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

13 June 1944

STATEMENT

One June 11, 1944, at approximately 0850, I saw ship number 500, B 24, piloted by Lieutenant Brawninger, peel of from formation on a homeward heading, 251° at or about 44°06' N, 25° E. Ship was under control when it left the formation but gas leaks were reported by crew previously.

Charles B. Spicer, Jr.

CHARLES B. SPICER Jr.
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Navigator

Incl 2 to MACR Lt Brawninger & crew

AFEPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN, Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Bulgaria

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: by Interphone - just before we left formation

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? before takeoff on the Mission

Any hearsay information: Roumanian guards reported finding an American (description fitted Kleeman) in Danube River with his parachute still on him - Others were also found in River -

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Supposedly killed by Bulgarians and tossed in Danube - based on Information given by Roumanians

Total number of missions of above crew member: 5

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

Note: No accurate information at all on Kleeman - Was last seen by one of the other gunners as he was getting ready to bail out - his chute was counted by 2 members of Crew.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN , Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Roumania - About 20 mi N. of Jiu Sin on Danube River

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Pilot alerted crew by interphone prior to ringing bailout bell.

Was he injured? At time of bailout - No.

Where was he when last seen? Just after bailout

Any hearsay information: His parachute opened all right and he cleared the plane all right.

Source: Crew members who bailed out at same time.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 6 or 8 on this tour. He had served a previous tour. (in Africa I believe)

Dates and destinations if possible: Between 1 June and 11 June, 1944.

6-3861, AF

AFPRA-11,

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE 5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN , Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Over Danube & Rumania

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Would not bail out before me. Promised to bail out right after me.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Believe I saw him bail out couple minites after me.

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I landed couple hundred yards from Danube. He could have landed in river or killed by excited civilian or soldier. Didn't hear any thing definite about fate of same from Civilians or soldiers of enemy while in prison

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN , Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? I believe he did, but I cannot say definitely as I was first to go.

Where? In the Danube river area by the Rumanian town of Trian.

If not, why not? _____

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

Sgt. Kleeman was standing by the camera hatch ready to go, the last I saw of him.

Was he injured? Not prior to bailing out.

Where was he when last seen? In the plane just before I jumped.

Any hearsay information: Sgt Kleeman might have landed in the Danube river and drown as some American fliers were found drowned in the Danube river shortly after by the Rumanians. He could have been killed by the Bulgarians, also as the Rumanians told of such incidences.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: His body might have been among those found in the Danube river by the Rumanians, as they were unrecognizable.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 7

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN , Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight Engineer~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? I do not know but believe so

Where? On the border (Danuabe River) between Bulgaria and Roumania

If not, why not? ???

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

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? - tail gunner

Any hearsay information: - After we were captured there bodies of Amricans found in the Danuabe River due to a language barrier we could not find out much. - This happend June 11, 1944

Source: Roumanian townfolks & Army personal

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe he was drowned in the Drouabe because 3 chutes that I could see after I bailed out would account for all the rest of the crew but Kleeman to my knowledge was found here

Total number of missions of above crew member: He was on his 2nd tour

Dates and destinations if possible: ??? 6 of which were credited to his 2nd

6-3861, AF

AFPDX-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: KLEEMAN, Robert F.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 13028086
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? OVER DANUBE River, DIRECTLY SOUTH OF GuiGui, ROMANIA

If not, why not? _____

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

HE TOLD ME TO JUMP FIRST, THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW ME.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN His PARACHUTE ABOUT 2000 FT. UP.

Any hearsay information: KLEEMAN BAILED OUT DIRECTLY AFTER ME. I SAW HIM UNTIL JUST BEFORE I HIT THE WATER NEAR SHORE ON ROMANIAN SIDE OF DANUBE. HE MUST HAVE LANDED ON BULGARIAN SOIL OR JUST OFF BANK OF RIVER ON BULGARIAN SIDE. SEVERAL MEN DROWNED THAT DAY

Source: ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN SOLDIERS + NAVIGATOR OF B-24 SHOT DOWN SAME DAY JUNE 11th, 1944

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

HE COULD HAVE DROWNED OR THE BULGARIANS COULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN HE LANDED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 5

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AF -11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~[illegible]~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Bulgaria — Landed in Roumania

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Not at time of Crack up.

Where was he when last seen? Last Saw him in prisoner-War camp.

