MACR
7696

DATE: 8/17/44 -
PLACE: Ploesti.
MARKINGS: ,..500

742 (H.B.) Sqd.
455 Group - 304 Wing.
BASE: Cerignola.
TARGET: Evaluation Point
Southeast.

Rank Name U.S.A. 387	No: ME 1970	
2nd/Lt.Stengle	ø	(dead)
		missing
		missing
		missing
		missing
		missing
S/Sgt. Russell, Donald T.	12064599 .	
		missing
		missing
		missing

AFPPA-11 File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: G R A Y , Charles W.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 19179213
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Ass't Radio Oper. Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? PROBABLE INJURY DUE TO DIRECT HIT

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: APPROX 5 MINUTES PRIOR TO BOMBS AWAY

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? BEFORE TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED BY DIRECT HIT WHICH BROUGHT DOWN PLANE

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11 File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: G RAY , Charrles W.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 19179313
Position: Crew (Bomber) [illegible]: Ass't Radio Oper. Gunner

Did he bail out? I DOUBT IT.

Where? —

If not, why not? HE WAS NOSE-GUN. PLANE RECIEVED DIRECT HIT ON FRONT PART OF SHIP CAUGHT FIRE, & EXPLODED

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

Was he injured? PROBABLY KILLED INSTANTLY

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: —

Dates and destinations if possible: —

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: L O O M A N , Gerard M.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: O-821171
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Co Pilot

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

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

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? PRIOR TO TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: MAY HAVE BEEN HIT BY FLAK THAT KNOCKED DOWN PLANE

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: L O O M AN , Gerard M.
Rank: 2nd/Lt
Serial number: 0-821171
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Co Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? NA

If not, why not? FRONT PART OF AIRPLANE

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

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11 File No. 7996

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: M O R R I S, John P.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 34507917
Position: Crew (Bomber) or XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX: Radio Oper. Gnr.

Did he bail out? NO ?

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? INJURED BY PREVIOUS ~~FLACK~~ FLAK

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ABOUT TIME OF HIT TO PLANE

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? BEFORE FIRE EFFECTED MY EYES

Any hearsay information: WAS TOLD HE GOT OUT OF PLANE BUT CHUTE CAUGHT AFIRE UPON OPENING

Source: OTHER CREW MEMBERS ON GRND' AT TIME PLANE WAS HIT

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: BASED ON ABOVE HEARSAY FELL TO DEATH

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No ,7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: M O R R I S , John P.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 34507917
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Radio Oper . Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? LEFT WAIST GUNNER

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

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I HEARD HE WAS BADLY HIT BY FLAK ON BOMBRUN. HE HAS NEVER SHOWN UP SO I'S PROBABLY DEAD

Total number of missions of above crew member: —

Dates and destinations if possible: —

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11 File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: R I N K , Paul L.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: O-723687
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~): Navigator

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN DIDNT SPOT CHUTE IN AIR

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

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

NONE

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen? PRIOR TO TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 4

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: R I N K , Paul, L.
Rank: 2nd/Lt
Serial number: 0-723687
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Navigator

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? FRONT PART OF SHIP.

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: R U S S E L L , Donald T.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 12064599
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About 5 MINUTES AFTER BOMBS AWAY FIRST OUT OF PLANE

Was he injured? BURNED

Where was he when last seen? HOSPITAL AT BARI ITALY

Any hearsay information: NONE

ABOVE MAN WAS WITH ME IN RUMANIAN HOSPITAL SCHULLER HOSPITAL OF PLOESTI RUM. BURNED ABOUT FACE AND HANDS - II DEGREE

Source:

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

LEFT ABOVE NAMED MAN AND OTHER REPATRIATES AT BARI HOSPITAL BARI ITALY

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: SEPT 8 1944 HOSPITAL BARI ITALY

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11 File No 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: R U S S E L L, Donald T.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 12064599
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER PLOESTI, RUMANIA

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? BURNED ABOUT FACE

Where was he when last seen? FORT PAT. HENRY, VA.

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: NONE

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: SAFE IN U.S. LAST I HEARD

Total number of missions of above crew member: IN THE 30's.

