

Dear Lynn Keener  
Dear Reid Waltman

March 23, 2012

**MACR 8726**

According to my research on SEPTEMBER 13, 1944 the USA Air Forces lost a **B17G** after their bomb runs over the targets of chemical plants (Synthetic Oil Refinery at Blechhammer (Polish Blachownia) in Polish territory annexed by Nazi Germany during WWII.

The **B17G** was shot down at **11.30** by German fighters over Oświęcim (German Auschwitz). My investigation provides the following comments.

On that same day two Flying Fortresses **B24H** and **B24J** were lost over Oświęcim (German Auschwitz) from Fifteenth Air Force (**MACR 8347** and **MACR 8762**) but this loss was the more tragic because of loss of human life.

The **B17G Flying Fortress** flew from USA Air Base in Amendola, Italy. It was assigned to Fifteenth Air Force, 97<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron. This unit had a crew of eleven members who bailed out over Niepołomice Forest after a half hour when it was shot down by the enemy. The **B17G** Flying Fortress exploded in the air after all crew had bailed out according to my sister Danuta Szczepanska (Leclercq).

According to Morgan C. Davis' testimony the **B17G** was set on fire by its pilot Knoblock before bailing out. Morgan C. Davis bailed out first. Last to bail out was the pilot 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Knoblock, Bruce D. The **B17G** crashed into pieces over the village **Gdów**, SW from Niepołomice Forest.

1. Pilot	Knoblock Bruce D.	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt
2. Co-pilot	Lake Leander G.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt
3. Navigator	Waage Jock C.	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt
4. Bombardier	Anderson Eugene D.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt
5. Radio Operator	Derwin Benjamin F.	Sgt
6. Engineer	Brand Walter G.	Sgt
7. Top Turret	Collar Charles W.	Sgt
8. Waist Gunner	Hess William N.	Sgt
9. Ball Turret Gunner	McFadden Roy J.	Sgt
10. Tail Gunner	Henley Olis E.	Sgt
11. Voice Interceptor G/E	<b>Davis Morgan C.</b>	(Sgt S/Sgt, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt, ?)

Based on this information, only one crew member was not captured by the Germans. He was Sgt. Morgan C. Davis, member eleven on detached service as a Voice Interceptor (MOS # 538 German/English).

Morgan C. Davis was rescued by my brother Tadeusz Szczepański. He hid in the forest until night time, during the night he took Davis to our family home in Niepołomice. Our family home was located very close to the German garrison (56 Battalion Berlin-Spandau).

However, my father Stanislaw Szczepański was so worried about security for Davis that he wanted to relocate him to a safer place since his health was not good after bailing out. Therefore he had to weigh

the relocation against the need to keep Davis at home to allow my mother to continue translating into Polish for my father and for the doctor who believed that Davis was a German soldier.

After two or three days when Davis' health had stabilized and my father had found a safer location Davis was moved to village Wola Batorska to the home of the former Chaplain Second Division Dion of Armored Trains of the Polish Army Unit located in Niepołomice before the Second World War.

My father made special arrangements with the Chaplain to accommodate and care for Davis including payment and all support. From time to time at night Davis was still able to visit my family home being anxious to speak German with my mother since contact with anyone else was obviously not advisable and dangerous.

Davis was staying at Chaplain Krupa up to January 26, 1945 at the end of January he was contacted at the American Military Office in Krakow and he was returned to the U.S.

My sister Danuta came to USA in 1968 for her safety.

She had wanted to re-establish contact with Davis but unfortunately she had a wrong address having written to Davis at 77 Willow Street, Scranton, PA. not Schranton as addressed. My sister even wrote to the Department of Defense to locate Davis but that letter remained unanswered.

I discovered later (in 2011) that he had died.

Davis C. Morgan was born on 3 May 1923. His Father was Davies, Morgan.

The last name **Davies** was also written: Daves = Davies = Davis

His mother's name was Baldwyn

He had three Brothers: Thomas, John and David and one sister Baldwyn, the youngest member of Davis family.

It would be very nice if it were possible to locate some members of the Davis Family to share this information. I know there are many books about generals and war heroes but only too few about the unsung, behind the scenes important military personnel, without whom generals could not run an army.

According to the Fifteenth Census of US from 1930 he and his family were listed under the name **Davies** He died on June 14, 2000 at Tunkhannock, Wyoming Country PA. 18657 He was buried at the Arlington Cemetery, 748 Schuyler Ave. Kearny, New Jersey 07032. He was a retired lawyer. Some sources give date of death as 14 January 2001 which I think is incorrect date. I contacted Wyoming Country Veteran Affairs for more help in my investigation but I was not lucky.

