the necessary steps to insure that this award reaches you as soon as possible.

If there is anything further that I as Chaplain can do, I hope you will not hesitate to write me.

Now may our Heavenly Father who reads the anguish and pain in every human heart be with you to strengthen you with His nearness.

With my most sincere regrets, I am,

P. G. RASMUSSEN,
Chaplain (Captain) U.S.A.

Re:George P. Elkerton, 0-688691
2d Lt.,455th Bomb Group

HEADQUARTERS
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

PGR/afb

APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY.
9 July 1945.

Mrs. Emilie Elkerton
1715 Hughitt Ave.
Superior, Wisconsin

My dear Mrs. Elkerton,

Your letter of inquiry of June 11th, 1945, concerning your son, 2nd Lt. George P. Elkerton, ASN O-688691, has been given to me for acknowledgment and reply.

As you know, your son was Killed in Action May 24th, 1944. I can well understand your anguish and loss and sympathize deeply with you. I did not know your son personally since I have only recently been assigned as Chaplain of this Group, however, I do know that he was highly esteemed as a comrade and friend by those who knew him, and I regret sincerely tha t no personal message has reached you.

I have today consulted the official records concerning your son's plane. The exact story as to what happened is, as you may know, carefully preserved and recorded, so I am able to give you these details. Your son's plane that day suffered a direct hit by "flak" in its left outboard engine. This hit crippled the plane so that it was unable to remain with the formation to drop its bomb load. The ship made its way back to the Adriatic Sea where the bomb load was dropped to insure a safe landing when they would reach their base. One of the bombs exploded prematurely a few feet below the plane, so severely damaging the ship that it was forced to make a crash landing into the sea. The force of the impact of the crash caused the plane to break in two. Your son and two other of the crew members were able to remain close together for about an hour and a half. They then separated, and your son was not seen again. These facts are from the statements made by S/Sgt. Burgess B. Lindsay and T/Sgt. Dale Fortson who survived. They were picked up by rescue crews, who of course made a thorough search of the area.

I am sorry to grieve you with these painful details and yet I am sure that you would want to know the exact story. I pray God that He will bless and sustain you and give you comfort and grace to bear this great loss.

According to the records here, your son was awarded the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and we are today taking

6018

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RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BROOKS, Lt. Col., AC
by P. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 14 MAY 1946

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

SAVE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

21 June 1945

SUBJECT: Second Lieutenant George P. Elkerton, 0688691
455th Bomb Group (H)
741st Bomb Squadron
Missing in Action 24 May 1944
Killed in Action 24 May 1944

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters, MTOUSA, A.P.O. 520
U. S. Army, Attention: N.A.A.G.C.

1. Inclosed copy of letter received in this headquarters from Mrs. Emilie Elkerton, inquiring as to why her son's Commanding Officer or Chaplain has not written to her.

2. It is requested that a letter of condolence including the details of Lieutenant Elkerton's death, be prepared and forwarded to Mrs. Elkerton who resides at 1715 Hughitt Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Wm. D. Sanders

WM. D. SANDERS
Major, Air Corps
Actg Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Office of the Asst Chief of Air Staff,
Personnel

6014

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4513

ADDRESS REPLY TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MACR 6018 24 May 1944

			STATUS
Brashear, John R.	1st Lt	O-743600	Hospitalized
Elkerton, George P.	2d Lt	O-688691	KIA
Fortson, Dale (n.m.i.)	T/Sgt	6962702	RTD
~~Muth, Gordon C.~~	~~2d Lt~~	~~O-1703757~~	
Keen, Weston A.	S/Sgt	19116376	KIA
Kirby, Victor E.	S/Sgt	13120655	KIA
Korzeniewski, Edward (n.m.i.)	T/Sgt	36146392	KIA
Lindsay, Burgess G.B.	S/Sgt	17028736	
Muth, Gordon C.	2d Lt	O-1703137	RTD
Regnier, Robert A.	2d Lt	O-733029	Separated
Smith, Elton L.	S/Sgt	34660089	Separated

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

9. Ap-Mech-Gunner Kirby, Victor E. S/Sgt 13120655 Mrs. Bitha R. Kirby (Mother) Shouns, Tennessee.
10. Armorer-Gunner Lindsay, Burgess G. S/Sgt 17028736 RTD
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.	Lindsay, Burgess B.	S/Sgt	17028736		X		
2.	Fortson, Dale (MI)	T/Sgt	6962702		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) 4 persons not believed to have survived.

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 fiving reason): Unable to ascertain extent of search or by whom made.

