

9302

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9302-1

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello AAB, Italy Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello AAB, Italy Course 79°
Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 4/10
4/10 Cumulus, tops 8,000 ft. and 8/10 cirrostratus
4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 Oct 44 Time 1210 Last known position Vienna, Austria
(b) Specify whether: (X) 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, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J AAF Serial Number 44-41070
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Lively Lady
8. ENGINES: Type, m. de. & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) BP-439745
(b) BP-439624 (c) BP-439658 (d) BP-439686
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
(a) RN 1203532 (c) RM 1203607 (i) RT 1203724
(b) RB 1203905 (f) RW 1358483 (j) LT 686689
(c) LN 1253702 (g) LM 1538125 (k) _____
(d) LB 1203918 (h) LW 1558170 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) 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 FULL NAME (Last, first, initial) CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP
POSITION RANK, SERIAL NUMBER STATUS AND ADDRESS

- EWAS* 1) Pilot POW WALDRON, DONALD K. 1st Lt O-820860 MIA Mrs. Helen J. Waldron (W) 135 Lind St. Ithaca, N. Y. Mrs. Jennie M. Waldron (W) 523 W. Green St Ithaca New York
- EWAS* 2) WEIR, DON J. 1st Lt O-827844 MIA // Ithaca New York
Mr. Richard C. Weir (B) 400 1st Avenue, New York, New York
- RWAS* 3) DANOFF, ALBERT N. 1st Lt O-712517 MIA Mrs. Esther Gelb (M) 47 East Main St. Glen Lyon, Penna
- AWAS* 4) ABRAMS, JACK L 1st Lt O-691827 MIA Mr. Felix A. Abrams (f) 4106 N. Stowell Ave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- DOW* 5) ROM, G. REIMER, RUSSELL H. T/Sgt 16050336 MIA Mrs. Cathrine Reimer (M) Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin RTE #1
- EWAS* 6) ROM, G. SHEFFLER, DAVID M. S/Sgt 12058977 MIA Mrs. Francis A. Sheffler (M) 731 Greenwich St. New York, New York
- BUS* 7) AM, G. Terry, William R. T/Sgt 18086933 MIA Mrs. Effie M. Lathum (M) 415 E. Ayers St. Edmond, Okla.
- EWAS* 8) ARM, G. Delson, Benjamin Sgt 42041914 MIA Mrs. Fannie Delson (M) 1934 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York.
- EWAS* 9) ARM G. Woods, John W. S/Sgt 12083695 MIA Mrs. Ethel Woods (M) 125 Terrace Avenue, Port Chester N. Y.
- EWAS* 10) ARM G. Barbarich, John G. S/Sgt 20725074 MIA Mr. John Barbarich (F) 3421 Fowler, Kansas City, Kansas



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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		SAW	
			BY RADIO	SPOTTED	FORCED	CRASH LANDING
(1) <u>Moore, Robert J.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>36808604</u>			X	
(2) <u>Cooper, Gerrit L.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>37478780</u>			X	
(3) <u>Cook, George P.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>6829140</u>			X	

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

- (X) 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. There was no search made, as the plane went down over enemy territory

- 5 Inclosures.
Incl 1. Statement of Moore 19 Oct 44
Incl 2. Statement of Cooper
Incl 3. Statement of Cook
Incl 4. Statement of MacLoed
Incl 5. Location Sketch.

E. M. Giffilli
Signature of preparing officer
E. M. GIFFILLI
Capt., AC
Adj.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

829/8

9302-2

19 October 1944

On October 17, 1944, we were on a bombing mission to Vienna Austria. Lt Donald K. Waldron was the Pilot of Yellow J, which was flying on our left wing. I was watching it for I had a buddie on the crew. I was looking away when I heard a explosion. I looked for Yellow J., but couldn't find it. I thought I saw peices which looked to me like parts of an airplane. That is all I saw of Yellow J. I didn't see any chutes nor anything else.

