CASUALTY INTERROGATION FORM
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

THE FAMILIES OF MANY OF YOUR COMRADES HAVE NOT BEEN AS FORTUNATE AS YOURS. THEIR SONS AND HUSBANDS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION AND THEY ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO LEARN THEIR FATE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THE INFORMATION WHICH WILL HELP TO TERMINATE THE SUSPENSE AND ANXIETY THEY ARE SUFFERING.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH IN ACTION OR DURING IMPRISONMENT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED:

FULL NAME OF DECEASED	Joseph Weissblum
HOME TOWN OR STATE	Troy, New York
GRADE OR RANK	Staff Sergeant
ORGANIZATION	455th Bomb. Group, 740th Bomb Sq. 15th AAF
DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH	28 Feb 1945, within 5 mile area of SONFANARO, ITALY.
CAUSE OF DEATH	Shot to death by German Troops
PLACE OF BURIAL	Within immediate vicinity of place of death
WERE YOU AN EYEWITNESS TO HIS DEATH	No
NAMES OF PERSONS BELIEVED TO HAVE WITNESSED HIS DEATH	Only the German troops and some partisans who saw the shooting
IF YOUR INFORMATION IS HEARSAY GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR INFORMANT	Other members of my crew who were picked up by partisans as well as German guards

SIGN HERE William F. Lutz
Name and Serial Number

Rt #2 0-356228 1st Lt.
Wauseon, Ohio
Your home address

NOTE: THIS FORM IS FOR USE BY CASUALTY BRANCH, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE FORM ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE FILL ONE OUT FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES THOM YOU KNOW OR BELIEVE TO BE DEAD.

APPENDIX 6

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION
HQ. AAF REDISTRIBUTION STA. No. 2
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: BENISH, William J.Jr.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: 02058961
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Ferry (Fighter)~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Conforano, el Italy

If not, why not? —

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: By phone five minutes before bailing out. He went ahead of me

Was he injured? Yes. Broke back. His 'chute caught in a tree and

~~Where was he when last seen?~~ swung him against a rock wall.

Any hearsay information: He returned to allied control about

4 or 6 weeks after we shot down.

I last heard from him while he was in Walla-

Walla General Hospital, Washington

Source: —

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: about 14 or 15

Dates and destinations if possible: (A) See other side

6-3861, AF

~~#11~~

#

12-18-44 Sopron, Austria
12-27-44 Graz, Austria
12-29-44 Rosenheim, Austria
1-8-45 Linz, Germany
1-19-45 Osod, Yugo
1-31-45 Moosbuchbrunn, Austria
2-13-45 Maribor, Yugo
2-14-45 Vienna, Austria
2-18-45 Adriatic
2-22-45 Southern Germany
2-27-45 Augsburg, Germany
2-28-45 Verona, Italy
2-28-45 (this) over Northern Italy.

There may possibly be one or two mistakes in the above. I am sorry this is as near correct as I can make it. There is a few missions made in Nov. & Dec. 1944 by Lt Benish of which I have no record because he flew with another crew.

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: BENISH, William J.Jr.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: 02058961
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Ridgeboat/Fighter~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over the Istrian Peninsula, near Confernaro.

If not, why not? ----------

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Received instructions from him over the innerphone to prepare to bail out.

Was he injured? Yes, landed on brick wall and injured his back.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him at the hospital in Bari, Italy.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source: ----------

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 17 missions.

Dates and destinations if possible: See reverse side of paper.

6-3861, AF

No.	Date	Mission No.	Target
1	11/17/44	152	Marabor, Yugoslavia
2	11/18/44	153	Vicenaz, Italy
3	11/19/44	154	Verona, Italy
4	12/9/44	163	Linz, Germany
5			
6	12/18/44	168	Sopronm, Austria
7	12/27/44	172	Graz, Austria
8	12/29/44	174	Rosenhiem, Austria
9	1/8/45	176	Linz, Austria
10	1/19/45	178	Brod, Yugoslavia
11	1/31/45	180	Moosbierbaum, Austria
12	2/13/45	189	Maribor, Yugoslavia
13	2/14/45	190	Vienna, Austria
14	2/18/45	194	Adriatic
15	2/22/45	197	Southern Germany
16	2/27/45	201	Augusburg, Germany
17	2/28/45	202	Northern Italy (MIA)

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: BENISH, William J.Jr.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: 02053961
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter (Pursuit)~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Canfanaro On Istrian Peninsula

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I Asked Lt Benish Where We Were And He Told Me In Germany Before I Went Out.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? In Hospital - Bari, Italy

Any hearsay information: Splintered Vertebrae.

