AFTPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DOLNEY, Harold S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 34451480
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Radio Operator-Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Appox. 10 Sq Places??

If not, why not? —

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Over Ploesti

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? on in Miami Beach

Any hearsay information: No

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Nine

Dates and destinations if possible: Do not Recall all Dates and Destinations

6-3861, AF

AF/PA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DOLBEE, Harold S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 364/1680
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted] Radio Operator-Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Ploesti Rumania

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About 30 seconds before the Jump

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? New York City N.Y.

Any hearsay information: NO

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3881, AF

AFPPA-11 File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DOLNEK, Harold S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 36461680
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Radio Operator-Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? over Ploesti, Rumania

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? returned USA with me arrival at YIUE 26 September 1944

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: (Uncertain) 7 sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: Ploesti, Rumania 7/18/44 (approx. dates)
Friedrichshafen, Germany 7/30/44 Klagenfurt, Germany 8/10/44 Lyons, France 8/12/44
Genoa, Italy 8/13/44 Avignon, France 8/14/44 Ploesti, Rum. 8/17/44

6-3861, AF

AFTPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JONES, James R.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39332665
Position: Crew (Bomber) on [redacted]: Asst Tng Gun

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 10 Miles S Ploesti

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: over Ploesti

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? on Boat on way Home

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Nine

Dates and destinations if possible: Do Not Recall all Dates and Destinations

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JONES, James R.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39332665
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Asst Tag Gun

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Ploesti, Romania

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About 1 minute before The Jump

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? New York City

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Sicily

6-3861, AF

AFPOA;11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JONES, James R.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39332665
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Asst Eng Gun

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Ploesti, Rumania

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? returned USA with me arriving [illegible] September 44

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Uncertain; 7 sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: Ploesti, Rumania 7/30/44 (approx. dates)
Friedrichshafen 7/30/44 Aschaffenburg 8/10/44 Arles, France 8/12/44
Germany Germany
Savona, Italy 8/13/44 Avignon, France 8/14/44 Ploesti, Rum. 8/17/44

E-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BAUERMEIN, William J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0771509
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted] Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Appox 10 m. Ploesti

If not, why not? ___

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 15 Minutes Prior To Loss of Plane

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? at Ft. Stocum N.Y.

Any hearsay information: NO

Source: ___

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NO

Total number of missions of above crew member: Nine

Dates and destinations if possible: Do Not Recall all Dates and Destinations

6-3061, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SAUERWEIN, William J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0771809
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted] Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Europe

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In New York City

Any hearsay information: No

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 10

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPP/ 11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SAUERWEIN, William J.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0771809
Position: Crew (Bomber) on ~~Right Wing~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? over Ploesti, Rumania

If not, why not?

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

saw him bail out of bomb bay

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen? returned USA with me arriving AT ~~FOX~~ 26 September 44

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: (uncertain) 6 sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: approximate dates; Friedrichshafen, Germany 6/30/44
Blechhammer, Germany 8/10/44 Lyons, France 8/12/44 Savona, Italy 8/13/44
Avignon, France 8/14/44 Ploesti, Rumania 8/17/44

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11 File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: VERDIER, Ralph M.Jr.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33515023
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Appox 10 miles So Floresti

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: over Floresti

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? On Boat on Way Home

Any hearsay information: No

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Nine

Dates and destinations if possible: Do not Recall All Dates and Destinations.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: VERDIER, Ralph E. Jr.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33515823
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Ploesti, RUMANIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About 3 hours before We Jumped

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? New York City N.Y.

