

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON**

**The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT**

**8766**

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 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course direct to target  
Target Markersdorf, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

- CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 23 August 1944 Time 1130 Last known position near Markersdorf, Austria

[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 **Engine trouble; possibly fighters thereafter**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 41-28689

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Sweet Charlot

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R 1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP 312609  
[b] 42 60648 [c] 42 65672 [d] 42 00452

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

[a] <u>966695</u>	[e] <u>951964</u>	[i] <u>966800</u>
[b] <u>967145</u>	[f] <u>078283</u>	[j] <u>966912</u>
[c] <u>967311</u>	[g] <u>704758</u>	
[d] <u>967345</u>	[h] <u>366985</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	Rosencrans, Gordon W., Jr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-704981		Gordon W. Rosencrans (Father) 2204 W. Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio
[2] CP	Windham, Samuel H. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-771643		Lizzie L. Windham (Mother) Rt #4, Forreston, Texas
[3] Bomb	Besser, Victor H. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-772931		Rosemary L Besser (Wife) 335 E. Spruce St., Inglewood, California
[4] Nav	Jaros, Arthur C., Jr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0-718324		Arthur C. Jaros (Father) 3 Park Lane, Mt. Vernon, New York
[5] TTG	Houch, Roy V. Cpl. 35333253		Mabel Houch (Mother) 1135 Stephenson St., Napoleon, Ohio
[6] LWG	Whisenant, Jesse M. Cpl. 38461497		Vesta Whisenant (Mother) Route #1, San Benito, Texas
[7] NTG	McGullough, Howard E. Sgt. 36449902		Edna M. McGullough (Wife) 145 Duffield Ave., Galesburg, Illinois
[8] TTG	Haynes, Harry L. Cpl. 18242887		Mattie A. Haynes (Mother) 813 E. Reynolds St., Stamford, Texas
[9] RWG	Anthony, John D. Sgt 34162073		Hattie A. Anthony (Mother) Rt #5, Box 201 A, Bessemer, Alabama
[10] BTG	Martin, Winfield D. Cpl. 11098596		Eugenia G. Martin (Mother) BFD, Alburg, Vermont

[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] <b>Pruitt, Elmer R.</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>14101061</b>		<b>X</b>		
[2] <b>Fitzpatrick, Lee J.</b>	<b>Cpl.</b>	<b>36699837</b>		<b>X</b>		
[3] <b>Iubelt, George</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>16185990</b>		<b>X</b>		
[4]						

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].

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; plane went down in enemy territory.**

Date: 27 August 1944

/s/ Raymond L. Wilcovitz  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., AC

767TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

I saw ship #40, flown by Lt. Rosencrans, feather number 2 engine about 25 minutes before target time. It lost altitude very fast, and dropped its bombs in a valley. He did not turn around, but continued on into Germany. At the time the fighters hit us I lost track of it, but it was under control when I last saw it.

/s/ Lee J. Fitzpatrick  
Cpl, 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq

To the best of my knowledge and remembrance, this is what happened to B-24 number 40, flown by Lt. Rosencrans, 23 August 1944.

I was in the tail of the plane in number 6 position of B flight. "40" flew number 7 position. Just before the IP, I noticed one engine was giving a little trouble – just which engine I'm not sure, but I believe it was number 2. "40" gradually dropped out of formation and to the rear of two flights following us. (Fighters had been attacking for some time and I had seen at least one B-24 go down, so some of the incident may be slightly confused in my mind.)

At about this time another attack developed from enemy fighters, and much of my attention was directed to them. Number 40 had, by this time, feathered his bad engine. Other fighters made a pass at the position of C flight where number 40 was flying. After watching the fighters, I looked back a few seconds later. A B-24 was in trouble to the left of where number 40 had been flying earlier. I could not make out the numbers of any of the planes in this area at this time, but I believe it was Lt. Rosencrans' plane. It was circling very sharply and losing altitude very fast. Finally the B-24 leveled off and started a true course parallel to us, and flew for a few seconds. Suddenly he nosed down again. I saw three chutes open, and later saw two more chutes. I am not sure whether they came from the crippled ship or not.

