AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 4387

Name of crew member: BODWELL, Richard K. Jr.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-811526
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Romania

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? ITALY, BARI

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFWPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 4387

Name of crew member: BOFFA, Victor M.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-688903
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Romania

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? New York

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 4387

Name of crew member: JACKSON, Roger W.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 39195519
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxxx~~ (~~Fighter~~): Radio Operator Gunner

Did he bail out? He left the ship

Where? Romania

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? I seen him last when we left, ITALY.

Any hearsay information: He died as soon as he left the ship (or) his parachute failed to open.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: —

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 4387

Name of crew member: JONES, Meriwether
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-448999
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(Fighter)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? Trying to save the Engineer

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

Don't remember - our B-24 was badly hit + on fire

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information: He was Killed in the crash

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23.

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 4387

Name of crew member: SEMAN, Leon C.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 36281369
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Flight~~ (~~Right~~): Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? His parachute burned when we were hit.

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

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill.

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Around 20 to 23

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

4387

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by [illegible] Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUEN H, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(C O N F I D E N T I A L)
(Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

11. INDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO OR BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROMRIATE TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check only one column: Contacted by Radio n	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Brown, Clyde W	2nd Lt	0749610		X		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parchutes were uded____(b) Persons were seen walking away from seene of crash_____; or (e) Any other reason (Specify) Ship was under control when last seen.

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None .

Date of Report 25 April 1944.

William W. Berg

WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

RECEIVED
MAY 99 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equals ~~British CONFIDENTIAL~~)

66-19

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 16

IMPORTANT : This report will be complied in triplicate by each Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an Aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Fld, Italy. Command or Air Force 15th Air Force. Group 455th Bomb Group; Squadron 742nd Bomb Sqdn; Detachment____
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Fld, Italy; Course from San Giovanni Fld, Italy 4130 N/ 1626 E to 4000 N/ 1400 E to 4510 N/ 1335 E to IP to target. Intended Destination South Eastern Part Marshalling Yards, Bucharest, Rumania. Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Complete overcast.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 21 April 1944; Time 1246, and location lost at Target 44 deg 29 min North 26 deg 03 min East of last known wherebouts 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 BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF : (Check only one (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances as Follows;_____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24-H; AAF Serial Number 41-28640.
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43; AAF Serial Number (a) 42-64505 (b) 42-64490 (c) 42-3622 (d) 42-64506
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnishe below make, Type and Serial Number) all are Browning Air-Craft Machine Guns, Type M-2. (a) 966144 (b) 966889 (c) 126616 (d) 489660 (e) 218902 (f) 218920 (g) 123375 (h) 724660 (i) 750707 (j) 752707
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS (a) Battle Casualty yes. or (b) Non*Battle Casualty _____.
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10. Passengers None. 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

1. Pilot	Jones, Meriwether (NMI)		1st Lt	0448999
2. Co-Pilot	Yttri, Vilas R		2nd Lt	0691076 RTD
3. Navigator	Bodwell, Richard K Jr		2nd Lt	0811526
4. Bombardier	Boffa, Victor M		2nd Lt	0688903
5. Radio Operator Gun	Jackson, Roger W		T Sgt	39195519
6. Engineer Gunn	Seman, Leon C		T Sgt	36281369
7. Asst Radio Op. Gunn	Blanchard, William H		S Sgt	35337852 RTO.
8. Gunner	Griffith, Kenneth (NMI)		S Sgt	16055084 RTO
9. Asst Engineer Gun	Philbin, James P		S Sgt	16111169 RTO
10. Armorer Gunner	Wooldridge, Francis N		S Sgt	36269546 RTO.