S/Sgt Robert J Moore

ROBERT J. MOORE
S/Sgt 36808604
777th Bomb Sq (H)

9302-3

WITNESS STATEMENT

17 OCTOBER 1944

WHEN I FIRST NOTICED THAT YELLOW "J" WAS GOING DOWN, IT WAS TO THE RIGHT OF OUR PLANE. THE LEFT WING TIP WAS ON FIRE. AFTER WATCHING IT FOR A SHORT TIME, THE CREW BEGAN TO LEAVE THE PLANE. THE FIRST MAN TO JUMP, WENT OUT OF SIGHT, BUT I DID NOT SEE HIS CHUTE OPEN. THE NEXT TWO OPENED QUITE SOON AFTER BAILING OUT. THE NEXT FIVE MEN (WHICH MADE A TOTAL OF EIGHT) ALL WENT OUT OF SIGHT, BEFORE THEIR CHUTES OPENED. WE WERE FLYING AT 23,000 FEET AND IN ALL PROBILITY THEY WERE MAKING DELAYED JUMPS. THERE WAS AN UNDERCAST SO I COULD NOT SEE THEM VERY FAR. THIS OCCUBED JUST AFTER WE WERE OUT OF THE FLAK AREA, OVER THE SOUTH EAST PART OF VIENNA.

Gerrit L. Cooper

GERRIT L. COOPER
SERGEANT, 37478780
777TH BOMB SQ. (H)

Sub 2

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9302-4

WITNESS STATEMENT

17 OCTOBER 1944

I SAW YELLOW "J", PILOTED BY LT. WALDRON LEAVE THE FORMATION JUST AFTER BOMBS AWAY. THE PLANE WENT INTO A SLOPING GLIDE. I THINK IT WAS HIT NEAR THE #3 ENGINE BY FLAK. I SAW EIGHT MEN LEAVE THE PLANE. I SAW TWO CHUTES OPEN, BUT, THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE OTHER CHUTES TO OPEN.

THE PLANE DISINTERGRATED IN THE AIR SOME DISTANCE BELOW US. WE WERE FLYING AT 23,000 FEET AT THE TIME.

George P. Cook
GEORGE P. COOK
SERGEANT, 6829140
777TH BOMB SQ. (H)

1322-5

WITNESS STATEMENT

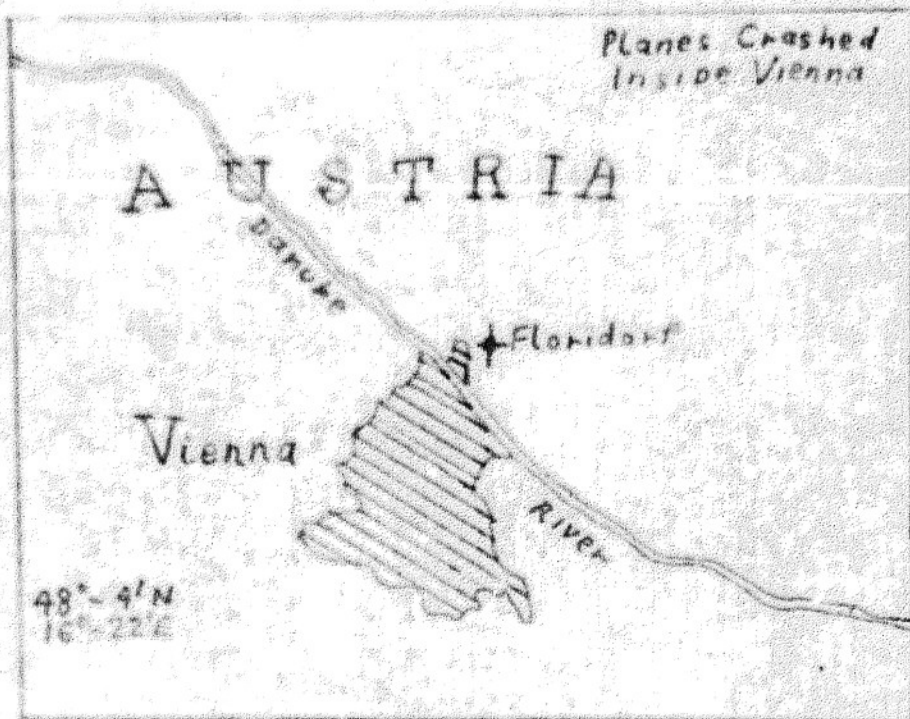
17 OCTOBER 1944

THE BALL GUNNER ON MY CREW CALLED OUT TO ME THAT YELLOW "J" PILOTED BY LT WALDRON WAS IN TROUBLE. I TURNED MY TURRET AND WATCHED THE PLANE. I SAW EIGHT MEN LEAVE THE PLANE, BUT, I ONLY SAW TWO CHUTES OPEN. SOME OF THE MEN MAY HAVE MADE DELAYED JUMPS. THE PLANE SEEMED TO DISINTERGRATE IN MID-AIR ABOUT THIRTY TO FORTY-FIVE SECONDS BEFORE IT WENT INTO THE UNDERCAST.