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3061, AF

AFPPA-11 File # 7863

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: VENDIEN, Ralph M.Jr.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33515823
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter(Pilot)~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Alberti, Romania

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? returned USA with me (arrived ~~[illegible]~~ 26 September 1944

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: (uncertain) 7 sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: Alberti, Romania 7/30/44 (approx. dates)
Friedrichshafen, Germany 7/30/44 Klagenfurt, Germany 8/10/44 Agons, France 8/13/44
Savona, Italy 8/13/44 Avignon, France 8/14/44 Lonati, Rom. 8/17/44

6-3861, AF

1863

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. [illegible], Lt. Col., AC
by F. W. MUNCH, Capt., AC
Date [illegible]

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

8. Asst Eng Gun Jones, James R. Sgt. 39332665 Lola M. Jones (Wife)
926 Hamilton St., Roseberg, Oregon

9. Armorer Gun Conrad, Frederick J S/Sgt 15106184 Mrs Dorris V. Conrad (Wife)
4918 E. New York St., [illegible], Indiana

10. Gunner Verdier, Ralph M. Jr. Sgt. 33315823 Mrs. Helen D. Verdier (Wife)
34 Garber St., Chambersburg, Penn

11. _____

12. _____

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Eldred M. Bowles	1st Lt	0705300		X		
2.						
3.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
(X) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
( ) Any other reason (specify) Between 3 to 5 chutes were seen

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH: MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE THERE: (If no search, so state giving reason None due to plane going down over enemy territory.

Date of this Report 20 August 1944

RECEIVED
SEP 19 1944

William H. Berg
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
WILLIAM H. BERG
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant

2 INCLS:
INCL #1 SKETCH OF TARGET.
INCL #2 STATEMENT BY LT. BOWLES.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

Classification changed to RESTRICTED 16 Jun 45
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. SEMRICH, Capt., AC
Date 8-9-45

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Field Italy Command of AF 15th Air Force Group 455th Bomb Gp. Squadron 742nd Bomb Sq.

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Field Italy Course Direct Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Clear at Target vis 12 to 15 in haze.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 August 1944 Time 1120 Location Target Area of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. (b) Specify whether: (X) 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 (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows _____

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24-J AAF Serial No. 44-10560

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65A AAF Serial No. (a) HP448220 (b) HP 448665 (c) HP448896 (d) 448614

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number) All are Browning Aircraft Mach Gun M-2 (a) 244773 (b) 1295396 (c) 1284283 (d) 1244709 (e) 1244763 (f) 1284294 (g) 1273117 (h) 1244834 (i) 1295305 (j) 1273224.

9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty ( ) 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 list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

