

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

13983

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 765th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta Field, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Bronsolo Marshalling Yard, Italy Type of mission

Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 11 April 1945 Time 1218 Last known position Bronsolo, 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 M AAF Serial Number 44-50743

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP-323262
[b] CP-323306 [c] CP-323262 [d] CP-323303

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]

[a] <u>1731845</u>	[e] <u>1731413</u>	[i] <u>1730628</u>
[b] <u>1730804</u>	[f] <u>1731485</u>	[j] <u>1730779</u>
[c] <u>1731101</u>	[g] <u>1731751</u>	
[d] <u>1731574</u>	[h] <u>1731472</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	Caran, Robert (NMI), 2nd Lt. 0-515479	MIA	Mr. John Caran (Father) 4650 E. 86th St., Cleveland, Ohio
[2] Co-pilot	Rhodes, Donald J., 1st Lt. 0-825981	MIA	Mr. Delmar R. Rhodes (Father) 1941 Princeton, Berkeley, Michigan
[3] Nav	May, Billy (NMI), 2nd Lt. 0-2074726	MIA	Mrs. Turista Valine (Richardson) May (Wife) Montezuma, Georgia
[4] Obser	Hearn, Robert E., 1st Lt. 0-863425	MIA	Mrs. Mary Hearn (Mother) P.O. Box 103, Mullington, Tenn.
[5] TTG	Comer, Martin F., Sgt. 14170850	MIA	Mrs. Doris Jewel Comer (Wife) 3013 Prince Street, Birmingham, Ala.
[6] RWG	Cashman, Alfred J., Sgt. 36242879	MIA	Mrs. Mary Cashman (Wife) 2028 Canter St., Racine, Wis.
[7] TG	Schaules, Francis A., Sgt. 36870694	MIA	Mrs. Florance Shelmann (Mother) 2041 Magnolia St., Detroit, Mich.
[8] LWG	Lewis, Albert M., Sgt. 37627138	MIA	Mrs. Marie Loretta Lewis (Wife) 8865 Robb Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
[9] NTG	Robinson, C.L., Sgt. 36467025	MIA	Mrs. Frances Robinson (Wife) 1727 S. 1st St., Louisville, Ky.
[10] BTG	Feyereisen, James B., Sgt. 17080017	MIA	Mr. William B. Feyereisen (Father) 304 Walnut St., Marshall, Minn.
[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] Orville W. Pickering	2 nd Lt.	0-926649		X		
[2] Harold A. Mylton	Sgt.	38588354		X		
[3]						

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] **Impossible to determine.**

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.**

15 April 1945

/s/ Alfred B. Taylor, Jr.
Capt., AC Adj.

HEADQUARTERS
765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
APO 520

15 April 1945

STATEMENT

On the 11th of April 1945 at approximately 1218 hours a few seconds before bombs away on a marshalling yard north of Ora on the Brenner Pass Route, waist gunner Sgt. Showalter, flying in our craft called on the interphone, "Ship No. 28 has been hit" and as I looked the ship was burning and was peeling from the formation. Within one or two seconds it turned over on its back and started falling. In the meantime I saw bombs (afire from gasoline on them) falling from same aircraft. My last sight of the plane was as it passed underneath our ship and out of my vision

/s/ Orville W. Pickering
2nd Lt., AC 0-326649
765th Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

On the 11th of April 1945 I was flying the ball turret position and as we neared the target I heard an explosion and glancing to my right I saw ship in which Lt. Caran was flying in flames. The flames were coming out of the bomb bay and covered nearly all the outer surface of the ship. It appeared that the ship turned over on its back and then started disintegrating as it fell. As I watched it fall I could see parts of the plane come off. I did not see any parachutes.

