AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 8349

Name of crew member: RITTENHOUSE, Lawren B.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39 57 71 00
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Fighter (Fighter)~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? NEAR CNIN OF KNIN

Where?

If not, why not?

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:

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

(OVER)

6-3861, AF

Dear Sirs –

Sgt. Rittenhouse returned to Base, Italy – Sept. 21, 1944 – After being Hospitalized for a short while for a sprained ankle he was returned to duty – 455 B.G. 740 B.S. (H) and returned to the U.S. around July 15 and is now out of the service in Pasadena, Cal.

yours truly
Curtis D. Kell
1st Lt. A.C. Res.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 8349

Name of crew member: RITTENHOUSE, Lawren B.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39 57 71 00
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Fighter~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? YUGOSLAVIA

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? YES BADLY SPRAINED ANKLE

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

AFEBA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 8249

Name of crew member: RITTENHOUSE, Lauren B.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 37 71 00
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]: Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER YUGOSLAVIA

If not, why not? _____

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

JUST TO REPORT BAILING OUT.

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? AT 455TH B.G. ON DEC. 26, 1944

Any hearsay information: _____

HE HAS BEEN DISCHARGED AND
IS AT HIS HOME IN CALIF.
1643 North Hill AVE. PASADENA. CAL.

Source: A CARD FROM HIM

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 8349

Name of crew member: RITTENHOUSE , Lawren B.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 39 57 71 00
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xx Flight (Fighter)~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? United States.

~~Any hearsay~~ information: _____

He is in the U.S. and out of Army.

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

8349

CONFIDENTIAL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

9. Gunner Hill, William A. Sgt 33803919 Helen Hill Wife RTD
1419 Lardner St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

10.

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. Preston, Ethridge G.	T/Sgt	15333810		X		
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
( ) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
(X) Any other reason (specify) Aircraft under control when last 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 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, aircraft last sighted over enemy-held territory.

Date of this Report: 16 September 1944

Harry H. Horn
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
HARRY H. HORN
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement of T/Sgt Preston
Incl 2 - Sketch Where Aircraft Last Seen

RECEIVED
OCT 2 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed to RESTRICTED
by L. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

8349

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 Field, Italy Command or AF 15th
Group 455th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 740th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Field Course Direct
Target 520 25'N / 18° 08'E Type of Mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
2/10 Cumulus

4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 September 1944 Time 1150 Location 49° 30'N/18° 00'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-24H AAF Serial No 42-52239

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) CP 308700
(b) CP 309422 (c) CP 312510 (d) CP 300230

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) 1152613 Browning Cal .50 M2 (b) 1152579 Browning Cal .50 M2
(c) 1152860 (d) 1152543
(e) 1152647 (f) 11525
(g) 1152625 218435 (h) 1152613 1152675

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

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9
(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)