Any hearsay information: Ernest P. Lewis was Killed by a bombing attack by the Germans after Roumania Capitulated -

Source: by American Sgt who saw him get Killed

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Lewis was Killed during a German Dive bombing attack on the 24th or 25th of August 1944 - while trying to get into an Air Raid Shelter. -

Total number of missions of above crew member: 5

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

Note— Wrist Watch of above man was Recovered and returned to his Mother.

6-3861, AF

AFPFA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Roumania - About 20 mi N. of Slaudia on Danube River

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Pilot alerted crew by interphone prior to ringing bailout bell.

Was he injured? At time of bailout - No

Where was he when last seen? IN OR About Bucharest, Roumania

Any hearsay information: Death due to being struck in head by fragments from bursting bombs, dropped by GERMAN PLANES following AMERICAN prisoners Release by the Roumanians.

Source: From Bombardier, Lt. J.P. Robinson

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 6 or 8

Dates and destinations if possible: Between 1 June and 11 June, 1944.

6-3861, AF

AFPMA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Over Romania

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? On prison grounds

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Killed by bomb fragment during German raid on Bucharest

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? ~~Near a little town on the Danube river named Trian.~~

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Prison Camp no. 13 in Bucharest, Rumania

~~Any~~ information: Sgt. Lewis was killed by a German bomb in the vengeance bombing of Bucharest by the German air force, shortly after his liberation. He was buried in the P. O. W. graveyard in Bucharest.

~~Sgt. Lewis was killed while we were waiting for our planes to come from Italy to rescue us, just after we had been told that we were free.~~

Source: The source of this information is my fellow crew members and several friends.

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Roumania

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? Not when he bailed out

Where was he when last seen? ~~going~~ for bomb shelter

Any heersay information:

I do not know where he was buried but I believe there was a country where he and other Americans were buried - just a rumor - in or near Bucuresti Roumania

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based ~~in part or wholly on supposition:~~ on fact Ernest P Lewis was killed by German bomb shrapnel on or about Aug 23, 1944 (Plow) In a small plum orchard 25 or 30 feet outside our P.W. camp, Bucuresti, Roumania

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6

Dates and destinations if possible: ??

6-3861, AF

AFPRC-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5771

Name of crew member: LEWIS , Ernest P.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 33459201
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Fighter (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? OVER DANUBE RIVER DIRECTLY SOUTH OF GURGUI, ROMANIA.

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? HOSPITAL PRISON CAMP - BUCHAREST ROMANIA

Any hearsay information: LEWIS WAS KILLED BY A GERMAN BOMB AUGUST 24, 1944, WHEN A GERMAN SQUADRON BOMBED OUR PRISON CAMP. HE WAS BURIED IN THE AMERICAN P.W. CEMETARY IN BUCHAREST, ROMANIA.

Source: I SAW HIM FIVE MINUTES AFTER HE WAS KILLED. TOP OF SCULL GONE.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 5

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

5771

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by
by F. M. [illegible], Capt., AC
Date OCT 15 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Lt. Jeminy P. Robinson
847 Lafayette ave.
Memphis 7, Tenn.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
MAY 20
3 PM
1946
DE SOTO STA.



—AIR MAIL—

Commanding General, Army Air Forces
Attention: AFPPA-8,
Washington 25, D. C.

PPA8

quest that, if possible, answers be typewritten; if not, printed. Mail the reply to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Attention: AFPPA-8, Washington 25, D. C.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:

J. J. Smith

JOHN J. SMITH
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Personnel Services Division, AC/AS-1

Incls

6-3842, AF

SAVE

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8

SUBJECT: Casualty Information of Crew Members

TO: Joseph P. McMillan,Jr., Sgt.

1. You will be interested to know that there have been formed here in Washington and in the theaters overseas, Missing Aircrew Research and Investigation Offices to collect all information from our own and enemy sources, correlate this information and furnish it to search teams in the theaters who will go to the scene of the casualty incident and investigate. These teams will question those in the area who have knowledge of the incident and trace all leads down until they have the story. The German records we have translated are excellent. We have just received the Japanese records. By combining all this data with the story available in your memory, we can tell next of kin the things that mean so much to them.

2. You may or may not have been questioned in this manner before concerning the mission on which you were shot down and the events that followed. Regardless of previous questionnaires, it is important that we have the information requested here to complete our records concerning combat crewmen remaining in a casualty status.

