HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE APO 520 U. S. Army

23 November 1944

ESCAPE STATEMENT

- 1. Berliner, Nathan, 2nd Lt., 0-2060221, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - 24 April 1916 Enlisted - 12 Dec 1942 Home Address - Strasburg, Va. Peacetime Profession - aircraft worker MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 22 Nov 1944 Missions - 6 1. Owens, James S., 2nd Lt., 0-2057384, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - Benton, ILL. Enlisted - 3 Dec 1942 Home Address - 3234 Wallace St., Steger, Ill. Peacetime Profession - Student MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 23 Nov 1944 Missions - 6 1. Deans, Francis S., 2nd Lt., 0-776959, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - Chadron, Nebraska Enlisted - 24 Sept 1942 Home Address - Chadron, Nebraska Peacetime Profession - aircraft MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 21 Nov 1944 Missions - 6 1. Shipman, James N., Sgt., 38560319, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - 8 Dec 1918 Enlisted - 11 Dec 1943 Home Address - Box 393, Jal, N.M. Peacetime Profession - Oilfield worker MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 21 Nov 1944 Missions - 6 1. Rowe, Thomas R., Sqt., 16142611, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Enlisted - 2 Nov 1942 Born - 27 Oct 1917 Home Address - 1421 N. Rockwell St., Chicago, Ill. Peacetime Profession - Bell Hop. MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 21 Nov 1944 Missions - 6 1. Hand, Edwin W., Sgt., 31341656, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - 30 June 1923 Enlisted - March 1943 Home Address - 49 Water St., Torrington, Conn. Peacetime Profession - Bakery route MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 23 Nov 1944 Missions - 6
- 1. Wright, Benjamin W., Sgt., 33729124, 767th Sq., 461 B. Gp.

Born - 10 March 1925Enlisted - 7 July 1944Home Address - 500 Maryland Ave., Cambridge, Md.Peacetime Profession - StudentMIA - 20 Nov 1944RTD - 23 Nov 1944Missions - 6

- 1. Arbogast, Donald R., Pvt., 15090583, 765 Sq., 461 B. Gp. Born - 3 Oct 1924 Enlisted - 19 April 1943 Home Address - 811 Penna. Ave., Charleston, W. Va. Peacetime Profession - Apprentice Electrician MIA - 20 Nov 1944 RTD - 21 Nov 1944 Missions - 30
- 2. On 20 Nov 1944, sources were flying a B-24 on a mission to Blechhammer South. Dropped bombs on target and cameraman spotted bomb hits which he reported were good. Upon leaving target, engineer reported approx. 250 gal. of fuel. In order to conserve fuel, excessively low power settings were used, consequently there was a gradual loss of altitude. A course was set for Vis. Instruments were flown from time to time until reaching vicinity of Zara (44°07'N - 15°14'E) where an opening was seen. Aircraft let down to 2,500 ft., at this time #3 engine cut out. Pilot gave order to bail out. Approx. one minute later #2 engine cut out. All members of crew bailed out and all chutes were seen to open. Several members of crew are of the opinion that #4 engine also cut out immediately after bail out as intense smoke was observed coming from that engine.
- 3. Not in enemy hands.
- 4. On 20 Nov 1944 upon landing at DIKLO (44°10'N 15°13'E) sources were met by Partisans who took them to their Hq. at Zara (1800 hrs). At 1810 sources were taken to the docks of ZARA where they were met by a British Capt. (name unknown). Source spent night on Bristiah Hq. boat (L.C.H. 315). On 21 Nov 1944 at 0900 hrs sources were transferred to a British M.J. which carried them to Ancona, Italy. (43°35'N - 13°30'E).

R. W. NEWTON 1st Lt., AC Interrogator

4 Incls: Incl 1 - Ltr. 383.6 (9) Incl 2 - Appendix B Incl 3 - Appendix D Incl 4 - Appendix F