ATPPA-11 4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: EVANS, Earl E.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-690068
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot (Fighter)~~ Co-Pliot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Pzelip, Bulgaria

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Told me we were running out of fuel, over phone

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Floating down in his chute

Any necessary information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Bulgarian soldiers and civilians told me that they had shot Lt. Evans, because he had attempted to shoot some Bulgarian soldiers with his 45, but as far as I know Lt. Evans was not carrying a gun, although he could have had one hidden.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 35

Dates and destinations if possible: Feb. 1, 1944 through May 18, 1944 Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany

6-3861-AF

Orona

AFPIA-11

4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: EVANS, Earl E.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-690068
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? S.W. Bulgaria or just into occupied Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Orders him To Jump & Said I'll look for him on the ground

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Bailing out of Bomb Bay

Any homesay information: He was shot shortly after landing by Bulgarian peasants or Police. This was told To me by one group of Bulgarians & To other crew Members by different different Bulgarians

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Above is based on ~~my~~ supposition only

Total number or missions of above crew member: About 25

Dates and destinations if possible: Feb - May 1944

Italy, Austria, Balkans

6-3861-AF

AFPFA-11 4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: EVANS, Earl E.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-690068
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter) Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? YES — NINTH MAN TO LEAVE SHIP

Where? PRELIP, YUGOSLAVIA — APPROXIMATLY

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? JUST BEFORE I JUMPED I NOTICED HIM GETTING OUT OF HIS SEAT. THAT IS THE LAST I SAW OF HIM.

Any necessary information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation or his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I BELIEVE THE BULGARIANS TOLD SOMEONE ON THE CREW THAT THEY SHOT EVANS, BECAUSE HE PUT UP A FIGHT. I AM POSITIVE THAT LT. EVANS DID NOT HAVE A GUN ON THAT PARTICULAR MISSION.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN TO ME.

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861-AF

Lohrs

4842

AFPIA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: EVANS, Earl E.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-690068
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Ground Prelep, Bulgaria

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Called pilot + said plane was on fire + Co-pilot + Comm said Roger

Was he injured? Not while in plane

Where was he when last seen? Don't know

Any homesay information: While we were being interrogated by the Bulgarians I talked to the Bulgarian Police + asked about Evans as he wasn't there + they said to me that he had a pistol + was trying to get away so they shot him.

Source: The police told me this.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Not sure

Dates and destinations if possible: 18 May 44 Polesti

6-3861-AF

Lafferiez

4842

ATPIA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PARRIS , VBilly S.
Rank: Staff/Sergeant
Serial number: 34647666
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near a Village by the name of Prelip, Bulgaria

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I helped him adjust his chute just before he jumped

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Floating down in his chute

Any necessary information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: According to what the Bulgarians said, Sgt. Parris was found dead up in the mountains, when Sgt. Parris jumped he was panickey, in my opinion, he was killed by landing on some rocks the territory where we landed is very mountainous

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 35

Dates and destinations if possible: Feb. 1, 1944 through May 18, 1944 Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany,

6-3861-AF

Drona

AFPPA-11

4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PARRIS, Billy S.
Rank: Staff/Sergeant
Serial number: 34644766
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? S.W. Bulgaria or just into occupied Yugoslavia

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Gave order to bail out + said: "Good luck"

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Floating down with chute open

Any necessary information: His flying clothes + chute (both bloodstained was shown, then later given, to other members of crew by Bulgarian police.

Source: Crew members that were captured.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was killed upon contact with the ground at end of parachute landing. As his chute was seen to open by other members of crew, I assumed he landed in rocky terrain - we were in a mountainous region. This is the story told to other crew members by Bulgarians.

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 25

Dates and destinations if possible: Feb - May 1944. Italy, Austria, Balkans

6-3861-AF

Rawls

AFHA-11

4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PARRIS , Billy S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 31644766
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? YES — HE WAS FIRST TO LEAVE SHIP.

