maer
8366

daught

DATE: 9/8/44 - 10.30 hrs.
PLACE: near Belgrad.
TYPE: Liberator

740 (H.B.) Sqd.
455 Group - 304 Wing
AIRBASE: Cerignola.
TARGET: Evaluation Point South-east.

Rank	Name	U.S.A. 470	No: NE 2093
2nd/Lt.	Rogers, W.	ø	missing
2nd/Lt.	Crowford, W.		missing
F/O.	Rikes		missing
2nd/Lt.	Koo, Wike (Chinese)		missing
Sgt.	Wagner, G.E.		missing
S/Sgt.	Barker, James Eddie	34579761	
Sgt.	Porter, Loland		missing
S/Sgt.	Smidt, Rudolph C.		missing
Sgt.	Ferri, Howard		missing
Sgt.	Diles, Curtis		missing

AFPPA-11

File # 8366

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: KOO, Waldo (NMI)
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-706741
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight/Fighter~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 30 km. South of Belgrade, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? ———

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Command to bail out.

Was he injured? Yes, fractured ring finger of right hand + small hole in chest.

Where was he when last seen? In the 17th Gen. Hosp in Bari, Italy.

Any hearsay information: He sent me a post card from his home in Santa Ana, Calif last December (1945)

Source: Wm L. Rogers

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I presume with all degree of surity that the party in question is well and alive at his home in Calif. Evidently some slip had been made on your records.

Total number of missions of abcve crew member: 19 at time of Sept 1944

Dates and destinations if possible: not possible.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 8366

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: KOO, Waldo (NMI)
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-706741
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA.

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? 455th GP. 746th SQDN APO 520

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 17-?

Dates and destinations if possible: AUG 1-44 to SEPT 8-44

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 8366

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: KOO, Waldo (NMI)
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-706741
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Fighter/Fighter~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? About two miles north-west of Belgrade, Yugoslavia

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I was flying nose turret when burst of flak got our ship and ripped bombadiers (Cont. (Below)

Was he injured? Yes. He had a peice of flak in his nose and two fingers partly severed.

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Waldo Koo, AAF Bombadier) was returned to his base in Italy on Sept. 20, 1944. He was hospitalized about two months but afterwards finished his tour and returned to the United States. I received a card from him in December 1945. There has evidently been a mistake as to his status.

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

oxygen mask off. His ear-phones were disconnected and didn't get the "bail out" signal. I got out of nose turret and shoved him through the nose wheel hatch.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

File # 8366

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: KOO, Waldo (NMI)
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-706741
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight Officer (Navigator)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BELGRADE, YOUGOSLAVIA

If not, why not?

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

"BOMBS AWAY"

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information:

LT. KOO EVADED THE ENEMY AND RETURNED TO ITALY WITH 6 OTHER CREW MEMBERS. HE WAS STILL IN ITALY WHEN I LEFT FEB. 24. 1945

Source: I WAS WITH HIM

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 17 AT THAT TIME

Dates and destinations if possible: FROM AUG 1 UNTIL SEPT. 8, 1944 MOST OF OUR MISSIONS WERE TO S. HER. FRANCE AND THE BALKANS.

6-3861, AF

8366

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by [redacted] BRADUMAS, Lt. Col., AC
by [redacted], Capt., AC
Date [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

RTD 9. Gunner Porter, Leland (NMI) Sgt 35875667 Bertie G. Porter (Mother) RTD
1445 S. Limestone St. Vincent H. Kentucky

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. Colby, Chester L.	1st Lt	0-704398			X	
2. Jepson, James E.	T/Sgt	16030495			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, aircraft crashed on enemy territory.

Date of this Report: 11 September 1944

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

3 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement of Lt. Colby
Incl 2 - Statement of T/Sgt Jepson
Incl 3 - Sketch Where Aircraft Last Seen

RECEIVED OCT 3 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed to RESTRICTED
by E. A. SMADUMAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [illegible], Capt., AC
Date [illegible]

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

8366

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 Fld. Course Direct Target 44° 47'N 20° 28'E Type of Mission Combat

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: CAVU

4. GIVE: (a) Date 9-8-44 Time 1037 Location 44° 45'N/20 22'E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: ( ) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio
( ) Forced Down (X) 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-24J AAF Serial No 42-51624

