

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,  
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.



WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON  
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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.

BASE

1. ORGANIZATION: Location GIOIA AIR; Command or Air Force 15th Air Force  
Group 464th; Squadron 777th; Detachment None
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Gioia Air Base; Course 273 degrees  
Intended Destination Weineraustadt, Austria; type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Visibility-7-8 Miles 5/10 Cumulos at 5000' --10/10 C.S. at 25000'
4. GIVE: (a) Date 10 May 44; Time 1218; and Location Weineraustadt  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether  Last Sighted; ( ) Last Contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forced Down; ( ) Seen to crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check  
only one) ( ) Enemy Aircraft;  Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circum-  
stances as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model and Series B24-H; AAF Serial Number 42-52468
7. ENGINES: Type, model and Series R1830-43 AAF Serial Number (a) 42-302396  
(b) 42-302366 (c) 42-301843 (d) 42-301830
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below make, type and Serial Number)  
(a) No Records; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) AVAILABLE; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers -0-  
Total 10

(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	STATUS
1. Pilot	LATTIMER, JAMES T.	Capt	[REDACTED]	A-19-20
2.	C.P HAYES, HARRY B.	2nd Lt	[REDACTED]	RTD
3.	Bomb BRIDGES, JOHN M. JR.	2nd Lt	[REDACTED]	RTD
4.	Navl JOHNSON, FRANK (NMI)	1st Lt	[REDACTED]	RTD
5.	E. LECHOWICZ, WALTER (NMI)	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	4J-7-21
6.	R.O. FIELDS, JOHN D.	Cpl	[REDACTED]	RTD
7.	G. GIBSON, ROBERT C.	Sgt	[REDACTED]	RTD
8.	G. FLURY, JOHN N.	Sgt	[REDACTED]	RTD
9.	G. HARDISON, ROSEUD J.	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	RTD
10.	G. ROGERS, HULAN A.	Cpl	[REDACTED]	RTD
11.				
12.				



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11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check only one column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
			by Radio	Last Sighted		
1. SOWA, GEORGE (NMI)	2nd Lt	<del>          </del>				X
2. PICHETTE, ELMER J.	2nd Lt	<del>          </del>				X
3. TAPLEY, WALLACE N.	S/Sgt	<del>          </del>				X
4. RAUSCHER, HARRY C.	Sgt	<del>          </del>				X
5. BUTTOLPH, MERLAND E.	S/Sgt	<del>          </del>				X
6.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used YES - 5 (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. (X)
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. (X)
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. (Over enemy territory, no search made)

Date of Report 15 May 1944

*Clyde Crabtree*

(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
CLYDE CRABTREE  
Capt., AC  
Executive Officer

6 Incls:

- Incl 1-Statement of 2nd Lt GEORGE (NMI) SOWA.
- Incl 2-Statement of 2nd Lt ELMER J. PICHETTE.
- Incl 3-Statement of S/Sgt Wallace N. Tapley.
- Incl 4-Statement of Sgt Harry C. Rauscher.
- Incl 5-Statement of S/Sgt Merland E. Buttolph.
- Incl 6-Location sketch.

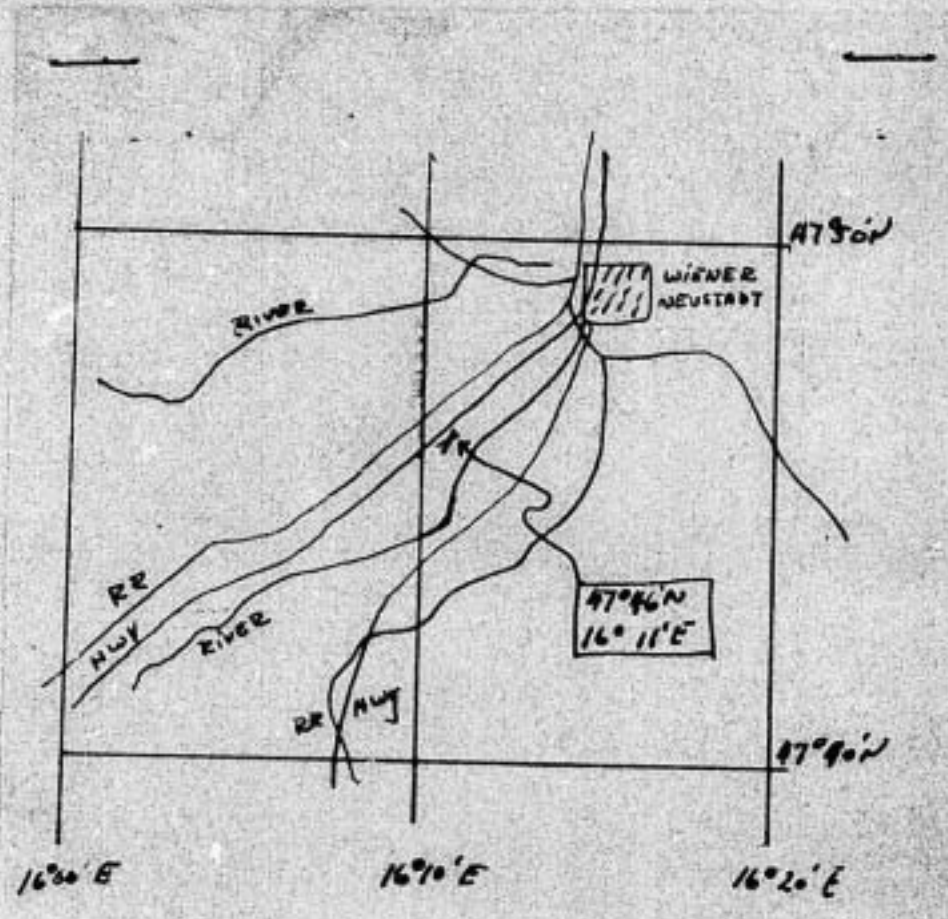
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JUN 5 1944