Source: Doctor

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 12 (?)

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: BENISH, William J.Jr.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 02058961
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? In the proximity of Confesarpo, Italy. (In Istria)

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I helped Lt. Benish, flying as co-pilot, attatch his G.I. shoes to his parachute harnes and was doing Pilotage Navigation from between the Pilot and Co-Pilot's seats up to within a few seconds of the bail out order.

Was he injured? Not at the time of bailout but did injure his back upon striking the ground.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him at the 26th General Hospital in Bari, Italy, after our return from Jugoslavia.

Any hearsay information: NO.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Nothing on supposition as he came back O.K., only with a back injury.

Total number of missions of above crew member: unknown to me

Dates and destinations if possible: unknown to me

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: WEISSBLUM, Joseph
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 36827555
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~: Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? as near as I can guess - Conforsara, Italy.

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I last talked with him in the Waiste 15 or 20 Minutes before

Was he injured? Not when he bailed out. (bailing out.)

Where was he when last seen? Last seen by Crew before bailing out.

Any hearsay information: German guards told the Pilot and

the next day that the Weissblum tried to escape

and they shot him.

Source: German guards who spoke English

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

told several members of our crew that if we

were ever shot down he would fight it

out and would not be taken prisoner. I

can only guess at his fate.

Total number of missions of above crew member: I believe this was his 18th

Dates and destinations if possible: (A) over.

6-3861, AF

A-1.

A. 11/17/44 MARABORG-YUGO.
11/18/44 VICENZA, ITALY
11/19/44 VERONA, ITALY
12/6/44 GRAZ, AUSTRIA
12/19/44 LINZ, GERMANY
12/18/44 SOPRON, AUSTRIA. X
12/27/44 GRAZ, AUSTRIA. X
12/29/44 ROSENHEIM AUSTRIA X
1/8/45 LINZ, GERMANY X
1/19/45 DROD, YUGO X
1/31/45 MOOSBIERBAUM, AUSTRIA X
2/13/45 MARABOR, YUGO. X
2/14/45 VIENNA, AUSTRIA X
2/18/45 ADRIATIC X
2/22/45 SOUTHERN GERMANY X
2/27/45 AUGUSBURG, GERMANY X
2/28/45 NORTHERN ITALY X
2/28/45 MIA IN NOTHERN ITALY X
one other mission I do not have a record of.

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: WEISSBLUM, Joseph
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 36827555
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~: Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? In the proximity of Confonarro, Italy (In Istria)

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Sgt. Weissblum was aiding me in throwing out equipment to lighten aircraft and at time of Abandonm aircraft, was ~~f~~irst enlisted man out of flight deck.

Was he injured? Not to my knowlege, at least at time of bailing out.

Where was he when last seen? In the air. All chutes were accounted for.

Any hearsay information: Yes. After being picked up by partisans, and getting together with three other members of our crew that evening we were told that one member of our crew had been seen to have been murdered by the local German garrison. Upon questioning of the partisans as to his identity, all they could describe was that he was an Italian appearing member of our crew. We had no men of Italian descent on the crew, but Sgt. Weissblum was Jewish and had a dark, Semetic, appearance, not unlike ~~many~~ many Italians, and our natural assumption was that it was he who had been killed wither because the Germans thought him an Italian partisan (or renegade) or because of his being Jewish, in following with there racial ideology.
Source: The local partisan element in that area, as translated for us by Sgt. Bogdaniwicz, one of our crew who spoke fluent Polish.
Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: My answer to 'any hearsay information' covers this. However, the local Partisans did say it was the Germans who killed him by placing a pistol against his head; they witnessed it. They also said they would try to send a girl to town to find out his name but they were unsuccessful. The only supposition was as to who was killed, based on their description of 'an Italian appearing member of our crew'.

Total number of missions of above crew member: unknown to me

Dates and destinations if possible: unknown to me

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: WEISSBLUM, Joseph
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 36827555
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~ Right: Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over the Istrian Peninsula, near Conferrare.

