

MACR 13711

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. Brandunas, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. Muench, Capt., AC
Date OCT 15 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2544
13711

1. ORGANIZATION Location Pantenella Air Base Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bomb Sq (H)
- 2 SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantenella Air Base Italy Course Tactical targets in Italy
Tactical targets in Italy Type of mission Bombing
- 3 WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear but haze reduced visibility to 10-12 miles.
- 4 GIVE: (a) Date 10 Apr 45 Time 1209 Last known position Italy (44°27'N 11°33'E)
 (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 Aircraft hit by flak in #4 engine.
- 6 AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series E-26 L AAF Serial Number 44-19710
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No nickname. Call name "Black: Nan".
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1820-A3 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-318587
 (b) CP-318210 (c) CP-317152 (d) CP-219724
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Browning 50 Cal M2
 (a) 1766429 (b) Radar in bull (c) 1549203
 (d) 1766676 (e) Radar in bull (f) 1766879
 (g) 1719926 (h) 1719812 (i) 1719907 (j) 1719824 (k) 1719824
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: ☒ Battle Casualty, ☐ Non Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
 (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 STATUS AND ADDRESS
1) Pilot	<u>B. Gilson, James H.</u>	<u>LT Col 0412958</u>	<u>MIA Wife Mrs John T. Gilson, 39 Holly Road, Wyoming, Ohio.</u>
2) Co-Pilot	<u>Y. Foote, Charles H.</u>	<u>Capt 0672588</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mr: Mrs F. Foote, 3325 Hyeco St, El Paso, Texas.</u>
3) Pilot	<u>O'Leary, Robert J.</u>	<u>1st Lt 02060892</u>	<u>MIA Father Mr John J. O'Leary, 3600 Valleydrive, Ashland, Ky.</u>
4) Nav	<u>Morton, Lacey P.</u>	<u>Capt 0410212</u>	<u>MIA Father Mr David A. Morton, 2708 Gaines St. Little Rock, Ark.</u>
5) Bomb	<u>Wall, George H.</u>	<u>Capt 0668851</u>	<u>MIA Wife Mrs Mildred P. Wall, Box 101, Rt #2, Concord, North Carolina</u>
6) Radar	<u>Walsh, Edward P.</u>	<u>1st Lt 02056750</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Ann Rose Walsh, 225 West 86th St, New York City, New York.</u>
7) Eng	<u>Ruben, Jerrold E.</u>	<u>T/Sgt 33693721</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Bessie Ruben, 5562 Hobart St, Pittsburgh, Pa.</u>
8) Gun	<u>Monteclut, Charles P. Jr.</u>	<u>E/Sgt 38494587</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Amanda C. Monteclut, LaPlace, La.</u>
9) Eng	<u>Borers, Robert C.</u>	<u>E/Sgt 35752803</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Adelaide L. Borers, 34 E. Locust St, Newark, Ohio.</u>
10) Aerial	<u>Cope, Norman S.</u>	<u>E/Sgt 3372962</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Ida M. Cope, RFD #1, Near Morgan Sta, Woodbine, Md.</u>
11) Aerial	<u>Thompson, Melvin C.</u>	<u>E/Sgt 38607094</u>	<u>MIA Mother Mrs Ava Thompson, Rt. #1, Wellington, Texas.</u>

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 BY RADIO	SAW	FORCED
(1) <u>Gordon T. Whitcher</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>3357696</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>Clancy I. Rubin</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>32923975</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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) Parachutes were positively used to leave the aircraft.
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.

Inclosures

Incl 1 - Statement Date 12 April 1945of Sgt Whitcher (septup)Incl 2 - Statement of Sgt Rubin (septup)

Incl 3 - Map of area where plane fell (septup)

Capt., Air Corps, Adjutant

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

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

11 April 1945

On the 10 April 1945 we were to bomb tactical targets in Italy. Right after bombs away, just before the rally, "Black Nan", flown by Lt. Col. Gilson, was hit by flak in the right wing at #4 engine. It seemed to me the aircraft stopped in mid-air and then began downward in a spin. I saw something come out of the bomb bay on fire, which could have possibly been a man or a chute. I then followed the aircraft until it went out of my vision.

At no time did I distinguish any chutes come out of the aircraft.

Gordon T. Whigham
GORDON T. WHIGHAM,
Sgt, 33576961
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

11 April 1945

On the 10 April 1945 we were to bomb tactical targets in Italy. Right after bombs away I saw a bright flash and saw "Black Nan", flown by Lt. Col. Gilson, go into a spin. I watched it until it hit the ground, which took about 20 seconds, and it then went up in a puff of smoke.

