

455th Bombardment Group (H)  
742nd Bombardment Squadron (H)

APC 520 U. S. Army  
26 April 1944

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bombardment Group (H) APC 520 U. S. Army.

Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Report of 1st Lt. Meriwether (NMI) Jones and crew missing since 21 April 1944, over Rumania.

For the Commanding Officer:

*William W. Berg*  
WILLIAM W. BERG,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

3 Incls:

- Incl No. 1 Missing Air Crew Report (Quin)
- Incl No. 2 Sketch of where Ship was last seen (Quin)
- Incl No. 3 Statement by Lt. Brown of missing Aircraft (Quin)

1st Ind.

Headquarters, 455th Bombardment Group (H) APC 520 U. S. Army 26 April 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 304th Bombardment Wing, APC 520 U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Group Commander:

*C. A. Olson*  
C. A. OLSON,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

3 Incls: n/c

360.33 C-DB-4 2nd Ind.  
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APC 520, 27 Apr 44.  
TO: CG, 15th AF, APC 520.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your Headquarters, 26 April 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Harold G. Wilson*  
HAROLD G. WILSON,  
Captain, AGD,  
Adjutant.

1 Incl: MAC Rpt Lt Jones and Crew  
W/2 incls (quad)

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STATEMENT

After one head-on pass by a ME 109 Lt. Jones was seen to turn left, losing altitude at about 500 feet per minute, and disappearing into the clouds with #2 engine on fire. The plane seemed to be under control the last that was seen of it. None of the crew members were seen to bail out.

*Clyde W. Brown*  
CLYDE W. BROWN  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
O-749610

*Incl #2.*



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
(Equals British Confidential)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON  
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
Date WAC 10

66-79

IMPORTANT : This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an Aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Fld, Italy. Command or Air Force 15th Air Force. Group 455th Bomb Group; Squadron 742nd Bomb Sqdn; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Fld, Italy; Course from San Giovanni Fld, Italy 4130 N/ 1626 E to 4000 N/ 1400 E to 4510 N/ 1335 E to IP to target. Intended Destination South Eastern Part Marshalling Yards, Bucharest, Rumania. Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Complete overcast.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 21 April 1944; Time 1246, and location lost at Target 44 deg 29 min North 26 deg 03 min East of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether (X) Last Sighted; ( ) Last Contacted by Radio; ( ) Forced Down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF : (Check only one (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances as follows; \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24-H; AAF Serial Number 41-28640.
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43; AAF Serial Number (a) 42-64505 (b) 42-64490 (c) 42-3622 (d) 42-64506
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below make, Type and Serial Number) all are Browning Air-Craft Machine Guns, Type M-2. (a) 966144 (b) 966889 (c) 126616 (d) 489660 (e) 218902 (f) 218920 (g) 123375 (h) 724660 (i) 750707 (j) 752707
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS (a) Battle Casualty yes or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10. Passengers None. Total 10. (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to \_\_\_\_\_

1. Pilot	<u>Jones, Meriwether (NMI)</u>	1st Lt	<u>0448999</u>	
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Yttri, Vilas R</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0691076</u>	<u>RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Bodwell, Richard K Jr</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0811526</u>	
4. Bombardier	<u>Boffa, Victor M</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0688903</u>	
5. Radio Operator Gun	<u>Jackson, Roger W</u>	T Sgt	<u>39195519</u>	
6. Engineer Gunn	<u>Seman, Leon C</u>	T Sgt	<u>36281369</u>	
7. Asst Radio Op. Gunn	<u>Blanchard, William H</u>	S Sgt	<u>35337852</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8. Gunner	<u>Griffith, Kenneth (NMI)</u>	S Sgt	<u>16055084</u>	<u>RTD</u>
9. Asst Engineer Gun	<u>Philbin, James P V</u>	S Sgt	<u>16111169</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10. Armorer Gunner	<u>Wooldridge, Francis N</u>	S Sgt	<u>36269546</u>	<u>RTD</u>

Incl #1 L



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(Excludes British Confidential)

11. IDENTIFY PERSONS WHO OR BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, ANSWERS APPROPRIATE TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

DA, 10

Check only one column

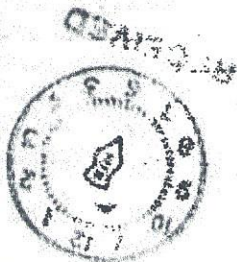
<u>Name in Full</u> (Last Name First)	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Contacted</u> <u>by</u> <u>Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw</u> <u>Crash</u>	<u>Saw</u> <u>Forced</u> <u>Landing</u>
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1. Brown, Clyde W      2nd Lt      0749610      X

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \_\_\_\_\_ (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) Ship was under control when last seen.
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None.

