Additional Information in

Misc. Files (Transmittal of Interrogation Report)

8086

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed to R. Limited
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 20 Dec 45

CASUALTY INFORMATION
(Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: Paul, Ned (NMI) — 2nd Lt — O-712127
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

743	455	26 Aug 44	13 Sept 44
(Squadron)	(Group)	(Date of Casualty)	(Returned to Allied Lines)

(Information contained hereon obtained from returned crew members for use as an aid in determining status of missing U. S. personnel. When information given is considered sufficiently conclusive it will be used as basis for corrected Battle Casualty Report.)

Crew Position		Name	Rank	Status	
Navigator	KIA	Grecco	Lt	Believed dead	BCR
Bombardier	KIA	Brown	Capt	Believed dead	BCR
Mickey Oper	KIA	Bruni, L.W.	Lt	Believed dead	BCR
Aerial eng	KIA	Boardwell	Sgt	Believed dead	BCR
Right waist gnr	MIA	Unknown D PEETERS	Unknown	Unknown	
Left waist gnr	MIA	Unknown J.C. KORNEGHOK	Unknown	Unknown	
Radio oper	MIA	Boster	Sgt	Unknown	
Tail gunner	MIA	Stockdale	Sgt	Unknown	
Navigator	EVD	Ruddy	2nd Lt	450th B Group Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria	

STATEMENT: Capt Brown (bomb), Lt Grecco (Nav), Lt Bruni (M.O) and Sgt Broadwell (Eng) were on the flight deck when the airplane received a direct flak hit, exploding on the flight deck. The airplane broke into flames from nose wheel down to waist windows. When I looked b ck on flight deck I could see Sgt Boardwell (sitting on floor between seats) was enclosed by flames and was making no attempt to move. The rest of the right deck was a mass of flames. I saw only three other parachutes which belonged to Lt N. Paul, Lt W. Resce, and Lt. J. Vandergrift.

Ship crashed approximately five miles east of Vladieki Han, Mugo.

A TRUE COPY:
ELLIS L. BURNS, JR.
CWO, USA

/s/ Hugh R. Grass
~~Paul, Ned~~
Lt. P.O.

CONFIDENTIAL

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: BORDWELL Karl F.
Rank: T/Sgt
Serial number: 18190964
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(illegible)~~: Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? This man was dead after the plane was hit

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He was standing between the pilots and copilots seats talking with me at the time we were hit

Was he injured? When the plane was hit he was killed

Where was he when last seen? Lying between the two seats

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I last saw Sgt. ~~Bordwell~~ just prior to leaving the plane He was dead at that time ~~FEK~~ A good portion of the Sgts. head was gone and I later discovered that I was partially covered with parts of his body and head

Total number of missions of above crew member: 48 or 49

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on 26th August 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: BORDWELL Karl F.
Rank: T/Sgt
Serial number: 19190964
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~[illegible]~~: Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan, about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis Skolnje Railway.
If not, why not? Believed to have been dead.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: about Five minutes before plane was hit.

Was he injured? Believed to have been dead.

Where was he when last seen? Slumped on floor near Pilots seat.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: When Plane was hit I was knocked unconscious. When I recovered I tried to get back on ~~the Flight Deck and was burned. At this time I saw a man slumped on~~ the floor just behind the Pilot and Co-pilots seats. The fire was so thick around him I could not be certain who he was, and was so hot I Couldn't get to him. About this time I passed out again and when I ~~come too again I was Free falling.~~ I believe the man to be Sgt. Bordwell.

Dates and destinations if possible: 48 Missions, No Knowledge of dates.

6-3861, AF

AFPFA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 0086

Name of crew member: BOSWELL Karl P.
Rank: T/Sgt
Serial number: 18190964
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot (Fighter)~~: Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: HAD LEFT THE UPPER GUN TURRET DUE TO FAILURE OF OXYGEN EQUIPMENT - WAS SEATED ON THE FLOOR OF THE FLIGHT DECK BEHIND AND BETWEEN THE PILOT'S SEATS

Source: Lt. Colonel GRAFF & Lt. VANDERGRIFT (Pilot & Co-pilot)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: APPARENTLY KILLED BY THE SHELL WHICH STRUCK THE PLANE IN OR NEAR THE FLIGHT DECK

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: [redacted] Leroy V.E.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: 0-733523
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? It is believed tha t this officer was killed when the aircraft was hit

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I talked with this officer just prior to being hit, in regards to the bombing

Was he injured? Not at that time.