If not, why not? ---------

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: In the waist throwing out equipment to lighten the plane.

Was he injured? No flak injuries.

Where was he when last seen? Bailing out of the bombays.

Any hearsay information: ~~I was~~ told by Italian Farmers that he was captured by the Germans and shot that same afternoon.

Source: Italian Farm Folk.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: approximately 17 missions.

Dates and destinations if possible: See reverse side of paper.

6-3861, AF

No.	Date	Mission No.	Target
1	11/17/44	152	Marabor, Yugoslavia
2	11/18/44	153	Vicenaz, Italy
3	11/19/44	154	Verona, Italy
4	12/9/44	163	Linz, Germany
5			
6	12/18/44	168	Sopronn, Austria
7	12/27/44	172	Graz, Austria
8	12/29/44	174	Rosenhiem, Austria
9	1/8/45	176	Linz, Austria
10	1/19/45	178	Brod, Yugoslavia
11	1/31/45	180	Moosbierbaum, Austria
12	2/13/45	189	Maribor, Yugoslavia
13	2/14/45	190	Vienna, Austria
14	2/18/45	194	Adriatic
15	2/22/45	197	Southern Germany
16	2/27/45	201	Augusburg, Germany
17	2/28/45	202	Northern Italy(MIA)

AFTFR-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No.: 12663

Name of crew member: WEISSBLUM, Joseph
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 36827555
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Radio Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approximately 5 Miles From Canfanaro On Istrian Peninsula

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He Was Getting Ready To Follow Me Out Of Plane-No Conversation

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? In Plane

Any hearsay information: Farmers Informed Us That The Germans Killed The Italian Looking Follow On Our Crew. As Soon As He Reached The Ground. Too Wasn't Italian But He Was The Only One Of Our Crew That Didn't Return And He Did Look Italian.

Source: Friendly Farmers

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

6-3861, AF

NARRATIVE CONT'd

"My other crew members who evaded capture following the bail-out were:

2nd Lt. (NMI) Weinberger - Bombardier
2nd Lt. Wm. Beuish - Co-Pilot
T/Sgt Albert L. Hartman - Engineer
Sgt John L. Brady - Ball-gunner
Sgt Edward Bogdanowicz - Tail-gunner

William F. Lutz
S/Sgt., Air Corps
ASN 35[illegible]847

SECRET

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Prepared by
MIS-X Section
CPM Branch

DATE: 8 Apr 45

NARRATOR	: WEINBERGER, Jerome, 1st Lt,	SQUADRON	: 747th Bm.
ARMY SERIAL NO.	: O-776940	GROUP	: 455th Bm.
HOME ADDRESS	: 1425 E. Genesee St., Saginaw, Mich.	TYPE AIRCRAFT	: B-24
EX-REPORT NO.	: 5??	MISSION DATE	: 28 Feb 45

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	1st Lt. G. Hurdman	P/W
CO-PILOT	1st Lt. W. Bemisch	RD
BOMBARDIER	1st Lt. Jerome Weinberger	Narrator
ENGINEER	T/Sgt. A. L. Hartman	RD
RADIO OPERATOR	Sgt. J. Weisblum	P/W
NOSE GUNNER	Sgt. (?) Lutz	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt. (?) Bogdanowitz	RD
TAIL GUNNER	Sgt. J. Brody	With Partisans in Italy

KNOWN INFORMATION: I saw all crew members marked RD. Sgt. Brody was in friendly hands as of 3 February 1945 in the vicinityof Conf[illegible]ro, Italy, with a broken ankle.

HEARSAY INFORMATION: I was told by the Partisans in Italy that the men listed as P/W were captured by the Germans. The Partisans also told me that one of those captured was killed after capture. They identified him as being of Italian appearance, a description which only fits Sgt. Weisblum who was Jewish and had a dark appearance.

12663

DISTRIBUTION:

AGO -1
AC/AS (PERSONNEL) -1

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12663

FORM 371 OUT

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12663

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 455th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 740th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure San Giovanni Air Field, Italy Course Direct
Target Isarco Albes RR Bridge, Italy Type of mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
C A V U

4. GIVE: (a) Date 28 Feb 1945 Time 1050 Last known position 46°37'N - 12°48'E
(b) Specify whether: (X) 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, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 42-50493

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Bucket of Bolts II

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) 42-61619
(b) 42-44791 (c) CP-31346 (d) BP-441126

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.)