Dates and destinations if possible: DO NOT KNOW

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: S C H R O Y E R , Ralph W.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 33574231
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [illegible]: Eng. Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? PROBABLY INJURED

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 5 MINUTES AFTER BOMBS AWAY

Was he injured? NOT AT CONTACT

Where was he when last seen? PRIOR TO APPERANCE OF COASTLINE-OF NORTH ADRIATIC

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: MAY HAVE BEEN HIT BY SAME DIRECT HIT WHICH SHOT DOWN PLANE

Total number of missions of above crew member: 21

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

XXXX
File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: S C H R O Y E R, Ralph W.
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 33574231
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Eng. Gunner

Did he bail out? DOUBT IT.

Where? —

If not, why not? TOP TURRET GUN.

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

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: —

Dates and destinations if possible: —

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No . 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: S T E N G L , Louis (NMI)
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: 0-815583
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted] Pilot

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: JUST BEFORE PLANE HIT BY FLAK

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? PRIOR TO TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: MAY HAVE STAYED TO TRY AND KEEP PLANE IN AIR UNTILL OTHERS CLEAR

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 20

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: S T E N G L , Louis (NMI)
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: 0-815583
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? Front part of plane

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

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Z O B E L, Robert E.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: O-704256
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN SUPPOSIDLY NOT - DIDN'T SPOT CHUTE

Where? PLOESTI RUMANIA

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: JUST AFTER TAKE OFF

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? PRIOR TO TAKE OFF AT

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source:

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

PROBABLY UNABLE TO GET OUT OF PLANE DUE TO FIRE

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 4

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File No. 7696

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ZOBEL, Robert E.
Rank: 2nd/Lt.
Serial number: O-704256
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? WAS IN FRONT PART OF SHIP

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

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: —

Dates and destinations if possible: —

6-3861, AF

7696

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

Date	From	Wrote About
7-17-46	Lt. G.W. SatterField jr.	Stengl.
10 Aug. 45	Inquiry Section	Zobel
7-29-46	Lt. G.W. SatterField jr.	Schwaiger
		Fish
		LOOMAN
		Gray
		Morris

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(RTD

RTD 8. Asst Eng Gun Cramer, Dallas W. S/Sgt 18231243 Leo V. Cramer (Father)
Rt. 2, Norton Kansas & J.A. Rife

9. Armorer Gunner Washburn, John E. S/Sgt 18082907 W.R. Washburn Sr. (Father) RTD
11½ East Henderson St., Cleburne, Texas

RTD 10. Gunner Russell, Donald T. S/Sgt 12064599 David Russell (Father)
517 Wagner Ave., Mamaroneck, New York

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. Bill R. Adams	Capt.	0422875		X		
2.						
3.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
(X) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
( ) Any other reason (specify) 7 to 10 chutes were seen

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 AN INCLOSURE 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) None due to plane going down over enemy ~~ter~~ territory.

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. GRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 13 1946

Date of this Report 20 August 1944

William W. Berg
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 INCLS:
INCL #1 SKETCH OF TARGET
INCL #2 STATEMENT BY CAPT. ADAMS.

RECEIVED
SEP 15 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

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

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

7696

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officiall reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Field Italy Command or AF 15th Air Force Group 455th Bomb Gp Squadron 74xnd Bomb Sq.

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Field Italy Course Direct Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Clear at Target Vis 12 to 15 miles in haze

4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 August 1944 Time 1123 Location Just after Target 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.

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

---

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24-J AAF Serial No 42-78500

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65A AAF Serial No (a) BP439339 (b) BP439146 (c) BP439165 (d) BP439304.

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number) All are Browning Aircraft Mach Gun M-2 (a) 1249089 (b) 1249122 (c) 1249169 (d) 1248856 (e) 1249276 (f) 1248838 (g) 967647 (h) 967850 (i) 1248785 (j) 1248988.

