

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**4657**

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 764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course straight to target  
Target Weiner Neustadt, Austria Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU with haze
4. GIVE: [a] Date 10 May 44 Time 1130 Last known position 47°40'N, 16°50'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.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24G AAF Serial Number 42-78212
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: \_\_\_\_\_
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R 1830-43A AAF serial Number [a] BP 428625  
[b] BP 426188 [c] BP 428796 [d] BP 426239
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50  
[a] 978941 [e] 979015 [i] 391458  
[b] 978891 [f] 978714 [j] 362437  
[c] 362309 [g] 978836  
[d] 362327 [h] 979098
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	Wallace, William Creighton, 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. 0-444768		
[2] CP	Towne, Henry Snow, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-814593		
[3] Nav	Miles, Virgil Shirley, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-800743		
[4] Bomb	Ryder, William Ernest, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-752943		
[5] RWG	Cussen, Edward Eugene, S/Sgt. 39085129		
[6] TTG	Catalano, Anthony, T/Sgt. 12191903		
[7] BTG	Chabin, Harry, S/Sgt. 13046578		
[8] LWG	Hogan, Robert Eugene, S/Sgt. 15105886		
[9] TTG	Baca, Joe Ramon, S/Sgt. 18220765		
[10] NTG	Allen, Alfred Haden, T/Sgt. 38305398		
[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] Burnette, Floyd W.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	0-693747		X		
[2] Pfister, Karl A.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	0-692068		X		
[3] Yuhasz, Louis J.	S/Sgt.	15071910		X		
[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] **No accurate conclusions may be drawn.**

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.**

Date: 14 May 44

/s/ William L. Hallander  
 Capt, Air Corps  
 Adjutant

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

STATEMENT

On 10 May 1944, I, Floyd W. Burnette, was flying on a combat mission over enemy territory, flying in number 4 position of "Baker" flight, second attack unit, the said flight being led by Lt. William C. Wallace. Nearing our target, namely, an airfield on the outskirts of Weiner Neustadt, we were suddenly attacked by six (6) ME-109's (presumably ME-109G's). The attack came from above at 2 o'clock position and the attackers drove through between the two attack units, immediately across the path of the above mentioned flight. The initial attack was made by four fighters in rather close formation, flying somewhat abreast or in a slight "V". Closely followed by two other fighters abreast, the attacking fighters were firing from multiple guns in their wings from the time that they came within range of our formation until they had passed from my vision below our formation. At precisely the same instant that the attackers passed us, Lt. Wallace's ship seemed to shudder and roll slightly as if out of control momentarily. The ship then drifted to the right about 50 to 75 yards away from our formation and the bomb bay doors came open, followed immediately by the nose wheel doors opening. I saw one person drop out the bomb bay and a second later, another dropped through the nose wheel doors. Approximately three (3) seconds elapsed before their respective parachutes opened in full, and at this instant another person appeared from same section of the ship, about which time this said third person and the ship itself disappeared from my view, being below and to the rear of us. Until the passing of the ship from my view, there was no evidence of fire in any portion of the ship, and there likewise was no apparent loss of power. Until the passing of the ship from my vision, it appeared to be under control completely.

/s/ Floyd W. Burnette  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt, Air Corps  
0-693744

STATEMENT

While flying in the 2<sup>nd</sup> section of "C" flight in #4 position on 10 May 1944 in the bombing raid on Weiner Neustadt, Austria, I was navigating from the flight deck and at times stood between the pilot and co-pilot. I was in such a position when attention was attracted to the right. I saw a silver ship, which was later identified as Lt. Wallace's, in the front of "B" flight under attack by enemy fighters. Two dark objects appeared under the plane in free fall and then their chutes opened. Shortly after, 4 or 5 more objects came out of the plane and chutes opened almost immediately.

At the time the last 4 or 5 chutes opened, a Nazi plane was coming in on said ship from 3 o'clock at the waist of the ship with guns firing.

At the time the men were jumping out, the plane was in level flight and apparently under control.

