MACR
9130
B-24
10 men
AAF #2-51912

DATE: 14 Oct. 1944 at 1400
PLACE: [illegible] West of Bleiburg (Kearnten)
TYPE: Liberator
74lst (H.B.)Sqd. 456th Grp.
BASE: San Giovanni
TARGET: AP Command XVII

See original record. Brewer has quotation mark for A with symbol following Stella's name.

SD Case #2750

	U.S.A.		
KIA	1st Lt.	HOKE, JOHN, JR.	0-713874 missing
EUS	2nd Lt.	SHOSTACK, Walter	0-711286 .
EUS	"	OSTRANDER, Elijah JR.	0-2057938 .
KIA	"	RUTTER, EDWARD W.	0776804 dead
KIA	Cpl.	SPICER, ROBERT E.	16 081722
EUS	Sgt.	DUENTZ, Alexander	35221661 .
EUS	Cpl.	KNOPPLE, Jack Richard	37557027 .
POD	"	STELLA, JOHN J.	31325818 dead KIA
POD	"	BREWER, ROBERT E.	AR18452 dead KIA
KIA	"	SHROPSHIRE, CHARLES T.	-- KIA

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted], Jr, John (MMI) File # 9130
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: O-713874
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

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

SHOOK HANDS AND SAID GOODBYE AND JUMPED

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? LAST SEEN WHEN CHUTE OPENED

Any hearsay information: _____

NO

Source: _____

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

I BELEIVE HE WAS KILLED BY CIVILIANS AT BLEIBURG.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35? APPROX.

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

I DON'T KNOW

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted] File # [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? yes

Where? IN THE VACINITY OF FOLK BURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I LAST TALKED WITH HIM JUST BEFORE I BAILED OUT OF THE PLANE

Was he injured? SLIGHT CUT ON FOREHEAD FROM WINDSHELD GLASS.

Where was he when last seen? IN THE PILOTS SEAT OF OUR SHIP

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I DID NOT SEE HIS CHUTE OPEN, BUT LATER I TALKED TO THE COPILOT AND HE SAID THAT HE DEFINITELY SAW NOSKE'S CHUTE OPEN.

Total number of missions of above crew member: IN THE VACINITY OF 45

Dates and destinations if possible: NOT KNOWN.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank:
Serial number:
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? Not certain

Where? Believe near Lavamund Austria

If not, why not? Believed badly Injured

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

Pilot told us to stand by and tried to make it back. Later we had to leave the ship.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Austria

Any hearsay information: No

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Fifty Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 14 OCT 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? NO Knowledge

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: I LAST SAW Lt. NOSKE when I left my Radio About Twenty Minutes BEFORE TARGET time AND went to a WAIST GUN POSITION. I NEVER SAW his PARACHUTE. HOWEVER, I WAS probably obstructed from view AS I LANDed in the woods

Total number of missions of above crew member: 47 (ESTIMATE)

Dates and destinations if possible: THE three I WAS with him WERE: Oct 12 - BOLOGNA, ITALY: Oct 13 - CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR HUNGARY: Oct 14 OBERTAL, GERMANY

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted] Edward William [redacted] Pilot # 1030
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? KILLED BY FLAK IN PLANE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He said "Bombs away" over the interphone and then we were hit

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE OF SHIP

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was in the nose of the ship when we received a direct hit in the nose. There was nothing left when I looked forward but parts of his body.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct. 12 Bologna Italy; Oct. 13 Budapest Hungry? Oct. 14 Bleakhammer Oil Refineries near Krakow.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank:
Serial number:
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? Believed to have been killed when shell exploded in nose

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: 1st Ruyter is believed to have been killed when a shell exploded in the nose knocking off the whole nose.

Source: From crew members on flight deck before bailing out.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: three

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 12 – Bologna, Italy
Oct 13 – Czechoslovakia or Hungary
Oct 14 – Oberpfal, Germany

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank:
Serial number:
Position: Crew (Bomber)

Did he bail out? NO

Where?

If not, why not? He was also killed by flak

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

Heard him say "bombs away" and then we were hit.