Incl #1

BUCHAREST TARGET CHART NO 11-10-NA

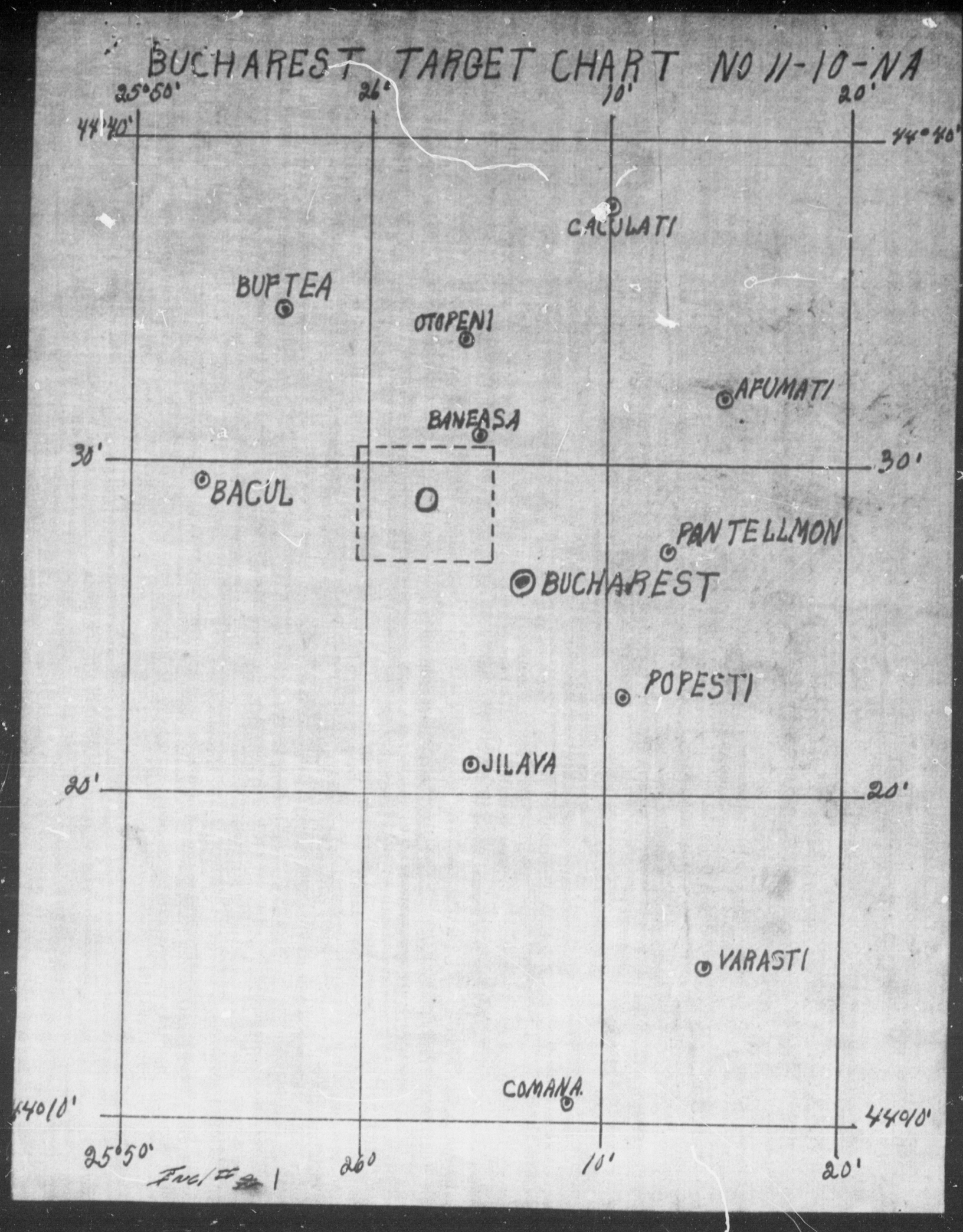


FIG. 1

First Lieutenant Meriwether Jones	Mrs. Caroline A. Jones, (Mother) 2022-A Park Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.
Second Lieutenant Vi[illegible]as R. Yttri	Mrs. Marie K. Yttri, (Wife) Rural Free Delivery #1 Perryville, Wisconsin.
Second Lieutenant Richard K. Bodwell, Jr.	Mr. Richard K. Bodwell, (Father) Bridge Street, Salem, New Hampshire.
Second Lieutenant Victor M. Boffa	Mrs. Antoinette Boffa, (Mother) 2965 Tilton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Technical Sergeant Roger W. Jackson	Mr. John H. Jackson, (Father) 5321 South Cushman, Tacoma, Washington.
Technical Sergeant Leon C. Seman	Mrs. Martha Seman, (Mother) 531 Wisconsin Street, Berlin, Wisconsin.
Staff Sergeant William H. Blanchard	Mrs. Ida S. Blanchard, (Mother) Rural Free Delivery One, Millersburg, Indiana.
Staff Sergeant Kenneth Griffith	Mr. Landa Griffith, (Father) Table Grove, Illinois.
Staff Sergeant James P. Philbin	Mr. Walter Philbin, (Father) 14707 Abington, Detroit, Michigan.
Staff Sergeant Francis N. Woolridge	Mrs. Anna Hotter, (Mother) 1510 North Main Street, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