Where was he when last seen? He was last seen on the flight deck talking with the navigator

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is my belief that this officer was killedoutright when the plane was first hit.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Between fourty five and fifty

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on 26th. August 1944.

6-3861, AF

AFPFA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: BROWN Leroy V.E.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: 0-733523
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~////////////////~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlaˇ Vikkihan about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis Skolpje Railway.

If no˙, why not? No Knowledge, but believed to have been hit.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Had come out of nose and was discussing the hits on the target with Lt. Col. Graff the Pilot. Had just moved back of seats when plane was Hit by Flak.

Was he injured? No actual Knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? On Flight Deck in Top Turret area.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Capt. Brown was standing in the Top Turret area to the best of my knowledge when the plane was hit by Flak. The shell, from all indications, exploded on the flight Deck and in the area where Capt. Brown was believed to be standing. The Plane immediately caught Fire and very shortly exploded in Mid Air, said Col Graff. No other information was recieved by me concerning him.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 35

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge. Squadron Bombbardier and not member of regular Crew.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 8065

Name of crew member: BROWN Leroy V.E.
Rank: Capt.
Serial number: O-739523
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot (Fighter)~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: SPOKE ONLY TO HIM OVER THE TARGET AND SHORTLY AFTER

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE OF PLANE

Any hearsay information: HAD LEFT THE NOSE SECTION AND GONE TO THE FLIGHT DECK WITH HIS TARGET CHART AND PICTURES

Source: LT. COLONEL GRAFF & LT. VAN DER GRIFT (PILOT & COPILOT)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: APPARENTLY KILLED BY THE SHELL WHICH STRUCK THE PLANE IN OR NEAR THE FLIGHT DECK

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 3086 .

Name of crew member: BRUNI Lawrence A.
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-706795
Position: Crew (Bomber) of Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? I believe that this officer was killed when the aircraft was first hit

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I saw this officer just prior to the plane being hit, he was at his station as radar operator.

Was he injured? Not when last seen.

Where was he when last seen? He was at his station as radar operator.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is believed that this officer was killed outright when an 88mm shell exploded on the flight deck. From his proxcimity to the explosion it would be almost impossible to escape without serious injury or death.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Between twenty and thirty

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on 26th, August 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: BRUNI Lawrence A.
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-706795
Position: Crew (Bomber) of Bombardier

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis Skolpje Railway.
If not, why not? No Knowledge, but believed to have been Hit.

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

Was he injured? Believed to have been injured.

Where was he when last seen? Last seen about one hour before plane was hit.

Any hearsay information: Captors stated that they found Lt. Brunis wallet in the field near the scene of the wreckage. I saw the wallet including his name and some family pictures, which was all scorched The soldiers would not let me have the wallet, but kept it themselves.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Lt. Bruni was dressed in a pair of khaki pants under an electric heated suit, and ~~the wallet was carried in his hip pocket. Lt Bruni was seated exactly~~ where the shell was believed to have exploded.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 28

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge.

6-3361, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-[illegible]

Name of crew member: BRUKI Lawrence A.
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-706715
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [illegible] Bombardier

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: WAS AT THE RADAR EQUIPMENT ON THE FLIGHT DECK WHEN THE PLANE WAS HIT

Source: LT. COLONEL GRAFF & LT. VANDERGRIFT (PILOT & COPILOT)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: APPARENTLY KILLED BY THE STEEL WHICH STRUCK THE PLANE IN OR NEAR THE FLIGHT DECK

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: GRECO John
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: O-743587
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(Fighter)~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? It is believed that this officer was killed when the aircraft was hit

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I talked with this officer just before the plane was hit, this was in regards to our position.

Was he injured? Not at that time.

Where was he when last seen? He was last seen sitting in the navigators seat on the flight deck

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is my belief that this officer was killed outright when the plane was hit. He was in such a position that his escape was almost impossible. An 88mm shell exploded within a few feet of this officer on the flight deck. Almost at the same instant the entire flight deck was engulfed with flames from the burning fuel.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Between thirty and fourty.