3. If you have been sworn to secrecy as a result of your escape, evasion or internment, you may consider yourself released from all restrictions as to disclosure or publication of experiences except:

a. Secret intelligence activities and methods developed for use, or actually used, in prison camps.

b. Details of techniques employed by military intelligence organizations operating behind enemy lines to assist evasion and escape.

c. Negotiations conducted on high government or military level to secure release from internment in a neutral country. (See AAF Reg 46-8 dated 30 October 1945)

4. Please answer all the questions you can promptly and accurately. Re-

6-3842, AF

CONFIDENTIAL

KIA 9. Armorer Gunner Kleeman, Robert F Sgt 13028086 Mrs Elizabeth Kleeman (Mo)
626 Walnut St., Ashland Penn

KIA 10. Armorer Gunner Lewis, Ernest P. Sgt 33459201 Mrs Hazel Lewis (Mother)
RF #1, Westfield, Penn

11.

12.

5771

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. Benord F. Haywood	2d Lt	0690417		X		
2. Charles B. Spicer Jr	2d Lt	0753115		X		
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) Aircraft under control when last sighted.

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: 13 June 1944

Phillip F. Starkman
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

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

3 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement by Lt Haywood
Incl 2 - Statement by Lt Spicer
Incl 3 - Sketch of area.

RECEIVED
JUN 12 1944
AAF

CONFIDENTIAL

5771

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed to RESTRICTED
by R. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date OCT A.D. 1945

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 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 43°54'N25°58'E Type of Mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather and Visibility good

4. GIVE: (a) Date 11 June 44 Time 0850 Location 44°06'N - 25°E
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.

1

5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
( ) Enemy Aircraft ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft (X) Other circumstances as follows: Reported gas leak

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24 H AAF Serial No 42-64500

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) 42-92026
(b) CP-302011 (c) 41-44067 (d) 41-23244

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

(a)	Cal 50 M2	705233	(b)	Cal 50 M2	400316
(c)	"	940408	(d)	"	965350
(e)	"	465439	(f)	"	965439
(g)	"	940495	(h)	"	705916
(i)	"	965647	(j)	"	704816