At no time did I see any chutes come from the aircraft.

Sidney L. Rubin

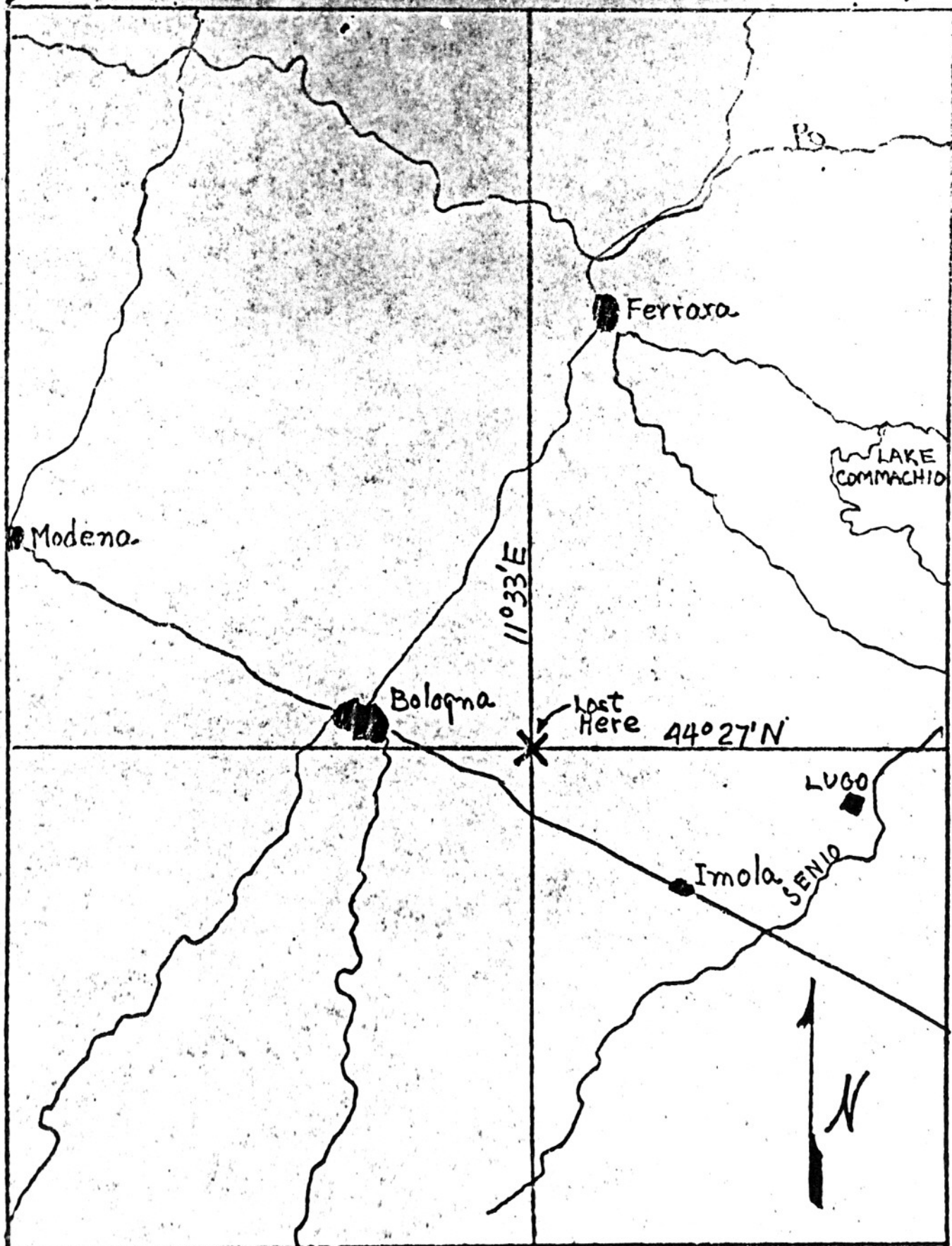
SIDNEY L. RUBIN,
Sgt, 32993975
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

CONFIDENTIAL

N.

1795

Doc 121



Bombing of Lugo Area 10 Apr 45

Coordinates: $44^{\circ}27'N-11^{\circ}33'E$

No.