Where? PRILEP, YUGOSLAVIA — APPROXIMATLY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I THINK HE SAID HE DIDN'T FEEL GOOD

Was he injured? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? HE WAS IN THE TAIL AND I WAS IN THE NOSE. I NEVER DID SEE HIM AFTER TAKE OFF

Any homesay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NO CREW MEMBER EVER SEEN HIS BODY, BUT I BELIEVE SOMEONE SAW HIS CLOTHING. HIS HELMET WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD, SO IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS KILLED WHEN HIS CHUTE CARRIED HIM INTO THE MTS. OF COURSE IT IS ONLY A GUESS.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 23 MISSIONS 28 SORTIES

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861-AF

Lohnes

AFPRA-11

4842

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PARRIS , Billy S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 34644766
Position: Crew (Pember) ~~[illegible]~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? around Prelap Bulgaria

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: See you on the ground

Was he injured? not in plane

Where was he when last seen? in the wooded section in Mountains

Any homeward information: I landed in the mountains & Billy landed there too. They were shooting at me from the ground & he must of been hit by them. I was knocked out when I hit & when I came to I was hearing shots in the wooded mountains. I was taken to a little prison & a little later they brought Billies clothes. ~~[illegible]~~ I asked to see him & [illegible]

Source: The Bulgarians said he was killed by the fall & hit his head on the mountain

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

I think when Parris was coming down on the chute he was hit in the head. He must of been hit by the Bulgarians for they shot at me & I also heard a lot of shots in the wooded areas of the mountains

Total number of missions of above crew member: Not sure

Dates and destinations if possible: 18 May 44 Robertsfield

6-3861-AF

a-1

Laptewicz

4842

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 1 5 1946

4843

(X-31)

(X-31)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER SEPARATE ZONE COMMAND-MTOUSA
BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA APO 777, U.S.ARMY

NS/am

6 June 1947

SUBJECT : Report of Investigation on Unknown American X-30 and X-31

TO : Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Service
Mediterranean Theater Separate Zone Command-MTOUSA
APO 794 U.S.Army

* X-30 identified as Parvus, X-31 identified as Evans

1. Submitted herewith is the Report of Investigation by this office on Unknown American X-30 and X-31, KIA on 15 May 1944, organization unknown.

2. Following exhibits are attached:

a. Exhibit "A" Joint Statement of three local civilians
b. Exhibit "B" Statement of Sandra Vojnevski
c. Exhibit "C" Statement of B. Vidovski, police chief at Veles
d. Exhibit "D" Joint statement of three local civilians

3. FACTS :

That MACR concerning this case is not available on file in this office.

4. FINDINGS :

a. That an American B 24 bomber plane crashed on 15 May 1944 at about 1200 hrs. near the village Gabrovo, 10 miles North of Prilep, Yugo. Co-ords: 41°25'N - 21°29'E. (See Ex: "A", "B", "C" & "D")

b. That all crew members of (10) ten men bailed out and landed safely. (See Ex: "A" & "D")

c. That the Bulgarian armed forces called "Contra Chetniks" caught one of the airmen and shot him at the village Desovo, 8 miles North of Prilep. (See Ex: "D")

d. That another airman was caught by the Bulgarians and shot by the Bulgarian sergeant Peter Rusep Demidov at the neighboring village Nebregovo. Local civilians were told by the Bulgarians that he was an officer. (See Ex: "A")

e. That the remains of the killed airman were buried at Nebregovo in a field on the spot where he was shot and after five months disinterred and reburied in the local cemetery at Nebregovo. (See Ex: "A")

f. That the remains of the other airman shot at Desovo were buried on the scene of murder and after capitulation of Bulgaria disinterred and reburied in a separate grave in the local cemetery at Desovo. (See Ex: "D")

g. That a Bulgarian report was found on file in the local police at Desovo, stating that an American plane crashed on 18 May 1944 and giving the names of the four survivors as follows:

Raymond Lons
John Danail
Din Roos
Jess Baust

h. That the remaining seven men were turned over to the Germans, while the eighth airman was brought to the commander of the 56th Bulgarian Regiment, Colonel Apostolov, who took him to Skoplje. (See Ex: "C")

i. That upon the exhumation the remains of a man were found in a coffin in the local Cemetery at Nebregovo. Complete skeleton, without clothing. Individual identification impossible. Tooth-chart taken. Remains are of a tall man.

j. That upon ehumation at Desovo the complete skeleton of a tall man was found with some red hair. Height about 6 ft. Tooth-chart taken. Laundry marks " F 7816 " were found on underwear. Individual identification impossible.

k. That Check list of Unknown was filled out.

l. That according to the debris of the plane it was possible to identify it as a B 24.

m. That a civilian showed a silk map as used by American airmen.

