

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**8973**

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 765<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta Field, Italy Course Direct to target  
Target Munich, Germany Type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 4 Oct 1944 Time 1245 Last known position 50 miles north of Trieste, 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 G AAF Serial Number 42-78444

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: All American

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R1830-65A AAF serial Number [a] 496643  
[b] CP 50862 [c] 438998 [d] 437053

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]

[a] <u>967169</u>	[e] <u>967303</u>	[i] <u>967205</u>
[b] <u>967191</u>	[f] <u>967171</u>	[j] <u>966952</u>
[c] <u>967160</u>	[g] <u>966445</u>	
[d] <u>967143</u>	[h] <u>966711</u>	

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	<b>Chalmers, Robert T., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-798437</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Ruby H. Chalmers (Mother)</b> <b>23 Burnham Ave., Rutland, Vermont</b>
[2] Co-pilot	<b>Rhodes, Donald J., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0- 825981</b>	MIA	<b>Mr. Delmar R. Rhodes (Father)</b> <b>1941 Princeton, Berkeley, Michigan</b>
[3] Nav	<b>Dick, Frank M., 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-718260</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Katherine M. Dick (Mother)</b> <b>122 Davis Ave., Brookline, Massachusetts</b>
[4] Bomb	<b>Rothberg, Chester (NMI), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.</b> <b>0-694502</b>	MIA	<b>Mr. Louis Rothberg (Father)</b> <b>1903 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, New York</b>
[5] TTG	<b>Andersen, Lester E., Sgt.</b> <b>39330297</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Gertrude Andersen (Mother)</b> <b>Box 174, Gresham, Oregon</b>
[6] RWG	<b>Krause, David L., Sgt.</b> <b>31308170</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Bessie Krause (Mother)</b> <b>14 Wiley Road, Belmont, Massachusetts</b>
[7] TG	<b>Russell, Archie S., Sgt.</b> <b>33804671</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Jane Russell (Mother)</b> <b>1235 13<sup>th</sup> St., Eddystone, Pennsylvania</b>
[8] LWG	<b>Mezera, John F., Sgt.</b> <b>16192453</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Alice Mezera (Mother)</b> <b>1404 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Two Rivers, Wisconsin</b>
[9] NTG	<b>Alexander, Odie C., Jr., Sgt.</b> <b>38536182</b>	MIA	<b>Mrs. Lyoa E. Alexander (Mother)</b> <b>Box 332, Purdon, Texas</b>

[10] BTG Kennedy, Patrick J., Sgt. MIA Mrs. Sarah Kennedy (Mother)  
32691166 551 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn, New York

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[11]

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[12]

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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] Harry W. Dunham	T/Sgt.	6980505		X		

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[2]

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[3]

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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] **Impossible to determine.**

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: **No search made by this organization.**

**9 October 1944**

/s/ Samuel B. Sinai  
Capt., AC Adj.

HEADQUARTERS  
765<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF  
APO 520

9 October 1944

STATEMENT

On October 4, 1944, returning from a bombing mission to Munich, Germany, I noticed ship number twenty-four was having difficulty keeping up with the formation. On closer observation I could see that the ship was losing altitude steadily and that it was smoking badly. The last I saw of this aircraft, which I found to belong to the 765<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, piloted by Lt. Chalmers, it was approximately fifty miles north of Trieste, Italy.

/s/ Harry W. Dunham  
T/Sgt., 6980505  
766<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Chester Rothberg Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-694502
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Hoermann Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month October day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Munich, target, RR Yards, target time, , altitude, route scheduled, , route flown ....
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near Alps.
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". The pilot managed to keep the plane flying until we reached Yugoslavia. Then the entire crew bailed out.
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) 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?.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Our entire crew bailed out without mishap. We were all together when we were evacuated. My entire crew then reported to our squadron for duty.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Dick, Frank M.**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-718260**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Lt. Dick notified the crew that we were over Yugoslavia.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **At our squadron in Italy – all of our crew were safe and were returned to our base for duty.**

Any hearsay information: :

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Dick, Frank M.**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-718260**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

**Lt. Dick was a member of my crew only when he was reported missing on 4 Oct 44. He was lost again on 18 Dec 44 while flying on another crew. All information is hearsay.**

Did he bail out? **Yes, he bailed out.**

Where? **In central Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Unknown.**

Was he injured? **Not before bailing out.**

Where was he when last seen? **Lenning ship.**

Any hearsay information: .