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen? Austria went down with plane

Any hearsay information: Engineer told me over interphone Ruyter and Stella had both been killed by Flak over target. He went to the nose to see what was wrong and saw the nose all shot and both of our fellows dead.

Source: Engineer Robert Spicer

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Fourth Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 14 OCT. 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MUTTER, Edward William File # 9130
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-776804
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Bombardier

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? KILLED BY EXPLODING SHELL

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

INTERPHONE - BOMBS AWAY

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: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

(1) ? (2) BOLOGNA (3) BLECHHAMMER

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted] File # 930
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BLIEBURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: LAST CONVERSATION JUST BEFORE TAKE OFF.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? I SAW HIM BAIL OUT OF PLANE

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: THE CIVILIANS IN THAT AREA WERE VERY HOSTILE. I HEARD A GREAT DEAL OF SHOOTING THE NIGHT WE BAILED OUT. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE CIVILIANS COULD HAVE EASILY GOTTEN TO HIM BEFORE THE POLICE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: OCT. 12 BOLONOGA ITALY; OCT. 13 BUDAPEST HUNGRY? OCT. 14 BLEAK HAMMER OIL REFINERIES NEAR KRAKOW.

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank:
Serial number:
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR BLEIBURG, AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I WAS with cpl SHROPSHIRE IN the WAIST of the PLANE

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN WAIST of PLANE

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I SAW cpl SHROPSHIRE BAIL OUT of the PLANE. I SAW his CHUTE OPEN AND followed him ALL the WAY to the GROUND. HE SEEMED to HAVE LANDED ALL RIGHT. After this I hit the ground LOST TRACK of him

Total number of missions of above crew member: THREE

Dates and destinations if possible: oct 12 - BOLOGNA, ITALY
oct 13 - CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR HUNGARY
oct 14 - OBERTAL, GERMANY

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Ladamund, Austria

If not, why not? _____

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

He was in waist with me. We had planned on getting together on ground

Was he injured? ~~Was not injured when he was in plane~~

Where was he when last seen? ~~Austria~~

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: Fourth Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 14 OCT 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SURCESHIRE, Charles T File # 9130
Rank: Cpl
Serial number: 20234097
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted] Armorer and Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

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

JUST PRIOR TO BAILING OUT

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? WAS NEVER SEEN AFTERWARDS

Any hearsay information: _____

NO

Source: _____

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

INASMUCH AS ALL THE CREW MEMBERS [redacted] WERE UNINJURED WHEN THEY BAILED OUT AND THOSE WHO ARE ALIVE WERE CAUGHT FAR AWAY FROM BLEIBURG. I THINK THOSE WHO WERE NEVER

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

1-? (2) BOLOGNA, (3) BLECHHAMMER

HEARD FROM WERE KILLED AT BLEIBURG EITHER BY CIVILIANS OR BY SOLDIERS. I THINK THEY WERE KILLED BY CIVILIANS BECAUSE I WAS FIRED UPON BY A CIVILIAN. 6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted] File # [redacted]
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? YES

Where? IN THE VACINITY OF BLIEBURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: WE DECIDED THAT OUR FUEL WOULDN'T TRANSFER AND THAT WE HAD BETTER BAIL OUT.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? I SAW HIM BAIL OUT.

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE AND OUR TAIL GUNNER BAILED OUT ON THE SAME CHUTE. ROBERT BREWER OUR TAIL GUNNER LOST HIS CHUTE WHEN WE WERE HIT. SPICER SAID HE WOULD TAKE BREWER WITH HIM. THE CHUTE OPENED OK AND AS FAR AS I COULD SEE THEY STAYED TOGETHER. I DID NOT SEE THEM AGAIN.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: OCT. 12 BOLONOGA ITALY; OCT. 13 BUDAPEST HUNGRY?; OCT. 14 BLEAK HAMMER OIL REFINERIES NEAR KRAKOW

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR BIELBURG, AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I TALKED with Col SPICER OVER the INTERPHONE BEFORE BAILING OUT

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Col SPICER took the tail GUNNER, NAMELY ROBERT BREWER, ON OUR PLANE down IN THE SAME CHUTE WITH HIM DUE to the loss of the tail GUNNERS CHUTE. I SAW THEIR PARACHUTE OPEN. I COULDN'T follow them to the ground

Total number of missions of above crew member: THREE.

