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H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.



WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

103-50

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

ORGANIZATION: Location AP0 520, U.S. Army. Command or AF 15th A.F.  
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H).

SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanella AAB, Italy Course NNW  
Target Ferrara, Italy Type of Mission Bombing  
Marshalling Yards.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Weather - Fair. Visibility about 15 miles.

GIVE: (a) Date 5 June 1944 Time 1321 Location 44° 37' N - 12° 15' E.  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether: ( ) Last sighted ( ) Last contacted by radio  
( ) Force down (X) Seen to crash; or  
( ) Information not available.

AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)

(X) Enemy Aircraft ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows: Crippled by enemy Anti-Aircraft and knocked out by enemy aircraft.

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24-G AAF Serial No 42-78133

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP-433498  
(b) BP-433381 (c) BP-426092 (d) BP-426870

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)

(a) Browning Sub MG, .50 cal #369091	(b) Browning Sub MG, .50 cal #406383
(c) " " " 369057	(c) " " " 369234
(e) " " " 399755	(f) " " " 369410
(g) " " " 369490	(h) " " " 391913
(i) " " " 391556	(j) " " " 391331

PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: ( ) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9  
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NAME OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
Pilot	Leonard, Paul T.	RTD	2d Lt.	Mr. William T. Leonard, Father, Route #4, Lexington, N.C.
Co-Pilot	Rowlett, Jesse L.	RTD	F/O	Mr. Claude M. Rowlett, Father, Route #2, Altus, Oklahoma.
Navigator	Ely, Jr., George (NMI)	✓	2d Lt.	Mrs. Margaret S. Ely, Mother, 43 South New St., Hatboro, Pa.
Bombardier	Dressel, Wilbur S.	RTD	2d Lt.	Mr. George M. Dressel, Father, Box #5, Bushton, Kansas.
Gunner	Block, James H.	✓	Sgt.	Mr. Max M. Block, Father, 1210 W. 25th Terrace, Independence, Missouri.
	Harding, Robert W.	✓	Sgt.	Mrs. Winifred Harding, Mother, 303 North 6th St., Montevideo, Minn.
	Gulkin, Albert G.	✓	Sgt.	Mrs. Agnes Gulkin, Mother, 62 High Street, Belleville, N.J.
	Bardill, Robert D.	✓	S/Sgt.	Mrs. Mary H. Bardill, Mother, 233 East Hill Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.

[REDACTED]

Gunner O'Neill, Francis E. ✓ Sgt. [REDACTED] Mr. John F. O'Neill, Father,  
83 Walnut Street, Springfield, Mass.

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	CONTACT TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:		
			Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Crash Forced Landing
WILLIAM A. SIMS	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]		X	
Glenn F. Blackburn	Sgt.	[REDACTED]			X
Frank P. Pese	Sgt.	[REDACTED]		X	

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 6 ~~3~~ Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash  
( ) Any other reason (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- 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) No search was made due to orders to keep close group formation as planes were over enemy territory and undergoing attack by enemy fighters.

Date of this Report: 6 June 1944.

Signature of Officer

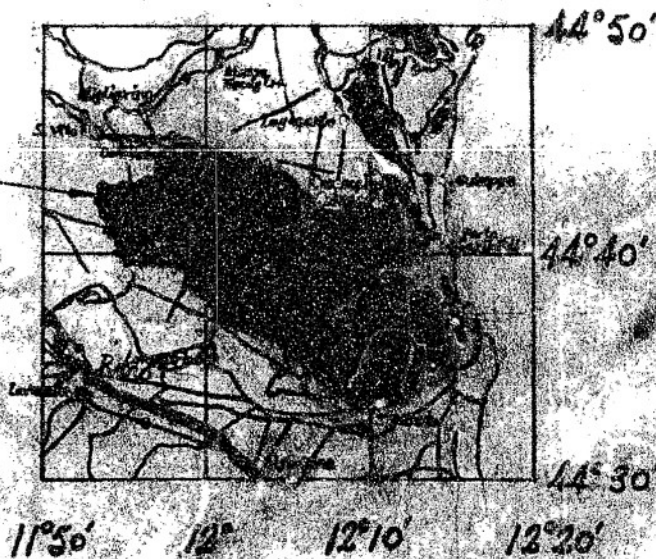
*Harold E. Blehm*  
HAROLD E. BLEHM,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

4 Incis:

- Incl 1 - Sketch of approx location of aircraft last seen.
- Incl 2 - Eye Witness Report of 2d Lt. SIMS
- Incl 3 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Blackburn
- Incl 4 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Pese



VALLI di  
COMACCHIO



X IS THE POINT LT. LEONARD'S  
PLANE LAST SIGHTED.  
BEARING - 44°37' N. 12°15' E.