/s/ Karl A. Pfister  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt, Air Corps  
0-692068

STATEMENT

On May 10, 1944 while on a bombing mission to Austria, I witnessed the B-24 piloted by Lt. Wallace being shot down by enemy fighters. The plane I was flying in as right waist gunner was flying number four position which was directly behind Lt. Wallace's ship. As we approached the I.P., we were attacked by six ME-109's which came head on to our formation. After the first attack, Lt. Wallace's ship fell out of formation and started to the right of our plane. One of his crew bailed out immediately after the first attack and after the plane went out to the right of the formation. I saw six other men bail out, four from the waist and two from the bomb bay. During this time the plane seemed to be under control. After the six men bailed out, one of the enemy fighters made a pass at them, but from my view I could not tell if they were strafed or not. When I last saw the plane it was definitely out of control.

/s/ Louis J. Yuhasz  
15071910, S/Sgt.  
764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

As nose gunner on ship 458 in "B" flight of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Wallace was our Flight Commander and his plane was attacked by about six ME-109's two minutes from the I.P. The enemy planes dove out of a cloud attacking him from two o'clock high. After the enemy had made their first pass, I saw one man bail out of the nose section of Lt. Wallace's ship, his chute opened just between his own ship and ours, barely missing us and passing through out stablizers. Lt. Wallace's plane was in #1 position and our ship was flying #4. After the first man bailed out, Lt. Wallace's plane peeled off to the right and ahead a little, seemingly still under some control. Another man was seen to bail out of the ship from the waist section. He delayed opening his chute for some time, from reports from the waist of our ship. That was the last time I saw anything of Lt. Wallace, his ship or his crew.

/s/ Mathew J. Steir  
32369275, S/Sgt.  
764<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WALLACE, William Creighton.**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-444768**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No – Germans told US – Lt. Wallace & Lt. Towne were in crashed plane.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Reason unknown**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Pilot told crew to bail out**

Was he injured? **Unknown**

Where was he when last seen? **In pilot seat**

Any hearsay information: **Before the engineer bailed out he saw the pilot handling the controls – after we were hit pilot called over interphone and told us to bail out.**

Source: **Engineer**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **When we reached the ground we met a pilot & engineer from another plane and they told us they saw our pilot's dog tag and our co-pilot's AGO card partly burned.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13 missions (9 sorties).**

Dates and destinations if possible: **1. Ferrara, Italy; 2. Budapest; 3. Toulon; 4. Ploeti; 5. Wiener Neustadt (others unknown & dates not remembered).**

		<b>U.S.A.</b>		<b>ME-925</b>
<b>DATE: 5/10/44 1145</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>ASN</b>	
<b>PLACE: near Apetlon</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>Wallace, William C.</b>	<b>0-444768</b>	<b>Dead</b>
<b>County Brack/Leitha</b>		<b>Identification card</b>		
<b>TYPE: Liberator</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>Towne, Henry S.</b>	<b>0-814593</b>	<b>Dead</b>
<b>766 Sqd</b>		<b>Identity card</b>		
<b>461 Group; 49 Wing</b>		<b>(completely burned)</b>		
<b>BASE: Torretta</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>Miles, Virgil S.</b>	<b>0-800743</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
<b>TARGET: Hq. Airbase</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>Ryder, William Ernest</b>	<b>0-752943</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>A (o) 3/XVII, Paradorf</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>Allen, Alfred</b>	<b>38305398</b>	<b>* missing</b>
	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>Catalano, Anthony</b>	<b>12191903</b>	<b>*</b>
	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>Cussen, Edward Eugene</b>	<b>39085129</b>	<b>*Hospital</b>
	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Baca, Joe Ramon</b>	<b>18220765</b>	<b>*</b>
	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Hogan, Robert Eugene</b>	<b>15105866</b>	<b>*</b>
	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Chabin, Harry</b>	<b>13046578</b>	<b>* missing</b>
	<b>(1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Wallace) 5/12/44 Cemetery Apetlon</b>			

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **10 May 1944 - 1130, CASUALTY NO. ME-1141**