(a)	255815 Browning Cal 50	(e)	1254645	(i)	448069
(b)	255574 M-2	(f)	225662	(j)	1249593
(c)	256220	(g)	1249453	(k)	
(d)	1250087	(h)	1250031	(l)	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 8 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 8 .
(If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

	CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial) RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS	
(1)	Pilot	Herdman, Charles J 1st Lt 0720503	MIA	Mrs. Maria Del Willey, Mother 211 S. Le Doux, Beverly Hills, Cal.	RTD
(2)	Co-Pilot	Benish, William J. Jr. 2d Lt 02058961	MIA	Mr. William J. Benish Sr., Father 1303 Harrison St, Seattle, Wash.	
(3)	Bombardier	Weinberger, Jerome 2d Lt 0776840	RTD MIA	Mrs. Phyllis Weinberger, Wife % Lefko, Eden Arms Apt, Saginaw, Mich.	RTD
(4)	Radio Op-Gunner	Weissblum, Joseph S Sgt 36827555	MIA	Mr. Louis Weissblum, Father 2357 Burdett Ave, Troy, New York	
(5)	Engineer-Gunner	Hartman, Albert L. T Sgt 13041538	MIA RTD	Mrs. Caroline Hartman, Mother 916 Sarah St, Homestead, Pa.	RTD
(6)	Armorer-Gunner	Lutz, Killian F. S Sgt 35622847	MIA	Miss Elisebeth McGowan, Aunt Ironton, Ohio	RTD
(7)	Gunner	Brady, John L. Sgt 37682642	MIA	Mrs. Maxine J. Brady, Wife 220½ So. Main St, Maquoketa, Iowa	RTD
(8)	Gunner	Bogdanowicz, Edward J. Sgt 33711606	MIA RTD	Mr. Joseph Zalas, Half-brother 426 E. 11th St, Erie, Pa.	RTD
(9)					
(10)					
(11)					
(12)					

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 BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
(1)	Frederick P. Kent	1st Lt	0927095		X		
(2)							
(3)							

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.
(X) Other reasons (specify) Plane was under control when last seen

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.