1

776th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
APO 520 U.S. Army

HEB/sjh

313.3

6 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, Hq. 464th Bombardment Group (H), APO 520, US Army.

1. Transmitted herewith are the Missing Air Crew Reports on combat crews assigned to this Squadron who were Missing In Action as of 5 June 1944, near Ferrara, Italy:

2d Lt. (1024)	PAUL T. LEONARD	[REDACTED]	MIA
F/O (1024)	JESSE L. ROWLETT	[REDACTED]	MIA
2d Lt. (1034)	GEORGE (NMI) ELY JR.	[REDACTED]	MIA
2d Lt. (1035)	WILBUR S. DRESSEL	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (748)	James H. Block	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (748)	Robert W. Harding	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (748)	Albert G. Culkin	[REDACTED]	MIA
S/Sgt. (611)	Albert D. Bardill	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt. (612)	Francis E. O'Neill	[REDACTED]	MIA

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular #10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944, as amended.

3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your Headquarters, 0830, 6 June 1944.

*Harold E. Blehm*

HAROLD E. BLEHM,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

1 Incl:

Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report w/4 Incls.  
(8 copies).

1st Ind.

Hq. 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 7 June 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U.S. Army

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 cc.

*[Signature]*  
B. D. J.

2nd Lt. Paul T. Leonard RFD

Mr. William T. Leonard, (Father)  
Rural Route Number Four,  
Lexington, North Carolina.

F/O Jesse L. Rowlett H-2

Mr. Claude H. Rowlett, (Father)  
Route Number Two,  
Altus, Oklahoma.

2nd Lt. George Ely, Jr. H-1

Mrs. Margaret S. Ely, (Mother)  
43 South How Street,  
Hatboro, Pennsylvania.

2nd Lt. Wilbur S. Dressel H-2

Mr. George H. Dressel, (Father)  
Box # 5,  
Buckton, Kansas.

Sgt. James H. Block H-1 D

Mr. Max H. Block, (Mother)  
1210 East 25th Terrace,  
Independence, Missouri.

Sgt. Robert W. Harding H-1

Mr. William Harding, (Father)  
303 North Sixth Street,  
Montevideo, Minnesota.

Sgt. Albert J. Calkin RFD

Mrs. Marial L. Calkin, (Wife)  
27 Lincoln Terrace,  
Belleville, New Jersey.

S/Sgt. Albert D. Bardill H-1

Mrs. Mary H. Bardill, (Mother)  
Warburg, Tennessee.

Sgt. Francis K. O'Neill H-1

Mrs. Alice I. O'Neill, (Mother)  
83 Walnut Street,  
Springfield, Massachusetts.

1. Name of aircraft PAV T LESNERD and 2<sup>nd</sup> AT Serial No. 814504
2. Name of pilot or <sup>447 Bomb Group</sup> commander BONNER rank COL and CO BLEIM rank MAJOR  
(full name)
3. What year 944 month JUNE day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, B. LONG target, FERRARIA, ITALY, target  
time, ABOUT 1300, altitude, 10000, "10000" scheduled, LDINT Remarks  
route flown
5. Where were you when you last saw information NEAR, SMACHIO, ITALY
6. Did you see it? YES
7. Did other members of crew tell you? YES EXCEPT NAVIGATOR & POSSIBLY ONE GUNNER
8. Tell all you know about what, where, how, when person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached tailed out. A crew list is attached. Please state facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". NO KNOWLEDGE
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NO KNOWLEDGE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NAVIGATOR and POSSIBLY BALL TURBENT OPERATOR
11. Where were they in aircraft? GUNNER IN TURBENT NAVIGATOR IN RADIO COMPARTMENT
12. What was their condition? NAVIGATOR THOUGHT DEAD, GUNNER UNKNOWN
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. NO OTHER KNOWLEDGE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **E E L Y Jr George (NEI)**  
 Rank: **2nd LT**  
 Serial number: **Navigator** **0 - 700 022**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~ **Navigator**

Did he bail out? I think not

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? I believe he was killed before he had a chance.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: At  
the I. P. before the target.

Was he injured? Not at the time

Where was he when last seen? On the flight deck.

