

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6962

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 15th AF
Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 765th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of mission Bombing

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

4. GIVE: [a] Date 15 July 1944 Time 1120 Last known position Frasimal, Rumania
[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 H AAF Serial Number 42-50303

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-65 AAF serial Number [a] 431688
[b] 431865 [c] 430777 [d] 430316

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>925008</u>	[e] <u>942047</u>	[i] <u>1244821</u>
[b] <u>1244885</u>	[f] <u>925420</u>	[j] <u>136442</u>
[c] <u>926572</u>	[g] <u>942077</u>	
[d] <u>1244766</u>	[h] <u>704595</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	Weems, William Z., Jr., 1st Lt. 0-671716		Mrs. William Z. Weems, Jr. (Wife) 2259 Goldsmith Road, Houston, Texas
[2] CP	Myllmaki, Edward E., 2nd Lt. 0-687623		Mrs. Helen Myllmaki (Wife) 949 Hancock St., Quincy, Mass.
[3] Nav	DeRudder, Peter J., 2nd Lt. 0-735286		Mr. Louis DeRudder (Father) 149th St. & Cicero Ave., Midlothian, Illinois
[4] Bomb	Moore, Orville S., 1st Lt. 0-682711		Mrs. Lillian Moore (Mother) 123 N. Clark St., Elkhart, Indiana
[5] TTG	Stringer, Glenn E., T/Sgt. 17060928		Mr. Clarence Stringer (Father) Route #4, Parsons, Kansas
[6] NTG	Powers, Donnie E., S/Sgt. 17128724		Mr. William McKinnley Powers (Father) Rt #2, Altamont, Kansas
[7] TTG	Samuels, Harry C., S/Sgt. 17128289		Mrs. Alda Samuels (Mother) Route #1, Valley Center, Kansas
[8] BTG	Weaver, Arthur D., S/Sgt. 15354319		Mrs. Lyda J. Weaver (Mother) 637 North Main St., Lima, Ohio
[9] RWG	Ryan, Timothy J., Jr., S/Sgt. 31285389		Mrs. Katherine R. Ryan (Mother) 10 Gunn St., Millers Falls, Mass.
[10] LWG	Mahuta, Eugene A., S/Sgt. 16156435		Mrs. Josephine Mahuta (Mother) 734 W. Windlake Ave., Milwaukee,

Wis.

[11]

[12]

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] H. Amoroso	1st Lt.	0-694291		X		
[2] Walter J. Grimm	1st Lt.	0-799384		X		

[3]

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

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

Date: **18 July 1944**

Samuel B Sinai
1st Lt., AC, Adj.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

18 July 1944

STATEMENT

On July 15, 1944 as we rallied off the target, Ploesti, flak was very heavy and accurate. Lt. Weems was leading "C" flight of the first section. It is my belief that his ship was hit by flak as we began to level out of the peel-off. His ship began to shutter and he just continued in a very steep bank to the right. He lost about five thousand feet of altitude before he leveled off and began to fly a parallel course to us, about one mile off to our right. Not more than five minutes after the rally, the first man bailed out. Eight chutes popped in less than two minutes, the ship took an attitude of flying straight and level, then one more chute popped and a little later the tenth man bailed out. I saw all chutes open. After the last man left the ship, it began to climb and turn right, it fell off in a right hand wide spin. A few seconds later the ship crashed and seemed to break up into five parts.

/s/ Richard H. Amoroso
1st Lt., Air Corps
765th Bomb Sq (H)

STATEMENT

On July 15 on the raid on Ploesti we had rallied off the target in a left turn. As we came out of our turn a flak shell burst between Lt. Weems's ship, in No. 1 position of "C" flight and my own ship, No. 2. As far as I could see the burst cut the control cables of either elevator or trim tabs of Lt. Weems's ship. The elevators began to vibrate violently and the ship peeled off to the right. He leveled off about 8000 ft. below the formation and just on top of the clouds. As far as we could determine everyone got out of the ship. We saw 6 chutes open and one person made a delayed jump into the clouds and we believe the other 3 did also. The plane flew straight and level for 30 or 40 seconds after the last chute came out and then started to spiral down and finally spun into the ground where it exploded.

/s/ Walter J. Grimm
1st Lt., Air Corps
765th Bomb Sq (H)

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 520 N.Y.

AG 360.33

4 August 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report

TO: Commanding General, NATOUSA, A.P.O. 534, Attention: Casualty Branch

1. In ????? ?? ?? ??, ?????, ?? Department, AG 360.33 (???? ?? ??? ????? Missing Air Crew Report", 23 May 1943, transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Reports as follows:

<u>Incl No.</u>	<u>Date of AC Rpt</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Name of Pilot</u>
1.	18 July 1944	461 st Bomb Gp	Weems, W.Z. Jr.
2.	20 July 1944	97 th Bomb Gp	Haase, Milton
3.	13 July 1944	464 th Bomb Gp	Varner, B. R. Jr.
4.	16 July 1944	82 nd Ftr Gp	Girling, J. N.
5.	17 July 1944	376 th Bomb Gp	White, J. H.
6.	19 July 1944	465 th Bomb Gp	Pilegard, T. T.
7.	28 July 1944	455 th Bomb Gp	Jordan, L. D.
8.	17 July 1944	483 rd Bomb Gp	Vlahovich, V. P.
9.	18 July 1944	483 rd Bomb Gp	Maclin, D. R.
10.	20 July 1944	483 rd Bomb Gp	Hildreth, R. P.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ T. R. Stern
1st Lt., A.G.D.,
Assistant AG.

First Lieutenant William Z. Weems, Jr.	Mrs. Dorothy C. Weems (Wife) 2259 Goldsmith Road Houston, Texas
First Lieutenant Orville S. Moore	Mrs. Lillian J. Moore (Mother) 123 North Clark Elkhart, Indiana
Second Lieutenant Peter J. DeRudder	Mrs. Ruth K. DeRudder (Wife) 4749 North Larkov Chicago, Illinois
Second Lieutenant Edward E. Myllmaki	Mrs. Helen L. Myllmaki (Wife) 949 Hancock Street Quincy, Massachusetts
Staff Sergeant Eugene A. Mahuta	Mrs. Josephine Mahuta (Mother) 734 West Windlake Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Staff Sergeant Arthur D. Weaver	Mrs. Lyda J. Weaver (Mother) 637 North Main Street Lima, Ohio
Staff Sergeant Harry C. Samuels	Mrs. Alda C. Samuels (Mother) Rural Route Number One Valley Center, Kansas
Staff Sergeant Donnie E. Powers	Mr. William M. Powers (Father) Route Two Altamont, Kansas
Technical Sergeant Glenn E. Stringer	Mr. Charence Stringer (Father) Route Number Four Parsons, Kansas
Staff Sergeant Timothy J. Ryan, Jr.	Mrs. Katherine R. Ryan (Mother) 10 Gunn Street Millers Falls, Massachusetts