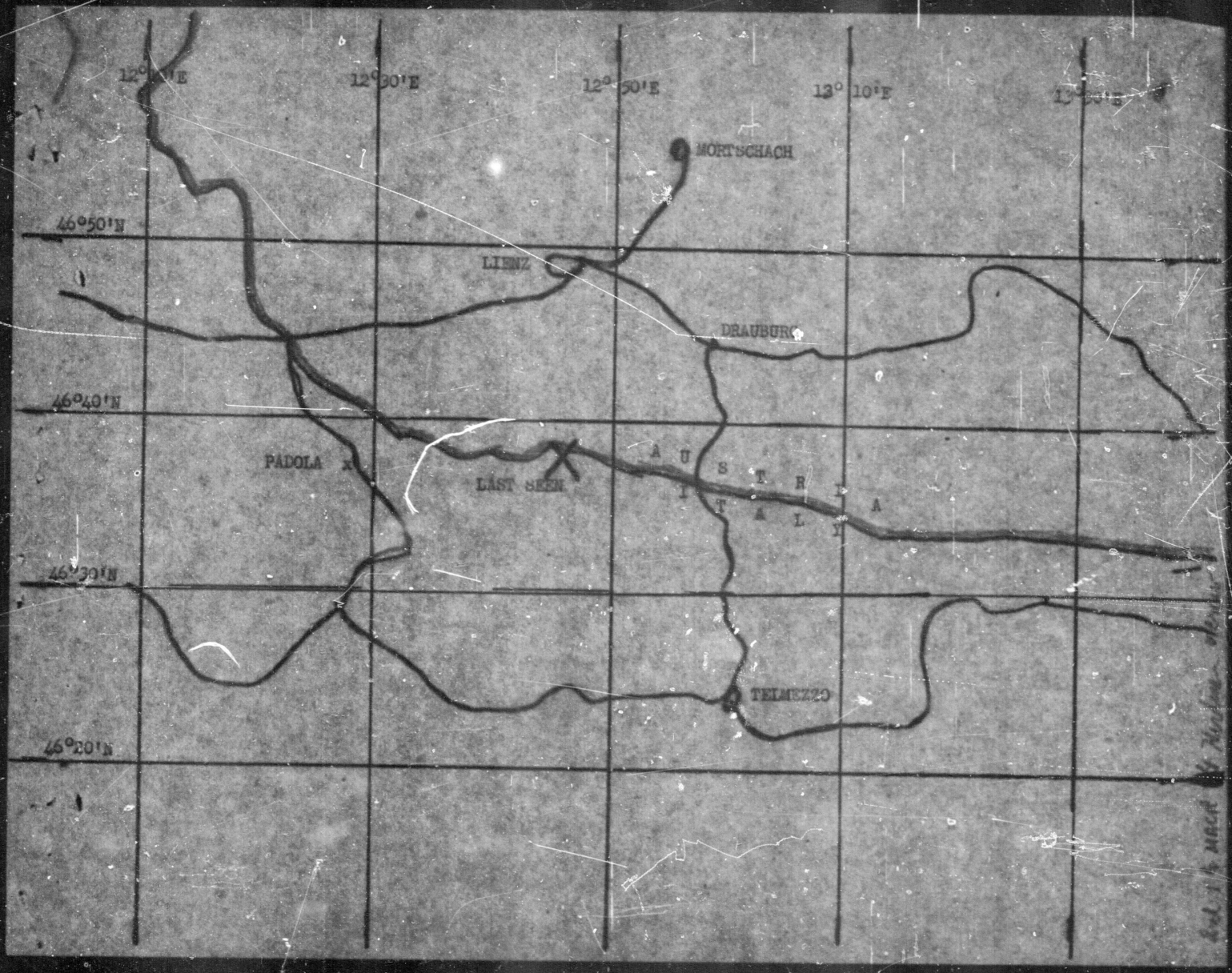
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

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

2 Inclosures.
Incl 1-Sketch of area Date 3 March 1945
Incl 2-Statement Lt Kent

Charles E. Ziegler
(Signature of preparing officer)

CONFIDENTIAL CHARLES E. ZIEGLER, 1st Lt, AC
Personnel Officer.


12° 30'E
12° 50'E
13° 10'E
MORTSCHACH
46°50'N
LIENZ
DRAUBURG
46°40'N
PADOLA
LAST SEEN
A U S T R I A
46°30'N
TELMEZZO
46°20'N

NARRATIVE

"On 28 February 1945 while returning from a bombing mission against the BRENNER PASS, my crew and I were forced to parachute from our B-24 aircraft -- due to damages sustained from AA fire while over target -- after we had flown back for some 45 minutes towards our base. At the time we bailed out we were flying at about 5,000 feet and losing altitude rapidly.

"After reaching the ground -- and before I could fully regain my full faculties -- I was taken prisoner by a German search party consisting of about 15 Wehrmacht soldiers. This capture occured at about 1300 hours on the above date.

"I was taken to a nearby village (the name of which I do not recall) and then, later that evening, taken to CONFANARO, ITALY -- a distance of not more than 8 miles. My pilot, 1st Lt. CHARLES JOSEPH HERNDON and I were both captured in the same immediate vicinity and remained together until around 15 March '45.

"On 1 March '45 while still in a guardhouse in CONFANARO(ITALY), my pilot and I were told by a German sergeant that "One of your men, he tried to escape. We shot him -- he was a Jew". This same German sergeant showed us a newspaper clipping which had been taken from the body after the shooting. It was a clipping from a TROY, N.Y. newspaper -- the home town of S/SGT. JOSEPH WEISSBLUM, the radio operator on my aircraft -- and the clipping was a newspaper account of the awarding of the Air Medal to Sgt. Weissblum.

"On 6 March '45 -- and due to the fact that LT. HERNDAN had no protective clothing to wear on the trip we were scheduled to make to TRIESTE, ITALY -- our German guards brought him a B-10 jacket which they said had been taken from one of our crew members.