/s/ Elmer R. Pruitt  
S/Sgt., 767 Bomb Sq.

On Wednesday August 23 we were flying in number 2 position of B flight. Ship number 40 was flying number 3 position. Long before reaching the target, number 40 dropped from number 3 and began flying number 6 position. About twenty minutes before target time, number 40 left number 6 position. The next I saw of it, it was a couple of thousand feet under us, had number 2 engine feathered, and then dropped its bombs in a valley. It then headed under our formation. We were then attacked by fighters and soon I saw a ship coming from where ship number 40 had gone a few minutes before. Its left wing was on fire from the tip to number 2 engine. The plane was in level flight, and

suddenly six cutes came out. In the next couple of seconds the ship turned on its back and nosed down in a spin. That was the last I saw of ship number 40 because I continued my search for fighters.

/s/ George Iubelt  
Sgt., 767<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq

Stamp: Report for Army Casualties.

Casualty Report.

Unit: not known  
Rank: American Pilot  
Name: Jesse M. Whisenant  
Birthday: 2 Feb 1925  
Birthplace: St. Bonita, Texas  
Day of Death: 23 Aug 1944  
Place of Death: Community Kilb District Melk ND  
Identity-tag: 38461497 T 43 – 44 A P  
Jesse M. Whisenant  
Place of Internment: St. Poelton, ND, Main Cemetery of the town  
Group XXX Grave No. 315/1  
Time of Internment: 29 Aug 1944 at 1100 hrs.  
Cause of Death: crashed down with plane, air-combat

/s/ (name illegible)  
Major (Local Physician)

Stamp

Local Physician St. Poelton

File sign: 50 g

Subject: Death of an American member of the Air Corps, Jesse M. Whisenant

To: Army Information Office for War Casualties, Berlin W.30, Heenstaufen  
St. 47.

The Local Physician St. Poelton reports that the member of the Amer. Air Corps Jesse M. Whisenant was shot down during the air combats near Kilp (District Nelk) and admitted dead to the General Hospital St. Poelton.

The Air District Fathologist was informed, but did not consider a post-mortom examination unnecessary.

Birthdate and place: 2 Feb 1925 in St. Bonita, Texas  
Profession: Student, single  
Creed: Protest.  
Identity-Tag: Jesse M. Whisenant 38461497 T 43-44 A F

/s/ (name illegible)  
Major (Surge)

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN **23 August 1944 - 1243,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-1971**  
 PLACE OF CRASH **Bischofstatten**  
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**  
 REPORTING OFFICE **Air Base Hqs A (0) V/XVII**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
<b>Windham, Samuel Hobbs</b> <b>11 Oct 20, Italy Tex.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-771643</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Besser, Victor Herbert</b> <b>--Toronto, Ga.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</b>	<b>0-772931</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Mc Gullough, Howard Eugene</b> <b>24 Oct 20, Galesburg, Ill.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>36449902</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Rosencrans, Gordon William</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>0-704981</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Anthony, John David</b> <b>--, Birmingham, Ala.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>34162073</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Jaros, Arthur Charles</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>0-718324</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Houch, Roy Vernon</b>	<b>Cpl</b>	<b>35333253</b>		<b>Hosp, Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Whisenant, Jesse M.</b>	<b>Cpl</b>	<b>38461497</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>hospital</b>
<b>Martin, Winfield Darby</b>	<b>Sgt</b>	<b>11098596</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Hosp, Dulag-Luft</b>
<b>Haynes, Harry L.</b>	<b>M/Sgt</b>	<b>18242887</b>	<b>Wounded</b>	<b>Hosp, Dulag-Luft</b>