Date of this Report: 27 May 44

John F. Davis
(Signature of preparing Officer)
JOHN F. DAVIS,
Capt. Air Corps.
Adjutant.

3 Incls:
Incl 1 - Sketch of Area(sex)
Incl 2 - Eyewitness Description of Lindsay(sex)
Incl 3 - Eyewitness Description of Fortson(sex)

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



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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

6018

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 Field, Command or AAF 15th Group: 455th Bomb Group (H) Squadron: 741st Bomb Squadron.

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure: San Giovanni Air Field. Course: Direct. Target: Munchendorf, Austria Type of Mission: Operational

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Low and Scattered Clouds. 3/10 Cumulus

4. GIVE: (a) Date: 24 May 1944 Time: 1200 Location: 42°N - 16°28' E of last known whereabouts of Missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacte 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 (X) Other circumstances as follows: Premature explosion of Fragmentation Bomb on salvoing.

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series: B-24-H AAF Serial No: 42-52280

7. ENGINES : Type, Model & Series: R-1830-43 AAF Serial No. (a) CP-301368
(b) CP-301145 (c) CP-301140 (d) CP-300834

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

(a) No. 1153121	(b) No. 1153022
(c) No. 1152446	(d) No. 1152424
(e) No. 1152941	(f) No. 1152443
(g) No. 41674	(h) No. 41683
(i) No. 1153296	(j) No. 1152941

All were Browning Machine Gune. 50 Calibre M2s

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

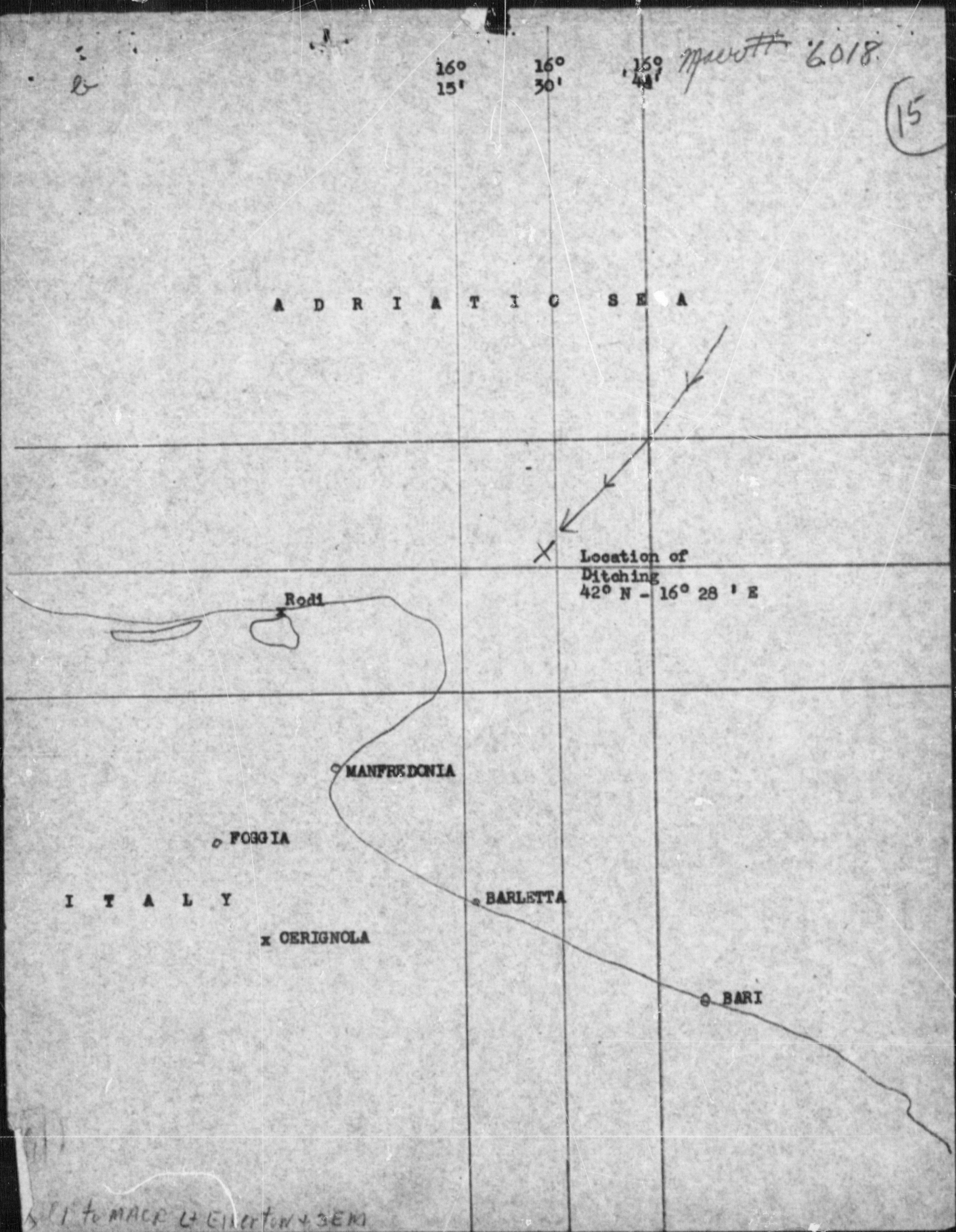
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers: None Total 10
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; If more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
1. Pilot	BRASHEAR, JOHN R.	1st Lt.	0-745600	RTD
2. Co-Pilot	MUTH, GORDON C.	2nd Lt.	0-1703137	RTD
3. Navigator	REGNIER, ROBERT A.	2nd Lt.	0-753029	RTD
4. Bombardier	ELKERTON, GEORGE P.	2nd Lt.	0-688691	Mrs. Emilie O Elkerton(Mother) 1715 Hughitt St. Superior, Wis.
5. Radio Op-Gunner	Korzeniewski, Edward (NMI)	T/Sgt	36146532	Mrs. Helen Korzeniewski(Mother) 2257 Finley St. Detroit, Mich
6. Ap-Mech-Gunner	Fortson, Dale (NMI)	T/Sgt	6962702	RTD
7. Ap-Mech-Gunner	Keen, Weston K.	S/Sgt	19116376	Mrs. Eva Miller (Mother) Spring Glen, Utah.
8. Ap-Mech-Gunner	Smith, Elton L.	S/Sgt	34665089	RTD