/s/ Harold A. Mylton
38588954, Sgt.
765th Bomb Sq (H)

3 October 1945

SUBJECT: Details of Mission

TO: 1st Lt. Donald J. Rhodes, 0825981
1941 Princeton, Berkeley, Michigan

1. This headquarters desires detailed information of what occurred regarding your aircraft on 11 April 1945.
2. Request all information pertaining to the present status of all other crew members be forwarded this headquarters without delay. This is second request for above information.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

N. W. Reed
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1

1 Sept 1945

Subject: Details of Mission

To: N. W. Reed, Major Air Corps
Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Asst Chief of Air Staff

1. The following information is to the best of my knowledge. In reading this report please try to realize that it happened in a matter of seconds.
2. On 11 April 45 we were scheduled to fly on a mission over Bronsolo, Italy. Flight altitude was 25,000 feet. We had just turned on our bomb run and the bomb bay doors were open. After about one minute on run we received a direct hit in our right wing and the plane began to burn rapidly. On receiving the hit the plane went into a spin, as I imagine the wing had burned off. After being hit, I told the crew to jump and warned them according to previous training.

The last thing I remember was reaching for the auto pilot and seeing the flames on the flight deck. The co-pilot was trying to open his window. The plane either blew up or tore itself to pieces for I regained consciousness in the air and pulled my chute. All that I remember seeing was one parachute (co-pilots) whom I met in prison camp, one inflated life raft and parts of the rudder.

3. I received severe lacerations on head and body bruises.

/s/ Robert Caran
2nd Lt., Air Corps

WAR DEPARTMENT

Lt. Robert Caran

4050 E. 86 St. Cleveland, Ohio

N. W. Reed

Major, Air Corps

Chief, Notification Branch

Personal Affairs Division

Asst Chief of Air Staff

Headquarters, Army Air Forces

Washington, DC

13 October 1945

Subject: Details of Mission

To: N. W. Reed, Major Air Corps
Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division AC/AS-1

1. Details of the crash of the B-24, on which I was flying co-pilot 11 April 1945 are not clearly known by me.

We were flying in a formation to bomb a marshalling yard a few miles south of Bronsolo, North Italy. Just before bombs away we were hit by flak in the bomb bay and went into a spin to the right.

A few seconds later the plane blew up and the pilot and I were blown free. We had back chutes on.

I saw only one chute on the way down besides my own and later found it had been the pilot – the only person I met from the crew in prison.

When I reached the ground I tried to get away but was slightly wounded and was not able to go fast enough. I hit the ground at 1315 and was captured at 1415 hours.

On the way to a prison camp in Bronsolo my captors stopped the car and took me to see the forward part of the plane and the remains of four bodies, all so badly burned that they were not recognizable. My captors also told me of four more bodies in the rear part of the plane in another field, however I did not see that.

I cannot swear it was even our plane because all marking were destroyed. I only know what my captors told me and the fact that only two of us out of the ten were captured alive.

/s/ Donald J. Rhodes
1st Lt., Air Corps
1941 Princeton
Berkeley, Mich.

Donald J. Rhodes 1st Lt.
1241 Princeton
Berkeley, Mich.

Major N. W. Reed
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division
Headquarters Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D.C.

11 March 1946

Sir:

Lt. Frank Dick was not lost when he bailed out with our crew.

We bailed out over Yugoslavia 4 Oct. 1944 and returned to Italy Oct. 14. All the crew was saved unharmed on that mission.

It was 4 to 6 weeks later that Lt. Dick was shot down and did not return. I have heard he was lost in Yugoslavia. The rumor about the squadron was that he had been killed by a German supplied band in conflict with the Partisans but as far as I know it was never substantiated.

I'm very sorry I cannot give you more information, but I know nothing of his last disappearance.

/s/ Donald J. Rhodes
1st Lt., A.C. 0-825981

P.S. Lt. Dick was not a regular member of our crew – he only flew with us that once we bailed out and returned.

/s/ D.J.R.

11 March 1946

Sir:

With the exception of Lt. Caran (the pilot) and Lt. Hearn (the observer) I knew none of the crew.

Lt. Caran escaped and from what the Italians told me all others were killed.