JAMES N. MAC LEOD
SERGEANT, 31355699
777TH BOMB SQ. (H)

James N. MacLeod

10/17/44



1st Lt. Donald K. Waldron

Mrs. Helen B. Waldron, (wife)
135 Linn Street,
Ithaca, New York.

1st Lt. Don J. Weir

Mr. Richard C. Weir, (brother)
400 First Avenue,
New York, New York.

1st Lt. Albert W. Danoff

Mrs. Esther Gilb, (mother)
47 East Main Street,
Glen Lyon, Pennsylvania.

1st Lt. Jack L. Abrams

Mr. Felix A. Abrams, (father)
4106 North Stowell Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

T/Sgt. Russell H. Reiner

Mrs. Florence B. Reiner, (wife)
536 Fullerton Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois.

S/Sgt. David M. Shaffler

Mrs. Ann M. Shaffler, (wife)
327 West 18th Street,
New York, New York.

T/Sgt. William R. Terry

Mrs. Effie M. Latham, (mother)
415 East Myers Street,
Edmond, Oklahoma.

Sgt. Benjamin Nelson

Mrs. Fannie Nelson, (mother)
1934 Webster Avenue,
Bronx 57, New York.

S/Sgt. John W. Woods

Mrs. Ethel L. Woods, (mother)
125 Terrace Avenue,
Port Chester, New York.

S/Sgt. John G. Barbarich

Mr. John J. Barbarich, (father)
342 1/2 Fowler Street,
Kansas City, Kansas.

(11) mjs v

AG 360.33/030-C
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U.S. Army, 4 November 1944.

Wrapper Ind.

OE/ak

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
(Att: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Reports carrying AG Casualty Branch Control
Numbers 829 thru 848 inclusive.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

Owen Elliot

OWEN ELLIOT,
Major, AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

ll

20 Incls: as above.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WEIR, DON J. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. O-527844
2. Organization 777th Sq., 464th B.G. (H) Schroeder Rank Col. Jim G. Moore Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month October day 17th. did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, Austria, target, Ordnance plant (?), target time, 1200+, altitude, Approx. 22500 ft. route scheduled, direct evading
flak areas, route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Flying left wing of lead ship in our box.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, eight (8) others did.
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". First pilot, Lt. Waldron left last below 3000 feet. Navigator, Lt. Danoff, wounded, through bomb bay just before me. Sgt. Nelson, nose-gunner, through bomb-bay just before me. We all landed within one mile of each other.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approx. 50 miles south-cast of Vienna, just over the Hungarian border.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) The bombardier, Lt. Jack L. Abrams, O-691627.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Lt. Abrams' body was lying on the flight deck.
12. What was their condition? Lt. Abrams was dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? None.
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)

DON J. WEIR

1st Lt., A.C. O-527844

6-3562, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: ABRAMS, Jack L.
 Rank: 1st/Lt.
 Serial number: 0-691627
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? -----

If not, why not? Lt. Abrams was killed when the airplane was hit aloft.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I called Lt. Abrams approximately one minute before the airplane was hit and asked him if we were ready to release our bombs. He replied in the affirmative over the interphone.

Was he injured? Lt. Abrams was probably instantly killed.

Where was he when last seen? In the airplane on the right side of the flight deck. (P-24)

Any hearsay information: I was next to last to leave the airplane and Lt. Abrams was still in it. Lt. Waldron, first pilot, was later taken to the scene of the crash. He stated that part of Lt. Abrams body was in the vicinity of the wreckage.

Source: 1st Lt. Donald K. Waldron. O-820860

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 34. ^{or} (Approx. 22 sorties)

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

DOW J. WEIR
 1st Lt., A.C. O-827844

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: REIMER, Russell H.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 16050236
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: ROM Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approx. fifty (50) miles south-east of Vienna, Austria, within one or two miles of the Hungarian border.

If not, why not? -----

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Lt. Denoff and Sgt. Nelson assisted me in dropping Sgt. Reimer through the open bomb bay. We pulled his ripcord as we dropped him. Sgt. Reimer was severely wounded and suffering from shock. No conversation.