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Sheet 6 / Copy 1

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HEADQUARTERS  
777TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
A.P.O. 520 U.S. ARMY

15 May 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, 15th Air Force, A.P.O. 520, U.S. ARMY.  
(Thru Channels)

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report on crew assigned to this squadron reported missing on 10 May 1944 on mission over Weinerstadt, Austria.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>
Capt	JAMES T. LATIMER	[REDACTED]
2nd Lt	HARRY B. HAYES	[REDACTED]
2nd Lt	JOHN M. BRIDGES JR.	[REDACTED]
1st Lt	FRANK (NMI) JOHNSON	[REDACTED]
S/Sgt	Walter (NMI) Lechowicz	[REDACTED]
Cpl	John D. Fields	[REDACTED]
Sgt	Robert C. Gibson	[REDACTED]
Sgt	John N. Flury	[REDACTED]
S/Sgt	Rosbud J. Hardison	[REDACTED]
Cpl	Bulan A. Rogers	[REDACTED]

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. Battle casualty report, forwarded your Headquarters, 14 May 1944.

For the Squadron COMMANDER:

1 Incl:  
Incl 1-MAC Rpt., Capt., JAMES T. LATIMER & Crew  
15 May 1944, w/7 incls (in 6 copies)

*Clyde Crabtree*  
CLYDE CRABTREE  
Capt., AC  
Executive Officer

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Captain James T. Latimer

Dr. James B. Latimer, (Father)  
250 Calhoun Street,  
Anderson, South Carolina.

First Lieutenant Frank Johnson

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Johnson, (Wife)  
2756 Sacramento Boulevard,  
Sacramento, California.

Second Lieutenant Harry B. Hayes

Mr. Harry G. Hayes, (Father)  
5 South Park Street,  
Adams, New York.

Second Lieutenant John M. Bridges

Mr. John M. Bridges, (Father)  
1313-7th Avenue,  
Bessemer, Alabama.

Staff Sergeant Walter Lechowicz

Mr. John Lechowicz, (Father)  
Silver Lake Road,  
Berlin, Connecticut.

Staff Sergeant Rosbud J. Hardison

Mr. Eddie P. Hardison, (Father)  
602 Houghton Street,  
Williamstown, North Carolina.

Sergeant Robert C. Gibson

Mr. Martin Ball Gibson, (Father)  
1246 Sunnyside Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Sergeant John W. Flury

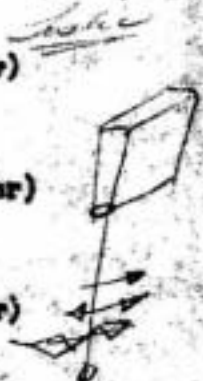
Mrs. Virginia Flury, (Wife)  
123-04, 25th Road,  
College Point, New York.

Corporal John D. Fields

Mrs. Mary Fields, (Mother)  
39 Pittsburgh Street,  
Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Corporal Bulan A. Rogers

Mrs. Dora L. Rogers, (Mother)  
General Delivery,  
Salina, Oklahoma.



CASUALTY NO.  
KBU 1151

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44 - 12.45 hrs.