PLACE OF CRASH **?????**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **?????**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
<b>Ryder, William Ernest 4 July 1922 Cal.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-752943</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Baca, Joe Ramon 18 February 1923 New Mexico</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>18220765</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Catalano, Anthony 18 May 1924</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>12191903</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Hogan, Robert Eugene 28 June 1924</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>15105886</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Wallace, William C.</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-444768</b>	<b>Dead</b>	
<b>Towne, Henry S.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-814593</b>	<b>Dead</b>	
<b>Miles, Virgil S.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-800743</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Cussen, Edward Eugene</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>39085129</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Chabin, Harry 2 February 1920 Pa.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>13046578</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Allen, Alfred H. 10 October 1922 Texas</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>38305398</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>

REMARKS:

**Dulag Luft: 4 June 1944. Wo.**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-1141

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN: **5/10/44 - 1245**

PLACE OF CRASH: **?????**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Headquarters ????**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND **Towne**  
FIRST NAME: **Henry S.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-814593 according to identification**

CAPTURED:            WOUNDED:            DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:            WHICH CAMP:            TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

**The rest was burned in the plane; no parts of the body found.**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-1141

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN: **5/10/44 - 1245**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Apetlon ?????**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Headquarters ????**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: **Miles Virgil S.** **Cussen Edward E.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.** **S/Sgt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-800743** **39085129**

CAPTURED: **Panhagen about 1300 hrs.** WOUNDED: **found wounded** DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

**Air Force Personnel Hospital Vienna**

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

Air Force Hospital A/XVII

Vienna 5/11/44 V./G.

AZ: 49s --/44

Case: D(Luft) 2706. S,6, 83

Ref to: Report on 2 American, shot down, prisoners of war

To: Prisoners of War ?????? of the Air Forces  
Oberural-Frankfort/????

The Air Force Hospital A/XVII reports on the 2 captured American shot down prisoners of war thought ?????? is this ?????? The prisoners gave the following information.

Lt-regular army 0-800743 T-43-44-A Virgil Miles born 1/23/1923 in Los Angeles (Calif)  
Type of injury – shot through the right leg.

S/Sgt-electrician-39085129 T42-43-A Edward Cussen born 12/21/1918 in Iowa – Type of injury – shot through the right upper arm.

The above patients flew a B-24 (flew a 4 motor).

The Air Force Hospital A/XVII had in writing on 4/13/44 reported that on 4/12/44 the shot down American prisoners of war. According to D(Luft) 2706 S. 6 #9 the situation should be???? Originally by Dulag, but up to today ?? organization has been ????, ?? ??? ??????? that this hospital ????? the examination.

Duration of sickness from 3 to 6 weeks.

More accurate information on the condition of the patients when convalescent is requested.

Colonel and Staff Doctor

Notice:

Air Force Administrative Command Medical Officer XVII

Air Force Command XVII

Air Station Area 1/XVII

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1141

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN: **5/10/44 1430 hrs**

PLACE OF CRASH: **near ?????? ????????**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command Headquarters A(0)4/XVII –  
Agram –  
?????? ?????? 10/13/44**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND **Miles**  
FIRST NAME: **Virgil**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-800743 T-43**

CAPTURED: **Wiener Neustadt about 1500 hrs.** WOUNDED: **wounded** DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

**Air Base Personnel Hospital A/XVII Vienna XIX Peter-Jordan St 62**

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

**Distributor  
Dulag Oberureal  
(Frankfort/Main)**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1141

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN: **5/10/44 1145 hrs**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Apttlon (Apetlon) District Brock/L.N.D.**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **B-24 Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command Headquarters**  
**?????? ?????? 1600 hrs**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME:	<b>Catalano Anthony</b>	<b>Ryder William E.</b>	<b>Hogan Robert E.</b>	<b>Baca Joe K.</b>
DATE OF BIRTH:				
RANK:	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Sgt</b>
SERIAL NUMBER:	<b>12191903</b>	<b>0-752943</b>	<b>15105986</b>	<b>18220765</b>

CAPTURED: **Pamhagen about 1300 hrs** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TOWNE, Henry Snow**

Rank: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-814593**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Reason – we believe he was hit – but not certain.**