Dates and destinations if possible: Noon on the 26th.August 1944.

6-3861,AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: GRECO John
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: O-743587
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~[illegible]~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis Skoljpe Railway.

If not, why not? No Knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Informed Navigator to alter course. Gave me Course correction just prior to hit by flak.

Was he injured? No Knowledge. Fire and smoke to thick to see any one except Pilot and one other man believed to be the Engineer.

Where was he when last seen? Before Take Off.

Any hearsay information: Captors advised that only Four Chutes were seen by them. Five Chutes actualy came out. I have no knowledge of any more.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Lt. Greco was sitting just behind the Pilots seat and from all indications the shell exploded on the Flight Deck where he was sitting. I couldn't see anything on the flight deck for fire and smoke,

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge. Not member of my Crew.

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File-# 2086

Name of crew member: GRECO John
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: O-743587
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: TOLD HIM THE PLANE'S POSITION FROM PILOTAGE CHECK POINT

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: LT. COLONEL GRAFF, THE PILOT, WAS THE LAST ONE TO OBSERVE THE MEN LOCATED ON THE FLIGHT DECK. GRECO WAS AT THE NAVIGATION DESK

Source: LT. COLONEL GRAFF

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: APPARENTLY KILLED BY THE SHELL WHICH STRUCK THE PLANE IN OR NEAR THE FLIGHT DECK

Total number of missions of above crew member: 26 TH

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: KOSTECHUK John C.
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: 36154926
Position: Crew (Bomber) ////////////////// Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? _____

If not, why not? It is believed that he was injured or dead

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: No contact or conversation was had with this man since leaving the target.

Was he injured? Not before the plane was hit

Where was he when last seen? At his station as waist gunner

Any hearsay information: The radio pperator and the photographer saw him fall after the plane was hit

Source: Photographer and Radio operator

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on26th. August 1944.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: KONIECZUK John C.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 36174928
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~MITHDRAWN~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis.Skolpje Railway.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

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

Was he injured? The Photographer Reported he was apparently uninjured.

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information: The Photographer said he was struggling with the other waist Gunner with or near the Camera hatch. Both seemed to be uninjured when he bailed out the waist window.

Source: Lt Walter Resce, Photographer

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: [redacted] John C.
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: WAS LYING UPON WAIST SECTION FLOOR WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER LEFT THE PLANE THROUGH THE WINDOW

Source: Lt. RESCE

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File-# 6086

Name of crew member: PETERS David
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 32812910
Position: Crew (Bomber) Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? It is believed that he was injured or dead

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: No contact or conversation was had with this man since leaving the target.

Was he injured? Not before the plane was hit

Where was he when last seen? At his station as waist gunner.

Any hearsay information: The radio operator said he saw him fall after the plane was hit

Source: Radio Operator

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on 26th. August 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: PETERS David
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 32812910
Position: Crew (Bomber) Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan , about 25 miles south of Nis, on the Nis Skolpje Railway.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

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

Was he injured? The Photographer reported that he was apparently not injured.

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information: The Photographer reported that he and the other waist Gunner were struggling with the camera hatch, or near the Camera hatch. Both seemed to be uninjured so hebailed out the waist window.

Source: Lt Walter Resce Photographer.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File-# 8636

Name of crew member: PETERS David
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 32812910
Position: Crew (Bomber) of [redacted] Gunner

Did he bail out? No KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: WAS LYING UPON WAIST SECTION FLOOR WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER LEFT THROUGH THE WINDOW

Source: LT. RESCE (PHOTOGRAPHER)

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

The action described on the reverse side occured approximatly two miles north east of the first small town north of LESKOVAC, YUGOSLAVIA. This town had a small railway station and a single track railway running to the east of the town . There was also a shallow river running north to south about one quarter of a mile to the east of the station. I landed about 1000yds. to the east of this river near a dirt road at the foot of the mountains. From this spot I would judge that the airplane crashed about a mile north in the m mountains. I could see smoke rising over the hill directly to the north. The rapidity of our capture did not enable us to inspect the wreckage, nor would ourxxxxxx captors allow us to go to the wreckage.

Hugh R. Graff

HUGH R. GRAFF

Lt. Col. A.C.