Was he injured? Two known wounds in the head from flak. Bleeding profusely.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him as he dropped through the bomb bay.

Any hearsay information: Sgt. Nelson followed Sgt. Reimer almost immediately. He landed very close to him but was unable to assist him as they were both captured immediately.

Sgt. Nelson stated that Sgt. Reimer was still alive, but very seriously injured. German soldiers took charge of Sgt. Reimer and that was the last time Sgt. Nelson saw him. I did not learn of Sgt. Reimer's death until I returned to the U.S. I then learned Sgt. Reimer

died in Germany on Oct. 19, 1944.

Source: Sgt. Benjamin Nelson, 120101, and Mrs. Russell H. Reimer (Wife)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: around 40.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

DON J. WEIR
 1st Lt., A.C. G-827544

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Danoff, Albert N. Rank 1ST LT Serial No. 0-912517
2. Organization 464th Gp Commander Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Oct. day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 41 ST, target, VIENNA, target time, 1200, altitude, 23,000' route scheduled,
route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Italy
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". Everyone got down safely, except for 2 whose questionnaires were attached.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 15-20 mi. E. of Vienna.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Rumold, G. C.
Abraham, J. H.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Flight deck.
12. What was their condition? Dead
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?
At Vienna, Rumold - saw all crew members who bailed out. Rumold, Oswald H. was severely injured, I last saw him at the dispensary there.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.
no knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: **AERAMS, Jack L.**
 Rank: **1st/Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-691627**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? no.

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was killed instantly, & even if we had wanted to get him out, we couldn't since we didn't have the amount of time & spent it pulling out another wounded man.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Ok yes

check right after turn in to bomb run.

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? Pilot found his basket at some of crash.

Any hearsay information: no.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: no.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 35

Dates and destinations if possible: unknown.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: REIMER, Russell H.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 16050336
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: RCM Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? c. 15 mi. E. of Vienna

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: asked him if he was all right before he lost consciousness

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? at a dig site in an infield (Weinertendorf)

Any hearsay information: no. He was pretty badly injured, & the German doctor only said he had a 50-50 chance. Next day, we were told he had been sent to a hospital in Vienna.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: no.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 25.

Dates and destinations if possible: unknown

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DAVID M. SHEFFLER Rank EX-T/SGT Serial No. 12058977
2. Organization 46TH BG Gp Commander SCHROEDER Rank COL Sqn CO MOORE Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month OCTOBER day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Vienna Austria, target
time, About 12:45, altitude, about 23,500 ft. route scheduled, cannot recall
recall, route flown It was flown as scheduled, I believe. ^{ST. Ordinance works.}
5. Where were you when you left formation? Cannot recall.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes! 8 more.
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". S/SGT WOODS FROM CAMERA HATCH AS WELL AS T/SGT TERRY + S/SGT BARBERA. FROM THE BOMB BAY LTS. WALDRON, WEIR + DANOFF + S/SGT DELSON + T/SGT REIMER WITH THE AID OF DANOFF, WEIR + DELSON. I ALSO BAILED OUT FROM THE CAMERA HATCH.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approx. 30 to 40 miles south of Vienna near Parndorf airport.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) H. Abrams.
11. Where were they in aircraft? On the flight deck.
12. What was their condition? Reported dead.
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. I spoke to the bombardier of the crew behind us at the Parndorf airport jail. He said the plane he was in had a tower shot off and the plane went down in a spin. He plunged and succeeded in getting out the nose wheel hatch. He believed the remainder of the crew never got out. I believe the pilot's name was KAIRIS.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I don't know if I'm out of order in suggesting this, but I think that the people on the flight deck, Waldron, Weir, Wausoff and Nelson deserve to be decorated for their gallantry in action.

S/Sgt Nelson when he went out in the bomb bay had no parachute on and the ship was on fire at the time and he held on to Keimer's rip cord and took a chance on the ship stream pulling him out without a chute. He has received no recognition for his bravery in that particular action.

St. Wausoff, though wounded himself in the hands and legs gave his oxygen mask to both Abrams and Keimer and aided in getting Keimer out of the ship. St. Weir aided in this and St. Waldron held up the ship long enough for them to get Keimer out despite the condition of the ship. These men also have received no recognition for their action which gives credit to the air force which they served.

out of place as this means, I think these men who risked their own lives so bravely for the other members of the crew should be recognized, as other men who distinguished themselves by their bravery in action, have been.

