

12071

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/11/01 BY SP-6 BSA/KR/STP

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

12071

1. ORGANIZATION: Location APO 526, U.S. ARMY Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
Group 44th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H)
 2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AIE, Pantanelle, Italy Course North-Northeast
 Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
8/10 cirrus clouds 21,000 10/10 alto stratus tops 15,000, visibility 20 miles

4. CIVIL: (a) Date 7 Feb 45 Time 1630 Last known position S.W. of Sall, Hungary
 (b) Specify whether: Lost 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 action, Enemy anti-aircraft, Other Unknown

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J AAF Serial Number 42-57752

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43 AAF Serial Number (a) EP-455067
 (b) EP-447345 (c) CP-330273 (d) EP-447570

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (State type and serial number)
 (a) MG M2 1124338 (b) MG M2 1182797 (c) MG M2 1186000
 (d) " " 1124285 (e) " " 1182164 (f) " " 1185755
 (g) " " 1124934 (h) " " 1182151 (i) " " " " " "
 (j) " " 1124983 (k) " " 1182811 (l) " " " " " "

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, middle)	RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
✓ 1st Pilot	Hoffman, Marie E.	2nd Lt., O-226173	MIA Henry Hoffman (father) New Hampton, Iowa
✓ 1st Co-Pilot	Trotter, Carroll D.	P/O, T-127299	LTD MIA Homer D. Trotter (father) 1154 N. Holmes, Indianapolis, Ind.
✓ 1st Nav.	Mahota, William J., Jr.	P/O, T-127673	(MIA) William J. Mahota Sr. (father) 13 Wheelock St., Oxford, Mass.
✓ 1st Sdr	Weisberger, William	2nd Lt., O-2096752	(MIA) Harry S. Weisberger (father) 58 S. Daves Ave., Kingstar, Pa.
✓ 1st AG	Williams, Samuel E.	S/Sgt., 33672007	(MIA) Mary C. Williams (mother) MFD #1, Export, Penna.
✓ 1st SSG	Reedy, Eugene G.	Cpl., 13131787	(MIA) Florence E. Reedy (mother) 512 E. 6th Ave., Tarentum, Pa.
✓ 1st AGC	Weber, Alfred H.	S/Sgt., 12086379	(MIA) Morris Weber (father) 920 Ave. St. John, New York, N.Y.
✓ 1st AG	Donbeck, Raymond A.	S/Sgt., 36596807	(MIA) Jan E. Donbeck (sister) 3170 E. Warren Ave., Detroit, Michigan
✓ 1st G	Suppert, Kenneth L.	S/Sgt., 32374910	(MIA) Joseph A. Suppert (father) 35 Dempster St., Buffalo, N. Y.
✓ 1st G	Clark, Gordon L.	Lt., 36787322	(MIA) Ruth E. Clark (mother) 405 Dewey St., Harvard, Ill.

12. TO NOTIFY BELOW PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (see instructions) TO COMPLETE BASIS FOR NAME

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	CONTACTED LAST BY (MIA)	SAW AIRCRAFT	FORCED CRASH	SAW LANDING
(a) Jenkins, Robert J.	2nd Lt.	O-2098202		X		
(b) Cooper, Raymond L.	Sgt.	37223121		X		

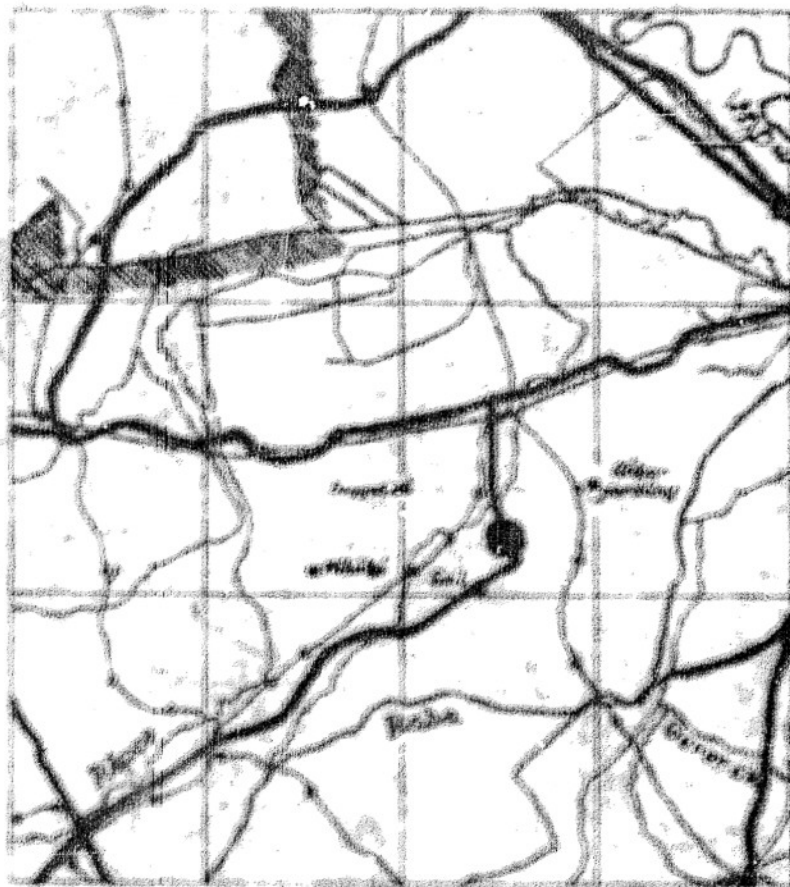
13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WITH AIRCRAFT, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 Presumably was and if flight was seen falling away from the rear of the crash
 Other reason (specify) Unknown

- 14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH OF WRECK OR WRECK 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. None

Includers:
 Incl 1-Report, Post, Date 8 February 1945.
 Incl 2-Statement of Lt. Jenkins
 Incl 3-Statement of Sgt. Cooper
 Signature of reporting officer: Henry W. Cook
 Lt. J., Ord., Adjutant.