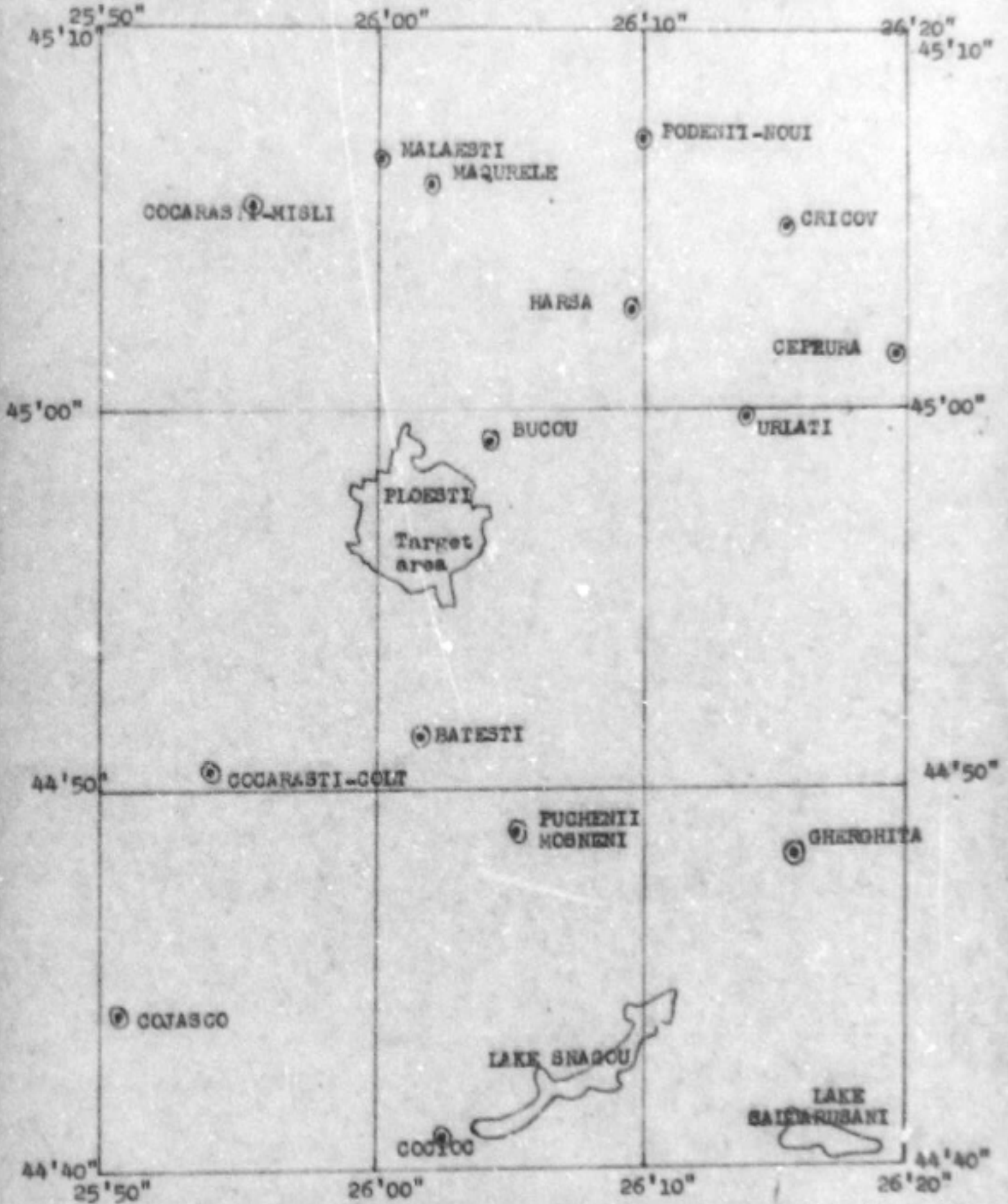
CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO.	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS	
1. Pilot	Ditchett, Paul H	2nd Lt	0697623	Mrs Julia Ditchett (Wife) 218 N. 8th St., Greenen, Indiana	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	Sauerwein, William J.	2nd Lt	0771808	Margaret Sauerwein (Wife) 5504 N. Syracuse, Portland, Oregon	RTD
3. Navigator	Leclair, Donat R.	2nd Lt.	0719467	Mrs. Marie Louise Leclair (Mother) 232 Coffin Ave., New Bedford, Mass.	RTD
4. Bombardier	Root, Elihu N	F/O	7123398	Mrs. Mae J. Root (Wife) 1012 So. Independence Blvd, Chicago, Illinois	
5. Rad Oper Gun	Dolbee, Harold S.	S/Sgt	36461680	Edith G. Dolbee (Mother) 95 Maine St., Battle Creek, Michigan	RTD
6. Eng Gun	Beasley, Jesse E.	S/Sgt	37611309	Olla Ann Beasley (Mother) Box 142 Salem, Missouri	RTD
7. Asst Rad Oper Gunr	Clark, John J	Sgt.	32736825	Mrs Winifred Clark (Mother) 68 Prospect Ave., Buffalo, New York	RTD

PLOESTI (NORTH), RUMANIA.

TARGET chart NO. 11-100B-NA

SHIB was last seen in the target area.

