

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

7199

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, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Friedrichshafen, Germany Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 3 August 1944 Time 1010 Last known position Belleno, 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 **Mechanical Failure**
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 41-28970
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP-308823
[b] CP-303046 [c] CP-309148 [d] CP-304161
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| [a] <u>983097</u> | [e] <u>983309</u> | [i] <u>1237345</u> |
| [b] <u>967249</u> | [f] <u>983289</u> | [j] <u>1237202</u> |
| [c] <u>237153</u> | [g] <u>983270</u> | |
| [d] <u>554591</u> | [h] <u>893219</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	Schweisberger, Robert E., 2nd Lt. 0-819627		Mr. Theodore Schweisberger (Father) 218 N. Jackson St., Breman, Indiana
[2] CP	Mohan, Bernard J., 2nd Lt. 0-705759		Mr. Thomas J. Mohan (Father) 1001 Elk St., Seneca, Kansas
[3] Nav	Koester, Robert R., 2nd Lt. 0-716470		Mrs. Ethel L. Koester (Mother) 303 Ashland Ave., Park Ridge, Illinois
[4] Bomb	Guy, R. M., 2nd Lt. 0-717782		Mrs. Betty (Vaughan) Guy (Wife) 7310 Coronado St., Dallas, Texas
[5] TTG	Haag, William C., S/Sgt. 20151202		Mr. William F. Haag (Father) 4315 57th St., Woodside, Long Island, New York
[6] NTG	Furfare, Rocco J., Cpl. 32548498		Mrs. Harriet A. Furfare (Mother) 108 West Commercial St., E. Rochester, N.Y.
[7] TTG	Kuhn, William W., Cpl. 16097864		Mrs. Mary W. Kuhn (Wife) 1527 S. Karlou Ave., Chicago, Illinois
[8] BTG	Tidd, Charles A., Sgt. 38508351		Mrs. Cleo A. Tidd (Wife) Almond, Arkansas
[9] RWG	Frye, Morris J., Sgt. 34773084		Mrs. Nathleen Frye (Wife) Box 235, Anondale, North Carolina
[10] LWG	Durning, Leon R.		Mrs. Era Durning (Mother)

31292843

62 Darling St., Central Falls, Rhode
Island

[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] Robert E. Applegate	Lt. Col.	0-22933		X		
[2] Francis J. Hoermann	Captain	0-433191		X		
[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] **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.**

Date: **6 August 1944**

SAMUEL B. SINAI
1st Lt., AC, Adj.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

6 August 1944

STATEMENT

On 3 August 1944 we were flying at approximately 18,000 feet near Belleno, Italy and I noticed that ship No. 41-28970 left the formation in about a 20 degree bank to the right. As far as I could see there was no damage to the plane, and all the engines appeared to be working satisfactorily. I think plane No. 41-28970 was intercepted by enemy fighters near the head of the Adriatic Sea and shot down.

/s/ Francis J. Hoermann
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer
765th Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

On 3 August 1944 while participating in bombing mission I observed ship No. 41-28970 leave the formation in the vicinity of Belleno, Italy. At the time one supercharger was torching badly as he peeled out of formation and started toward the base. It is very possible that this ship was intercepted by enemy fighters since we were very close to several of their bases.

/s/ Robert E. Applegate
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Commanding
765th Bomb Sq (H)

Meldung über den Abschub eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschub-Nr. ME-1862

Abschubtag und Zeit: 3.8.44 – 11.15
Abschubort: No Ravenna
Flugzeugtyp: Liberator
Neidende Dienststelle: Lftfl. Kdo. 2

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und –ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Gef.: Verw.: Tot.:	Verbielb: Weiches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
Schweisbarger, Robert Eugene 17.12.21 Bremen, Ind.	2 nd Lt.	0-819627	Gef.	Stalag-Luft 3
Koester, Robert Rouse 14.10.22 Chicago, Ill.	2 nd Lt.	0-716470	Gef.	Stalag-Luft 3
Mohan, John Bernard 7.3.24 Seneca, Kans.	2 nd Lt.	0-705759	Gef.	Stalag-Luft 3
Guy, R. Maurel 16.10.18 McAlester, Okla.	2 nd Lt.	0-717782	Gef.	Stalag-Luft 3

Bemerkungen: Dulag-Luft, den 18.8.44 Wo.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: **Nov. 19, 1944**

NARRATOR:	William C. Haag	SQUADRON:	765th
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	20151202	GROUP:	461st (H)
HOME ADDRESS:	Ponnal, Vermont	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	Aug. 3, 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	R. Schweisberger	POW
CO-PILOT	B. Mohan	POW
BOMBARDIER	R. M. Guy	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	R. Koester	POW
ENGINEER	M. J. Frye	Evaded capt.
RADIO	L. Durning	Evaded capt.
Armor	C. Tidd	Evaded capt.
Gunner	R. J. Furfare	Evaded capt.
Gunner	W. W. Kuhn	Evaded capt.