Any hearsay information: I believe he was killed before  
the aircraft hit the ground. I believe he was killed  
from fighter slugs.

Sources: Plat - Carrier - Engineer

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: our belief  
he was killed before the aircraft was a fire.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Believe 7

Dates and destinations if possible: Werner Heustadt - May 25, 44. Split, group 27 May 44  
Anzio 23 May 44, Ions France 30 May 44. shot down at terra, Italy  
June 44

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Rank:

Serial number:

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter)

O'NEILL Francis E.

Sgt

Gunner

Did he bail out? I think not

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? He would not leave his position

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

oxygen check before I.P.was he injured? Not at the timeWhere was he when last seen? on flight deckany hearsay information: He would not leave hisguns to abandon ship but kept  
fighting attacking fighters shooting  
down at least one.Source: last gunner

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

remained in the ship and never  
tried to leave it or his positionTotal number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible: I'm not sure of butthe last one.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Wilbur S Dressel Rank 1st Lt Serial No. [REDACTED]
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander Conner Rank Col Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Capt  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, terra, Italy, target, RN 42, 4 S, target  
time, 13:10, altitude, 2,000 route scheduled Spizzolano  
terra, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? In nose of plane
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". All 5 the rest bailed out successfully at the same time and immediately before the plane crashed
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? on edge of the canyon
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 5, above and individual questionnaires) Lt Ely and Sgt Creill
11. Where were they in aircraft? Lt Ely at the radio desk & Sgt Creill in ball turret.
12. What was their condition? killed
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw all of the remainder of the crew in Pison Camp.
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 to be written on the back)

## CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

1. Your name KOWLETT, JESSE L rank F/O serial no. [REDACTED]  
 776 59
2. Organization 4647 name BONNER rank 3d Lt name BLEHM rank MAJ  
 (title) (title name)
3. What year 1944 month JUNE day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the type of aircraft BOMBING name FERRERA, ITALY altitude 1300 (?) altitude 21000 (?) route schedule AS BRIEFED  
 altitude AS BRIEFED
5. Where were you downed? APPROX 30 MILES S.E. of FERRERA
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. How many members of your crew bailed out? SEVEN OUT OF A TOTAL OF NINE BAILED OUT  
 (WE ONLY HAD A NINE Y, MAN CREW ON THIS MISSION)
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 FACTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 30 to 50 MILES Southeast of FERRERA, ITALY ON COAST of ADRIATIC SEA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with # above and individual questionnaires)  
Sgt F. E. O'NEILL
11. Where were they in aircraft? IN DARK TURRET
12. What was their condition? BELIEVE DEAD
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? THE REST OF THE CREW WAS TOGETHER AFTER CAPTURE EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert W Harding Rank S/SGT Serial No. 27557239
2. Organization A. C. Gp Commander Rank  Sqn CO  Rank   
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Ferrara, target, Marshalling yards, target time, 1:30, altitude, 1800 route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Returning to base
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".
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) O'Neill + Maby  
City.
11. Where were they in aircraft? at their stations
12. What was their condition? no knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
all the rest in Prison Camp Fair Condition.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Albert D. Bardill Rank S. Sgt. Serial No. [REDACTED]
2. Organization 464 Gp <sup>MASHALL</sup> Commander Bonner Rank Col. Sqn CO <sup>HAROLD</sup> Blehm Rank Major.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 5 did you go down? [REDACTED]
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, FERRARA RAIL ROAD YARDS, ITALY, target  
time, 13:15, altitude, 23,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lake Commachio, Italy.
6. Did you bail out? YES.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes, six more bailed out besides me.
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". LT. ELY was laying on radio table and I shook him AND THE NEWET MOVE D. I Dont know whether he ever bailed out or Not. O'NEILL was ball gunner AND I dont know whether he bailed out or Not.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Lake Commachio, ITALY
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) LT. ELY AND ONEILL  
I Dont know whether they ever bailed out or Not.  
so I dont know whether they were in the plane when it hit the ground or Not.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Radio table AND Ball gunner.
12. What was their condition? ELY seemed to be hit and knocked out. I Dont know about O'Neill.
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.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

E. L. Y was laying over the Radio table when I went out. I shook him and wanted him to follow me out. I don't know whether he ever boiled out. The plane was all shot up when we left and on fire. I was top turret gunner and I don't know what happened to O'Neill he was Ball gunner. The airplane blew up later on after I left it.