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Some of crew that returned had landed in a swamp. It was thought that Lt. Dick might possibly drowned in landing in swamp. Also a possibility exists that the Ustasm packed him up and no doubt killed him.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 30 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **The ship was not crippled by enemy action. They aborted about 20 minutes before the target due to engine trouble. Lt. Marshall was the pilot on mission to Linz, Austria.**

**I am very interested in any information you have been able to get about Lt. Dick. If it is possible I would like to have the information sent to me at my home address which is:**

**23 Burnham Ave.  
Rutland, Vermont**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert T. Chalmers Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-798437
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Hoermann Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month October day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing, target, Marshalling Yards, Munich, Germany, target time, 1200 hours, altitude 23,000 feet, route scheduled, as briefed, route flown as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 35 minutes off target over northern Italy.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes all members 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 crew members returned safely.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? On a side of a mountain.
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?;
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Our entire crew bailed out without mishap. We were all together when we were evacuated. My entire crew then reported to our squadron for duty.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Dick, Frank M.**

Rank: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**

Serial number: **0-718260**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Did not see him before take-off.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

Any hearsay information: **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank M. Dick was with us on our mission on Oct 4, 1944 over the East Marshalling Yards in Munich when flak got us and we found it necessary to bail out over Yugoslavia. However, some time during the latter part of November 1944 he again was unfortunate and forced to bail out but as stated earlier in this questionnaire I am of the impression that he drowned because I personally talked to some of the other crew members who came back to their base and they were under the same impression. One of the crew members almost met the same fate but as luck would have it a farmer happened along just at the time and pulled him out of the water.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Due to heavy rains territory where he landed was flooded and he might have drowned because one other crew member who bailed or landed in the same territory was saved by a farmer just in the nick of time.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **(33).**

Dates and destinations if possible: **This last mission was in the last part of Nov 1944.**



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John F. Mezera Rank Sgt. Serial No. 16192453.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Hoermann Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month October day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Munich, target, East Marshalling Yards, target time, 1201, altitude 24,000 feet, route scheduled, formed over Adriatic, route flown flew straight course to IP and then on to target.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over 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". All bailed out over Yugoslavia and all returned to base (Torretta Field, Italy).
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Struck mountain in 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? All bailed out.
12. What was their condition?;
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? They all returned to base in good condition except for some injuries.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Our entire crew bailed out without mishap. We were all together when we were evacuated. My entire crew then reported to our squadron for duty.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Krause, David L. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 31308170.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Rogers Rank Col Sqn CO Baker Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month October day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Linz, Austria, target, Marshalling Yards, target time, , altitude, route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Austria.
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?.
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?.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.;

**I don't know if you understand that Lt. Frank Dick was missing in action two times. The first time, when he returned safely, was the time that I was with him. The second time, he was flying with another crew. However, I have talked to several of his crew members and I will fill out the questionnaires with respect to the second time using information received from his fellow crew members. I hope my information will be of some help.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Odie C. Alexander Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 38536182.
2. Organization 461<sup>st</sup> Gp Commander Lawhon Rank Col Sqn CO Baker Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month October day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Munich, Germany, target, Marshalling Yards, target time, 1201, altitude 26,500 ft., route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Northern Yugoslavia.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes (entire crew).
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 bailed out in northern Yugoslavia.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near where bailed out.
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?.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert T. CHalmers</b>	<b>Mrs. Ruby H. Chalmers(Mother) 23 Burnham Avenue Rutland, Vermont</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald J. Rhodes</b>	<b>Mr. Delmar R. Rhodes (Father) 1941 Princeton Berkeley, Michigan</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank M. Dick</b>	<b>Mrs. Katherine M. Dick (Mother)) 122 Davis Avenue Brookline, Massachusetts</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chester Rothberg</b>	<b>Mr. Louis Rothberg (Father) 1903 Ocean Avenue Brooklyn, New York</b>
<b>Sergeant Lester E. Andersen</b>	<b>Mrs. Gertrude Andersen (Mother) Box 174 Gresham, Oregon</b>
<b>Sergeant David L. Krause</b>	<b>Mrs. Bessie Krause (Mother) 14 Wiley Road Belmont, Massachusetts</b>
<b>Sergeant Archie S. Russell</b>	<b>Mrs. Jane Russell (Mother) 1235 13<sup>th</sup> Street Eddystone, Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Sergeant John F. Mezera</b>	<b>Mrs. Alice Mezera (Mother) 1404 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Two Rivers, Wisconsin</b>
<b>Sergeant Odie C. Alexander, Jr.</b>	<b>Mrs. Lyoa E. Alexander (Mother) Box 332 Purdon, Texas</b>
<b>Sergeant Patrick J. Kennedy</b>	<b>Mrs. Sarah Kennedy (Mother) 551 East 29<sup>th</sup> Street Brooklyn, New York</b>