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: STOCKDALE Leslie H.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 37230200
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight~~ (Fighter): Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: HAD JUST RE-ENTERED HIS TAIL TURRET AND CLOSED THE DOORS AFTER HAVING COME OUT FOR A FEW BREATHS OF OXYGEN TAKEN FROM AWAIST POSITION WHEN HIS SUPPLY HAD GIVEN OUT

Source: INTER-COM CONVERSATION & LT. RESCE (PHOTOGRAPHER)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: WAS APPARENTLY UNABLE TO GET OUT OF HIS TURRET WHEN THE PLANE WENT INTO A SPIN

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: STOCKDALE Leslie H.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 37230200
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? Near Vlad Vikkihan, about 25 miles south of Nis on the Nis Skolpje Railway.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Reported from Tail Turret that fighters were attacking a straggler. This was about 2 or 3 minutes before we were hit.

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? In Tail Turret By Lt Reece the Photographer

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approx. 40

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File-# 8086

Name of crew member: STOCKDALE Leslie H.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 37230200
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was either injured or dead

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He talked with me five minutes before the plane was hit about another plane in the formation that was being attacked by fighters

Was he injured? Not at the time I talked to him

Where was he when last seen? At his station as tail gunner

Any hearsay information: Others in the formation said that a burst of flack exploded directly under the tail and parts of the tail were seen to come off.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe that the Sgt was too seriously injured, or dead, to enable him to make his escape frome the plane

Total number of missions of above crew member: Between fourty five and fifty.

Dates and destinations if possible: Action occured at noon on 26th. August 1944.

6-3861, AF

8086

MACR 8086

Graff, Hugh R.	EUS	288146
Brown, Leroy V. E.	KIA	NAT Shipment 244
Greco, John	KIA	NAT Shipment 244
Paul, Ned	EUS	288146
Resce, Walter	EUS	288146
Vandegrift, James D.	EUS	288146
Bruni, Laurence A.	KIA	NAT Shipment 244
Bordwell, Karl F.	KIA	NAT Shipment 244
Boster, Richard R.	RTD	NAT Shipment 248

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KIA 9.	Engineer Gunner *	Peeters, David	S Sgt	32812910	Mrs Martha Peeters (Mother), 1923 Daly Ave, Bronx, New York
KIA 10.	Armorer Gunner *	Kornechuk, John C	Sgt	36154928	Mrs Mary Kornechuk (Mother), 1114 W St Joseph St., Lansing Mich.
KIA 11.	Armorer Gunner *	Stockdale, Leslie H	S/Sgt	37230200	Mr Fred A Stockdale (Father) Lake Tapawingo, Blue Springs, Missouri
EUS 12.	Motion Picture Photographer **	Resce, Walter **	1st Lt	0857789	Mrs Violet Resce (Wife) 317½ N. 3rd Ave, Duluth 5, Minn. RTD

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. ALAN B. SHAW	2d Lt	0718198		X		
2. WARREN K. SLAUGHTER	1st Lt	0699576		X		
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

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) _____

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
Plane lost over enemy territory

Date of this Report: 28 Aug 44

Phillip F. Starkman
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
PHILLIP F. STARKMAN
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant.

3 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement by Lt Shaw
Incl 2 - Statement by Lt Slaughter
Incl 3 - Sketch of Area.

* asgd to Hq 455th Bomb Gp (H)
** asgd to AAF Combat Camera Unit.

RECEIVED SEP 26 1944

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8086

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 743rd Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Air Fld Course Direct
Target 44°31'N 26°03'E Type of Mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Good - Visibility 10/10 from 10,000 to 15,000 feet.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 26 August 1944 Time 1145 Location 42°43'N - 21°58'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.

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 H AAF Serial No 41-28862

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) 42-63171
(b) BP-400049 (c) CP-300931 (d) BP-400234

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

(a)	Browning 50 Cal M2	619417	(b)	Browning 50 Cal M2	519273
(c)	"	628817	(d)	"	472457
(e)	"	659485	(f)	"	489770
(g)	"	496771	(h)	"	639976