REMARKS:  
**Dulag Luft: 9 September 1944. No.**

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Me: ME</b>	
			<b>1971</b>	
<b>DATE: 8/23/44 – 12.33</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Rosencrans, Gordon</b>	<b>0-704981</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>hrs.</b>		<b>William</b>		
<b>PLACE: Bischofstatten</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Jaros, Arthur C. Jr</b>	<b>0-718324</b>	
<b>TYPE: Liberator</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt</b>	<b>Besser, Victor Herbert</b>	<b>0-772931</b>	
<b>767 (N.B.) Sqd.</b>	<b>Lt.</b>	<b>Windham, Samuel Hobbs</b>	<b>0-771643</b>	
<b>461 Group.</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Anthony, John David</b>	<b>34162073</b>	
<b>TARGET: Airbase</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>McCollough, Howard</b>	<b>36449902</b>	
<b>HQs A (o) 7/XVII</b>		<b>Eugene</b>		
	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>Haynes, Harry</b>	<b>18242887</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
	<b>Cpl.</b>	<b>Houch, Roy Vernon</b>	<b>35333253</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
	<b>Cpl.</b>	<b>Whisenant, Jesse M.</b>	<b>38461497</b>	<b>(dead)</b>
		<b>Buried: Cemetery, Kilb.</b>		
	<b>Sgt.</b>	<b>Martin, Winfield Darby</b>	<b>11098596</b>	<b>Hospital</b>

ME-KSU-1971

St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944

Garrison Physician – St. Poelton

Math. Corsinusstrasse 26

AZ: 50g

Ref: Death Certificate of Jesse M. Whisenant, member of the American Air Force

1. Enclosure

To: Dulag (Luft) Oberursel/Toanus

The Garrison physician of St. Poelton reports that Jesse M. Whisenant, of the American Air Force who in Aerial Combat was shot down in the vicinity of Kilb (District Melk) and who on 23 Aug. 1944 at 23:00 o'clock was delivered dead in the German Hospital, St. Poelton.

A Post Morton examination was made of the corpse by the Air Force Administrative Area Pathologist. The identical tag lay near by.

Personal data:

Place and date of Birth: 2 Feb. 1925 in St. Bonita, Texas

Occupation: High School Student

Marital Status: Single

Religion: Protestant

Identification Tag: Jesse M. Whisenant – 34 461 497 – T-43-44 AP.

Distributor: Garrison Physician: Markersdorf

Army Garrison: St. Poelton

Medical Section: Vienna

Air Corps Physician XVII, Vienna IV – Schwartenbergplats

Army Information Center for Casualties of War: Berlin, Dulag-Luft, Oberursel/Toanus

Air Corps Pathologist XVII, Vienna IV, Marionsong 10.

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN: 23 Aug. 1944 about 12:30 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Bisehofstetton, District Mel, N. D. (Lower Danube)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator B-24

REPORTING OFFICE: Flier's Air Base Headquarter's Markersdorf, near St.  
Poelton, 24 Aug. 1944.

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: Whisenant  
Jesse M.

DATE OF BIRTH: 2 Feb. 1925 – St. Bonita, Texas

RANK: American Flier – Organization A.C. Sergeant

SERIAL NUMBER: 38 461 497 – T-43-44 A.P.

CAPTURED: WOUNDED: DEAD: Plane crash in Aerial Combat

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Main City Cemetery at St. Poelton, N. D.  
Lower Danube Group III – No. 315/1 on 29 Aug. 1944 at 11.00  
o'clock

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REMARKS:

Place of Death: Community of Kiln/District Melk, N. D. Lower Danube  
On 29 Aug. 1944 at 11.00 o'clock

ME-KSU-1971

Markersdorf – 24 Aug. 1944

Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII – Markersdorf, near St. Poelton

Letter Book No. 1573/44

Case: Dulag (Luft) 2705/07

Ref: Enemy Air Force Personnel

To: Dulag (Luft) with 9 Inclosures and six valuable packages

Camp Command XVII, IC with 9 Inclosures

In the inclosure form page one:

Six Prisoners of War – Two in Hospital and One dead of Enemy Air Force Personnel, are herewith transferred. All at the same time nine crew members of "Liberator" B-24 which was shot down on 23 Aug. 1944 at 12:30 o'clock, near Bisehofstetton, District Melk.