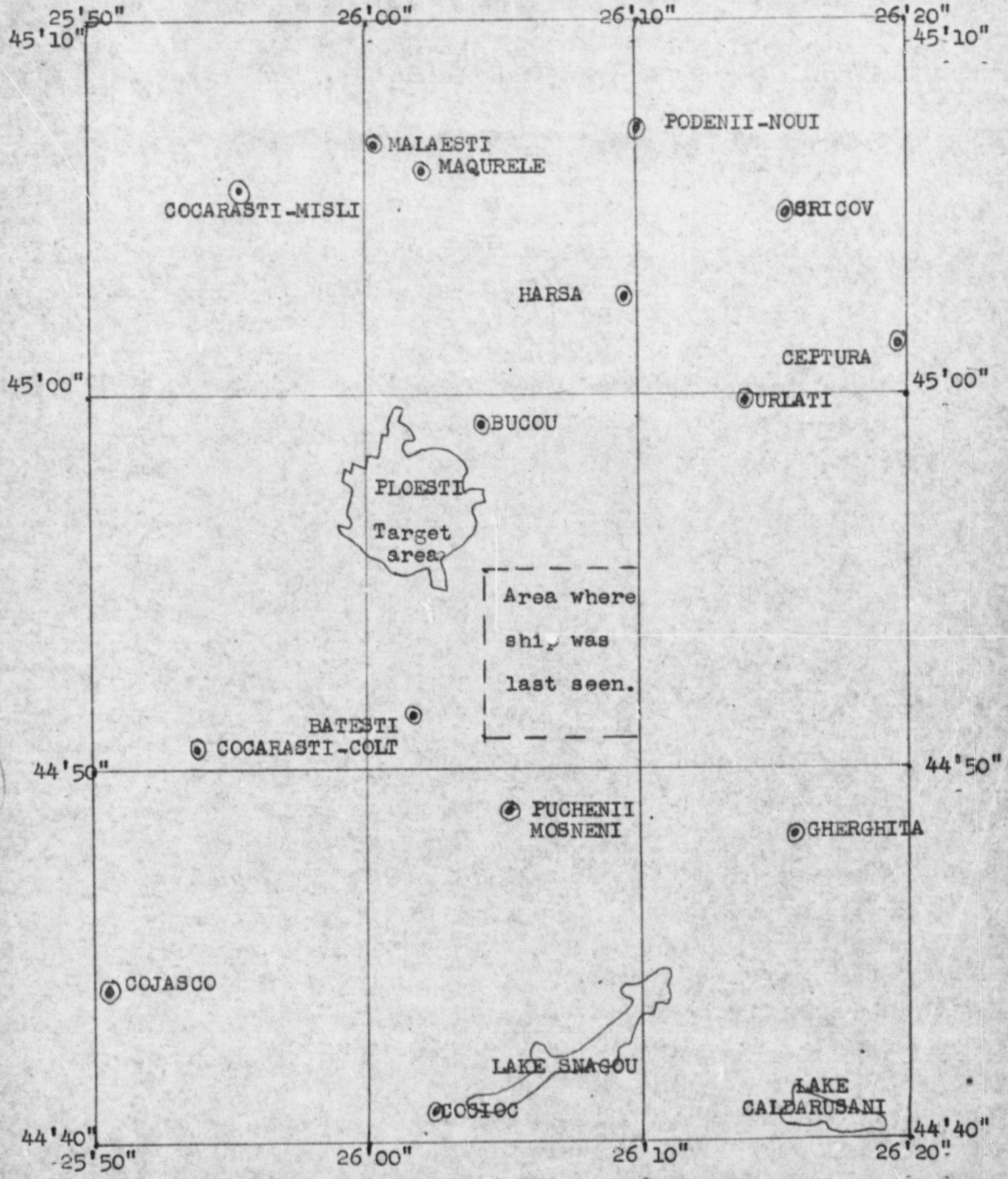
9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS (X) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.

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 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	Stengl, Louis (NMI)	2nd Lt	0815583	Mrs Anna M Stengl (Mother) 1805 5th Ave, Antigo, Wisconsin
2. Co-Pilot	Looman, Gerard M.	2nd Lt	0821171	Mrs. Johanna Looman (Mother) 304 Lincoln Zeeland, Michigan
3. Navigator	Rink, Paul L.	2nd Lt	0723687	Sarah M. Perkins (Mother) 1005 Ovegon St., Muscatine, Iowa
4. Bombardier	Zobel, Robert E	2nd Lt	0704256	Cora Larson (Mother) 1115 Laurel Ave., McAllen, Texas
5. Rad Oper Gun	Morris, John P	T/Sgt	34507917	Mrs Margaret C. Morris (Mother) 160 McCorry St., Jackson, Tenn
6. Eng Gun	Schroyer, Ralph W	T/Sgt	33574231	Mrs. Sadie G. Schroyer (Mother) 731 West Lafayette St., Morristown, Pa
7. Asst Rad Oper Gun	Gray, Charles W.	S/Sgt	19179213	Mrs Fay Treen (Mother) 5558 Fulcher St., North Hollywood, Calif