5. COMMENTS :

a. The names of the four survivors were written in Cyrillic alphabet and it might be very likely that the spelling is not correct.

b. The area of crash is located on the territory which was under Bulgarian occupation.

c. There is no MACR on file in this office which could be associated with this case. However, a Burial information on file indicates that 2nd Lt. James R. O'Donnell, O-1683529, died 15 May 1944, 20 km West of Kicevo. Place of burial is not reported. As the above location is about 40 miles west of the village Nebregovo and Desovo, it might be that Lt. O'Donnell was buried at Nebregovo or Desovo.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS :

a. That the tooth-chart taken be compared against the dental records of a crew reported missing on 15 May 1944 while bombing Ploesti.

b. That Laundry marks F 7516 be checked for possible identification.

c. That MACR concerning this case be forwarded to this office for further action if necessary.

d. That the findings be forwarded to this office.

7. CONCLUSIONS:

a. That we have buried the above remains in the U.S.Mil. Cemetery Belgrade as:

Unknown American X-30 in Plot C Row 4 Grave 336 Parris, Billy S
Unknown American X-31 in Plot C Row 5 Grave 337 Evans, Earl E

b. That GRS Form has been prepared and will be forwarded to your office.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Charles O. Provon

CHARLES O. PROVON,
Capt. Inf.

Incl's: a/s

STATEMENT

Herewith we declare that we witnessed an American four engined plane to crash on 18 May 1944 at noon near Nebregovo. All crew of ten men bailed out and landed safely. The undersigned Aca Stevanovski spoke with one of them. He was told that the plane took part in bombing of Ploesti.

Some fighter planes with two tails circled over the wreckage for a while.

The Bulgarian policeman Petar Rusep Demidov shot one of the airmen and stripped him of clothing. The peasant Stefan Jordanovski was forced to bury him. All papers and personal effects were taken by the Bulgarians. We were told by the other crew members that the killed man was an officer.

In spring 1945 the body was disinterred and reinterred in the local cemetery at Nebregovo.

Informants: (1) Stevan Jordanovski
(2) Aleksa Kostevski
(3) Aca Stevanovski

Subscribed before me this
31st of May 1947 at Nebregovo.

Vladimir Milanovic

Vladimir Milanovic
Civ. Investigator

A TRUE COPY

Exhibit "A"

Charles O. Provow

CHARLES O. PROVOW
Capt. Inf.

4

STATEMENT

The following record is being kept on file in local police office :

An American plane crashed on 18 May 1944 coming from East. Six American airmen landed by parachute on this territory. Two of them were caught by the "contra detachment" from Veles which shot one of them on the spot, while the other was taken by the said detachment, which also took the clothing and the parachute of the killed airman. The remaining four men are the following:

Raymond Lons
John Danail
Din Roos
Jess Baust.

The said four men were turned over to the Germans." I certify that the above is a true copy of original on file in this office.

/s/ Sandra Vojnevski
peasant from Desovo
the village mayor.

Subscribed before me
this 31 of May 1947
Vladimir Milanović
Vladimir Milanovic
Civilian investigator

EXHIBIT "B"

A TRUE COPY
Charles O. Provon
CHARLES O. PROVON,
Capt. Inf.

STATEMENT

Herewith I declare that the following two individuals: Boris Sojevski and Slavko Slavkovski, both the residents of the town of Titov Veles, who were active members of the Bulgarian auxiliary corps, named Contra-Chetniks during the occupation, have stated before me that a crew member of the American plane which crashed in May 1944 near the village Gabrovo, south of Veles, was taken by the "Contra-Chetniks" and turned over to the commander of the 56th Bulgarian regiment, Colonel Apostolov. He questioned himself the said American and took him for an unknown direction.

It is believed that the American airman was taken to Skoplje and turned over to the Germans.

Informant: B. Vidovski

Chief of local police
at Titov Veles

Subscribed before me
this 31 May 1947

Vladimir Milanovic
Civ. Investigator

A TRUE COPY

Charles O. Provow
CHARLES O. PROVOW
Capt. Inf.

EXHIBIT "C"

STATEMENT

Herewith we declare that we saw an American bomber plane to crash on 15 May 1944 on a mountain side between the village Gabrovo and Nebregovo. Ten chutes came out of the plane and all landed safely.

One of the airmen was caught by the Bulgarian armed forces called "Contra-Chetniks" and shot. His body was buried on the scene of murder and later, in November 1944, disinterred and reinterred in the local cemetery at Desovo. Another airman was shot by a Bulgarian Sergeant in the neighboring village Nebregovo, while the remaining eight men were apparently caught and turned over to the Germans.

Some debris of the plane are still on the scene of crash.

