

42-51886 B24J

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

- 1. ORGANIZATION: Location APO 20, U.S. Army Command or Air Force 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force  
Group 464<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Sq (H)
- 2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure AAB, Pantanella, Italy Course NE  
Target Oil Refinery, Blechhammer, Germany Type of mission Bombing
- 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Not Applicable
- 4. GIVE: [a] Date 2 Dec 44 Time 1400 Last known position 50° 18' N - 18° 15' E  
[b] Specify whether: [x] Last sighted, [ ] Forced down, [ ] Seen to Crash  
[ ] Last contacted by radio, [ ] No information
- 5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR BELIEVED LOST AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
[ ] Enemy Aircraft, [ ] Enemy Anti-Aircraft, [ ] Other Aircraft returned to Pantanella, Italy
- 6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & serial Not Applicable: AAF Serial No \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Not Applicable
- 8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Not Applicable: AAF SERIAL [a] \_\_\_\_\_  
[b] \_\_\_\_\_ [c] \_\_\_\_\_ [d] \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] Not Applicable  
[a] \_\_\_\_\_ [e] \_\_\_\_\_ [i] \_\_\_\_\_  
[b] \_\_\_\_\_ [f] \_\_\_\_\_ [j] \_\_\_\_\_  
[c] \_\_\_\_\_ [g] \_\_\_\_\_ [k] \_\_\_\_\_  
[d] \_\_\_\_\_ [h] \_\_\_\_\_ [l] \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [x] 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 NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
[1] Pilot	<u>Eppley, David R.</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.RTD</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lt. 0705674</u>		
[2] Co-Pilot	<u>Wood, Noel A.</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.RTD</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0714828</u>		
[3] Nav.	<u>Mullen, Ralph</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.EUS</u>	<u>F/O T-127728</u>		
[4] Bombardier	<u>Weinner, James M.</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.RTD</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 0773030</u>		
[5] Eng-Gun	<u>Madera, Ralph D.</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.RTD</u>	<u>T/Sgt 18077606</u>		
[6] ROM-Gun	<u>Carlson, Darwin T.</u>	<u>LWA LWA</u>	
<u>RTD</u>	<u>Sgt. 36716249</u>		
[7] Arm-Gun	<u>Davis, Robert R.</u>	<u>DOW MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Gertrude T. Davis (Mother)</u>
<u>DOW</u>	<u>Sgt. 19175754</u>		<u>8054 Eastern Ave., Bell Gardens, Calif.</u>
[8] Gunner	<u>Michaud, Emile J.</u>	<u>KIA KIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Mary A. Michaud (Mother)</u>
<u>KIA</u>	<u>Sgt. 31386227</u>		<u>12 Balton St., Providence R.I.</u>
[9] Gunner	<u>Franklin, William P.</u>	<u>RTD</u>	
<u>NON.CAS.(EUS)</u>	<u>Sgt. 35804899</u>		
[10] Gunner	<u>McLaughlin, Robert C.</u>	<u>SWA RTD</u>	
<u>EUS</u>	<u>Sgt. 13158051</u>		
[11] _____	_____		
[12] _____	_____		

(Over)

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED	LAST	SAW	SAW
			BY RADIO	SIGHTED	CRASH	FORCED LANDING
[1] Elmer M. Reighard Jr.	Sgt.	35601720		X		
[2]						
[3]						

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

- [1] 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. None

Date 4 Dec 44

/s/ William H. Reddell /s/

2 Inclosures.

- Incl 1 - Sketch of Area
- Incl 2 - Statement of Sgt. Reighard

WILLIAM H REDDELL,  
Lt Col., Air Corps,  
Commanding

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**~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~**

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
APO 520 US ARMY

GP/S/eh

AG 201 - Davis, Robert R. (EM)

12 December 1944

SUBJECT: Additional Casualty Information

TO : Commanding General, 55<sup>th</sup> Wing, APO 520

1. Request more detailed information be forwarded this headquarters concerning the missing in action status of Sgt. Robert R. Davis, 19175754., 776<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 464<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, reported Missing in Action 2 December 1944.

2. As the plane on which Sgt Davis was a crew member returned to base, it is desired that statements providing all relevant details be furnished by one or more members of that crew.

By Command of Major General Twining:

/s/ illegible /s/  
for WINDLE D. REEL,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Assistant AG.

11995

201-David, Robert R. (Enl) 1<sup>st</sup> Ind.  
Hq 55<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 13 December 1944.