PLOESTI (NORTH), RUMANIA. TARGET CHART NO. 11-100B-NA

Ship last seen just after target. SCALE: 1:250,000



Incl #1 to NAOR #1 Sheet 4 Corr

Second Lieutenant Paul L. Rink	Mrs. Sarah M. Perkins, (Mother) 1005 Oregon Street, Muscatine, Iowa.
Second Lieutenant Louis Stengl	Mrs. Anna Stengl, (Mother) 1805 West 5th Avenue, Antigo, Wisconsin.
Second Lieutenant Robert E. Zobel	Mrs. Cora L. Larson, (Mother) 1115 Laurel Street, McAllen, Texas.
Second Lieutenant Gerard M. Looman	Mrs. Johanna Looman (Mother) 304 Lincoln Street, Zealand, Michigan.
Technical Sergeant Ralph W. Schroyer	Mr. Robert R. Schroyer, (Father) 731 West Lafayette Street, Morristown, Pennsylvania.
Technical Sergeant John P. Morris	Mrs. Margaret C. Morris (Mother) 160 McCorry Street, Jackson, Tennessee.
Staff Sergeant Charles W. Gray	Mrs. Faye F. Green (Mother) 5558 Fulcher Street, North Hollywood, California.
Staff Sergeant Donald T. Russell	Mr. David Russell, (Father) 817 Wagner Avenue, Mamaroneck, New York.
Staff Sergeant John E. Washburn	Dr. Walter R. Washburn, (Father) 11[illegible] Henderson, Cleburne, Texas.
Staff Sergeant Dallas W. Cramer	Mr. Leo V. Cramer (Father) Rural Delivery 2, c/o J. A. Rife, Morton, Kansas.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DALLAS W CRAMER Rank S/SGT Serial No. 18231243
2. Organization ~~45~~ 455 B. GRP (H) 742 B. SQDN (H) Gp Commander UNKNOWN (full name) Rank COL. Sqn CO UNKNOWN (full name) Rank LT COL.
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMB, target, REFINERYS, target time, ABOUT 1135, altitude, 24500 route scheduled, UNKNOWN, route flown UNKNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 20 OR 30 MILES FROM PLOESTI
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES ~~TAIL~~ TAIL GUNNER AND BALL GUNNER
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". BALL GUNNER (NAME UNKNOWN) BAILED OUT WAS BURNED AND HOSPITALIZED AT BUCHAREST RUMANIA LAST HEARD OF BEING IN HOSPITAL IN BARI ITALY FOR TREATMENT
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? UNKNOWN
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ASST RADIO OPERATOR GNR - ENG. GNR - NAVIGATOR - BOMBADIER - PILOT - CO PILOT
11. Where were they in aircraft? FORWARD IN NOSE AND CONTROL OR FLT. DECK
12. What was their condition? UNKNOWN
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? SEE LISTING AND NO. 8
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

The plane recieved a direct hit forward of the Bomb Bays (in my opinion). It burst into ~~flame~~ flame, went into a spin, and blew up, all in a matter of seconds. I was blown clear. So was Russell. Cramer, ~~he~~ a waist gunner got out before it blew up, I think.

Morris, the other waist gunner, was hit by flak on Bomb Run. I don't guess he could get out.

All men in forward part of ship were probably killed intantly, or were burned to death. To my knowledge, none of them got out.

I hope this has been some help.

J. E. Washburn

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WASHBURN, JOHN EDWARD Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 18082907

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander ? (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO ? (full name) Rank L.C.

3. What year 1944 month August day 17 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BOMB PLOESTI, Ra, target, OIL REFINERIES, target time, 1120, altitude, 24000 route scheduled, ?, route flown ?