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

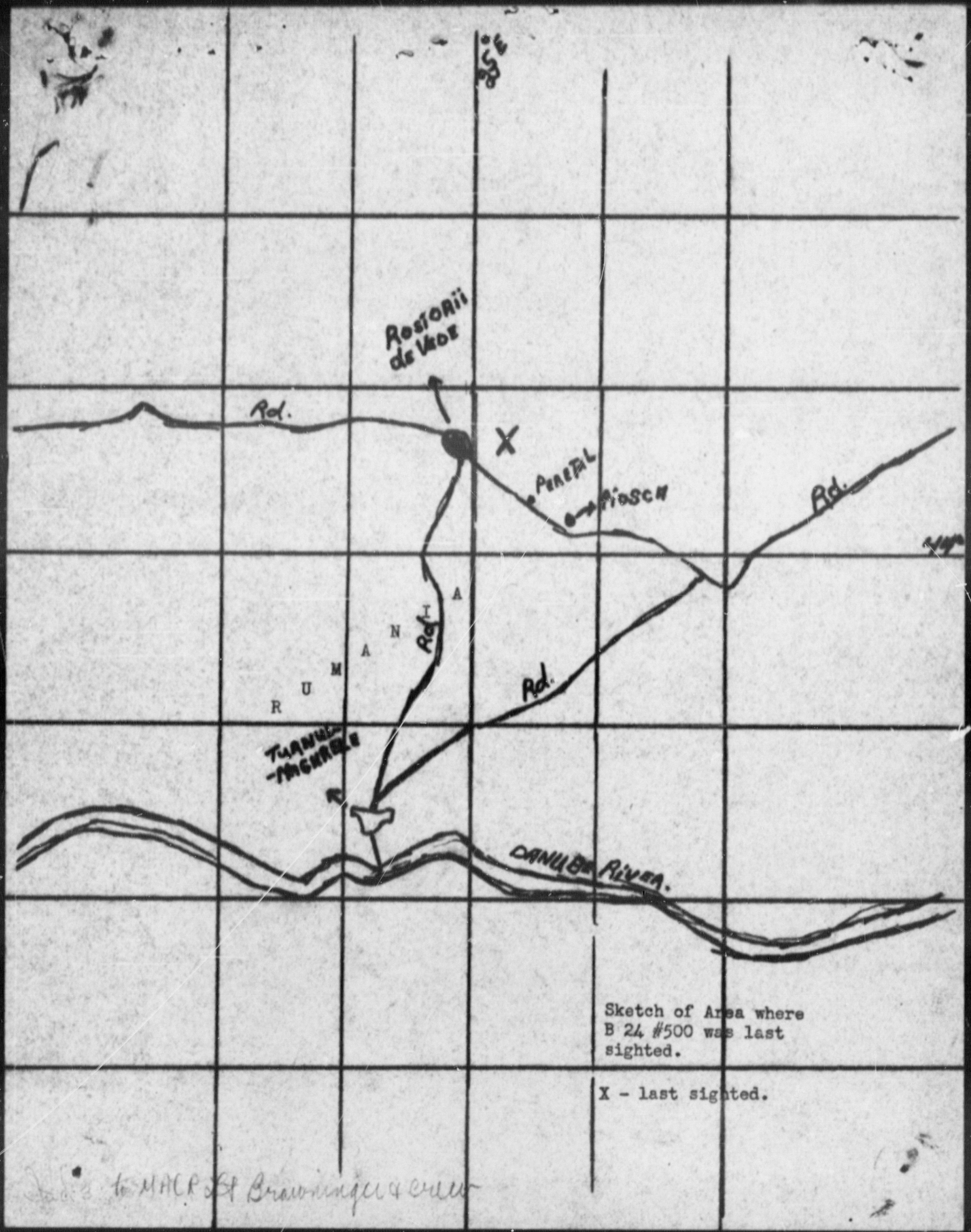
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers None Total 10
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS	
EUS	1. Pilot	(7) Brawminger, Earl W (M-Ea)	2d Lt	0697389	Mrs Florence Mitchell (Aunt) 117 Badger Ave., Union, New York	RTD
EUS	2. P Co-pilot	(6) Murphy, Robert M Jr (M-Ea)	2d Lt	0705411	Mrs Myrtle Murphy (Wife) 829 N 3rd Ave., Knoxville, Tenn	RTD
RTD	3. Navigator	(2) Grant, Jordan W. III (M-Ea)	2d Lt	0708366	Mrs Annabelle Grant (Mother) 922 A St., Portsmouth, Virginia	RTD
RMC	4. Bombardier	(7) Robinson, Jimmy P (W-Afn)	2d Lt	0703522	Mr Dorris G Robinson (Father) 847 Saffarans Ave, Memphis, Tenn	RTD
RMC	5. P Radio Oper Gunner	(4) Shepherd, John W	S Sgt	37501626	Mr Charles F Shepherd (Father) Star Rt, Osceola, Mo.	RTD
RMC	6. P Engineer Gunner	(1) Luscinskas, Frank W	S Sgt	11094770	Mrs Sarah Barbach (Mother) Bridge St, Warehouse Point, Conn	RTD
RMC	7. Engineer Gunner	(3) McMillan, Joseph P Jr	Sgt	34645764	Mrs Lois McMillan (Mother) 411 E North St, Greenville SC	RTD
RMC	8. P Armorer Gunner	(1) Bailey, Wallace E	Sgt	13083743	Mrs Mabel M Bailey (Mother) 17 Cone St, Wellsboro, Pa.	RTD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)



Sketch of Area where B 24 #500 was last sighted.

X - last sighted.

Second Lieutenant Earl W. Brewninger	Mrs. Florence B. Mitchell, (Aunt) 117 Badger Avenue, Union, New York.
Second Lieutenant Robert M. Murphy, Jr.	Mrs. Myrtle B. Murphy, (Wife) 829 North Third Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee.
Second Lieutenant Jordan W. Grant, III	Mrs. Annabelle Grant, (Mother) 922 A Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.
Second Lieutenant Jimmy P. Robinson	Mr. Norris G. Robinson, (Father) 847 Saffarans Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.
Staff Sergeant John W. Shepherd	Mr. Charles F. Shepherd, (Father) Star Route, Osceola, Missouri.
Staff Sergeant Frank W. Luscinskas	Mrs. Sarah Barbach, (Mother) Box 229, Bridge Street, Warehouse Point, Connecticut.
Sergeant Joseph P. McMillan, Jr.	Mrs. Lois G. McMillan, (Mother) 411 East North Street, Greenville, South Carolina.
Sergeant Wallace R. Bailey	Mrs. Mabel R. Bailey, (Mother) 17 Cone Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.
Sergeant Robert A. Kleeman	Mrs. Elizabeth A. Kleeman, (Mother) 626 Walnut Street, Ashland, Pennsylvania.
Sergeant Ernest P. Lewis	Mrs. Hazel Lewis, (Mother) Rural Delivery Number One, Westfield, Pennsylvania.

