

MACR #6895

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Corps organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: Torreta, Italy Command or AF: 15th Group: 461st
Bombardment Group (H) Squadron: 766th Bomb Sq. (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure: Torretta, Italy Course: 295° Target:
Nimes, France Type of Mission: Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT THE TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN
LAST REPORTED: CAVU
4. CIVL: (a) Date: 12 July 1944 Time: 10:51 Location: 10 miles east of Mirabeau, France of
last known whereabouts of xxxxxx aircraft.

(b) Specify whether: Last sighted
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF:
Enemy Aircraft
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model, & Series: B-24G AAF Serial No. 42-78202
7. ENGINES: Type, Model, & Serial: R 1830-65 AAF Serial No.: (a) BP 42-88309
(b) BP 426578 (c) BP 426632 (d) BP 426413
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)

(a) L Nose 977987 Browning 50 Cal. A.C. (b) R Tail 978806 Browning 50 Cal. A.C.
(c) R Nose 978299 Browning 50 Cal. A.C. (d) L Tail 978821 Browning 50 Cal. A.C.
(e) R Waist 370013 Browning 50 Cal. A.C. (f) R Ball 369751 Browning 50 Cal. A.C.
(g) L Waist 369242 Browning 50 Cal. A.C. (h) L Ball 978005 Browning 50 Cal. A.C.
9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew: 10 Passengers: 0 Total: 10
(Starting with "Pilot" finish the following particulars; if more than 12
persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to
this form)

<u>CREW POSITION</u>	<u>NAME IN FULL (Last Name, First)</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NO</u>	<u>NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS</u>
<u>1. Pilot</u>	<u>Fawcett, Richard S.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-805801</u>	<u>Clifford J. Fawcett, Father, 334 Lincoln Ave. Amharst, Massachusetts</u>
<u>2. Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Densted, Frank I.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-755299</u>	<u>Maria Densted, Wife, 191 Robert Ave. Salt Lake City, Utah</u>

<u>3. Navigator</u>	<u>Graham, Walter J.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-691991</u>	<u>Edith Graham, Mother, 520 E. 88th, New York, New York</u>
<u>4. Bombardier</u>	<u>Sanders, Robert M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-753079</u>	<u>Thomas S. Sanders, Father, 1809 Randolph, Topeka, Kansas</u>
<u>5. Right Waist</u>	<u>Kelly, James W.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>38108785</u>	<u>David C. Kelly, Father, Box 61, Petersburg, Texas</u>
<u>6. Left Waist</u>	<u>Johnson, Lenard S.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>39125202</u>	<u>Maria Johnson, Mother, 2334 Curtis St., Berkeley, California</u>
<u>7. Tail Turret</u>	<u>Benetich, Joseph A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16083427</u>	<u>Louise Benetich, Mother, Box 164, Newberry, Michigan</u>
<u>8. Ball Turret</u>	<u>Weisfeld, Robert J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>13119781</u>	<u>Frances H. Weisfeld, Mother, Abingdon, Virginia</u>
<u>9. Top Turret</u>	<u>Gladkowski, Walter S.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>11105786</u>	<u>Helen Gladkowski, Mother, 188 Parker St., Springfield, Massachusetts</u>
<u>10. Nose</u>	<u>Lantow, Duane J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>37212735</u>	<u>John C. Lantow, Father, Rt 2, Lyons, Kansas</u>

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME

<u>NAME IN FULL</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>Formatted by</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Crash</u>	<u>Saw Forced Landing</u>
<u>Cogswell, Norman H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-795279</u>		<u>X</u>		
<u>Jannetta, Richard A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>17037674</u>		<u>X</u>		
<u>Lodder, Thomas E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>36725205</u>		<u>X</u>		
<u>Korchma, Frank</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>12062351</u>		<u>X</u>		
<u>Campbell</u>	<u>Cpl.</u>	<u>34036830</u>		<u>X</u>		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Parachutes were used.

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, AMP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDINGS, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) none

Date of this Report: 15 July 1944

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

STATEMENT

I saw two ME-109s attack ship number 50, Lt. Fawcett and crew. After a few seconds of violent fire from the attacking fighters a fire started in the bomb bay of that ship. The right front bomb bay door was flapping. One man immediately bailed out of the right waist window. The ship then pulled up sharply then started down in a straight glide. That is the last I saw.

Norman H. Cogswell
2nd Lt., AC
ASN 0795279

STATEMENT

I saw Lt. Fawcett's ship, number fifty, with a fire in the bomb bay immediately after being hit by fighters. One man bailed out of the waist window. I did not see the ship explode as it passed under us and went out of my view.

S/Sgt. Richard A. Jannetta
ASN 17037674

STATEMENT

I saw ship number fifty Lt. Fawcett and crew, blow up just before we hit the target. The ship broke in three pieces. I think two chutes came from the rear of the aircraft.

S/Sgt. Thomas E. Lodder
ASN 36725205

STATEMENT

Ship number fifty, Lt. Fawcett and crew caught on fire and blew up. I did not see anyone bail out. After leaving the target I saw five chutes in the water near the coast. I don't know what ship they were from.

S/Sgt. Frank Korchma
ASN 12062351

STATEMENT

Ship number fifty Lt. Fawcett and crew were flying number two position in our flight. The airplane was hit in the bomb bay by fighters. A fire immediately started in the bomb bay. I saw one man bail out of the waist window.

Cpl. James H. Campbell
ASN 34036830

From the Casualty Report for AGO, the following information is obtained from Robert J. Weisfeld:

KNOWN INFORMATION: Three men got out as I know of – Lt. Robert Sanders, S/Sgt. James Kelly, and S/Sgt. Robert J. Weisfeld.

HEARSEY INFORMATION: France say four men in the nose of ship. One was said to be Lt. W. Graham. All four dead.

Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft bailed out. Kelly bailed out of the waist blinded by fire. Sanders bailed out of the nose wheel compartment. Weisfeld can't remember bailing out – believes he was unconscious at the time.

Johnson injured by enemy fire and I believe dead on floor of ship just before I bailed out.

From the Casualty Report for AGO, the following information is obtained from James W. Kelly:

KNOWN INFORMATION: I, James W. Kelly, bailed out and saw no parachutes come from my plane before it exploded. I was joined with my bombardier and assistant engineer after parachuting to earth.

HEARSEY INFORMATION: French underground said they found four and maybe more bodies in airplane. They were burned. Found identification bracelet on burned wrist of Graham, Walter J. The ball gunner said Lenard S. Johnson was killed in plane by fighters.