

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**9192**

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 766<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course           
Target Linz, Austria Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
5/10 cumulus at 12,000 feet
4. GIVE: [a] Date 16 Oct 1944 Time 1315 Last known position Exact position unknown - probable position N.E. Pascara, 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 J AAF Serial Number 44-41093
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: none
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-658 AAF serial Number [a] CH-56319  
[b] CH-65296 [c] CH-65329 [d] CH-56218
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50  
[a] LN 1261113 [e] LB 1203714 [i] LT 1537965  
[b] RN 1540218 [f] RB 1209411 [j] RT 1203675  
[c] LU 1200409 [g] LW 1539317  
[d] RU 1200278 [h] RW 1539320
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	Kuhlman, Roy F., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-713477		Mr. Fred Kuhlman (Father) Lewisville, Minnesota
[2] Co-pilot	Keeney, Thomas H., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-713469		Mrs. Betty S. Keeney (Wife) Belton, Missouri
[3] Nav	Hays, Robert L., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-2061106		Mrs. Rachel Hays (Wife) 3441 Chestnut, Kansas City, Missouri
[4] Bomb	Butler, John E., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-776952		Mrs. Lorretta M. Butler (Mother) 6646 Sedgewick Place, Brooklyn, New York
[5] LWG	Hawkins, Wiley R., T/Sgt. 13014851		Mr. Henry T. Hawkins (Father) Box 185, Washington, North Carolina
[6] RWG	Reichard, Richard W., T/Sgt. 13126476		Mrs. Ida E. Reichard (Mother) 2139 Allen St., Allentown, Pennsylvania
[7] NTG	Van Gundy, Dale R., Jr., Pfc. 16135216		Mrs. Louise Van Gundy (Wife) RFD #2, Lawrenceville, Illinois
[8] TTG	Hovancik, John A., Pfc. 13096143		Mrs. Louise Hovancik (Mother) 1025 Mechanic St., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
[9] BTG	Horanzy, Joseph R., S/Sgt. 31328887		Mrs. Helen Horanzy (Mother) 71 Smith Street, New Britain, Connecticut

[10] TG      **Vallee, Robert O., S/Sgt.**  
**31323409**

**Mrs. Lucilda Vallee (Mother)**  
**45 Gilbert St., Berlin, New**  
**Hampshire**

[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] <b>Stanley O. Hutchison</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-553934</b>	<b>X</b>			
[2] <b>John W. Booth</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>39834741</b>	<b>X</b>			
[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].

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.:

Date: 19 October 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado  
Capt., AC

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

I was leading "B" Flight, 1<sup>st</sup> attack unit on 16 Oct 44. Airplane #45 was flying no. 5 position and I was under the impression he was in formation until 1315 hours which put us close to the coast of Italy. He was calling us on the radio the entire mission at about 15 minute intervals. He wasn't receiving because he never answered the planes calling. His transmissions were loud and clear and the last contact he tried to make was 1315 which was very clear. No message was given.

/s/ Stanley O. Hutchison  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Air Corps.

11/21/44

TO: Suker

FROM: Plowman, Teddy

PRIORITY

Ten airmen bailed out about 17 October at Vazariste in Goapic area. This refers to your #49. Plane crashed and burned. Partisan Terenski Radnici were in region where 6 dropped. Butler and Haynes not able to walk and were secreted in woods and the remaining 4 were smuggled through to me. Regard to my 28 of 22 October. A Ustashi Patrol found out the location of Butler and Hayes and 2 days later attacked them. One Partisan was wounded twice, but escaped, one Partisan was killed. Hayes and Butler were machine gunned at once and stripped of their personal goods. Thereafter, Ustashi left. Bodies later buried together in woods at Buzin Selo. Three others of crew dropped beside a Utashi barracks at Gudin-Klanac. They were put to death and stripped the next morning. Places of burial unknown other crew member landed at Jadovno. Was found by Terenski Radnici, who later infiltrated him to Ciasth source in 35 Division and questioning of twice wounded Partisan by myself.

Sent to Caserta 11/22/44

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **16 October 1944,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2314**

PLACE OF CRASH **Kroatia**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Airforce Command: South-east**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
<b>Keeney, Thomas H.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-713469</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Stalag Luft 3</b>
<b>Kuhlman, Roy F.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-713477</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dide</b>
<b>Van Gundy, Dale, Jr.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>16135216</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Stalag Luft 4</b>

REMARKS:

**Dulag Luft: 30 November 1944.**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Roy F. Kuhlman</b>	<b>Mr. Fred Kuhlman(Father) Route One Lewisville, Minnesota</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert L. Hays</b>	<b>Mrs. Rachel E. Hays (Wife) 3441 Chestnut Street Kansas City, Missouri</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John E. Butler</b>	<b>Mrs. Loretta M. Butler (Mother) 6646 Sedgewick Place Brooklyn, New York</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas H. Keeney</b>	<b>Mrs. Betty S. Keeney (Wife) Belton, Missouri</b>
<b>T/Sgt. Richard W. Reichard</b>	<b>Mrs. Ida E. Reichard (Mother) 2139 Allen Street Allentown, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>T/Sgt. Wiley R. Hawkins</b>	<b>Mrs. Annie E. Hawkins (Mother)) R.F.D. Number One, Box 185 Washington, North Carolina</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Joseph R. Horanzy</b>	<b>Mrs. Helen Horanzy (Mother) 71 Smith Street New Britain, Connecticut</b>
<b>S/Sgt. Robert O. Vallee</b>	<b>Mrs. Lucilda Vallee (Mother) 45 Gilbert Street Berlin, New Hampshire</b>
<b>Pfc. John A. Hovancik</b>	<b>Mrs. Louise T. Hovancik (Mother) 1025 Mechanic Street Bethlehem, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Pfc. Dale Van Gundy, Jr.</b>	<b>Mrs. Louise Van Gundy (Wife) Route Number Two Lawrenceville, Illinois</b>