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

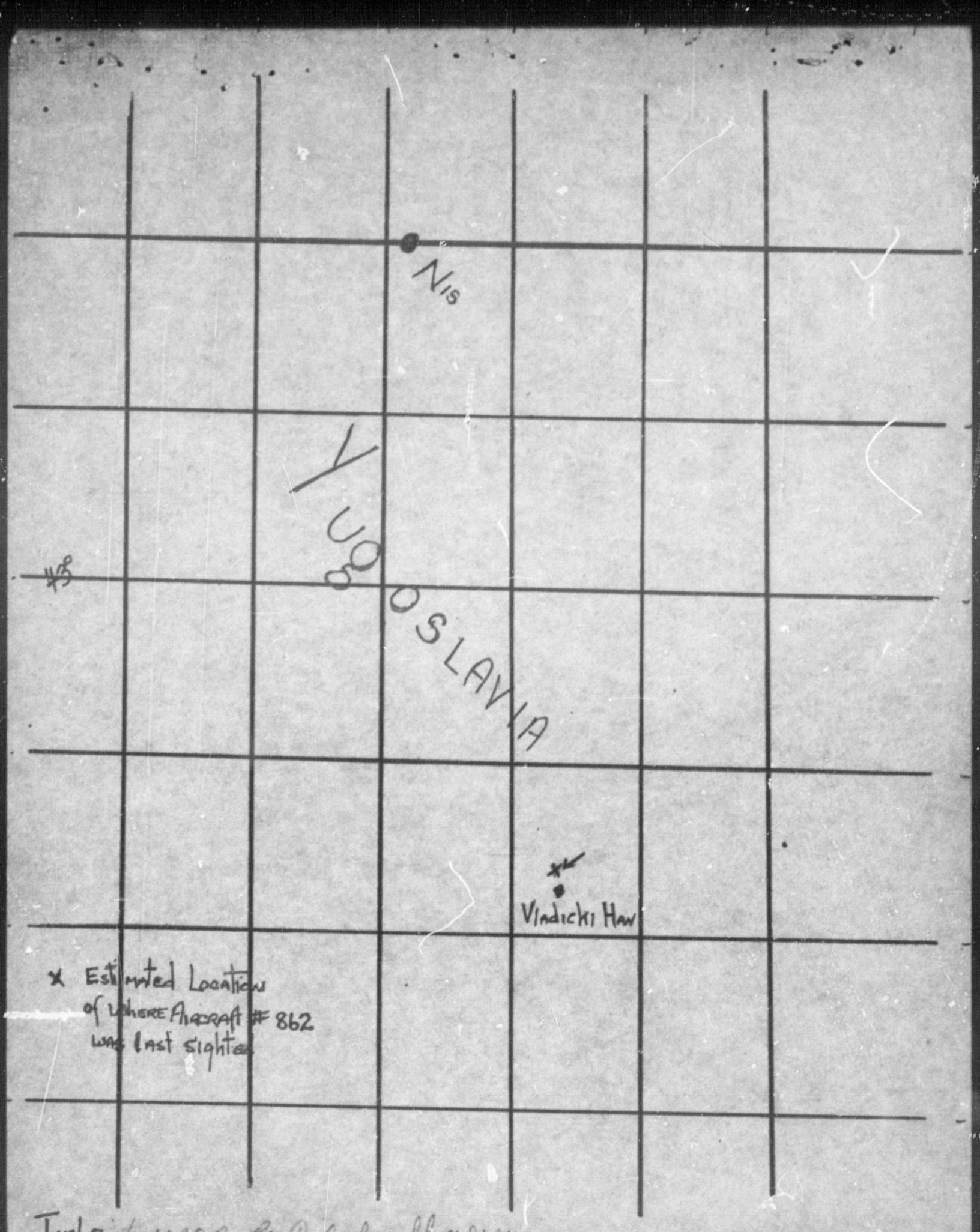
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 12 Passengers 0 Total 12
(Starting eith "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
EUS 1.	Pilot	Graff, Hugh R. *	Lt Col	0406138	Mr George R. Graff (Father) 2235 Lawrence Avenue, Toledo, Ohio RTD
EUS 2.	Co-pilot	Vandegrift, JamesD Jr	1st Lt	0699599	Mrs Ivy G Vandegrift (Wife) Currituck, N.C. RTD
KIA 3.	Navigator	Greco, John KIA	1st Lt	0743587	Mrs Maria F Greco (Mother) Everettiville, W. Va.
RTD 4.	Navigator	Paul, Ned	1st Lt	0712121	Mrs Karen J Paul (Wife) RTD 160 Henry St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
KIA 5.	Bombardier	Brown, Leroy V E KIA	Capt	0733523	Mr Everett Brown (Father) 1620 N Green St., Hanford, California
KIA 6.	Bombardier	Bruni, Lawrence A KIA	2d Lt	0706795	Mr Nicholas A Capo (Uncle) 1221 Berkshire Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna
RTD 7.	Radio O Gunner	Boster, Richard R.	S Sgt	0356[illegible]56	Mrs Roxie Boster (Aunt) RTD 122-3rd Ave., Gallipolis, Ohio
KIA 8.	Engineer Gunner	Bordwell, Karl F KIA	T Sgt	0 19190964	Mrs Bertha E Bordwell (Wife) 3005 East Street, Calwa, California.