I saw four bodies in the front half of the wreckage and was told of four others in another field. I did not see any dog tags and the bodies had not been removed when I saw them so a search for dog tags was not possible.

I believe all of the crew except the pilot and myself were killed.

The information on the questionnaire for Sgt. James Feyereisen is applicable to the other enlisted men and Lt. May. I did not see Lt. Hearn as explained, but he did not escape.

While in prison camp we asked our guards if they knew of any other survivors, but they hadn't.

That's the best I can do for you.

/s/ Donald J. Rhodes
1st Lt., A.C 0-825981

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **FEYEREISEN, James B.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **17080017**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I checked with him on whether or not he was in the ball; he was.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **nine or ten.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **3-15-45, Austria; 3-16-45, Austria; 3-20-45, Austria; 3-24-45, Hungary; 3-26-45, Austria; 4-2-45, Austria; 4-8-45, Italy; 4-11-45, Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **ROBINSON, C. L.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36467025**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called me saying lead ship was beginning to throw chaff.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **nine.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **3-15-45, Austria; 3-16-45, Austria; 3-20-45, Austria; 3-24-45, Hungary; 3-26-45, Austria; 4-2-45, Austria; 4-8-45, Italy; 4-11-45, Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **LEWIS, Albert H.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **37627138**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **8 - 9.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SCHAULES, Francis A..**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36870694**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Called in a few near bursts of flak – I cautioned him to check his turret doors for quick exit.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **8 - 9.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **3-15-45, Austria; 3-16-45, Austria; 3-20-45, Austria; 3-24-45, Hungary; 3-26-45, Austria; 4-2-45, Austria; 4-8-45, Italy; 4-11-45, Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CASHMAN, Alfred J.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36242879**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **R. Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **10 - 11.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **COMER, Martin F.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **14170850**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Top Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Told him to get into turret, last saw him standing at open bomb bay.**

Was he injured? **He was burning.**

Where was he when last seen? **At open bomb bay – imagine he was trying to bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He may or may not have jumped – I told crew to jump, he must have left turret and tried to leave plane through bomb bay, though it was on fire, last I remember was the plane was going straight down and spinning. Rt wing was blown off. I learned this from co-pilot in prison.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 - 10.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **3-15-45, Austria; 3-16-45, Austria; 3-20-45, Austria; 3-24-45, Hungary; 3-26-45, Austria; 4-2-45, Austria; 4-8-45, Italy; 4-11-45, Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HEARN, Robert N.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **0-863425**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Observer**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He informed me on bomb run that there were about 3-4 sec. prior to bombs away.**

Was he injured? **I don't think so.**

Where was he when last seen? **I turned around after we were hit and saw him opening escape turret and preparing to jump.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He should have jumped though centrifugal force of plane spinning may have prevented this.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **No knowledge.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MAY, Billy**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-2074726**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where? **No knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He told me when we were approaching target, also designated target.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 - 10.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **3-15-45, Austria; 3-16-45, Austria; 3-20-45, Austria; 3-24-45, Hungary; 3-26-45, Austria; 4-2-45, Austria; 4-8-45, Italy; 4-11-45, Italy.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert Caran Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-575479
2. Organization 15th AF Gp Commander Rogers Rank Col Sqn CO Thackston, James E.
Rank Major.
3. What year 1945 month April day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bronsolo, Italy, target, Bronsolo Marshalling Yard, target time, 1210, altitude, 25,500 ft route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? On bomb run.
6. Did you bail out? No.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Unknown.
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". Rhodes, James 1st Lt. afterplane was hit I saw Rhodes standing on windshield trying to open his window – later met him in German prison in Bolzano, Italy.
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 questionnaires) No knowledge.
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? No knowledge.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge.

It is difficult for me to give any worthwhile information as it all happened so quickly that it is a wonder that any of us are alive.

The ship was hit in the right wing and it rolled over and must have exploded. Information I have received from other crews confirm this. Some say seven chutes appeared, some say none.