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

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **In co-pilot seat.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Because most of the nose was hit we believe that Lt. Towne was wounded and not able to get out of the plane – we are not sure of it though.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown – he did not fly all missions with us.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CUSSEN, Edward Eugene**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39085129**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right waist gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **About 5 minutes before target (town unknown).**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **Yes – hit in the shoulder.**

Where was he when last seen? **Taken to a hospital by the Germans.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was taken to a hospital while the rest of us were sent to a camp. I have received a letter from one of the crew and I was told Cussen was in a hospital in the States. I also received a card from Cussen from Fresno, Calif.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13 missions (9 sorties).**

Dates and destinations if possible: **1. Ferrara 2. Budapest 3. Toulon 4. Ploesti 5. Wiener Neustadt (date & other missions unknown).**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Anthony Catalano Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 12191903
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Goree Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month May day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, , target, Wiener Neustadt, Austria, target time, 1200, altitude, 21,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Leading B flight 1<sup>st</sup> section.
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". Pilot told crew to bail out after we were hit – about 5 min before target – tail gunner, left waist gunner & myself went out rear hatch – ball gunner went out left waist window – bombardier & engineer went out bomb bay – navigator & nose gunner (Cussen) went out nose hatch.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Town unknown – about 5 minutes before target.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Pilot & co-pilot only – Cussen bailed out.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot & co-pilot seats.
12. What was their condition? Unknown for sure but pilot had ship under control when we bailed out.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Cussen & Miles were taken to a hospital – myself, tail gunner (Baca), waist gunner (Hogan), ball gunner (Chabin) & bombardier (Ryder) were taken to interrogation center at Frankfort, Germany.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wallace, William Creighton**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-444768**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Plane exploded and went into spin.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Immediately preceding explosion. He was just leaving pilot's compartment.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **On flight deck (B-24).**

Any hearsay information: **None except he was awaiting burial with 12 other men in a village near Sopron Austria-Hungary border.**

Source: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Whitfield – Texas – shot down same day 10 May 1044.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was waiting for me to jump. Ship exploded immediately after I bailed out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **5 April – 10 May 1944 – Balkins. S. France – N. Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TOWNE, Henry Snow**

Rank: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-814593**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?:

If not, why not? **Dead.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None he had been killed at time of attack.**

Was he injured? **Yes - dead.**

Where was he when last seen? **In co-pilot's seat.**

Any hearsay information: **None except he was awaiting burial with 12 other men in a village near Sopron Austria-Hungary border.**

Source: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Whitfield – Texas – shot down same day 10 May 1944.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **A 20 mm shell hit him in the neck.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **5 April – 10 May 1944 – Balkins. S. France – N. Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CUSSEN, Edward Eugene**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39085129**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Sopron Austria (Lake Balantan).**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Being taken in ambulance to Vienna.**

Any hearsay information: **None – he is alive as of July 1945.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **When last heard from he was in a hospital in Chicago – July 1945.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **5 April – 10 May 1944 – Balkins. S. France – N. Italy.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William Ernest Ryder Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-752943
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Goree Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month May day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombardment, target, Wiener Neustadt, target time, 12:20, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, across Yugoslavia to target, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? At Initial Point (IP).
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All but pilot & co-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 bailed out at approximately the same time.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Sopron Austria-Hungary border.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) two – Pilot, William C. Wallace & co-pilot, Henry S. Towne.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Flight deck – pilot's compartment.
12. What was their condition? Co-pilot – dead; pilot – uninjured but killed in crash.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All except above two mentioned were POW's.
- 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: **TOWNE, Henry Snow**

Rank: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-814593**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Believed to have been killed instantly.**

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

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

Any hearsay information: **Believed to have been killed instantly.**

Source: **bombardier of crew.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **crashed with plane.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WALLACE, William Creighton**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-444768**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Holding ship for crew to bail out.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **“Pilot to crew Bail out.”**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **In pilot’s seat.**

Any hearsay information: **A crew member of another crew was asked to identify the body when the Germans thought he had been a member of Wallace’s crew.**

Source: **My bombardier, who spoke to the crew member.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Believe he was killed when the airplane crashed.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **12.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Apr 4 to May 10. Don’t recall exact dates or targets.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CUSSEN, Edward Eugene**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39085129**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **I have corresponded with S/Sgt. Cussen in this country as late as September 1945.**