Date of Report      25      April      1944

*William W. Berg*  
WILLIAM W. BERG,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.



APR 26 1944



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

4387

1. Your name Richard K. Bodwell Jr. Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-811526
2. Organization 455th Gp Commander K. Cool Rank Col. Sqn CO E. Ambrosen Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month April day 21 st did you go down?
4. What was the mission, my 21st target, Bucharest M/Y target  
time, 1230 hours altitude, 20,000 ft. route scheduled,  
route flown This information is vague in my mind at this time.
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 to 30 miles south-southwest of Bucharest.
6. Did you bail out? Yes, I bailed out at 2000 feet.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? 8 members including myself.
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 have knowledge in this respect to only one member of our crew, Roger Jackson, radio operator. Jackson and I bailed out at approximately the same time but for some reason his chute never opened. My guess is that he passed out when he made his jump as he was wounded.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near a small village 10-12 miles east of the city of Draconesti.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 2 members, pilot and engineer. Pilot was killed in crash but engineer escaped the crash with only bad burns.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot was at the controls and engineer was acting as copilot as copilot had jumped.
12. What was their condition? Pilot o. k. to my knowledge but engineer had 20mm pieces in him.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All eight of us who made successful jumps are now back in the States. Meriwether Jones, pilot, burned in the plane as far as I know. Roger Jackson, radio operator, was to be buried near that small town where we hit the ground.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.  
Nothing of importance here.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

see other side-----



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 4387

Name of crew member: JACKSON, Roger W.

Rank: T/Sgt.

Serial number: 39195519

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxx~~ (Rightmost): Radio Operator GunnerDid he bail out? He left the shipWhere? Romania

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? YesWhere was he when last seen? I seen him last when we left, ITALYAny hearsay information: He died as soon as he left the ship  
(or) his parachute failed to open.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 + 2.3

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 4387

Name of crew member: BOFFA, Victor M.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: 0-688903  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~modifying (lightness)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? yesWhere? Romania

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? yesWhere was he when last seen? New York

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Kenneth Griffith Rank Sgt Serial No. 16055084
2. Organization 455 Gp Commander Kool Rank Col Sqn CO Ambrose Rank Col  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month April day 21 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Railroad yards, target, Bucharest Romania target  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, \_\_\_\_\_ route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Around 15 min. on way back from target
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". 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) Pilot and Engineer
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the pilot pit
12. What was their condition? Pilot Killed - Engineer Runned
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)



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 4387

Name of crew member: SEMAN, Leon C.

Rank: T/Sgt.

Serial number: 36281369

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~accident~~ (Right): Engineer GunnerDid he bail out? NO

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

If not, why not? His parachute burned when we were hit

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

Was he injured? yesWhere was he when last seen? chute field, Rantoul, Ill.

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 4387

Name of crew member: BOWELL, Richard K. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: 0-811326  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Romania

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? ITALY. BARI

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 + 23

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 4387

Name of crew member: JONES, Meriwether  
Rank: 1st Lt.  
Serial number: 0-418999  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~cockpilot (pilot)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? Trying to save the Engineer

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

Don't remember - our B-24 was badly hit + on fire

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: He was killed in the crash

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge



The information given on the other side of this sheet is rather brief but if any additional information is desired I will be glad to give you all I know.

As you can make out from the questions I answered, we lost two members of our crew. I am not sure of the location of the crash as I was badly wounded myself and was taken to a hospital as soon as they could take me. The nearest large Rumanian town to our crash was the town of Draconesti. I could find my way from there but I would hesitate to give anyone directions on paper.

Please let me know if I can be of further service to you.



# BUCHAREST TARGET CHART NO 1-10-14