Informants: Petar Vasilevski
Sotir Tereski
Stevan Jordanski

peasants from
Desovo

Subscribed before me this
31 May 1947

Vladimir Milanovic
Civ. Investigator

A TRUE COPY

CHARLES O. PROVOW
Capt. Inf.

Exhibit "D"

CONFIDENTIAL

EDS 9. Armorer Gunner - Lohnes, Raymond W. S Sgt 11114158 Mrs. Jane Lohnes (Mother) 5 Davis Rd, Beverly, Mass.

K/A 10. Armorer Gunner Parris, Billy S. S Sgt 34644766 Mrs. Annie Mae Parris (Mother) Rt #5, Gaffney, South Carolina

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. George O. Keahey	1st Lt	0742727		X		
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

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

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 HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) no search

Date of this Report: 19 May 1944

Phillip F. Starkman
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement by Lt Keahey
Incl 2 - Sketch of area.

PHILLIP F. STARKMAN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant



CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

85-417

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

4842

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 Air Fld, Italy Command or AF 15th AF
Group 455th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 743d Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Air Fld Course Direct
Target 44°57'N-26°03'E Type of Mission

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
.8 Strata Cumulus .4 Altocumulus

4. GIVE: (a) Date 18 May 1944 Time 1400 Location Albania
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: ( ) Last Sighted (x) 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 ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows: Unknown

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24 G AAF Serial No 42-78081

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830 - 65 AAF Serial No (a) 42-3051
(b) 41-14473 (c) CP - 303113 (d) 42 - 3090

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)

(a) Browning 50 Cal M2 312149	(b) Browning 50 Cal M2 312409		
(c) " 368555	(d) " 312470		
(e) " 371345	(f) " 370626		
(g) " 231550	(h) " 255923		
(i) " 450801	(j) " 232377		

9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (x) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

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 list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