Jesse Whisenant of the enemy Air Force personnel was killed when he parachuted. His body was buried in the Local Cemetery Kilb, District Melk. The exact grave location will be reported later.

ME-KSU-1971

Markersdorf – 15 Sept. 1944

Flier's Air Base Headquarters 7/XVII

Flier's Air Base Company

Letter Book No. 1832/44

Case: Dulag (Luft) 2706/7

Ref: Enemy Air Force Personnel

To: Dulag (luft) Oberursel with 3 inclosures, one packet

Camp Command XVII, IC 3 inclosures

Flier's Air Base Headquarters, Area 1/XVII – IC with 3 inclosures

In the inclosure form page one, the transfer of the following Prisoners of War to Dulag (Luft) after their discharge from Reserve Hospital "D" St. Poelton:

Haynes, Harry

Martin, Winfield

Houck, Roy

All crew members of a Liberator B-24, that was shot down near Kilb on 23 Aug. 1944 at 10:00 o'clock.

Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII

Markersdorf near St. Poelton – 25 Sept. 1944

TRANSPORT LIST

1. Haynes, Harry S/Sgt. Ident. No. 18 242 887 – T-43-44
2. Martin, Winfield Sgt. Ident. No. 11 098 596
3. Houck, Roy Sgt. Ident. No. 35 333 253 – T-42-30

By Order:

Major and Chief Officer s.b.v.

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 around 10:00 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Kilb, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT       **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE       **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 19 Sept. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **Houck**  
FIRST NAME:        **Roy**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Sergeant**

SERIAL NUMBER:

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

**At Kilb, District Melk on 23 Aug. 1944**

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

**Reserve Hospital St. Poelton**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 around 10:00 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Kilb, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT       **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE       **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 19 Sept. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **Martin,**  
FIRST NAME:        **Winfield**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Sergeant**

SERIAL NUMBER: **11 098 596**

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

**At Kilb, District Melk on 23 Aug. 1944**

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

**Reserve Hospital "D" St. Poelton**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN       **23 August 1944 around 10:00 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH       **Kilb, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT     **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE     **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 19 Sept. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND       **Haynes**  
FIRST NAME:       **Harry**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:       **S/Sgt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **18 242 887 – T-43-44**

CAPTURED: **Captured**     WOUNDED:           DEAD:

**At Kilb, District Melk on 23 Aug. 1944**

DISTRIBUTION:       WHICH CAMP:       TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

**Reserve Hospital St. Poelton**

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN       **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH       **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT     **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE     **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944 about  
12:30 o'clock**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND       **Winham,**  
FIRST NAME:       **Samuel**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:       **Lieutenant**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-771 643 – T-43-44-A**

CAPTURED: **Captured**     WOUNDED:           DEAD:

**At Bischofstetten, District Melk on 23 Aug. 1944**

DISTRIBUTION:       WHICH CAMP:       TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT      **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE      **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944 about  
12:30 o'clock**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **Besser,**  
FIRST NAME:        **Victor H.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Lieutenant**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-772 931**

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

**At Bischofstetten, District Melk on 23 Aug. 1944**

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT      **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE      **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944 about  
12:30 o'clock**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **Rosencrans,**  
FIRST NAME:        **Gordon W.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Major**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-704 981**

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

**Captured at Huerm, District Melk, N. D. (Lower Danube) on 23 Aug. 1944**

Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII – Markersdorf – 24 Aug. 1944

Letter Book No. 1575/44

Case: Dulag (Luft) 2706/07

Ref: Enemy Air Force Personnel

TRANSPORT LIST

On 24 August 1944, transfer of American Prisoners of War to Dulag-Luft, Oberursel

SURNAME:	FIRST NAME:	RANK:	SERIAL:
Rosencrans	Gordon	Major	0-704 961
Jaros	Arthur	Major	0-718 324 T-43-44-O
Besser	Victor	Lieutenant	0-772 931
Windham	Samuel	Lieutenant	0-771 643 – T-43-44-A
Anthony	John	Sergeant	36 449 902 – T-43-44

By Order:

Major and Officer s.b.v.