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 Virgil S. Miles Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-800743
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO E.T. Goree Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month May day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Wiener Neustadt, target, air field, target time, 1230, altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, unknown, route flown unknown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near Lake Balatin, Austria.
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". Saw Sgts Cussen, Catalano, Baca, Hogan and Lt. Ryder on ground.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Sopron, Austria.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Believe pilot & co-pilot.
11. Where were they in aircraft? In pilot's seat.
12. What was their condition? Unknown.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Rest of crew, also pilot & co-pilot were not seen.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Have since spoken with a squadron member who says airplane crashed.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TOWNE, Henry Snow**

Rank: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-814593**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge. Same as for 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William C. Wallace.**

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: **TOWNE, Henry Snow**

Rank: **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-814593**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Believed to have been killed instantly.**

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

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

Any hearsay information: **Believed to have been killed instantly.**

Source: **bombardier of crew.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **crashed with plane.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WALLACE, William Creighton**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-444768**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Holding ship for crew to bail out.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **“Pilot to crew Bail out.”**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **In pilot’s seat.**

Any hearsay information: **A crew member of another crew was asked to identify the body when the Germans thought he had been a member of Wallace’s crew.**

Source: **My bombardier, who spoke to the crew member.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Believe he was killed when the airplane crashed.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **12.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Apr 4 to May 10. Don’t recall exact dates or targets.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CUSSEN, Edward Eugene**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39085129**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Austria.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: May 10, 1944.

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **German Headquarters Pamhagen, Austria.**

Any hearsay information: **No.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Joe Ramon Baca Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 18220765
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO E.T. Goree Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month May day 10 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 13<sup>th</sup>, target, aircraft plant, target time, 1115, altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, N. Yugoslavia to Austria, route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? IP.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Eight cutes were seen.
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? Southern Austria.
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?.
12. What was their condition?.
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. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WALLACE, William Creighton**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-444768**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **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: **On route to target.**

Was he injured? **Killed in action.**

Where was he when last seen?.

Any hearsay information: **Crew on same mission gave us knowledge of him being found dead in the plane, as he was recognized by his dogtags, shown to them by the Germans.**

Source: **By American prisoners (above crew mentioned).**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The crew's conclusion was that he was killed or critically injured by enemy aircraft while in the air.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN **10 May 1944 - 1141, CASUALTY NO. ME-1141**  
 PLACE OF CRASH **at Apeltez**  
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**  
 REPORTING OFFICE **Air Base Command A (s) s/XVII**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
<b>Ryder, William Ernest 4 July 1923 Cal.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-752963</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Baca, Joe Ramon 12 February 1923 New Mexico</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>18220765</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Catalano, Anthony 13 May 1924</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>12191903</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Hogan, Robert Eugene 29 June 1924 N. Columbus, Ind.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>		<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Wallace, William C.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-444768</b>	<b>Dead</b>	
<b>Towne, Henry S.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-814593</b>	<b>Dead</b>	
<b>Miles, Virgil S.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-800743</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Cussen, Edward Eugene</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>39065129</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Chabin, Harry 2 February 1920 Mahandy Plane, Pa.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>13046578</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>
<b>Allen, Alfred H. 10 October 1922</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>38305396</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag Luft</b>

REMARKS:  
**Dulag Luft: 4 June 1944. Wo.**



764<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
461<sup>ST</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

AG 360.33

APO #520, c/o PM  
New York, New York  
**14 May 1944**

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO: Commanding Officer, 461<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Group,  
APO #520, c/o PM, New York, New York.

1. In compliance with Letter, 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, file AG 360.33 dtd. 5 January 1944, subject: Preparation of Missing Air Crew Reports, submitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report for B-24 G **42-78212**, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William C. Wallace, 0444768** and crew.
2. Subject crew personnel are battle casualties as defined by Paragraph 2, Section II, Circular No. 10, Headquarters, NATOUSA.
3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your headquarters **12 May 1944**.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ William L. Hallauer  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant

**Crew list unreadable.**