David M. Shipper

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: ABRAMS, Jack L.
 Rank: 1st/Lt.
 Serial number: 0-691627
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No!

Where? _____

If not, why not? According to what I heard, he was already dead.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: cannot recall, may have been oxygen check.

Was he injured? Reported to be killed when the shell hit the ship.

Where was he when last seen? Lying on the flight deck.

Any hearsay information: all the information I give is hearsay as when the incident occurred I was in the rear of the ship. Abrams was said to be lying face down watching for the bombs to be released, when we were hit. Upon examination, the navigator found him already dead. The pilot checked him before bailing out and also found him to be dead.

Source: LTS. D. K. WALDRON, DJ. WEIR, A. DANOFF & S/SGT. BENJAMIN DELSON

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Since most of this information was given to me immediately following the incident, I presumed it to be reasonably accurate. Lt. Waldron landed near the ship and found a coat of Lt. Abrams' arm and took his identification bracelet off it showed it to me. This Lt. Waldron told me.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Exact figure unknown about 40

Dates and destinations if possible: LINZ, AUSTRIA, VIENNA, AUSTRIA (A FEW TIMES)

OCT. 1944
 PLECKHAMMER, THE REST ARE BEYOND MY REMEMBRANCE.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: REIMER, Russell H.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 16050336
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: ROM Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes! he was aided though. (see reverse side.)

Where? Approximately 30 miles south of Vienna near Parndorf Air port

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Cannot recall exactly, but after he was hit I think he asked to get out of his turret.

Was he injured? Seemed to be very seriously, he lost a great deal of blood and had marks on his forehead and what the Germans which looked like "flake" wounds.

Where was he when last seen? At the medical aid room at Parndorf Air port.

Any hearsay information: Heard none about his getting hit. Word he got out of the turret himself, bleeding badly. He was difficult to handle as he was gripping everything he could to keep the combined efforts of Lt. Danoff and Weir and S/Sgt. Weir to bail him out.

Source: LT. DANOFF, LT. WEIR + S/Sgt. NELSON.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw him last he was alive, semi-conscious, his eyes were open, but when I looked at him, his eyes maintained their position. He had lost a great deal of blood. The German Hauptmann medical officer gave him a shot of some sort. He looked in a very bad way. At the time I had little doubt in his chances for survival that I saw him slip away and sent supposition.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 33 or 35.

Dates and destinations if possible: OCT. 17, 1944 VIENNA, AUSTRIA, LINZ, AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
THINK OCT. 16, 1944 OCT. 1944

ARE THE ONLY ONES I CAN ACCURATELY RECALL.

This is what I picked up from some of the members involved: - Lt. Weir, Lt. Danoff, 51594 Nelson.

T/ Sgt Reimer got out of his turret, he sat down, Danoff was working on Abrams putting his own oxygen mask on him. He saw that Abrams was dead. At first he suspected Reimer was a rigger ~~and~~ and the excess blood was Abrams's. Reimer, though, was acting strangely, Danoff then noticed Reimer was bleeding badly, he put his oxygen mask on Reimer. Somewhere in the interval it came time to haul out. The pilot (Lt. Wardron) held the ship. Weir and Danoff aided Sgt Nelson managed to get Reimer to the bomb bay. (It was difficult because as I say he was holding onto everything.) At the bomb bay, Danoff and Weir held Reimer while Nelson set himself, the three of them then set Reimer loose and Nelson held on to his rip cord and it pulled as it cleared the ship. Nelson landed near Reimer on the ground. The Germans did not let Nelson touch his first aid kit. He was then brought in on a stretcher to Parndorf Airport where I saw him as I described.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Delson, Benjamin Rank S/sgt Serial No. 4204214
2. Organization 464B.6 Gp ⁷⁷⁷⁸⁵ Commander Shroeder Rank Col. Sqn CO Moore Rank Maj
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Oct day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, target, Warehouse, target time, 13:30, altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Heading south
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" St. Waldron-Wier & Danoff
Sgt. Terry, Sheffler, Woods, Barberich & Delson - all bailed out
some 20 odd miles south of Vienna. Sgt. Reimer was
bailed out - Fatally wounded
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? _____
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. Abrams
11. Where were they in aircraft? Flight Deck
12. What was their condition? Deceased
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. Reimer last seen at Ponderhaff Air Base
Unconscious. Serious head wound.
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: ABPAMS, Jack L.
 Rank: 1st/Lt.
 Serial number: 6-591627
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? Killed by flak in plane