1725

Sheet 131

Miss Taylor

Lt. Col. James H. Gilson

Mrs. Jean T. Gilson (wife) ✓
39 Reilly Road
Wyoming, Ohio

Captain Charles H. Foote

Mrs. Sara B. Foote (mother) ✓
801 N. Virginia Street
El Paso, Texas

1st Lt. Robert J. O'Leary

Mr. John J. O'Leary (father) ✓
3600 Valley Drive
Ashland, Kentucky

Capt. Lacey P. Norton

Mrs. Mary B. Norton (wife) ✓
235 East Fair Oaks
San Antonio, Texas

Capt. George R. Wall

Mrs. Mildred P. Wall (wife) ✓
Box 401 Route Number Two
Concord, North Carolina

1st Lt. Edward F. Walsh, Jr.

Mrs. Ann E. Walsh (mother) ✓
225 West 56th Street
New York, New York

T/Sgt. Jerrold E. Ruben

Mrs. Bessie Ruben (mother) ✓
5562 Robert Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

S/Sgt. Charles F. Montegut, Jr.

Mrs. Amanda C. Montegut (mother) ✓
LaPlace, Louisiana

S/Sgt. Robert C. Rogers

Mrs. Melaine E. Rogers (mother) ✓
34 East Locust Street
Newark, Ohio

S/Sgt. Norman S. Cope

Mrs. Ada W. Cope (mother) ✓
RFD #1, (Near Morgan Sta)
Woodbine, Maryland

S/Sgt. Melvin C. Thomason

Mr. Roy J. Thomason (father) ✓
Route #1
Vellington, Texas

WAR DEPARTMENT

Counseling Section
Separations Unit
Kitchel Field, New York

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$3.00



Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division AC/AS-1
Washington, D. C.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON



19 Sept 45

OK

ward 7

SUBJECT: 1st Lt. Edward F. Walsh, 02056750
779th Bomb Sqdn., 464 Bomb Group

TO: Commanding Officer
1010 Base Unit
Detachment of Patients
Mitchell Field, New York

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a communication from Mrs. Amanda C. Montegut, requesting information concerning her son, Staff Sergeant Charles F. Montegut, Jr., 38494589, killed in action 10 April 1945.

2. Request interrogation be made of subject officer concerning any knowledge he may have of the death of Sergeant Montegut, or the whereabouts of the remainder of the crew members who served with him on 10 April 1945.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

N. W. Reed

N. W. REED
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personal Services Division, AC/AS-1

201-1st Lt. Edward F. Walsh
O-2056750-779th Bomb Sqdn.,
464 Bomb Group

1st Ind.

WAM/int

FROM: AAF Regional Station Hospital, Mitchel Field, New York
Separations Unit. 28 September 1945.

TO : Chief, Notification Section, Personal Affairs Branch, Personal Services
Division, AC/AS-1.

1. Subject officer was blown from airplane when it exploded after being hit by flak. The accident occurred near Lega, Italy.

2. Lt. Walsh never saw any of the other crew members again. While in an Italian Hospital, the identification tags of several crew members were brought to him and he was told all members but himself had been killed. He believes they are buried near Lega, Italy but has no definite assurance of this and knows no more details.

William H. Mitchell
WILLIAM H. MITCHELL,
Capt. in, Air Corps,
Chief, Counseling Section
Separations Unit

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Edward Francis Walsh, Jr. Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-2056750
464 D.Gp. 779 B.Sqd.
2. Organization 1st Gp Commander Byrd, (?) Rank Col. Sqn CO Gilson, J. Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month April day 10 did you go down?
Ground support 8th Army (British)
4. What was the mission, 1st, target, Lugo, Italy vicinity, target
time, 1210, altitude, 19,000 feet route scheduled, Up Adriatic
to Lugo and back, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? In target area on our left rally
6. Did you bail out? Yes, after being blown out of plane when it exploded in a spin.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? I do not know, I saw no other chutes during my decent by parachute.
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". A questionnaire is included for each crew member.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? I imagine about 5 miles ^{NW} of Lugo
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? No knowledge
12. What was their condition? No knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? See individual questionnaires
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member:

GILSON, James H.

Rank:

Lt. Col.