KNOWN INFORMATION:.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE:

NARRATOR:	Leon R. Durning	SQUADRON:	765th
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	31292843	GROUP:	461st (H)
HOME ADDRESS:	62 Darling St., CF, R.I.	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	Aug. 3, 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	R. Schweisberger	POW
CO-PILOT	B. Mohan	POW
BOMBARDIER	R. M. Guy	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	R. Koester	POW
ENGINEER	M. J. Frye	Evaded capt.
RADIO	L. Durning	Evaded capt.
Armor	C. Tidd	Evaded capt.
Gunner	R. J. Furfare	Evaded capt.
Gunner	W. W. Kuhn	Evaded capt.

KNOWN INFORMATION:.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: **Nov. 19, 1944**

NARRATOR:	Morris J. Frye	SQUADRON:	765th
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	34773084	GROUP:	461st (H)
HOME ADDRESS:	Anondale, N.C.	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	Aug. 3, 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	R. Schweisbarger	POW
CO-PILOT	B. Mohan	POW
BOMBARDIER	R. M. Guy	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	R. Koester	POW
ENGINEER	M. J. Frye	Evaded capt.
RADIO	L. Durning	Evaded capt.
Armor	C. Tidd	Evaded capt.
Gunner	R. J. Furfare	Evaded capt.
Gunner	W. W. Kuhn	Evaded capt.

KNOWN INFORMATION: **Tidd hosp – Bari – Other Evadees are back.**

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: **Nov. 19, 1944**

NARRATOR:	Kuhn, Wm W.	SQUADRON:	765th
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	16097864	GROUP:	461st (H)
HOME ADDRESS:	1527 S. Karlou Ave. Chicago, Ill.	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	Aug. 3, 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	R. Schweisbarger	POW
CO-PILOT	B. Mohan	POW
BOMBARDIER	R. M. Guy	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	R. Koester	POW
ENGINEER	M. J. Frye	Evaded capt.
RADIO	L. Durning	Evaded capt.
Armor	C. Tidd	Evaded capt.
Gunner	R. J. Furfare	Evaded capt.
Gunner	W. W. Kuhn	Evaded capt.

KNOWN INFORMATION: **Tidd – hosp – Bari – others back.**

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: **Nov. 19, 1944**

NARRATOR:	Charles A. Tidd	SQUADRON:	765th
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	38508351	GROUP:	461st (H)
HOME ADDRESS:	Almond, Ark.	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	Aug. 3, 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	R. Schweisbarger	POW
CO-PILOT	B. Mohan	POW
BOMBARDIER	R. M. Guy	Unknown
NAVIGATOR	R. Koester	POW
ENGINEER	M. J. Frye	Evaded capt.
RADIO	L. Durning	Evaded capt.
Armor	C. Tidd	Evaded capt.
Gunner	R. J. Furfare	Evaded capt.
Gunner	W. W. Kuhn	Evaded capt.

KNOWN INFORMATION: Pilot, co-pilot, navigator prisoners of war. Frye, Durning, Haag, Furfare, Tidd, Kuhn returned to duty.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

Tidd, Charles A., Sgt., 38508351, 765th Sq., 461st B. Gp.

APPENDIX F

Officers who stayed behind with plane were reported captured according to Sgt. Tidd.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN

3 August 1944 - 1115,

CASUALTY NO. **ME-1862**

PLACE OF CRASH

north-east of Ravenna

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Fleet Nas 3

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Schweisberger, Robert Eugene 17 Dec 21 Brenen, Ind.	2 nd Lt.	0-819627	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Koester, Robert Rouse 14 Oct 23 Chicago, Ill.	2 nd Lt.	0-716470	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Mohan, John Bernard 7 March 24 Seneca, Kans	2 nd Lt.	0-705759	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Guy, R. Maurel 15 Oct 18	2 nd Lt.	0-717782	Captured	Stalag Luft 4

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 18 August 1944. Wo.

	Rank	U.S.A. Name	ASN	ME-1862
DATE: 3 August 1944 at 1115	2 nd Lt.	Schweisberger, Robert Eugene	0-819627	
PLACE: Northeast of Savie	2 nd Lt.	Mohan, Bernard John	0-705759	
TYPE: Liberator B-24J 766 Sqd	2 nd Lt.	Koester, Robert Rouse	0-716470	
461 Group; 49 Wing	Sgt.	Guy, R. Maurel	0-717782	Missing
BASE: Foggia	Cpl.	Durning, L. R.	33248320	Missing
TARGET: Air Force Command 2	Sgt.	Kuhn, Woodrow W.		Missing
	S/Sgt.	Frye, M. J.		Missing
	Sgt.	Haag, W. J.		Missing
	Sgt.	Tidd, C. A.		Missing
	Cpl.	Furfare, R. J.		Missing