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Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)


16° 15'
16° 30'
16° 45'
ADRIATIC SEA
Location of Ditching
42° N - 16° 28' E
Rodi
MANFREDONIA
FOGGIA
ITALY
BARLETTA
CERIGNOLA
BARI

311 Second Lieutenant George P. Elkerton	Mrs. Emilie O. Elkerton (Mother) 1715 Hughitt Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin.
Technical Sergeant Edward Korzeniewski	Mr. Bronislaw Korzeniewski (Father) 2257 Finley Street, Detroit, Michigan.
Staff Sergeant Victor E. Kirby	Mrs. Bitha M. Kirby (Mother) Shouns, Tennessee.
Staff Sergeant Weston K. Keen	Mrs. Eva May C. Miller (Mother) Spring Glen, Utah.

AIRMAIL

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply Refer To
QMGMR 293

SUBJECT: Additional Information That May Lead to the Recovery and Identification of Remains Not Yet Accounted For

TO: Commanding General
Army Ground Forces, Pacific
APO 958, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. There is attached hereto, in duplicate, OQMG Form 371 (covering all available information in the Office of The Quartermaster General and is in addition to any previous information forwarded by this office to your headquarters) for the following deceased individual;

NAME	GRADE	SERIAL NO.

2. It is requested that information on the above deceased be furnished this office in accordance with the provisions of radio, this headquarters, No. WCI 37087, dated 13 December 1946.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Incl.
Form 371 (In Dup.)

MARTIN C. RILEY
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

AIRMAIL

Sidwell
3 Jan 47

(a) 6018

STATEMENT

On 24 May 1944, over Vienna, My B-24 suffered a flak hit in its number one (1) Engine.

We remained in formation for a while, the airplane, with the crippled engine throwing oil, did not bomb with the group. Leaving the formation we attempted to salvo our Frag bombs over the Adriatic Sea, at about 1w00 hours. In salvoing, one (1) bomb exploded prematurely a few feet below the plane. It knocked our the number three (3) and number four (4) engines, tore a gas leak in the bomb bay, shot up the hydraulic system, and the interphone went out. The plane lost altitude, and we ditched within a few minutes, teh plane breaking in two at the bomb bay section. The life rafts wouldn't release.

On getting out of the plane, I was with T/Sgt Korzeniewski and S/Sgt Keen. Our Mae Wests inflated OK. S/Sgt Keen was with us for about ten (10) minutes then he left, I never saw him again. T/Sgt Korzeniewski seemed OK, and talked rationally. I was with him for about an hour, then swam over to 1st Lt. Brashear. I never saw T/Sgt Korzeniewski again. I never did see either 2nd Lt. ELKERTON or S/Sgt Kirby, both of whom were in the back end of the plane at the time of ditching.

Dale Fortson

Dale Fortson. 690270[illegible]
T/Sgt., 744 Bomb Sq(H)

Incl 3

6018.