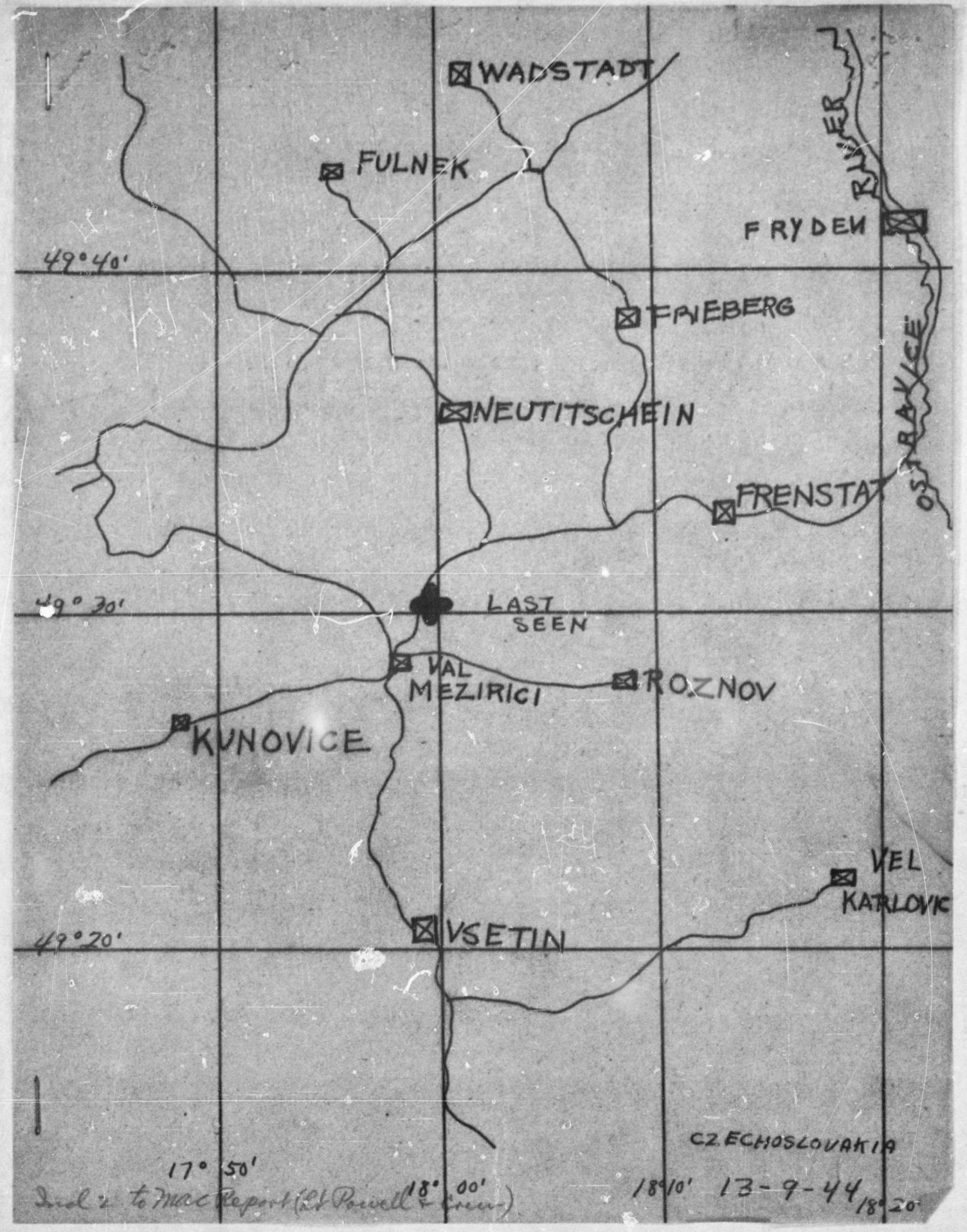
	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS	
1.	Pilot	Powell, Wesley (NMI)	2nd Lt	O-710508	Currie Powell Father Clarendon, Texas	RTD
2.	Co-Pilot	Kell, Curtis O.	2nd Lt	O-720522	Mrs. Lydia Kell Wife 301 N. Bradford St. Gainesville, Georgia	RTD
3.	Navigator	Parkin, Joe L.	2nd Lt	O-2058537	Mrs. Louise Parkin Wife Garden Grove, Iowa	RTD
4.	Engineer	Olitarzewski, Charles J	S/Sgt	32184515	Ben Olitarzewski Father 672 Boulevard Bayonne, New Jersey	RTD
5.	Asst. Engineer	Stohlman, Michel (NMI)	Sgt	38381248	Clementine Stohlman Mother 6326 Dauphine St. New Orleans, La.	RTD
6.	Radio	Harvey, George F. Jr.	Sgt	38508814	Jennie E. Harvey Mother Route #2 Beebe, Arkansas	RTD
7.	Gunner	Belding, Robert L.	Sgt	37615213	Imogene L. Belding, Mother 1711 Elm Street St. Charles, Missouri	RTD
8.	Gunner	Rittenhouse, Lawren B	Sgt	39577100	Lily Rittenhouse Mother 1000 N. Los Robles Pasadena, California	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)

No. 594 of 8



Incl 2 to Mac Report (Lt Powell & crew)

13-9-44

2nd Lt. Wesley Powell	Mr. Currie C. Powell (father) Clarendon, Texas.
2nd Lt. Curtis O. Kell	Mrs. Lydia A. Kell (wife) 301 North Bradford Street, Grainesville, Georgia.
2nd Lt. Joe L. Parkin	Mrs. Louise E. Parkin (wife) Garden Grove, Iowa.
S/Sgt. Charles J. Oltarzewski	Mrs. Olivia A. Ortendahl (mother) 2437 Centrest, West Roxbury, Massachusetts.
	Mr. Ben Oltarzewski (father) 672 Boulevard, Bayonne, New Jersey.
Sgt. Robert L. Belding	Mrs. Imagene L. Belding (mother) 1711 Elm Street, Saint Charles, Missouri.
Sgt. William A. Hill	Mrs. Helen Hill (wife) 1419 Lardner Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvaina.
Sgt. Michel Stohlman, Jr.,	Mrs. Clementine Stohlman (mother) 6326 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Sgt. Lawren B. Rittenhouse	Mrs. Erlyen Rittenhouse (wife) 1643 North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, California.
Sgt. George F. Harvey, Jr.,	Mrs. Jennie E. Harvey (mother) Route Two, Beebe, Arkansas.