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Contact made by inter-phone 10 min prior to accident

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? Flight deck

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 38

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

Name of crew member: REIMER, Russell H.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 16050336
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~(Fighter): ROM Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 28 miles south of Vienna

If not, why not? _____

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

Bailed him out.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Ponderhoff - German Air Base

Any hearsay information: Died in Vienna hospital due to wounds

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx 38

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William R. Terry Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 18086933
2. Organization 747 Bomb GP. ^{Op} Commander _____ Rank Col. Sqn CO Morris Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month October day 17th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, Austria, target, South Ordnance Plt., target
time, 1230, altitude, 24,000 ft. route scheduled, unknown
route flown as scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Vienna
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, with the exceptions of one,
Jack L. Abrams.
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". I was new on this crew and I didn't know the names of all the crew members, but the whole crew bailed out with the exceptions of the bombardier, who rode the plane down. The man who was flying the nose gun position bailed Reimer out of the plane. Reimer was wounded.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately 30 miles Southeast of the target.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) The bombardier, Jack L. Abrams.
11. Where were they in aircraft? On the flight deck
12. What was their condition? Fatally wounded
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw the officers in Weisler, Germany. The enlisted men after we were liberated.
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: ABRAMS, Jack L.
 Rank: 1st/Lt.
 Serial number: 0-691627
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was dead

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

Crossing the Adriatic Sea.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? On the flight deck

Any hearsay information: The pilot saw him after the plane crashed in the wreckage.

Source: Lt. Waldron (Pilot)

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

No.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 35 missions

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct. 17, 1944. Vienna Austria.

South Ord. Plant

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9302

Name of crew member: REIMER, Russell H.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 16050336
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~(~~Right~~): ROM Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approximately 30 miles Southeast of Target.

If not, why not? _____

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

I had no contact with him.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? When the nose gunner bailed him out.

Any hearsay information: The navigator saw him after we were captured in the hospital and he said he didn't have a chance to live.

Source: Navigator

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

No.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 40 missions

Dates and destinations if possible: October, 17th, 1944, Vienna Austria
South Ord. Plant

MACH 9302
 B-24
 HAF 44-41070
 10 men

DATE:	17 Oct. 44 at 1700		<u>U S A</u>		<u>NR 2300</u>
PLACE:	Area of Paradorf				
TYPE:	Liberator				
MARKINGS:	"I"				
	777th (H.B.) Sqd.		1st Lt. WALDRON, Donald K.		0-830850
	464th Grp. 55th Wing		" WEIR, Don James		0-837844
	KIA		" DANOFF, ALBERT H.		0-712317
TARGET:	HQ of airfield Parndorf		2nd Lt. ABRA'S, Jack L.		-- 0691627
	<i>Other eight men listed below</i>		T/Sgt. TERRY, William B.		18086933
			S/Sgt. SHEFFLER, David M.		12058977
			T/ " REIMER, (Hospital)		#16050226
			" BARRETTX BARBARICH, John George		20725074
			S/Sgt. DELSON, Benjamin		42041914

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH: unknown

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: unknown

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (o) 3/XVII, Parndorf
 17 Oct. 44 at 20

CREW

SURNAME, AND Weir
 FIRST NAME: Don J.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: O-827844

CAPTURED: 17 Oct. 44 at
 150¹ clock Nickelendorf.
 DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

17 Oct 44 MIA

PLACE OF CRASH: unknown

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: unknown

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (c) 3/XVII, Parndorf
17 Oct. 44 at 17:45

CREW

SURNAME, AND
FIRST NAME: Danoff
Albert N.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: 0-712517

CAPTURED: 17 Oct. 44 at 13:15 Nickelendorf. dist. Bruck/L.
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: WOUNDED: Hand wounds DEAD: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

EWS

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

17 Oct 1944 MIA

PLACE OF CRASH: unknown

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: unknown

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (o) 3/XVII, Parndorf
17 Oct. 44 at 17:45

CREW

SURNAME, AND Delson
FIRST NAME: Benjamin

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: S/Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: 42041914