AFPPA/vlc/78321
Rm. 4315/11-2-44

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Wallace C Bailey Rank S. Sgt. Serial No. 13083743

2. Organization 450 Gp Commander ?? Rank Col. Sqn CO Thajar Rank Major
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down? On a plane pronounced Jew Jew

4. What was the mission, G → , target, , target time, about 10:00 , altitude, about 19,000 route scheduled, ??
?, route flown ?

5. Where were you when you left formation? about 5 min before 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 crew but myself. 9 our crew bailed out & were taken as P.W's Robert J'Klumpp the 10th is explained in other part. Jordan Grant (our Nav) can give information as to where we bailed out

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In 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) ? ? ? none

11. Where were they in aircraft? ? ? waste

12. What was their condition? ? ? - ok

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 Frank W. Buscaskas Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 11094220

2. Organization 455 B. Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Oil Wells, target, Oil Wells, target time, Not Known, altitude, about 24000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? Left Wing man

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". When Bail out oder given told Sgt. Kleeman to do as ordered - He told me he'd bail out right after me. Did not see him alive again.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Known Ledge

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? Sgt. Kleeman was Near Camera hatch - | Sgt. Lewis was in Flight Deck

12. What was their condition? Good

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? In Aircraft in good condition. Saw Sgt. Kleeman or presumed it was Sgt. Kleeman bail out right after me Sgt. Lewis was in front in Flight deck saw him bail out & we meet on ground.

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 MURPHY, Robert M. Jr Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-705411
2. Organization 455 Bg Gp Commander Col (full name) Rank Col Sqn CO D.S. Thayer (full name) Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down? ON DANUBE RIVER
4. What was the mission, 6th, target, Giurgiu A, target time, Approx 0800, altitude, 20,000', route scheduled, Approx 180°, route flown Same
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 25 mi N. of 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". Enlisted Men and Navigator & Bombardier Failed apt over Rumania - All chutes opened OK - Pilot & I bailed out over Bulgaria.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Russe (RUSSE) in 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) None -
11. Where were they in aircraft? None in Aircraft
12. What was their condition? Good - No injuries
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. Kleeman was last seen when he bailed out.
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

[redacted]

It is requested that you, if possible, investigate more thoroughly the Bulgarian Rumors on Kleeman. The Information was given to us by a Roumanian W/O who lives in Trione Roumania.

The Name of the w/o is not known, but he was a young man in his Twenties - Dark hair and eyes - about six feet tall and about 180 lbs. Spoke no English and was also a member of the local police force.

I hope that this will be of some help and I would like to know of any information that is gained on these two Crew members of mine if this is possible.

REASON FOR DELAY - PAPERS LOST.

5771

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robinson, Jimmy P. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. O-703522

2. Organization 455th Gp Commander Graft (full name) Rank Lt. Col Sqn CO David S. Thayer (full name) Rank Maj.

3. What year 1944 month June day 11 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, bombing, target, Giurgiu, Roumania, target time, about 9:40, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, over Yugoslavia, route flown as scheduled

5. Where were you when you left formation? Just past I.P.

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". See Crew List

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 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) 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? See Crew List.

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)

(OVER)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JOHN W. SHEPHERD Rank T/SGT. Serial No. 37501626

2. Organization 743RD B.G. Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO THAYER Rank MJR.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month JUNE day 11 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, GUIERGUI, target time, ?, altitude, 20,000 FT. route scheduled, ?, route flown ?

5. Where were you when you left formation? 5 MINUTES 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". THE SEQUENCE OF BAILING OUT IS NOT DEFINITELY KNOWN. ALL BAILED OUT IN THE DANUBE RIVER SECTION OF BULGARIA + RUMANIA NEAR THE TOWN OF TRIAN, RUMANIA.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? IN 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) NONE, UNLESS IT WAS SGT. KLEEMAN. (A QUESTIONARE ON SGT KLEEMAN IS ATTACHED)

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

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

13 June 1944

STATEMENT

On Jun 11, 1944, at approximately 0850, I saw ship number 500, peel off from formation on a reciprocal heading homeward, 251° at or about 44°06' N , 25° E. Ship seemed apparently under control but gas leaks were reported enroute previously by crew. On return from target aircraft was observed burning on ground at 43°30'N, 25°1o' E from 13,000 feet but not identified as missing aircraft.

Renord F. Haywood

RENORD F. HAYWOOD
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Navigator

Ltr 1st to MACR Lt Brannager & Crew