Serial number:

O-412958

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~ PilotDid he bail out? I DO NOT KNOW. HE HAD A GOOD CHANCE TO DO SO.Where? IF HE DID BAIL OUT IT WAS 5 MI. N.W. OF LUFO, ITALYIf not, why not? THE PLANE BLEW UP AFTER SPINNING ABOUT 7 TIMES.Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ON THE LEFTRALLY AFTER BOMBS AWAY HE TOLD FOOTE (CAPT.) TO 'LOOSE 500' IMMEDIATELY."Was he injured? I DO NOT BELIEVE SO - NOT WHEN LAST SEEN IN PLANEWhere was he when last seen? DIRECTLY BEHIND ME IN THE BOMB-BAYAny hearsay information: AFTER BEING CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS, THEY BROUGHT ME LT. COL. GILSON'S DOG TAG (1). THEY TOLD ME HE WAS DEAD, THAT THEY HAD HIS BODY AND WERE GOING TO BURY HIM. THE DOG TAG THEY SHOWED ME WAS PERFECT. IT SHOWED NO SIGNS OF FIRE OR DIRT. I WAS NOT TOLD IF HE CAME DOWN IN THE PLANE OR CHUTESource: MY GERMAN CAPTORSAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: SINCE I WAS FIRED UPON BY MACHINE GUN FROM THE GROUND DURING MY PARACHUTE DESCENT, AND SINCE THE GERMANS TOLD ME THEY HAD LT. COL. GILSON'S BODY & I SAW HIS DOG TAG, I BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE BAILED OUT BUT WAS FIRED UPON AND KILLED. IF HE CRASHED WITH THE PLANE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HIS BODY.Total number of missions of above crew member: 34 SORTIESDates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member: MOOTE, Charles H.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: O-6725EE
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Pilot (Fighter): Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE TOLD LT. COL. GILSON "WE WERE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO FLAK CONCENTRATION."

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? IN PILOT'S SEAT (LEFT SEAT OF B-24J)

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member:

Rank:

Serial number:

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Crew (Fighter)~~ ~~(Fighter)~~

O'LEARY, Robert J.

1st Lt.

O-2060892

Navigator

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere? NO KNOWLEDGEIf not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGELast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE CALLED FROM NOSE TURRET "FLAK STRAIGHT AHEAD + LEVEL"Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere was he when last seen? IN NOSE TURRET - HAD TURRET DOORS OPEN + CHUTE ON.Any hearsay information: NONESource: NONEAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONETotal number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGEDates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member: MORTON, Lacey P.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: 0-410412
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE HELP LT. O'LEARY PUT ON CHUTE IN NOSE TURRET PRIOR TO BOMB RUN

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE SECTION ACTING AS DR NAVIGATOR

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: NONE

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONE

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member: WALL, George R.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: O-668851
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombarcier

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: CALLED OUT WHEN BOMBS WERE AWAY.

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE OF INJURY IN PLANE - FOUND DEAD BY ENEMY ON GROUND

Where was he when last seen? OVER BOMB SIGHT IN NOSE SECTION

Any hearsay information: GERMANS BROUGHT ME HIS ALLIED IDENTIFICATION CARD AND CLAIMED HE WAS DEAD AND BURIED BY THEM. THE CARD WAS PERFECT - NO SIGNS OF FIRE OR DIRT. I WAS NOT TOLD IF HE CRASHED IN PLANE OR BAILED OUT AND THEN WAS KILLED. THEY DID NOT BRING ME HIS DOB TAGS.

Source: GERMAN CAPTORS

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE MAY HAVE BAILED OUT AND WAS KILLED BY ENEMY FIRE FROM GROUND DURING DESCENT. I NEVER SAW HIS BODY ON THE GROUND - OR SAW ANY CHUTES IN THE AIR DURING MY DESCENT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member:

Rank:

MONTGUT, Charles F. Jr.

Serial number:

S/Sgt.

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~

38494589

RO Cnr

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere? NO KNOWLEDGEIf not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGELast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I SAW HIM
SITTING AT RADIO JUST OPPOSITE ME - AT RADAR SET.Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGEWhere was he when last seen? AT RADIO ON FLIGHT DECKAny hearsay information: NONESource: NONEAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONETotal number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWNDates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13711

Name of crew member: THOMASON, Melvin C.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 3E607094
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~1st Flight (Bomber)~~: Aerial Gnr.

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: GERMANS BROUGHT ME HIS DOF TAG (I) AND SAID THEY HAD HIS BODY AND THAT THEY WERE BURYING HIM. THE DOF TAG SHOWED NO SIGNS OF FIRE OR DIRT. I DID NOT SEE HIM AT ALL.

Source: MY GERMEN CAPTORS

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE MAY HAVE BAILED OUT AND WAS KILLED BY ENEMY FIRE. IF HE CRASHED I DOUBT THAT THE GERMANS WOULD HAVE FOUND HIS BODY AND BE ABLE TO BURY HIM.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: NONE