First Lieutenant Meriwether Jones	Mrs. Caroline A. Jones, (Mother) 2022-A Park Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.
Second Lieutenant Vilas R. Ytri	Mrs. Marie K. Ytri, (Wife) Rural Free Delivery #1 Perryville, Wisconsin.
Second Lieutenant Richard K. Bodwell, Jr.	Mr. Richard K. Bodwell, (Father) Bridge Street, Salem, New Hampshire.
Second Lieutenant Victor M. Boffa	Mrs. Antoinette Boffa, (Mother) 2965 Tilton Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Technical Sergeant Roger W. Jackson	Mr. John H. Jackson, (Father) 5321 South Cushman, Tacoma, Washington.
Technical Sergeant Leon C. Seman	Mrs. Martha Seman, (Mother) 531 Wisconsin Street, Berlin, Wisconsin.
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Staff Sergeant Kenneth Griffith	Mr. Landa Griffith, (Father) Table Grove, Illinois.
Staff Sergeant James P. Philbin	Mr. Walter Philbin, (Father) 14707 Abingdon, Detroit, Michigan.
Staff Sergeant Francis N. Woolridge	Mrs. Anna Hotter, (Mother) 1510 North Main Street, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

The information given on the other side of this sheet is rather brief but if any additiomal information is desired I will be glad to give you all I know.

As you can make out from the questions I answered, we lost two members of our crew. I am not sure of the location of the crash as I was badly wounded myself and was taken to a hospital as soon as they could take me. The nearest large Rumanian town to our crash was the town of Draconesti. I could find my way from there but I would hesitate to give anyone directiors on paper.

Please let me know if I can be of further service to you.

AFPPA-12

4387

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard K. Hodwell Jr. Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-811526

2. Organization 455th CBP, Commander K. Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO E. Ambrosen (full name) Rank Lt. Col.

3. What year 1944 month April day 21 st did you go down?

4. What was the mission, my 21st, target, Bucharest M/Y, target time, 1230 hours, altitude, 20,000 ft. route scheduled, , route flown This information is vague in my mind at this time.

5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 to 30 miles south- southwest of Bucharest.

6. Did you bail out? Yes, I bailed out at 2000 feet.

7. Did other members of crew bail out? 8 members including myself.

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". I have knowledge in this respect to only one member of our crew, Roger Jackson, radio operator. Jackson and I bailed out at approximately the same time but for some reason his chute never opened. My guess is that he passed out when he made his jump as he was wounded.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near a small village 10-12 miles east of the city of Draconesti.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 2 members--- pilot and engineer. Pilot was killed in crash but engineer escaped the crash with only bad burns.

11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot was at the controls and engineer was acting as copilot as copilot had jumped.

12. What was their condition? Pilot o. k. to my knowledge but engineer had 20mm pieces in him.

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All eight of us who made successful jumps are now back in the States. Meriwether Jones, pilot, burned in the plane as far as I know. Roger Jackson, radio operator , was to be buried near that small town wher we hit the ground.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Nothing of importance here.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

see other side----------

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Kenneth Griffith Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 16055084

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander [redacted] Kool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Ambrosen (full name) Rank Col.

3. What year 1944 month April day 21 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, ~~Railroad yards~~, target, Bucharest Rumania, target time, _____, altitude, _____ route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? Around 15 min. on way back from 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". 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 8 above and individual questionnaires) Pilot and Engineer

11. Where were they in aircraft? In the pilot pit

12. What was their condition? Pilot Killed - Engineer Burned

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)

6-3862, AF

STATEMENT

After one headon pass by a ME 109 Lt. Jones was seen to turn left, losing altitude at about 500 feet per minute, and disappearing into the clouds with # 2 engine on fire. The plane seemed to be under control the last that was seen of it. None of the crew members were seen to bail out.

Clyde W. Brown

CLYDE W. BROWN
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
0-749610

Incl #2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4387

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. GP/m/dbs
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 7 May 1944.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR #L-66, dated 28 April 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 28 April 1944.

For the Commanding General:

6116

Harold B. Neely
HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - (dup).

Incl 5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

455th Bombardment Group (H)
742nd Bombardment Squadron (H)

APO 520 U. S. Army
26 April 1944

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bombardment Group (H) APO 520 U. S. Army.

Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Report of 1st Lt. Meriwether (NMI) Jones and crew missing since 21 April 1944, over Rumania.

For the Commanding Officer:

William H. Berg

WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

3 Incls:
Incl No. 1 Missing Air Crew Report (Quin)
Incl No. 2 Sketch of where Ship was last seen (Quin)
Incl No. 3 Statement by Lt. Brown of missing Aircraft (Quin)

1st Ind.

Headquarters, 455th Bombardment Group (H) APO 520 U. S. Army 26 April 1944.

TO : Commanding General, 304th Bombardment Wing, APO 520 U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Group Commander:

C. A. OLSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

3 Incls: n/c

(64)

360.33 C-DB-4 2nd Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 27 Apr 44.
TO: CG, 15th AF, APO 520.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.

15-904

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your Headquarters, 26 April 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold G. Wilson

HAROLD G. WILSON,
Captain, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: MAC Rpt Lt Jones and Crew
W/2 incls (quad)

CONFIDENTIAL