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT      **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE      **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **McCullough,**  
FIRST NAME:        **Howard E.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Sergeant**

SERIAL NUMBER:    **36 449 902 – T-43-44**

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

Captured at Bischofstetten, District Melk, N. D. (Lower Danube)

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN           **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH           **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT       **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE       **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND   **Jaros,**  
FIRST NAME:   **Arthur C. Jr.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:       **Major**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-718 324 – T-43-44-O**

CAPTURED: **Captured**    WOUNDED:            DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:            WHICH CAMP:            TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

Captured Mank, District Melk, N. D. (Lower Danube)

CASUALTY NO.  
ME-KSU-1971

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN        **23 August 1944 about 12:30 o'clock**

PLACE OF CRASH        **Bischofstetten, District Melk**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT       **Liberator B-24**

REPORTING OFFICE       **Flier's Air Base Headquarters A (O) 7/XVII –  
Markersdorf, near St. Poelton – 24 Aug. 1944**

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CREW

SURNAME, AND        **Anthony,**  
FIRST NAME:        **John D.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:        **Sergeant**

SERIAL NUMBER:    **34 162 073**

CAPTURED: **Captured**        WOUNDED:        DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:        WHICH CAMP:        TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

Captured at Bischofstetten, District Melk, on 23 Aug. 1944

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHISENANT, Jesse M.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **38 461 497**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **About twenty minutes from target. Closest town St. Poelton, Austria.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Was semi conscious complaining of losing leg.**

Was he injured? **Yes, his left leg shot off above knee.**

Where was he when last seen? **At St. Poelton hospital when he was pronounced dead. He is buried in cemetery with other allies in St. Poelton, Austria.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Twelve**

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MARTIN, Winfield D.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **11098896**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **This man is safe and has returned to United States and is now discharged from the Army.**

Where?;

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane?;

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

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: **WHISENANT, Jesse M.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **38461497**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **He was thrown out by other crewmembers.**

Where? **Over Austria near St. Poelten Aug 23 1944.**

If not, why not? **He was wounded badly in the right hip and stomach.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I saw other gunners roll him out the escape hatch.**

Was he injured? **Yes, in the right hip and stomach.**

Where was he when last seen? **At a catholic hospital morgue in St. Poelten, Austria.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **12**

Dates and destinations if possible: **My crew had made missions over the Balkins, France, Hungary, Austria and Germany.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Windham, Samuel H.** Rank **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.** Serial No. **0-771643**
2. Organization **767<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Knapp** Rank **Lt. Col.**
3. What year **1944** month **Aug** day **23** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Austria**, target, **Markersdorf Airfield**, target  
time, **noon**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, **direct**  
**from Italy**, route flown **same**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **No. 6.**
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 crew members bailed out individually after abandon ship order was given.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Near Bishoffsettin Austria.**
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? **Whisenant, Jesse M. Cpl 38 461 497 last seen Aug 23 1944 St. Poelten, Austria at Catholic hospital dead. Martin, Winfield D. Col. 11098596 last seen May 1945 Camp Lucky Strike France seemly in good condition with the exception of being frail and weak from loss of weight.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MARTIN, Winfield D.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **11098596**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near St. Poelten, Austria.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Hospital in Austria.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The last time I saw this man was when we left him with the other injured crew members in a hospital in St. Poelten, Austria. He had been wounded in the right arm. It did not seem to be serious. I talked with some of the other men we had left at the hospital after we had been liberated and they told me that he had been transferred with them from the hospital to a prison camp. He was alive and well at that time. The last men to see him to my knowledge are Roy Houck & Harry Haynes – enlisted members of our crew.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHISENANT, Jesse M.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **38461497**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near St. Poelten, Austria.**