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl #1 (See Reverse Side)

No. 5-04 [illegible] 8 47



Incl 3 to MACR 24 Col Graff & crew

2Lt Col Hugh R. Cruff

Mrs. Kathleen M. Cruff, (Wife)
2063 Parkdale Avenue,
Toledo, Ohio.

Capt Leroy V. E. Brown

Mr. Everett Brown, (Father)
1620 North Grove Street,
Hanford, California.

2Lt 1A Neil Paul

Mr. Clarence J. Paul, (Father)
2 Cooper Avenue,
Summit, New Jersey.

2Lt 1A John Greco

Mr. Antonio Greco, (Father)
Brownsville, West Virginia.

2Lt 1A Walter Rauch

Mrs. Violet A. Rauch, (Wife)
317 ½ North Third Avenue, West,
Duluth, Minnesota.

2Lt 1A James D. Vandegrift

Mrs. Ivy G. Vandegrift, (Wife)
Carrboro, North Carolina.

2Lt 1A [illegible] L. Rauch

Mr. Nicholas A. Capo, (Uncle)
2311 Bernadine Street,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

T/Sgt Earl F. Bardsell

Mrs. Bertha L. Bardsell, (Wife)
1215 Hart Street,
Salem, California.

T/Sgt Richard H. Danner

Miss Jessie Danner, (Aunt)
112 Third Avenue,
Gallipolis, Ohio.

T/Sgt Lucille M. Stockdale

Mr. Fred A. Stockdale, (Father)
Lake Hopatcong,
Hiar Springs, Missouri.

S/Sgt Harry Pankow

Miss Mary Chubin, (Aunt)
701 Sheldon Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Sgt John C. Kennedick

Mr. Percy C. Brown, (Brother-in-law)
4102 West 26th Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

8086

CASE UNDER
INVESTIGATION

FORM 371 BEING PREPARED

DATE 8 Oct 42

LT. SULLIVAN

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HUGH R. CRAFF Rank LT. COL. Serial No. O-406138
2. Organization 455/ B.G.(H) Gp Commander K.A. COOL (full name) Rank COL. Sqn CO _____ (full name) Rank _____
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing , target, Barracks Area Bucharest, target time, 1030 Approx. , altitude, 20,000' route scheduled, Home base to target direct , route flown As briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lead ship, I left 20Mi. SSE Nis, Yugo.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes ,Four others bailed out
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". Photographer - Through left waist window . Nose Navigator -Through nose wheel door. Copilot- Through copilots window. Radio Operator -No knowledge. Pilot -Through pilots window.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the mountains south of Nis, Yugoslavia
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) To the best of my knowledge the following were in the plane when it struck the ground. GRECO, JOHN 1st. LT. BROWN, LEROY V.E. CAPT. BRUNI, L.A. 2nd.LT. BORDWELL,K.F. T/SGT., PEETERS D.S/SGT. KORNECHUK J.C. SGT. STOCKDALE, L.H. S/SGT. .
11. Where were they in aircraft? As listed on questionaires
12. What was their condition? All dead or injured before crash
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)
Additional information on back.