C-DRW-14

TO: CO, 464<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (H), APO 520.

For immediate compliance with basic communication.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON

/s/ E J McClure /s/  
E. J. McClure,  
Major, CWS,  
Asst Adj.

**~~IMMEDIATE ACTION~~**

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201-Davis, Robert R. (Enl) 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind  
Hq, 464<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army

S: 16 Dec 44  
DDJ/hwf

To: CO, 776<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, US Army

For immediate compliance.

By order of Colonel SCHROEDER:

/s/ Daryl D. Johns /s/  
DARYL D. JOHNS  
Major, Air Corps  
Adjutant

201-Davis, Robert R. (Enl) 3<sup>rd</sup> Ind  
Hq, 776<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H), APO 520, US Army, 16 Dec 44

WHR/rc

TO: CO, 464<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gr (H), APO 520, US Army

The only information available was obtained from Sgt  
Carlson. Enclosed statement submitted herewith.

/s/ William H Reddell /s/  
WILLIAM H. REDDELL  
Lt. Co., Air Corps,  
Commanding.

1 Incl:

Incl 1 - Statement by Sgt. Carlson (7copies)

201-Davis, Robert R. (Enl) 4<sup>th</sup> Ind  
Hq, 464<sup>th</sup> Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army, 17 Dec 44

VF/hwf

TO: CG, 55<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wg (H), APO 520, US Army

/s/ VF /s/  
V. F.

1 Incl:

1 cc Incl 1 withdrawn

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*MACR 10029 Supplement*

201-Davis, Robert R. (Enl) 5<sup>th</sup> Ind. C-DRW-14  
Hq 55<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 18 December 1944.

TO: CG, 15<sup>th</sup> AF, APO 520.

/s/ Far /s/  
F. A. R.

1 Incl: n/c

201 - Davis, Robert R. (EM) 6<sup>th</sup> Ind. GP/B/eh  
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 22 December 1944

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Forwarded for inclusion with missing air crew report for Sgt.  
Robert R. Davis, 19175754.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Windle D. Reel /s/  
WINDLE D. REEL,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Assistant AG.

1 Incl: n/c

AG 360.33/030-C 7<sup>th</sup> Ind. JKR/Imm  
(12 Dec 44)  
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 27 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.  
(Attn: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarded for inclusion with MACR bearing Casualty Control #1103,  
dispatched from this headquarters 13 Dec 44.

For the THEATER COMMANDER;

/s/ Jack K. Roberts /s/  
JACK K. ROBERTS,  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., AGD,  
Asst. Adjutant General.

1-Incl: n/c

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STATEMENT

I was flying as Radio Operator, and Sgt. Robert Davis, was the Ball Gunner. After the ship received a direct hit through the left side, I started to open the escape hatch near the tail turret. Sgt. Davis was to my right while I was trying to open this hatch. After realizing the ship was not going down, I looked around, and Sgt. Davis was not present. The lapse of time from when I started to open the hatch, and saw that Sgt Davis was missing, was fifteen seconds at the most.

It is my belief, that Sgt. Davis thinking the ship was on it's way down, did bail out through the hole blown on the left side of the ship.

/s/ Darwin T. Carlson /s/  
Darwin T. Carlson  
Sgt. 36716249



C O N F I D E N T I A L

776<sup>th</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 U.S. Army.

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as Ball Gunner on B-24, Red K. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 1944.

As we went over the target I saw none of our planes fall out of formation and there was no indication that any of our crews were leaving their ships. Later I saw a single parachute floating about 1500 or 2000 feet below.

After returning to our base I learned that Sgt. Davis was missing from his plane, The parachute I saw may have been Sgt. Davis.

/s/ Elmer M. Reighard Jr /s/  
Elmer M. Reighard Jr.  
Sgt., 35601720  
776<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq (H)  
Ball Gunner.

MACR 10029

Status of CREW

Carlson,Darwin T.✓	36 716249.....RTD
Davis, Robert R.✓	19175754.....DOW
Eppley,David R.✓	0-705674.....RTD
Franklin,William P.	35804699.....EUS
Madera,Ralph D.	18077606.....Rtd
McLaughlin,Robert C.	13158051.....Eus
Michaud,Emil J.	31386227.....KIA 3 Dec.1944 Buried Bari, Italy,L-4-1621
Mullen,Ralph	T-127728.....Eus
Wiener,James M.	0-773030.....RTD
Wood,Noel A.	0-714828.....RTD