OPERATIONAL STATUS
 BY E. A. BARNHART, Lt. Col., AFSC
 BY F. W. MITCHELL, Capt., AFSC
 DATE: 10 FEB 45

1510



16 50'

17 30'

HUNGARY

● INDICATES AREA IN WHICH
LT HOFFMAN'S CREW WAS
LAST SIGHTED.

BEARING - 47° 32' N. - 17° 15' E.

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STATEMENT

I was flying as Co-pilot in Red Roger in position A-22.

Red Z was flying in position A-31. About one half (½) hour after we left the target, I noticed that Red Z was having trouble with his number four (4) engine. He was trying to feather the propellor but it seemed to be of no avail because as soon as he had it feathered it would start windmilling. He was dropping behind and losing altitude fast. As soon as he was behind us, I lost sight of him and that was the last I saw.

When I had last seen him, he seemed to be under complete control.

Robert G. Jenkins

ROBERT G. JENKINS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
O-2058202.
YK 7200 29.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATEMENT

I was flying as Tail Gunner in Red Easy in position A-23.

Red Z was flying in position A-31. When we were approximately forty five (45) minutes from the target, I noticed that he was having trouble with his number four (4) engine. The pilot tried feathering it but he was seeming to have trouble because when he would have it almost feathered it would start windmilling. He was losing altitude slowly and when we were over the target, he was approximately two thousand (2,000) feet below the rest of the formation. Over the target, he dropped his bombs, and then he started losing altitude rapidly. When next I saw him (I am almost certain it was Red Z) he was about six thousand (6,000) feet below us and he was following a course with the Danube River. It is in my estimation that had he continued upon that course, he would have been over Russian territory in about twenty (20) minutes. I had also noticed there was no fighter cover for him unless they were exceptionally high.

Raymond L. Cooper

RAYMOND L. COOPER,
Sgt., 37233121,
Air Corps.
7th Bomb Sq.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Carroll De Witt Trotter Rank 2nd. Lt. Serial No. 8 2001999
2. Organization 464 Bomb Sq. Op Commander Byrd Rank Col. Sqd CO J.W. Hance Rank Lt. Col
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month November day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Munich, Germany, target, West Marshalling Ids., target time, Approx. 1500, altitude, 26,000 ft. route scheduled, See reverse side, route flown See reverse side
5. Where were you when you left formation? At the northern tip of Adriatic Sea
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Every member of the crew bailed out
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 members of crew effected successful bail outs, landing on the island of Pag off the coast of Yugoslavia. We were picked up by Partisans who cared for our wounded, and made contact with a British ship, HMS Lauderdale, which brought us back to Ancona, Italy two days later. All members of the crew being alive.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? See reverse side
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
11. Where were they in aircraft? No members aboard when ship crashed
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. All crew members of that mission have returned to states since. I have corresponded with them

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

4. I do not remember the exact route flown that day. We made landfall at the North end of the Adriatic and came on the target on a heading of 180 degrees.

9. To my knowledge no member saw the ship crash and the only information we have is what some of the islanders told us. They said they saw the ship crash into the mountains on the mainland of Yugoslavia near the island of Pag.

8. All members bailed out over this same island of Pag, and everybody left the ship through the bomb bays except the navigator and nose gunner who left through the nose wheel door. The ship was a B-24. I was co-pilot.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

15071?
OV
125-342
042001298

1. Your name William J. Mahota Jr. Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 042001298
Bomb Group John
2. Organization 464 Op Commander Byrd Rank Col. Sqn CO Nance Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month November day 16 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing (Ltnl), target, Munich, target
time, 1315, altitude, 29,000 ft route scheduled, Pantenella AF
Pogia, Udine, Linz, I.P., route flown Same
Munich
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Munich
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, everyone in the plane (10)
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom an individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Everyone bailed out at about 1430, from their respective positions, over enemy held territory 30 miles north of Zara in Pevo Island off Yugoslavia.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the mountains on coast of Yugoslavia
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
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? Regained after bailing out and was transported to base through the aid of the British and the Underground
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

2nd Incident

464th Bomb Group

Year: 1945 Month: February Day: 7th

Mission: Bombing (5th) Target: Vienna Target Time: 1310

Altitude: 27,000 ft. Route Scheduled: Pantenella AF, Foggia, Zarra, Klagenfurt, Graz, IP, Vienna Route followed: Same

Left formation: Over Vienna

No one bailed out--crash landed 65 miles Southeast of Budepest, near town of Orchard, Hungary.

Crew was at Crash Land positions when plane struck the ground. No one was injured.