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

6. Did you bail out? I WAS BLOWN OUT WHEN SHIP EXPLODED

7. Did other members of crew bail out? TWO OTHERS

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". S/Sgt. DALLAS W. CRAMER BAILED OUT REAR HATCH B-24. HE WAS RIGHT WAIST GUNNER. RECIEVED ONLY SLIGHT BURNS. LAST I HEARD HE WAS SAFE IN U.S., THO I HAVE NEVER BEEN IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH HIM.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? OUTSIDE PLOESTI IS BEST I CAN DO.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ONLY CRAMER, RUSSELL AND MYSELF GOT OUT TO MY KNOWLEGE. I NEVER INSPECTED THE PLANE AFTER CRASH.

11. Where were they in aircraft? DO NOT KNOW

12. What was their condition? DO NOT KNOW

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? @ MORRIS WAS ON HIS KNEES IN WAIST SECTION TRYING TO PUT ON CHEST CHUTE. I THINK HE WAS HIT PRETTY BAD. SECONDS LATER, THE PLANE BLEW UP.

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

SEE BACK

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

CASUALTY NO. [redacted] 1970

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 August 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Pisenti

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: A.V. south-east

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: RUSSELL Donald T

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: S/SGT

SERIAL NUMBER: 12064509

CAPTURED: YES ~~WOUNDED:~~ ~~DEAD:~~

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: Stalag-Luft 4 TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Dulag-Luft 7 March 1945 We.

6-3224.AF(6)

STATEMENT

On 17 August 1944 over target Tail Gunner, Sgt. Husman, reported that #8 "A" Box was going down and that seven chutes, and possibly more were in the air from it. The plane was believed to be #500.

Bill R Adams

BILL R. ADAMS,
Capt., 0422875.

Inc 1 to MACR Lt. Stingl + Crew

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AG 201-P-Zobel, Robert E., (O) 1st Ind JKR/eh
(26 June 45)
HQ MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 17 July 1945

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces
War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

1. Casualty status of 2d Lt ROBERT E. ZOBEL, 0704256, was changed to KIA 17 August 1944, Rumania, based on the following information:

a. The local police at the village of FUCHENI MOSNENI, province of PRAHO, Rumania, have records and affidavits establishing the fact that seven (7) bodies were removed from an American bomber shot down in the nearby vicinity on 17 August 1944, and buried in the local cemetery. Five of the bodies were identified; two were burned beyond recognition and carried no identification. Examination of death certificates disclosed the following airmen to have been identified:

2d Lt LOUIS STENGL	0815583
2d Lt GERARD M. LOOMAN	0821171
2d Lt ROBERT E. ZOBEL	0704256
T Sgt RALPH W. SCHROYER	33574231
S Sgt CHARLES W. GRAY	19179213

b. The only members of the crew remaining unaccounted for after the above identifications were established were 2d Lt PAUL L. RINK, 0723687, and T Sgt JOHN P. MORRIS, 34507917, and these two airmen were determined to be the two unidentified referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph.

2. The above information was forwarded The Adjutant General, War Department, Munitions Building, Washington 25, D. C., (Attention: Casualty Branch), by fifth indorsement, this headquarters, file AG 704/074-C, dated 18 January 1945, to letter, Headquarters 15th Air Force, file 360.33, dated 6 December 1944.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

JACK K. ROBERTS
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

June 17, 1945

General Arnold
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

My only son Lt. Robert Zobel no O-704,256 was shot down on his 6th mission, his eleventh day of combat, over Ploesti ten months ago today. He was reported missing until Dec. 21st when he was reported killed in action on Aug. 17th 1944.

To this day I never have had any personal word from any one - just from letters.

I don't know whether his body was found - if so where he was buried, nor why they decided he had been killed.

They sent him to his death on that day, with no one higher than a 2nd Lieut. in the plane, over the toughest target in the world at that time, as surely as tho they had put him in front of a firing squad.

I have waited patiently for ten months.

With three million employees doing war work in Washington, it isn't too much to expect to hear some details from some one at once.

Yours truly,

/s/ Cora Zobel Larson

1115 Laurel Av.
McAllen, Texas

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SAVE

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

26 June 1945

SUBJECT: Second Lieutenant Robert E. Zobel, 9794256
Killed in Action 17 August 1944

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

1. Attention invited to attached copy of letter from Mrs. Cora L. Larson, mother of subject officer.

2. Request information on which report of death was based be forwarded this headquarters.

3. It is further requested that available details pertaining to death and burial of Lieutenant Zobel be forwarded on which to base a reply to Mrs. Larson.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

7696

Wm. D Sanders

1 Incl.

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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