Dates and destinations if possible: OCT 12 - BOLOGNA, ITALY
OCT 13 - CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR HUNGARY
OCT 14 - OBERTAL, GERMANY

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Lavamund, Austria

If not, why not? _____

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

He and tail gunner bailed out together

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? ~~Austria~~

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Fourth Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 14 OCT 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SPICER, Robert E File # 9130
Rank: Cpl
Serial number: 16081722
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~[illegible]~~ Engineer and Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

If not, why not? _____

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

JUST PRIOR TO BAILING OUT

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN PLANE PRIOR TO JUMP

Any hearsay information: _____

NO

Source: _____

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

I BELIEVE HE WAS KILLED BY CIVILIANS AT BLEIBURG.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

1-? (1) BOLOGNA (2) BLECHAMMER

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted] 11th # 9130
Rank: 2d
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? KILLED BY FLAK IN PLANE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: LAST TALKED TO JOHN STELLA JUST AFTER TAKE OFF.

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE TURRET

Any hearsay information: NO

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I DID NOT ACTUALLY SEE HIM GET KILLED BUT I LOOKED IN THE NOSE OF THE SHIP AFTER WE WERE HIT AND THE TURRET IN WHICH HE WAS STATIONED WAS PRACTICALLY DEMOLISHED AND ONLY ~~HUMAN REMAINS~~ PARTS OF BODIES WERE LEFT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: OCT. 12 - BOLONDGA ITALY; OCT. 13 BUDAPEST HUNGRY?; OCT. 14 BLECKHAMMER OIL REFINERIES NEAR KRAKOW

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank:
Serial number:
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? Believed to have been killed when shell exploded in nose

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: Cpl Stella was the nose gunner and is believed to have been killed when a direct hit exploded in the nose knocking off the whole front part of the aeroplane

Source: From crew members on flight deck before bailing out

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: three

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 12 - Bologna, Italy
Oct 13 - Czechoslovakia or Hungary
Oct 14 - Obertal, Germany

6-3861, AF

6 AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: [redacted]
Rank: [redacted]
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) [redacted]

Did he bail out? He was killed by flak.

Where? Over target

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: Engineer said over interphone he had been killed by flak

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: On four th mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 14 OCT 1944

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: STELLA, John J File # 9130
Rank: Cpl
Serial number: 31325818
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Pilot Co-Pilot Navigator Bombardier~~ Aerial Gunner NOSE GUNNER

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? KILLED IMMEDIATELY BY EXPLODING SHELL

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

INTERPHONE - NEAR TARGET AREA

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: 3

Dates and destinations if possible:

1 - 3

2 - BOLOGNA, ITALY 13 OCT 44 3 - BLECHAMMER - GERMANY 7 OCT 44

6-3861, AF

9130

CONFIDENTIAL

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



CONFIDENTIAL

I heard gun fire in the valley for
Two days after I landed. It
was very light gun fire. Some
of our crew carried forty-fives.
I was not taken prisoner
until Oct. 26 During the twelve
days I was trying to get out
of Austria I never did see
any of my crew.

My Present Address:
Mr. Jack R Koepple
Box 439
Roswell, New Mexico

Please let me know what
you can find about the boys
still missing.

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

741st Bombardment Squadron (H)
455th Bombardment Group (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

17 October 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report

TO : Commanding Officer, 455th Bombardment Group (H) APO 520 US ARMY

1. Transmitted herewith, Missing Air Crew Report of 1st Lt. JOHN (NMI) NOSKE JR, O-713874, and Crew, MIA over Odertal, Germany, 14 October 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

JOHN F. DAVIS,
Capt. Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: MAC Report, NOSKE and Crew, w/2 Incls (sept)

1st Ind. G-CO-5

HQ 455TH BOMB GROUP (H), APO 520, 18 October 1944.

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520.

1. Forwarded.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded to Hq Fifteenth Air Force 15 October 1944.

For the Group Commander:

C. A. OLSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 incl: n/c

OCT 18 1944 11 49 AM

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

- 1 -

785

CONFIDENTIAL

(627) 360.33 C-DB-5 2nd Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 19 October 1944.
TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

15855

HQW H.G.W.