"I examined this jacket -- as did LT. HERNDAN -- for some identifying marks and found that the serial number of SGT. WEISSBLUM had been written in the fastener flap. I knew SGT. WEISSBLUMS serial number at that time so I recognized it instantly. I believe his number, as I remember it, was "W-4355"- that is, the last four digits which he used for marking his personal effects.

"Upon my liberation by U. S. troops from imprisonment in DULAG LUFT in Wetzlar, Germany and subsiquent return to the United States, I learned from other members of my crew that only LT. HERNDAN, SGT. WEISSBLUM and I had fallen into enemy hands -- a fact which provides absolute certainty as to the identity of the member of my crew who was shot to death by the Germans.

"I was also advised by these other members that they had been picked up by Partisan forces and aided by these forces back to allied control in Italy. I also learned from these crew members that the Partisans who rescued them told of witnessing the killing, by shooting, of one of our crew members.

"Unmistakably, this crew member could have been only S/SGT. JOSEPH WEISSBLUM -- and all information, however hearsay, confirms beyond all doubt his death at German hands.

1st Lt. Charles J. Hopkins	Mrs. Marie Del R. Wiley (mother) c/o J. Paul Getty 241 South Le Doux Street Beverly Hills, California
2nd Lt. William J. Danish, Jr.	Mrs. Barbara E. Danish (wife) 1903 Harrison Street Seattle, Washington
2nd Lt. Jerome Weinberger	Mrs. Phyllis S. Weinberger (wife) c/o Lotte Blum Arms Apartments Saginaw, Michigan
T/Sgt. Albert L. Norman	Mrs. Caroline C. Norman (mother) [illegible] South Fourth Emmaus, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. William F. Lake	Miss Elizabeth McComas (aunt) Route Number One Everton, [illegible]
S/Sgt. Joseph Weichbrod	Mr. Louis Weichbrod (father) [illegible] Bushwick Avenue Brooklyn, New York
Sgt. John L. Hardy	Mrs. Beatrice J. Hardy (wife) 2201 South Main Street Marshalltown, Iowa
Sgt. Edward J. Hagenmeyer	Mr. Joseph J. Zelas (brother) [illegible] East 11th Street Erie, Pennsylvania

RTD LIA

RTD

RTD

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Edward J. Bogdanowicz Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 33711606

2. Organization 445th Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1945 month Feb. day 28 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Brenner Pass, target, Bridge, target time, 1000, altitude, 27,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? Finishing the IP after bombs away.

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? All of them.

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". All crew members bailed out approximately at the same time, near the vicinity of Confernaro, Istrian Peninsula.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near the town of Confurnaro.

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? No one injured from flak prior to bailing out.

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. Brady had a broken ankle.

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) a - 1.

6-3862,AF

Albert L. Hartman - First Out Of Plane. Went Out Forward Bomb Bay.
John L. Brady - First Out Of Waist. (Camera Hatch)
Joseph Weissblum - Second Out - Forward Bomb Bay
Edward J. Boodanowicz Second Out - Waist (Camera Hatch)
Lt Weinberger - Third Out Forward Bomb Bay
" " "
Lt Wm Benish - Fourth Out
Lt Charles Herdman & Killian F Lutz Went Out About The Same
Time - Herdman Out Forward Bomb Bay & Lutz Out Camera Hatch.
We Didn't Have Either A Top Torret Gunner Or A Navigator
That Day.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HARTMAN ALBERT L Rank T/SGT Serial No. 13041538

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander SNOWDEN (full name) Rank COL. Sqn CO IRVING BETKE (full name) Rank CAPT.

3. What year 1945 month FEBRUARY day 28 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BOLZANO, target, AROUND 10:15 A.M., target time, _____, altitude, 25,000 FT. route scheduled, UNKNOWN _____, 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? 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". ON BACK

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? APPROXIMATELY ½ MILE FROM CANEVARA

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? JOHN L. BRADY - KILLIAN F. LUTZ & EDWARD T. BOGDANOWICZ IN WAIST

12. What was their condition? O.K.

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____

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)