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name NED PAUL Rank 1ST LT Serial No. O-712121

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander Col Cook (full name) Rank Colonel Sqn CO THAYER (full name) Rank MAJOR

3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 26 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, ANTI PERSONNEL, target, BUCHAREST ROUMANIA target time, 10:30 - 11:00, altitude, 20 000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTHEAST OF NIS

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". PILOT & CO-PILOT LEFT PLANE THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE WINDOWS PHOTOGRAPHER LEFT THROUGH WAIST WINDOW - NO KNOWLEDGE OF RADIO OPERATOR SGT BOSTER

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NO KNOWLEDGE

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NO KNOWLEDGE

11. Where were they in aircraft? NO KNOWLEDGE

12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? UPON TAKE OFF - ALL WERE ALRIGHT WHEN I ENTERED THE NOSE TURRET OF PLANE WHERE I REMAINED UNTIL FORCED TO LEAVE PLANE.

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

NAME GRADE SERIAL NO.

2. It is requested that information on the above deceased be furnished this office in accordance with provisions of Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, file AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47) D-M, subject Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas, dated 9 April 1947.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Incl
Form 371 (5 cys)

POOLE ROGERS
Captain, QMC
Memorial Division

AIR MAIL

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

H H Arnold

8086

6 March, 1946

SUBJECT: Casuality Information of Crew Members File # 8086

TO: To Whom It May Concern

1. Due to lack of space on The Individual Casuality Questionaires, I will enclose a complete account of the accident concerning File # 8086 to the best of my knowledge.

2. On the 26 August 1944 we were returning from a mission to Bucharest Rummania. We were approximately 25 miles south of Nis, Yugoslavia, near Vlad Vikkihan on the Nis Skolpje Railway, when we were hit directly on the Flight Deck by Flak. The Plane was immediately set on fire, and all Controls, Communications and warning systems were rendered useless. I was knocked out and when I come too the plane was blazing all over the Flight Deck, and the smoke was so thick, I couldn't see anyone but Lt. Col. Hugh R Graff, the Pilot and one other man believed to be T/Sgt. Bordwell, the Engineer. This man was slumped on the step back of the Pilot and Co-Pilots seats, and was completely surrounded by fire. He was not moving at all and did not show any sign of life. On the Flight Deck also was Capt. Brown, Bombardier, Lt. Bruni, Bombardier(Mickie opperator), and Lt. Greco, Navigator. From all indications the shell exploded on the Flight Deck.

3. The Plane was in a diving spiral and going down fast, so I started out the Co-Pilots side window. I lost Consciousness again, and when I come too I was Free Falling. Lt. Col. Graff said the plane exploded in mid-air. I did not see any other chutes. After I was captured by the Bulgarians, who were in control of the area at that time, I again saw Lt. Col. Graff, Lt. Ned Paul, Navigator, and Lt. Walter Resce, Photographer.

4. Our Captors reported 5 chutes came out, but would not allow me to inspect the wreckage. They said they found Lt. Bruni's wallet in the open field. They let me see the wallet, but would not allow me to keep it. After I returned to the States, I learned that the fifth chute was T/Sgt. Boster, Radio Opperator.

5. This is a complete account of the accident, to the best of my knowledge, but I will be glad to render any other information or Aid that is deemed necessary by The Missing Air-Crew Research and Investigation Offices.

James D. Vandegrift, Jr.

JAMES D VANDEGRIFT, JR
CAPT. A.C., AUS

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
APO 520 US ARMY

28 August 1944

S T A T E M E N T

On 26 August 1944, at approximately 1145, Aircraft #362 received a direct flak burst in flight deck section. Fire was reported belching out behind the wings. Three chutes were seen to have left the aircraft and several other "dots" that indicated other crew members jumping out. The aircraft was last seen at 42°43'N - 21°58'E heading for home. It was lost in the undercast, intact, in sharp dive and under semi-control.

Alan B. Shaw

ALAN B. SHAW
2d Lt., Air Corps
Navigator

Encl #1 to MACR #601 Kraff & crew

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743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
APO 520 US ARMY

28 August 1944

S T A T E M E N T

On 26 August 1944, at approximately 1145, Aircraft No. 862 received a direct flak burst in the flight deck section at 42°43'N - 21°58'E returning home from target. Three chutes were seen to have left the aircraft and several other "dots" indicated that other crew members had jumped out. When last seen the aircraft was intact, in a sharp dive and under semi-control as it was lost in the undercast.

Warren K. Slaughter

WARREN K. SLAUGHTER
1st Lt., Air Corps
Navigator.

Encl 2 to MACR 4 Col Graff & crew

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