CAPTURED: at Nickelsdorf WOUNDED: DEAD:

17 Oct. 44 at 13:15 dist. Bruck/L.
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH: unknown
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator
 REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (c) 3/XVII, Parndorf
 17 Oct. 44 at 16 O'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND
 FIRST NAME: Woods
 John W.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: S/Sgt

EWS

SERIAL NUMBER: 12083695

CAPTURED: 17 Oct. 44 at WOUNDED:
 13:15 at Gottendorf

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

MIA 17 Oct 44

PLACE OF CRASH: unknown

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (o) 3/XVII, Parndorf
17 Oct. 44 at 16 O'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND Barbarich
FIRST NAME: John G.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

S/Sgt

EWS

SERIAL NUMBER: 20725074

CAPTURED: 17 Oct. 44 at WOUNDED: DEAD:
13:15 Gottendorf dist. Bruck/L.

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Date and Time Aircraft
was shot down

17 October 1944 at 1300

Casualty Nr. ME 2300

Place of crash:

Area Parndorf

Type of Aircraft:

L i b e r a t o r

Reporting Offices:

Airbase Headquarter Parndorf.

MAOR #
9302

Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of Inter
WALDRON 23 Aug.22	Donald K.	1st Lt 0-820860	captured	Dulag Luft We
WEIR 17 Jan.21	Don James Kansas City, Mo.	1st Lt 0-827844	"	dido
DANOFF 9 Sept.23	Albert Nathaniel USA	1st Lt 0-712517	"	dido
FERRY	William R.	T/Sgt 18086933	"	dido
SHEFFLER	David Michael	S/Sgt 12058977	"	dido
WOODS 3 Oct.19	John W. Mt.Vernon, N.Y.	S/Sgt 12083695	"	dido
DELSON	Benjamin	S/Sgt 42041914	"	dido
BARBARICH 1923	John George USA	S/Sgt 20725074	"	dido
REIMER		S/Sgt	injured	

6 November 1944

Date and Time Aircraft
was shot down

17 October 1944 at 1300

Casualty Nr. ME 2300

Place of crash:

Area Parndorf

Type of Aircraft:

L i b e r a t o r

Reporting Office:

Airbase Headquarter Parndorf.

Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of Internment
WALDRON 23 Aug.22	Donald K.	1st Lt 0-820860	captured	Dulag Luft West
WEIR 17 Jan.21	Don James Kansas City, Mo.	1st Lt 0-827844	"	dido
DANOFF 9 Sept.23	Albert Nathaniel USA	1st Lt 0-712517	"	dido
TERRY	William R.	T/Sgt 18086933	"	dido
SHEFFLER	David Michael	S/Sgt 12058977	"	dido
WOODE 3 Oct.19	John W. Mt.Vernon, N.Y.	S/Sgt 12083695	"	dido
DELSON	Benjamin	S/Sgt 42041914	"	dido
BARBARICH 1923	John George USA	S/Sgt 20725074	"	dido
REIMER , RUSSELL H.		S/Sgt 1605 ⁰ 336	<u>injured</u>	

EUS

DOW
17/10/44

5 November 1944

Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschluß-Nr. 938 ME 230

Abschlußtag und Zeit: 17.10.44 - 13.00 -
Abschlußort: Raum Parndorf
Flugzeugtyp: Liberator
Meldende Dienststelle: Fl.H.Kdtr.Parndorf

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:		Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	gef.: verw.: tot:	Verbleib: weiches Lage Art d. Verwund Grablage
✓ WALDRON 23.8.22	Donald K.	1.-t.	0-820860	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ VEIR 17.1.21	Don James Kansas City, Mo.	1.Lt.	0-827844	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ DANOFF 9.9.23	Albert Nathaniel USA	1.Lt.	0-712517	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ TERRY	William R.	T/Sgt.	18086933	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ SHEFFLE	David Michael	S/Sgt.	12058977	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ WOODS 3.10.19.	John W. Mt. Vernon, N.Y.	S/Sgt.	12083695	gef.	Dulag-Luf
✓ BELSON	Benjamin	S/Sgt.	42041914	gef.	Dulag-Luft
✓ BARBARICH 1923	John George USA	S/Sgt.	20725074	gef.	Dulag-Luft
✓ REIMER		S/Sgt.			verw.