PLACE OF CRASH: East border of Breitenau (Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Consolidated Liberator B 24 H

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt June 3, 44

CREW

SURNAME, AND  
FIRST NAME: *Lazimer*  
LAZIMER  
James T.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Captain

SERIAL NUMBER: 

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: recovered dead  
at place of downing

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Wiener Neustadt City cemetery  
Day & position of grave will be

REMARKS:

reported later.

0-2224 AF(6)



REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollramerttrift(Community Peischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(o)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 1944

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: HAYES  
Harry B.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Lt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~SECRET~~ T 43 - 43 B

CAPTURED: St. Egyden May 10, 44 at app. 15.30 hrs.

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.  
HSU 1151

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollremertrift (Community Feischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 44

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: BRIDGES JR.  
John W.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Lt

SERIAL NUMBER:  T43-43 A

CAPTURED: Schwarzenau on the WOUNDED: DEAD:  
Steinfeld (Stone field) on May 11, 44 mornings.  
DISTRIBUTION: WHIRL CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

0-2220.AP(4)

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollramertrift (Community Peischung, District Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(o)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 1944

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CREW

SURNAME, AND JOHNSON  
FIRST NAME: Frank

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER:  T 42 - 43 B

CAPTURED: St. Egyden                      WOUNDED:                      DEAD:  
on May 10, 1944 at app. 15.30 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:                      TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS: Distributor:  
Air Forces Adm. Hdq. Command lx  
Dulag Air lx  
Hospital lx



REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44 - 12.45 hrs.

PLACE OF CRASH: East border of Breitenau (Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Consolidated Liberator [ 24 H

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(6)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt June 3, 44

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CREW

SURNAME, AND LECHOWICZ  
FIRST NAME: Walter

DATE OF BIRTH:

RACE:

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~REDACTED~~

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: Recovered dead  
at place of downing

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Wiener Neustadt City cemetery  
Day & position of grave will be  
reported later.

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REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollramerttrift(Community Feischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 44

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIELDS  
FIRST NAME: John D.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Corporal

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~4711106~~ (on bracelet)

CAPTURED: Weikeredorf      WOUNDED:      DEAD:  
(Market place) May 10, 44 at 12.15 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:      TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44 - 12.45 hrs.

PLACE OF CRASH: East border of Breitenau (Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Consolidated Liberator B 24 N

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt June 3, 1944

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: GIBSON  
Robert C.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~743-43~~ 743-43 A

CAPTURED: Breitenau WOUNDED: fell sick with/ DEAD: scarlet fever  
(Dist. Neunkirchen) on May 10, 44 at appr. 14.00 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

Res. Hospital IVa, Vienna I, Kundratstrasse 3.

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:



REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollramertrift(Community Peischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 44

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CREW

SURNAME, ADD FLURY  
FIRST NAME: John M.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER:  T43-43 A

CAPTURED: Schwarzau on the WOUNDED: DEAD:  
Steinfeld(Stone field) on May 11/44 mornings.  
DISTRIBUTION: - WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.  
KSU 1151

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollrasertrift(Community Peischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 1944

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CREW

SURNAME, AND HARDISON  
FIRST NAME: Rosbud V.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: S/Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~117210~~ T 43 -3 0

CAPTURED: Wiener Neustadt WOUNDED: DEAD:  
(Slaughter house) on May 10, 44 at 13.20 hrs.  
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

6-3334.AP(4)

CASUALTY NO.  
KDU 1151

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 10, 44

PLACE OF CRASH: Mollracertrift(Community Peischung, Dist. Neunkirchen)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)1/XVII  
Wiener Neustadt May 10, 44

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CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: ROGERS  
Bulan A.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~117700~~ T43-43 A

CAPTURED: between WOUNDED: DEAD:  
Senberadorf and Weikeradorf May 10, 44 at app. 12.10 hrs.  
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

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REMARKS:

6-2224 AF(4)



DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN

10 May 1944, 1000-1200

CASUALTY NO. ME 1151

PLACE OF CRASH

at Weiching, District Neunkirchen

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Base Command A (e) 1/XVII

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
JOHNSON FRANK	1st Lt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
BRIDGES, Jr. JOHN N.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
HAYES HARRY BARNETT	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
ROGERS EULAN ALFRED	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
FLURY JOHN	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
FIELDS JOHN DANIEL	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
LAFIMER JAMES T.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	dead - KIA	
CASUALTY NO. ME 1151			1st Supplementary Report, dated 14 July 1944	
BIRSON ROBERT GALVIN	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	captured	Dagag Luft
24 January 1923 Kansas City, Kans.				

MACR 4658

REMARKS:

Dagag Luft: 4 June 1944, No.