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) CP 325133 (b) CP 325187 (c) CP 325178 (d) CP 325133

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) 1033718 Browning Cal .50 M2 (b) 1033821 Browning Cal.50 M2
(c) 1033722 (d) 1033570
(e) 1033634 (f) 1033731
(g) 1034406 1548976 (h) 1033188 1537098

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 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
1.	Pilot	Rogers, William L.	2nd Lt	0-699771	Mrs. Frances Rogers Wife, Box 137 Manteno, Illinois (RTD)
2.	Co-Pilot	Crawford, William B.	2nd Lt	0-714033	Ora Crawford Mother, 1724 26th St. Lubbock, Texas (RTD)
3.	Bombardier	Koo, Waldo (NMI)	2nd Lt	0-706741	Ai Joo Koo Mother, 112 So. Main St. Santa Ana, California
4.	Engineer	Schmidt, Rudolph C	S/Sgt	35793101	Amelia Schmidt Mother, 124 Piedmont St. Cincinnati, Ohio (RTD)
5.	Radio	Barker, James E.	S/Sgt	34579761	Pearl S. Barker Mother, Roopville, Georgia (RTD)
6.	Gunner	Wagner, Gerald E.	Sgt	13121537	Minnie F. Wagner Mother, RFD #6, Box 62 Roanoke, Virginia (RTD)
7.	Gunner	Ford, Howard A.	Sgt	35273213	Helen Ford Mother, 27 W. State St. Springfield, Ohio (RTD)
8.	Gunner	Diles, Curtis Jr.	Sgt	35774779	Lena Diles Mother, 3153 Walnut St. Portsmouth, Ohio (RTD)

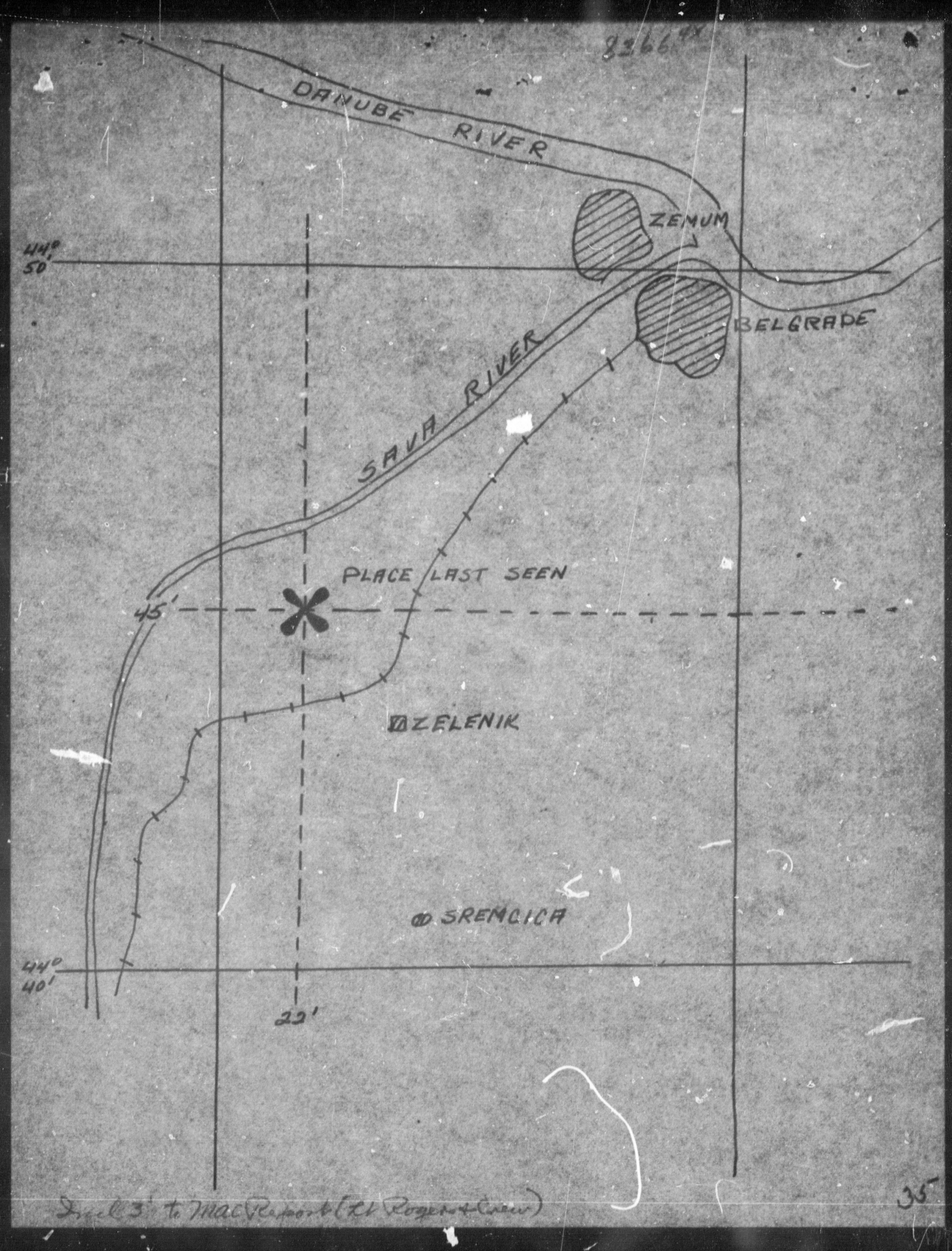
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No. 578

Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)

31



Encl 3 to MAC Report (XI Rogers Crew)

35

mlw/12/12/44

2nd. Lt. William L. Rogers	Mrs. Frances G. Rogers, (Wife) Box 127, Kankakee, Illinois.
2nd. Lt. William H. Crawford	Mrs. Ora M. Crawford, (Mother) 1/24-26 Street, Lubbock, Texas.
2nd. Lt. Waldo Koo	Mrs. Ai K. Koo, (Mother) 112 South Main Street, Santa Ana, California.
S/Sgt. Rudolph C. Schmidt	Mrs. Amelia D. Schmitt, (Mother) 124 Piedmont Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.
S/Sgt. James E. Barker	Mrs. Pearl S. Barker, (Mother) General Delivery, Roopville, Georgia.
Sgt. Gerald Z. Wagner	Mrs. Minnie V. Wagner, (Mother) Rural Free Delivery Number Six, Box 62. Roanoke, Virginia.
Sgt. Howard A. Ford	Mrs. Helen M. Ford, (Mother) 27 West State Street, Springfield, Ohio.
Sgt. Curtis Miles, Jr.	Mrs. Lena Miles, (Mother) 3153 Walnut Street, Portsmouth, Ohio.
Sgt. Leland Porter	Mrs. Nanda M. Porter, (Wife) 1145 South Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky.

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8434

Rank:	Name:	KU 930 a
T/Sgt.	ENDRUSICK, Stanley Anthony	13355886 .
S/Sgt.	KEPLER, Horace Freebel	16052198 .
S/Sgt.	LAWLOR, John Joseph	13100191 .
S/Sgt.	LOWRY, Basil F.	14119472 .

Date: 8 August 44
Place: Paris
Type of craft: Fortress

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN: 8 Aug. 1944 CASUALTY NO. HU 930 A

PLACE OF CRASH: Paris

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE: Stalag XIII A, Limburg

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
REDNUSICK, Stanley Anthony 14 Aug. 1923 USA	T/Sgt.	13055886	captured	Stalag XIII A
KEPNER, Norman Froebel 1923 Bloomington, Ill.	S/Sgt.	16052198	"	"
LAWLOR, John Joseph 1924 Pa.	S/Sgt.	13103191	"	"

REMARKS:

Dulag-Luft, 25 Sep. 1944 We.

We were flying a nine man crew the day we were shot down and Waldo Koo was flying as bombadier-navigator. This fact probably gave reason for someone to assume that one crew member is still missing. I am almost certain that all members of our crew have been returned to the states and discharged by this time.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Curtis Diles Jr. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 35774779

2. Organization 455BG. Gp Commander W.L. Snowden (full name) Rank L.Col. Sqn CO _____ (full name) Rank _____

3. What year 1944 month Sept. day 8th. did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Bombing (17th), target, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, target time, 10:10, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, Unknown _____, route flown Unknown

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". All crew members bailed out about two miles northwest of the target in the following order: Waldo Koo (Bombadier); Curtis Diles Jr. (Nose Gunner); James Barker (Radio Op); Gerald Wagner (Waist Gunner); Leland Porter (Tail Gunner); Howard Ford (Ball Gunner); Rudolph Schmidt (Engineer); Pilot & Co-Pilot

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About a mile n-west of target

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

The plane was hit by flak over the target. Lt. Koo and Lt. Rogers (the pilot) were both wounded. Lt. Koo was hit in the right hand and the nose. We all bailed within one minute totally.