Certain documents provide for Davis that his rank was that of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in another place Sgt. or S/Sgt. At cemetery he is described as S/Sergeant. I believe he may have been working with the O.S.S.

I believe that O.S.S has Davis' full testimony with all details. I am sure it is not possible that if you have a soldier hidden by the partisans that you would not want to have all the details.

Morgan C. Davis in his testimony under Casualty Questionnaire (6-3862, AF) stated that one American pilot had died when impaled on a tree branch.

In the time of German occupation it was common news that he was killed by criminals to get his equipment and money. This crew member was probably from **MACR 8347**. This **B24H** was bombing a chemical plant in Oświęcim on the same day and was shot down at the time 11.26 and crew member bailed out into the same area as crew member from **B17G**.

At this point I feel it would be appropriate to provide some information about myself and my family so that you may understand why I became so interested and involved in the whole story of Morgan C. Davis.

My father was an officer in the Polish Underground Army resisting the German occupation. My entire family was involved in supporting the activities of this Polish underground Army. The whole family lived in the town of Niepołomice. Prior to the Second War World my father was an officer in the Polish Army.

On January 21, 1945 my father was killed by the NKVD. My mother was also murdered on February 20, 1945 by the Polish Secret Police and at the time she was six months pregnant. My brother Tadeusz was also killed by the Polish Secret Police in March 1945. My sister Danuta, died in Fort Lauderdale in 1995.

Now it will become clear why **Morgan C. Davis** was so anxious to contact US forces and eventually be able to return to USA.

I attach to this letter only two of the many supporting documents I have available. If you need more details and other documents I will be happy to provide them and to provide you with a link so you can download these documents since your mailbox is too limited to receive such large files.

Best Regards

Anthony W. Szczepanski  
2214 Cypress Bend Dr. #203  
Pompano Beach, Fl.33069

To Whom It May Concern:

I was a Voice Interceptor (German), M.O. S. #538 and was not a member of any air-crew. I had gone overseas as a mechanic (747) with the 459th Bomb. Gp. but as a result of a search for German speaking personell, received my 538 assignment with the 15th Air Force and was put on detached service with the 97th Bomb. Gp. There was much confusion as to my M.O. S., some of which were 611, 758, 757, and 538. Also I was on detached service to 97th Gp. assigned to 340th Sqd. on d.s. to Group Headquarters, so I'm not certain of the C.O.'s name of the squadron.

The Blenheim raid was my only raid with Lt. Knoblock's crew and from what I learned, the lead-ship and three others in our squadron exploded and our ship was crippled as a result. We flew as far as Cracow and received orders to bail-out. I bailed-out first and from that moment never heard or saw of any of the crew-members again. During my stay with the partisans (Sept. 13th. Jan. 26th, 1945) I learned that one crew-member was killed after he parachuted when he hit the branch of a tree. In December (perhaps the 29th) I heard that an air-man who was evading capture was captured through spy-activity. The partisans seemed to think he was one of our crew-members.

I'm sorry that I have no specific information that may aid your search for missing personell and wish to thank you for your efforts in finding them.

Morgan C. Davis

MACR 8726  
 B-17  
 RAF 44-8166  
 11 men

DATE: 9/13/44 - before noon.  
 PLACE: near Latham.  
 TYPE: Fortran.  
 MARKING: TO 014-166

340 (H.B.) Sqd.  
 91 Group - 5 Wing.  
 TARGET: Air District VIII  
 Airbase HQs A (c)  
 101/VIII.

Rank	Name	U.S.A.	Regt	NE 2122
1st/Lt.	Knoblock, Bruce D.			0-440048 . 6
2nd/Lt.	Laku, Leander, Chester			0-828462 .
2nd/Lt.	Waage, Jack, Curtis			0-717710 .
2nd/Lt.	Anderson, Eugene, Douglas			0-771876 .
Sgt.	Brand, Walter, George			16024189 .
Sgt.	Derwin, Benjamin, Francis			32730533 .
Sgt.	McPadden, Ray, Jordan			14183446 .
Sgt.	Hess, William, Nelson			18210045 .
Sgt.	Kenley, Orlan, Eugene			34814873 .
Sgt.	Cellar, Charles, Wesley			19171043
2nd/Lt.	Devis			

missing Eds