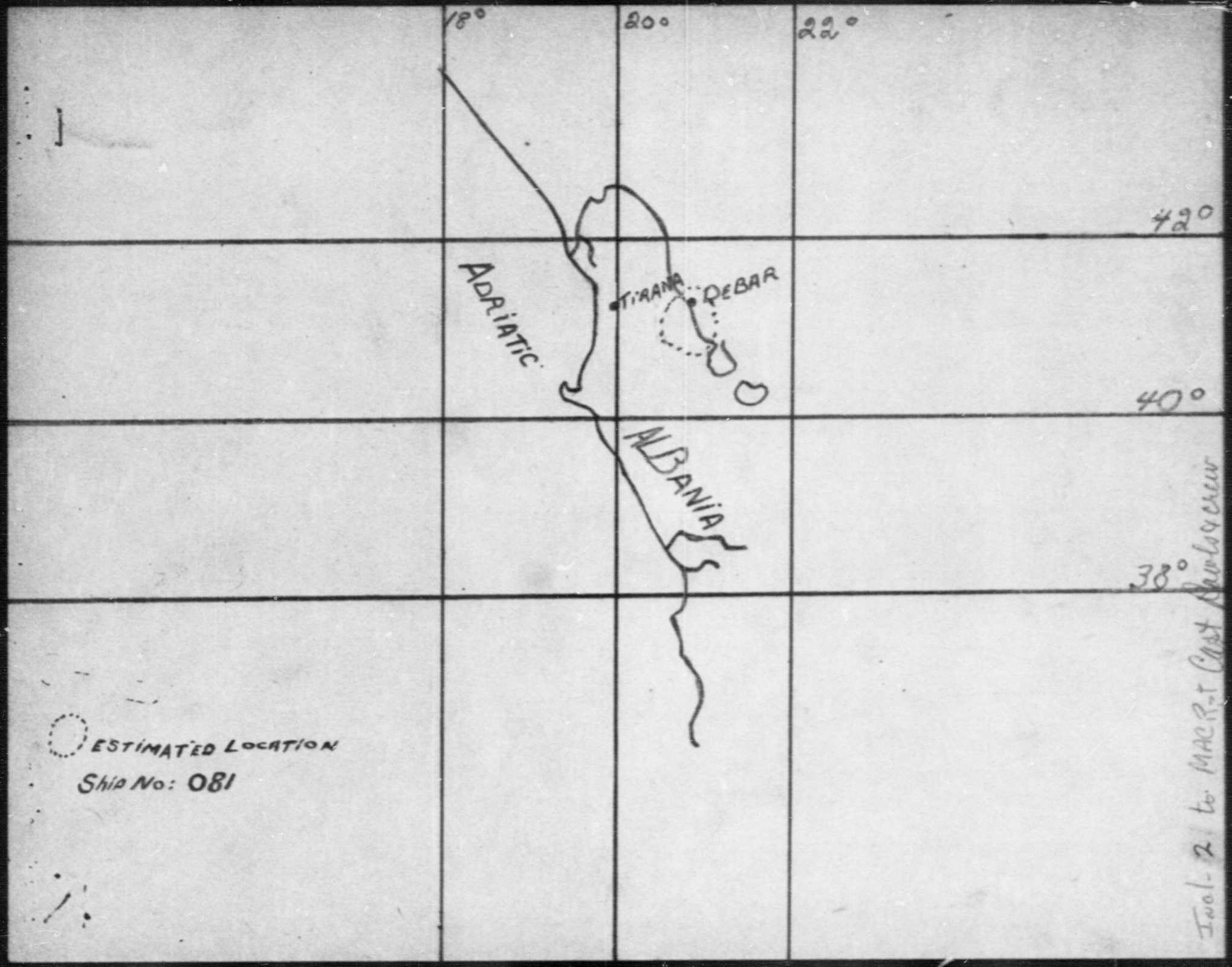
Status	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
Evd 1.	Pilot	Rawls, Don M.	Capt	0802459	Mrs. D.M. Rawls (Mother) RTD 221 Hodges St, Lake Charles, La.
KIA 2.	CO-pilot	Evans, Earl E.	2d Lt	0690068	Mrs. Laura J. Evans (Mother) Box 94, Bently, Kansas
Evd 3.	Navigator	Boust, Jess E	2d Lt	0707509	Mrs. Betty Boust (Wife) RTD 134 Duboce St, San Francisco, Cal
" 4.	Bombardier	Ross, Dean R.	2d Lt	0747676	Mrs. Mary E. Ross (Mother) 515 E Second Ave, Monmouth, Ill
" 5.	Radio O Gunner	Smith, Thomas F.	S Sgt	13128363	Mrs. Estella Smith (Mother) RTD 427 N River St, Wilkes-Barre, Pa
Evd 6.	Radio O Gunner	Orona, John V.	S Sgt	17091068	Mrs. Dora V. Orona (Mother) Rt #1 Box 303, Ft Collins, Colo RTD
Evd 7.	Engineer Gunner	Donahue, John J.	S Sgt	33340184	Mrs. Barbara Donahue (Mother) 2064 E Cambria St, Philadelphia, Pa
Evd 8.	Engineer Gunner	Laptewicz, John C	S Sgt	11057520	Mrs. Helen Laptewicz (Mother) Flagg Road, Southborough, Mass RTD

Cont'd on other side

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)



Encl. 2 to MACR-5 Chief Analyst

Captain Don M. Rawls	Mrs. Myrtle S. Rawls (Wife) 221 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
Second Lieutenant Earl E. Evans	Mrs. Laura J. Evans (Mother) Box Number 94, Bentley, Kansas.
Second Lieutenant Jess E. Boust	Mrs. Betty E. Boust (Wife) 134 Duboce Avenue, San Francisco, California.
Second Lieutenant Dean R. Ross	Mrs. Josephine T. Ross (Wife) 515 East Second Avenue, Monmouth, Illinois.
Staff Sergeant Thomas F. Smith	Mrs. Estelle Smith (Mother) 427 North River Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
Staff Sergeant John J. Donahue	Miss Cenia Glancy (Friend) 441 East Hart Land Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Staff Sergeant John C. Laptewicz	Mrs. Helen Laptewicz (Mother) Flagg Road, Southborough, Massachusetts.
Staff Sergeant Raymond W. Lohnes	Mrs. Jane Lohnes (Mother) 5 Davis Road, Beverly, Massachusetts.
Staff Sergeant Billy S. Parris	Mrs. Annie M. Parris (Mother) Rural Route Number Five, Gaffney, South Carolina.
Staff Sergeant John V. Crona	Mrs. Dora V. Crona (Mother) Route Number One, Box 303, Fort Collins, Colorado.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John C Lapteacz Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 11052520

2. Organization 743 Bomb Sqd 458 Gp Commander Col. Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO Thayer (full name) Rank Major

3. What year 44 month May day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, oil installation, target, Polesti, target time, Don't know, altitude, 23000 route scheduled, — , route flown —

5. Where were you when you left formation? After dropping bombs we couldn't keep up.

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes everyone did.