SCALE: 1:250,000



Jack #1 6 MACR 17. Detailed Case

2nd Lt. Paul H. Ditchett	Mrs. Julia M. Ditchett (wife) 218 North 8th Street, Goshen, Indiana.
2nd Lt. William J. Sauerwein	Reverend Charles W. H. Sauerwein (father) 1421 N. E. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.
2nd Lt. Donat R. Leclair	Mrs. Marie L. Leclair (mother) 732 Coffin Avenue, New Bedford, Massachusetts.
F/O Milton N. Root	Mrs. Mae J. Root (wife) 1012 South Independence Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.
• S/Sgt. Frederick J. Conrad	Mrs. Doris Veronica Conrad (wife) 4918 East New York Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.
S/Sgt. Harold G. Dolbee	Mrs. Edith G. Dolbee (mother) 98 Main Street, Battle Creek, Michigan.
S/Sgt. Jesse E. Beasley	Mrs. Ella A. Beasley (mother) Box 143, Salem, Missouri.
Sgt. Ralph M. Verdier, Jr.,	Mrs. Helen D. Verdier (wife) 34 Gerber Street, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.
Sgt. James H. Jones	Mrs. Lola V. Jones (mother) 926 Hamilton Street, Roseburg, Oregon.
Sgt. John J. Clark	Mrs. Winifred L. Clark (mother) 68 Prospect Street, Buffalo, New York.
• S/Sgt. Frederick J. Conrad	Mrs. Mary E. Conrad (mother) 617 North Drexel Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

AFPPA-12*

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name [redacted] Rank [redacted] Serial No. [redacted]
2. Organization [redacted] Op Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
   (full name) (full name)
3. What year 19 45 month August day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, [redacted], target, [redacted], target time, _____, altitude, _____ route scheduled, _____ [redacted], route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? [redacted]
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". No Knowledge
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 6 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? All Crew Returned To U.S.A. & Duty
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

AFPMS-17

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Paul H Ditchell Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0697622

2. Organization 455th Bomb Gp Cp Commander Do Not Remember (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Ambrossen (full name) Rank Lt. Col.

3. What year 1944 month Aug day 17 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, 11th Mission, target, Ploesti Oil Fields, target approach time, approx. 1100 AM, altitude, 25000 Ft route scheduled, Direct to Ploesti, route flown SAME

5. Where were you when you left formation? Appox. 5 So. Ploesti

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". LeClair Nav. Bailed out Appox. 12 Miles S Ploesti, Best Bombr. Same, Bessley Eng Same Conrad Same, Top Gunner Same, Clark Ball Gunner Same,

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Appox. 10-15 Miles So Ploesti It Blew up As it Hit The Ground.

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? They were All in Good Condition Except Dolbee, Verdier, and Root

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Another Crew. Pilots Name Stivale Went Down That Day But Waist Gunners Said only three or Chutes were Seen.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPRA-12

A

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name [illegible] Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. [illegible]

2. Organization 454th Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO [illegible] Rank 1st Lt.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month August day 17 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, _____, target, Ploesti Refinery, Ploesti, , target time, 1130, altitude, 24,000 ft route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? over target

6. Did you bail out? yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? all members of crew 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". [illegible] Pilot; [illegible], Co-Pilot, Navigator; [illegible], Eng.; Frederic Conrad, Asst Eng.; [illegible], Asst Eng & Ball Gnr. members of crew not on attached list were on flight and bailed out over target at same time

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? All members of this crew, both those mentioned above and those for which forms are attached were on AThos II returning to the U.S.A. and arrived at New York 10 September 1944. All were last seen at Port Sloum, N.I. 29 Sept. 1944 and all were apparently in good condition. Clark and Perdier were at Atlantic City, N.J. on or about 5 November 1944 with questionee.

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)

6-3862, AF

7430TH [illegible] (H)
APO 520 U.S.ARMY

S T A T E M E N T

While flying No. 4 position, "C" Box, in A/C 395 on a combat mission 17 August 1944 I saw A/C 560, flying No. 5 position, burst into flames and go into a dive. After diving approximately 5000 feet the tail section of the A/C broke off. The fire was caused by a direct flak hit on the No. 3 engine. I saw four men bail out of A/C from the waist section immediately after start of fire. Three of the chutes opened and the fourth caught fire after opening.

Edwin M. Brooks

[illegible] M. [illegible],
1st Lt., Air Corps,

Incl #2 to Report of Loss of A/C

CONFIDENTIAL 2 S e (11)

AG 350.33/030-C W/Ind. JWS/hr
Hq., MATOUSA, APO 534, U. S. Army, 8 September 1944.

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

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Reports carrying AC Casualty Branch Control Numbers 425 thru 430 inclusive.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

JACK K. ROBERTS,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

6 Incls:
(as above)

NC-24002