If not, why not?;

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Hospital in Austria.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **This man died on the way to the hospital in St. Poelten, Austria. I personally helped to carry him to the morgue at the hospital. Winfield Martin, Harry Haybes & Roy Houck were there injured. Men left at the same hospital.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Victor H. Besser Rank 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Serial No. 0-772931
2. Organization 767<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Knapp Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month Aug day 23 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Airfield, target  
time, \_, altitude, \_ route scheduled,  
\_, route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? St. Poelten, Austria.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, All of them.
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 members of the crew bailed out near St. Poelten – 4 men were wounded – Jesse M. Whisenant – died 9 hours after he landed. All other crew members returned safely to this country as far as I know.
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) 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.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MARTIN, Winfield D.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **11098596**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Kelb, Austria.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Took him out of turret and put his chute on.**

Was he injured? **Yes, right arm broken, three bullet wounds.**

Where was he when last seen? **I last saw and talked with him at Holloran General Hospital Staten Island, N.Y. July 6, 1945.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Arrived overseas July 27<sup>th</sup> 1944 Foggia, Italy. Back in States July 5, 1945 Staten Island, N.Y.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHISENANT, Jesse M.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **38461497**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Kelb, Austria.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Helped throw him out of plane. Right leg shot off.**

Was he injured? **Yes, right leg shot off.**

Where was he when last seen? **On truck to hospital to St. Poelten, Austria.**

Any hearsay information: **Died on way to hospital 11:30 on 2:00 P.M. Aug. 23 1944. Was laying beside him when he died – bleed to death.**

Source: **Lyis Harki, Austrian doctor, Catholic Civilian Hospital**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Buried in St. Poelten, Austria, Civilian Cemetery, dog tag on cross, in city saw picture of his grave, Harki doctor at hospital has picture and saw that he was buried properly.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **13**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Arrived overseas July 27<sup>th</sup> 1944 Foggia, Italy. Died Aug. 23, 1944. St. Poelten, Austria.**

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Roy V. Houck Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 35333253
2. Organization 461<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Knapp Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month Aug day 23 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 13<sup>th</sup>, target, Markersdorf Airdrome, target time, 12:00pm, altitude, 23,000 ft route scheduled, Vienna Austria Vicinity, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Kilb Austria flying No. 4 position.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, All crew 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". No knowledge on navigator, bombardier, Martin gunner or nose gunner. Pilot last man out, co-pilot second to last, ball gunner 8<sup>th</sup> man out, myself 7<sup>th</sup> man out, tail gunner 6<sup>th</sup> man out, left waist gunner 5<sup>th</sup> man out.
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) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft? None.
12. What was their condition? None
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Left waist gunner, right leg shot off died on way to hospital 11:30 or 12:00 pm, Aug 23, 1944. Tail and ball gunner wounded. Myself wounded in ship and straffed in parachute. Pilot wounded in head also straffed in parachute.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHISENANT, Jesse M.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **38461497**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near St. Poelten, Austria.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Last conversation was calling position of attacking FW-190s.**

Was he injured? **Yes, mortally.**

Where was he when last seen? **We carried him into morgue and catholic rites were performed over body. He was buried there among other Americans.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 sorties 13 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 31, 1944 Bucharest. Last August 23, 1944, St. Poelten airdrome, Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MARTIN, Winfield D.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **11098596**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near St. Poelten, Austria.**

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? **At Camp Lucky Strike, France.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 sorties 13 missions**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John D. Anthony Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 34162073
2. Organization 461<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Knapp Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month Aug day 23 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, St. Poelten, Austria, target, Airdrome, target time, 12:00pm, altitude, 23,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 minutes before 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 members bailed out within a few seconds of each other.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near 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) 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.