I only remember the facts I have stated. After this I remember coming to in mid-air, so I pulled my chute. I also saw parts of the rudders and the life raft and part of what may have been a wing come floating down. I sudded a brain concussion and

numerous bruises. I saw no chutes or met any of the crew until I was captured two days later and taken to Bolzano where I met my co-pilot.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **FEYEREISEN, James B.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **17080017**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Plane exploded at 26,000 ft. – pilot and myself only ones out.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **My first time with crew – did not know anyone except pilot and observer.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen? **On ground before flight.**

Any hearsay information: **According to Germans and Italians all of crew were killed except pilot (Robert Caran) and myself. I saw 4 bodies but they were burned beyond recognition – was told of 4 other bodies in another field in rear section of plane – did not see them.**

Source: **Italian and German captors.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Suppose was killed by one of the two direct flak hits or unable to leave burning plane. One wing was blown off and plane broke in half. Pilot and myself had back chutes – were blown out – others had no time to put chest chutes on.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 10.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Shot down 11 April 1945 – target – Bronsolo – 20 miles south of Bolzano, Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **ROBINSON, C.L.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36467025**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **LEWIS, Albert H.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **37627138**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **L. Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SCHAULES, Francis A.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36870694**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CASHMAN, Alfred J.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **36242879**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **R. Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **COMER, Martin F.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **14170850**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Top Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HEARN, Robert E.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **0-863425**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Observer**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unable to get out.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before explosion saw Hearn try to get through top hatch – compartment all flames – then ship blew up.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

Any hearsay information?;

Source?;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition?;

Total number of missions of above crew member?;

Dates and destinations if possible?;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MAY, Billy**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-2074726**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out?_

Where?_

If not, why not?_

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:_

Dates and destinations if possible:_

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Rhodes, Donald J.** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-825981**
2. Organization **461 Gp Commander Rank Col Sqn CO Robert Baker Rank Major.**
3. What year **1945** month **April** day **11** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **North Italy**, target, **Brenner Pass Bronsolo**, target time, **1315**, altitude, **26,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Just before bombs away.**
6. Did you bail out? **Was blown out – used chute.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Only the pilot.**
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 of crew except pilot and myself went down with plane and were killed.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **20 miles south of Bolzano.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **All except pilot and myself.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **4 in forward section – 4 in rear section (some distance away).**
12. What was their condition? **All dead – burned badly.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **I saw Lt. Caran (pilot) at Mooseburg prison camp after the Americans took over. He had a slight concussion and was admitted to the hospital.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

1st Lt. Robert E. Hearn

**Mrs. Mary H. Hearn (Mother)
Post Office Box 103
Millington, Tennessee**

1st Lt. Donald J. Rhodes

**Mr. Delmar R. Rhodes (Father)
1941 Princeton Street
Berkley, Michigan**

2nd Lt. Robert Caran

**Mr. John Caran (Father)
4650 East 86th Street
Cleveland, Ohio**

2nd Lt. Billy May

**Mrs. Tunista V. May (Wife)
2237 West Alabama Street
Houston, Texas**

Sgt. Martin F. Comer

**Mrs. Doris J. Comer (Wife)
3013 Prince Street
Birmingham, Alabama**

Sgt. Alfred J. Cashman

**Mrs. Mary Cashman (Wife)
2028 Center Street
Racine, Wisconsin**

Sgt. Francis A. Schaules

**Mrs. Florence Selbmann (Mother)
2041 Magnolia Street
Detroit, Michigan**

Sgt. Albert H. Lewis

**Mrs. Marie L. Lewis (Wife)
8865 Bobb Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri**

Sgt. C. L. Robinson

**Mrs. Frances Robinson (Wife)
1727 South First Street
Louisville, Kentucky**

Sgt. James B. Feyereisen

**Mr. William N. Feyereisen (Father)
304 Walnut Street
Marshall, Minnesota**