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". Parris, Orona, Smith & Lapteacz Bailed out the escape hatch on rear of Plane, Johnson, Rhoades, Rose, Bonet, Evans, & Rawls bailed out the Bomb Bay.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Didn't see

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 Plane

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?

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

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name RAYMOND W. LOHNES Rank S/SGT. Serial No. 11114158

2. Organization 455 GR. Gp Commander _____ Rank COL. Sqn CO ~~D. THAYER~~ DAVID THAYER Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1943 month MAY day 18 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, 28, target, PLOESTI OIL FIELDS, target time, _____, altitude, ABOUT 20,000 FT. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? _____

6. Did you bail out? YES

7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES, 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". PARRIS, ARONA, LAPIEWICZ, SMITH, ROSS, DONAHUE, LOHNES, BOUST, EVANS, RAWLS. THAT IS THE ORDER IN WHICH WE BAILED OUT. PARR, ARONA LAPIEWICZ SMITH ALL LEFT VIA THE CAMERA HATCH. THE REST OF US USED THE BOMB-BAYS.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR THE TOWN OF PRELIEP YUGO.

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? EVERY ONE WAS OKAY AS FAR AS I KNOW.

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

AFPPA-12.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ORONA JOHN V. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 17091068

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander Kenneth Cook (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO David Thayer (full name) Rank Lt. Col.

3. What year 1944 month May day 18th did you go down?

4. What was the mission, 23rd, target, Ploest, Oil Fields, target time, About 1130, altitude, About 20,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? About 2 ½ hr. after Bombs away

6. Did you bail out? Yes

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all 10 crew members bailed out safely

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". The whole crew of 10 bailed out in the same area of Prelip, Bulgaria, at about 1 or 2 minute intervals

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Prelip, Bulgaria

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 crew members were in the aircraft when it struck the 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? _____

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

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DON M. RAWLS Rank CAPT. Serial No. O-802459

2. Organization 783rd Sqdn. 465th BG. Gp Commander K. Rank Col. Sqn CO D.S. Thayer Rank Lt. C.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month MAY day 15 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, PHOTO, target, OIL FIELDS, target time, 11:30 AM. (APPX.), altitude, 21,000 route scheduled, direct, route flown direct

5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 100 miles east Veles, Yugoslavia

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". PARRIS (T.G.) bailed out through camera hatch 1st, followed by KAPTOWITZ (B.G.), DONAR (W.G.), DONAHUE (W.G.), SMITH (R.O.) in that order. Then ROSS (B) bailed out through bomb bay. Followed by KOHNES (N.G.), BOUST (N), EVANS (CP), Then myself. We were in the S.W. corner of Bulgaria at time.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Either in S.W. Bulgaria (Greek border) or in occupied Yugoslavia. This was during afternoon but we were not certain.

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 are described above

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

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

S T A T E M E N T

On May 18, 1944, at approximately 1400, returning from the target, I heard ship number 081, B 24, call repeatedly for homing, but did not see it. Homing station replied but was unable to make contact with ship number 081. Our position at time of interception was approximately 41° 40'N - 19° 40' E.

George O. Keahey

GEORGE O. KEAHEY
1st Lt., Air Corps
Pilot

Incl 1 to MAC Rpt Capt Rawls & Crew

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of the Commanding Officer
A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

19 May 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bomb Gp (H), AAF, APO 520, U. S. ARMY.

1. Transmitted herewith is Missing Air Crew Report of Captain Don M. Rawls and Crew, Missing in Action 18 May 1944, over enemy territory at Albania.

For the Squadron Commander:

Phillip F. Starkman

PHILLIP F. STARKMAN
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

1 Incl:
MAC Rpt of Capt Rawls and Crew
with 2 inclosures.

360.33 1st Ind. G-CO-3
HQ 455TH BOMB GP (H), APO 520, 22 May 1944.

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520.

1. Forwarded.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded to 15th Air Force on 20 May 1944.

For the Group Commander:

Carlson

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

1 Incl: n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4842

360.33 C-DB-5 2nd Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 23 May 44.
TO: CG, XVAF, APO 520.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded 21 May 44.

For the Commanding Officer:

15-619

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

Harold G. Wilson
HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

5453

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. GP-hm/dhm
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 25 May 44.

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR #L-85, dated 22 May 44, which was forwarded to the 30th MMU, 22 May 44.

For the Commanding General:

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

1 Incl:
Incl 1 (dup).

Incl #9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~