STATEMENT

On 24 May 1944, over Vienna, My B-24 suffered a flak hit in its number one (1) engine.

We remained in formation for a while, the crippled Engine throwing oil, but did not bomb with the group. Leaving the formation, we attempted to salvo our Frag bombs over the Adriatic Sea, at about 1200 hours. In salvoing, one (1) bomb exploded prematurely a few feet below the plane. It knocked out the number three (3) and number four (4) engines, tore a gas leak in the bomb bay, shot up the hydraulic system, and the interphone went out. The plane lost altitude, and we ditched within a few minutes, the plane breaking in two at the bmb bay section. The life rafts wouldn't release.

S/Sgt. Kirby was stunned. I pulled him out of the plane and inflated his Mae West. 2nd Lt. ELKERTON, who seemed to be OK, S/Sgt. Kirby, who seemed to have become OK, and I remained fairly close together for about an hour and one half. I then left them, and swam over to T/Sgt. Korzeniewski, who had come our of the front of the plane, I never saw 2nd Lt. ELKERTON or S/Sgt. Kirby again. When I reached T/sgt Korzeniewski, he was moaning continually, and apparently could not respond to questioning. I stayed with him about fifteen (15) minutes, then left to see if I could aid 1st Lt. Brashear, who was badly hurt. I saw T/sgt Korzeniewski on wave tops now and again for about an hour longer, then lost contact with him.

We were picked up by a PBY at about 1700.

Burgess B. Lindsay

Burgess B. Lindsay, 17028736,
S/Sgt., 741 Bomb Sq (H).

Incl 2 to MACR Lt Elkerton +3 EM

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312.1 C-WM-4 3d Ind.
201-Elkerton, George P. (O)
HQ, 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 5 July 1945.
TO: CO, 455th Bomb Gp (HV), APO 520.

Attention is directed to 1st and 2d Indorsement.

BY ORDER OF LT COLONEL BOUTZ:

7-3-B

Harold G. Wilson

HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

JUL 5 1945 4 36 PM

312.1 4th Ind. G-CEZ-1
Hq 455th Bomb Gp, APO 520, US Army, 10 Jul 45.

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wg, APO 520, US Army.

1. Basic communication complied with.

2. Subj Off awarded Air Medal and four Oak Leaf Clusters by the following authority:

Air Medal--15th Air Force G.O. 168, 1944.
1st OLC --15th Air Force G.O. 287, 1944.
2nd OLC --15th Air Force G.O. 481, 1944.
3rd OLC --15th Air Force G.O. 750, 1944.
4th OLC --15th Air Force G.O. 773, 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Charles E. Ziegler

CHARLES E. ZIEGLER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:
Incl 1: n/c
Incl 2: Ltr to Mrs. Elkerton fr Group Chaplain

JUL 11 1945 7.[illegible] AM

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(8338)

312.1 C-MM-4 5th Ind.
201-Elkerton, George P. (O)
HQ, 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 11 July 45.
TO: CG, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520.

Attention is invited to 4th Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Harold G. Wilson

HAROLD C. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

7-82-15

2 Incls: n/c

JUL 11 1945 4 45 PM

201-Elkerton, George P. (O) 6th Ind GP-B-egm

(8367)

HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, US Army, 13 JUL 1945

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512, US Army

Basic communication complied with. Copy of letter to Mrs. Elkerton inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

WINDLE D. KEEL
Major, Air Corps
Actg Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - w/d

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

7th Ind

HQ, MTOUSA, APO 512, US Army, 16 July 1945 JKR/ev

TO: Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

1 INCL N/C

JKR

6018

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NP-4764

CONFIDENTIAL

AG 201-P-Elkerton, George P. (Off) 1st Ind MH/gwp
(21 June 45)
Hq MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 28 June 1945

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520

(18)

1. For compliance with basic communication in accordance with Circular Number 5, MTOUSA, cs, as amended.

2. Deceased was a member of the 455th Bomb Group.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MCNARNEY:

MORRIS HALPERN
CWO, USA
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
Cpy, Ltr of Inquiry

(2623)

201-Elkerton, George P. (O) 2nd Ind GP-B-egm

HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, US Army, 3 JUL 1945

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wing APO 520

1. For compliance.

2. Information is not available at this headquarters as to presentation of Air Medal and four Oak Leaf Clusters thereto. If awards were not presented request that action be initiated to have them presented to next of kin through the Office of The Adjutant General.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MOLLISON:

WINDLE D. REEL
Major, Air Corps
Actg Asst Adj Gen

JUL 6 1945 8 59 AM

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