.** Serial No. **0-668303**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO Rank
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **22** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Ploesti**, target, **Amer. Romana Ref**, target time, **1136**, altitude, **22,500 ft** route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? **2 minutes past IP.**
6. Did you bail out? **No.**
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". **Lt. Wm Paradise, CP, bombardier, T/Sgt. W.T. Schirner, RO B.B.; S/Sgt. Max Maness, WE B.B.; S/Sgt. J.E. Valla. All above named crewmembers landed safely..**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Approximately 3 miles east of Alexandria, Rumania.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Lt. W.R. Braun, B.; T/Sgt. J.M. Jordan, E; S/Sgt. A.I. Paul, NG; S/Sgt. R.R. Bryant, BTG.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **On the flight deck.**
12. What was their condition? **All safe – no injuries.**
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. **None.**



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ARMSTRONG, Jr. Carter M.  
Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.  
Serial number: 0-722254  
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Approximately 50 miles SE of Bucharest, Rumania.

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? Killed in jump.

Where was he when last seen? Was to be buried by Red Cross officials in small town. I don't remember its name but Lt. Bloxom, pilot, had record of the site which he was to send to the boy's parents.

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Believe he forgot to buckle his leg straps before jumping and when chute opened he was pulled out of the harness as when found he had no harness on and jaw was broken evidencing a blow by chest strap of harness.

Total number of missions of above crew member:.

Dates and destinations if possible: Believe it was second mission for Armstrong. Entire crew was new except for myself who was along to help break them in.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **William Paradise** Rank **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.** Serial No. **0-755748**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Goree** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **22** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bombing**, target, **Ploesti**, target time, **----**, altitude, **21,000 ft** route scheduled, **forgotten**, route flown **as scheduled**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **On bomb run. Just SDF target.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **All but pilot, bomb & eng.**
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". **I don't know all names of crew as it was a new one and I was just along to help break them in. I ordered all to bail out and believed that was followed. But learned later that the bomb and engineer remained with Lt. Bloxom, the other pilot, and he crash landed the ship..**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Unknown to me.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **As above.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **Unknown to me.**
12. What was their condition? **OK.**
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.;

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William Paradise**

**Mrs. Edna M. Paradise, (Wife)  
76 Sweetbrook Road  
Eltingville, Staten Island, New York**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Clarence W. Bloxom**

**Mrs. Helen Nelson, (Wife)  
943 Avant Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Carter M. Armstrong, Jr.**

**Mrs. Mary B. Armstrong, (Mother)  
6313 Saint Marie Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William R. Braun**

**Mrs. Emma B. Braun, (Mother)  
3122 Devonshire Road  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**S/Sgt. James M. Jordan**

**Mr. And Mrs. Arthur Jordan, (Parents)  
Rural Delivery Number One  
Rushsylvania, Ohio**

**S/Sgt. John E. Valla**

**Mr. Frank Valla, (Father)  
328 Jackson Avenue  
Hackensack, New Jersey**

**Sgt. Douglas W. Morrell**

**Mrs. Etola F. Morrell, (Wife)  
2971½ A. Street  
San Diego, California**

**Sgt. William T. Schirner**

**Mr. William R. Schirner, (Father)  
99 Latta Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio**

**Cpl. Richard R. Bryant**

**Mrs. Vera M. Bryant, (Wife)  
1173 Parkman Road  
Warren, Ohio**

**Cpl. Max Maness**

**Mrs. Will S. Maness, (Father)  
Biscoe, North Carolina**

**Cpl. Albert I. Paul**

**Mr. Earl H. Paul, (Father)  
Route Number One  
Tower City, Pennsylvania**