I baled out Sept 13, 1944 with Rittenhouse, Lauren B. 38579100, in Yugoslavia about 90 miles inland from Vis. We made our way back to our squadron and I finished my my missions. The last time I saw him, was when I left the Sq. Mar 2, 1945. He had 19 missions and Co-Pilot Curtis O. Kell, had a similar number. Mike Stahlman had 30 and the rest of us were home or on our way. If anything happened after that date, I have no knowledge of it.

George F Haney

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name GEORGE F. HARVEY Jr. Rank 1/Sgt Serial No. 38505814

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander SNOWDEN (full name) Rank U.C.A. Sqn CO HARP (full name) Rank LT. COL.

3. What year 1944 month SEPT. day 13 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, NINETH, target, ODARTAL, target time, _____, altitude, _____ route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER 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 KNOWLEDGE — I WAS FIRST OUT!

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) 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? _____

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 HILL WILLIAM A Rank SGT. Serial No. 33803918

2. Organization _____ Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO HARP Rank LT. COL.
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month SEPT. day 13 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, ODERTAL, target time, APPROX. 12:45, altitude, 21,000 route scheduled, NO KNOWLEDGE, route flown NO KNOWLEDGE

5. Where were you when you left formation? LEFT AFTER HITTING 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". ENTIRE CREW BAILED OUT OVER YUGOSLAVIA NEAREST TOWN, GRACAC, YUG. POWELL AND OLSZEWSKI WERE LAST TWO TO LEAVE PLANE

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR A VILLAGE OF, OTRAC.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ~~Bomb~~ NO ONE WAS ABOARD PLANE WHEN IT STRUCK

11. Where were they in aircraft? NONE ABOARD

12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ON DEC. 19, 1944 BACK AT OWN SQDN. 455 B.G. 740 SQDN. ITALY. ALL HAD BEEN REPLACED ON FLYING STATUS EXCEPT, POWELL AND MYSELF.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. CAPT. RICHARD BOEME. T/SGT ROYAL EDMARK, CPL. HARVEY WILKINSON AND CPL. VICTOR NYE. ALL RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL AT SAME TIME AS WE HAD FOUND EACH OTHER WHILE TRYING TO RETURN. CAPT. BOEME BAILED ABOUT NOV. 19, 1944 WILKINSON AND NYE OCT. 17, 1944 (SAME CREW) EDMARK ABOUT OCT. 21, 1944

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

Dear Sirs,

After Starting this questionnaire I see it is not necessary to finish - All of Crew #2 740th B.S. 455 B.G. based at Cerignola, Italy returned safely to the U.S. and are now civilians

Sincerely

Curtis O. Kell

1st Lt. A.C. Res.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Curtis Ona Kell Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0720522

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

3. What year 1944 month Sept. day 13 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Hi Alt. Bomb target, OIL REFINERY BLECHHAMMER, GERMANY target time, About 1p.m. , altitude, 21000 Ft route scheduled, _____ , route flown _____

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

6. Did you bail out? YES

7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES ALL

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". _____

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? _____

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) _____

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)

(over)

6-3862,AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Powell, Wesley Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0710508
2. Organization 15th Gp Commander Kool (full name) Rank Col Sqn CO Unknown (full name) Rank Lt. Col
3. What year 1944 month Sept. day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 10, target, Blechammer, target time, 11:30, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, 16th Mer., route flown 16 Mer.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Blechammer
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". Every one is in the states.
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) alone
11. Where were they in aircraft? Ne
12. What was their condition? Good
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. Can't remember any details now. However I gave some to the S-2 of 15th AF at Bari.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
Office of The Operations Officer

14 Sept 44

SUBJECT: Eyewhitness description of missing aircraft.

TO : Whom it may concern.

1. While on the mission of Sept 13, 1944, ship 239 was last seen with No. two (2) engine feathered and ship lose altitude to about (5C0) feet. The plane was then lost from sight and not seen to crash.

Ethridge G. Preston

ETHRIDGE G. PRESTON,
T/Sgt, Engineer.

Incl 1 to Mac Report (Lt Powell, Gunn)