S-3862, AF

NAME	RANK	SERIAL No	FATE
HERDMAN CHARLES J.	1st Lt.	0-720-503 PILOT	Bailed out. slightly injured. taken prisoner. liberated in (May?) He is now at home.
BENISH WILLIAM J.	2nd Lt.	03-058-961 CO-PILOT	Bailed out. Broken back. escaped, returned to allied Control about a month later. last heard of in Wilhelmshaven hospital
WEINBERGER JEROME	2ND LT.	SERIAL NUMBER UNKNOWN BOMBARDIER	BAILED out. Injuries unknown. Escaped. Picked up by gunner whose leg was broken. Now at home.
HARTMAN ALBERT L.	T/Sgt.	ENGINEER 13-041-538	Bailed out, slightly injured. Escaped, returned to allied Control in March. Now at home.
WEISSBLUM JOSEPH Middle initial unknown	T/Sgt.	RADIO OPERATOR 36-827-555	Bailed out. I believe he tried to fight it out with the Germans. The Germans told us next day that they shot him after he landed because he tried to escape. I believe he is buried somewhere near Cortemaggiore Italy.
LUTZ MILLIAN F. (ME)	S/Sgt.	MANAGER-GUN. 35-622-847	Bailed out, slightly injured, taken prisoner, liberated April 3. 1945. Now at home.
BRADY JOHN L.	Sgt.	BALL GUNNER 37-682-642	Bailed out, Badly broken leg. Escaped. Returned to allied Control in March or April. Now at home.
BOGDANOWICZ EDWARD J.	Sgt.	TAIL-GUNNER 33-711-606	Bailed out. injuries unknown. Escaped to allied control March 1945. Now at Home

Our crew consisted of only eight men the day we were shot down.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name KILLIAN E. LUTZ Rank S/SGT Serial No. 35622847
15TH AAF
2. Organization 455 BG 740 SQDN Co Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month FEB day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, BRENNER PASS, NORTHERN ITALY, target time, ABOUT 11:30, altitude, ABOUT 25,000 FT route scheduled, OVER THE ADRIATIC SOUTHERN ITALY, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER THE TARGET
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES, EVERYONE 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". See other side
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? ~~YES~~ NEAR CONEGLIANO ITALY
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 ONE IN AIRCRAFT WHEN IT HIT GROUND
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? See other side
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

We were flying an eight man crew, Pilot, Co-Pilot, Myself doubling as Navigator and Bombardier, Engineer, Radio Operator, nose, tail, and one waist gunner. Upon leaving the formation at the target we proceeded to begin lightening aircraft. The R.O. and myself worked the nose and and flight deck, the engineer was in the bomb bay working on gas leaks, and the gunners were in the waist working there. At the bail out signal, the waist men left via the camera hatch, ~~and~~ (Sgt. Edward J. Bogdanowicz S/Sgt. Killian F. Lutz, Sgt. John. L. Brady). S/Sgt. Joseph Weissblum was the first man out of the bomb bay followed by T/Sgt. Albert L. Hartman, myself, Lt. William J. Benesch, Jr., and Lt. Charles J. Herdman in succession and sequence. While in the air I personally counted seven other chutes and after getting together that evening with three other members of the crew, we checked with each other and agreed we had accounted for all eight of us successfully leaving the aircraft.

I should like to ask why an individual casualty questionnaire was sent out on Lt. William Benish, when he came back OK and also what was the fate of Sgt. John L. Brady who we left up in the hills with the partisans. Brady had a broken leg and was unable to go with us on our trip over the mountains into Jugoslavia.

AFTPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Jerome Weinberger Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. O-776840 AUS

2. Organization 455 B.Gp Commander (full name) Rank Sqn CO Irving Betke (full name) Rank Capt.

3. What year 1945 month Feb. day 28 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, R.R. bridge near Bolzano, Italy, target, , target time, approx. 10:00AM, altitude, 25,000 ft. route scheduled, N. over Adria into mtn. area, rendevous rt. over Yugoslavia. route flown Same to target, same out of Italy, into Istria, until bail out at 4,000 ft.

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

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". over

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Confonarro, Italy. (Istria)

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 personnel successfully bailed out. All chutes were accounted for.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

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

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

2 March 1945

S T A T E M E N T

On the mission of 28 February 1945 at 1050 hours, plane #400, piloted by Lt Nerdman, was hit by flak over the target area. Two engines were hit and were smoking. The plane was last seen on a heading of about 90°, losing altitude but under control.

Frederick P. Kent

FREDERICK P. KENT,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Pilot.

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

Encl 2 to MACR 1st Nerdman & Crew