Lt. Koo didn't fly and remained in the 26 General Hosp. at Bari, Italy for several weeks.

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name PORTER, LELAND Rank S/SGT Serial No. 35815667

2. Organization A.E Gp Commander SNOWDEN (full name) Rank LT. COL. Sqn CO HARP D.A.-I.O.S. (full name) Rank LT. COL.

3. What year 1944 month SEPT day 9 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, R.R. BRIDGE, target, BELGRADE, YUGO., target time, ABOUT 1000 AM., altitude, 18000 FT. route scheduled, FROM, FOGGIA ITALY, TO BELGRADE; route flown SAME

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

6. Did you bail out? YES

7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES. 9 MEN 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". IN THE TAIL OF THE PLANE WE RAISED THE ESCAPE HATCH DOOR AND STEPPED OUT. I DONT KNOW HOW THEY GOT OUT OF THE NOSE.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 3 or 4 MILES FROM BELGRADE

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? JAMES E. BARKER WAS TAKEN PRISONER UPON LANDING. I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM SINCE. HE IS HOME SAFE NOW.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I KNOW OF NO MISSING CREW MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ROGERS, WILLIAM LANE Rank 1ST LT. (ORD) Serial No. O-699 771

2. Organization 15th AF Gp Commander COOL (full name) Rank COL. Sqn CO DAVID HARP (full name) Rank LT. COL.

3. What year 1944 month SEPT. day 8 did you go down? YES.

4. What was the mission, (BRIDGES) BELGRADE, target, BRIDGE, target time, APPOX 1000, altitude, 18500 route scheduled, AS FLOWN, route flown

5. Where were you when you left formation? 1 MINUTE PAST TARGET

6. Did you bail out? YES

7. Did other members of crew bail out? ALL 9 MEMBERS 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". JAMES BARKER S/SGT. WAS TAKEN PRISONER BUT ALL OTHERS WERE HELPED OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY THE CHETNIKS OR PARTISANS. BARKER IS NOW BACK SAFE IN GEORGIA. ALL CREW MEMBERS ARE HOME + SAFE.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 30 KM SOUTH OF BELGRADE.

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? ALL MEMBERS ARE SAFE AT HOME PER CARDS OR LETTERS.

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

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WAGNER, GERALD E. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 13121537

2. Organization 455TH Gp Commander (full name) W.L. SNODEN Rank LT. COL Sqn CO (full name) HARP Rank LT. COL

3. What year 1944 month SEPT. day 8 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BELGRADE, YUGO., target, RAILWAY BRIDGE, target time, 10.45, altitude, 18,500 FT. / route scheduled, —, route flown —

5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA.

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". ALL CREW MEMBERS BAILED OUT. RADIO OPERATOR, JAMES E. BARKER WAS TAKEN PRISONER. REMAINDER OF CREW RETURNED TO ALLIED CONTROL WITH IN 38 DAYS.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? APPROX. 4 MILES SOUTH OF BELGRAD

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

8366

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

10 September 1944

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

We were returning from the mission when I noticed ship #624 pull out of formation and go into a spin. It levelled off to some extent and I saw two chutes appear, then the ship went into another spin and crashed. Other members of the crew reported a total of nine chutes opening. The ship exploded and burned upon hitting the ground. Action of the ship indicated that it may have been flying on automatic pilot.

James E Jepson

JAMES E. JEPSON, 16030495
T/Sgt, 740 Bomb Sq (H)
Engineer.

Encl 2 to Mac Report (Lt Rogers & Crew)

34

8366²

740TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

10 September 1944

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description.

TO : Whom It May Concern.

Lt. Rogers' plane was seen to make a gentle peel-off to the left while in the flak over Belgrade. Apparently some of his controls were shot out, as he still had four engines working and no fires were observed. Eight chutes were seen to leave the ship before it crashed into the side of a hill.

Chester L. Colby
CHESTER L. COLBY
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

Incl 1 to MAC Report (Lt Rogers & Crew)

33