1 Incl: n/c

OCT 20 1944 10 18 AM

/

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 5

CONFIDENTIAL

m 4c (1)

AG 360.33/030-C Wrapper Ind. OE/ak
HQ., NATOUSA, APO 534, U.S. Army, 28 October 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
(Att: Statistical Control Division).

Forwarding Missing Air Crew Reports carrying AG Casualty Branch Control Numbers 785 thru 797 inclusive.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

Owen Elliot

OWEN ELLIOT,
Major, AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

13 Incls: as above.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~Classification changed to~~ ~~RESTRICTED~~ CONFIDENTIAL

by E. A. [redacted], Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MONNON, Capt., AC
Date: [redacted]

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9130

1. Unit: [redacted]an Giovanni Field, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AAF
Group 455th Bomb Group (H) Squadron 741st Bomb Squadron (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure San Giovanni Field, Italy Course Direct
Target Odertal, Germany Type of mission Operational

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
6/10 Cumulus at 16,000 feet

4. GIVE: (a) Date 14 Oct 44 Time 1232 hr. Last known position 50°25'N - 18°05'E
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, ( ) Seen to crash,
( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) [redacted] AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
( ) Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24-J AAF Serial Number 42-51912

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65-A AAF Serial Number (a) BP-448255
(b) BP-448239 (c) BP-448404 (d) BP-448577

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.) Browning M2 .50 Cal.

(a)	1037888	(e)	1034876	(i)	1316823
(b)	1037789	(f)	1037831	(j)	1316825
(c)	1038020	(g)	1030789	(k)	
(d)	1037771	(h)	1037986	(l)	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 10 .
(If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial) RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	NOSKE JR., JOHN (NMI) 1st Lt. O-713874	MIA	Betty Noske, Wife, 116 E 6th St. Hobart, Oklahoma
(2) Co-Pilot	SHOSTACK, WALTER (NMI) 2nd Lt. O-711256	MIA	V. G. Shostack, Father, 668 Riverside Dr., New York City, New York RTD
(3) Navigator	OSTRANDER JR., ELIJAH 2nd Lt. O-2057992	MIA	Elijah Ostrander Sr., Father, 4388 S. Pine Ave., Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin RTD
(4) Bombardier	RUYTER, EDWARD WILLIAM 2nd Lt. O-776804	MIA	Emma Ruyter, Mother, 412 N. Bradford St., Dover, Delaware.
(5) Rad-Op-Gunr	Dubetz, Alexander (NMI) Cpl. 35231661	MIA	Mary Dubetz, Mother, 1159 Murry Ave. Akron, Ohio RTD
(6) Eng-Gunner	Keopple, Jack R. Cpl. 37657027	MIA	Marie Keopple, Mother, 106 S. 1st Ave. Marshalltown, Iowa RTD
(7) Eng-Gunner	Spicer, Robert E. Cpl. ✗16081722	MIA	Betty J. Spicer, wife, c/o Arthur Lawter, RR#2, Weatherford, Oklahoma
(8) Asst-Gunner	Shropshire, [redacted] Charles Cpl. ✗20234097	MIA	Charles T. Shropshire, Sr., Father, 135 Kingsbridge Rd. Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
(9) Aer-Gunner	Brewer, Robert E. Cpl. 18184521	MIA	Marilyn S. Brewer, Wife, 1912 Ave Q Lubbock, Texas
(10) Aer-Gunner	[redacted] Stella, John J. Cpl. ✗31325818	MIA	Alfonsina Stella, Mother, 87 Birdsall St. Winsted, Conn.
(11)			
(12)			

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST BY RADIO	SAW ASSISTED	SAW CRASH	FORCED LANDING
(1) George J. Huber	Pvt.	35235941		X		
(2)						
(3)						

RECEIVED

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
( ) Parachutes were used. ( ) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
( ) Other reasons (specify) No parachutes used, plane was under control when last seen.

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None-Plane was over Enemy Territory

2 Inclosures.
Incl 1 Sketch of Area
Incl 2 Statement of Huber

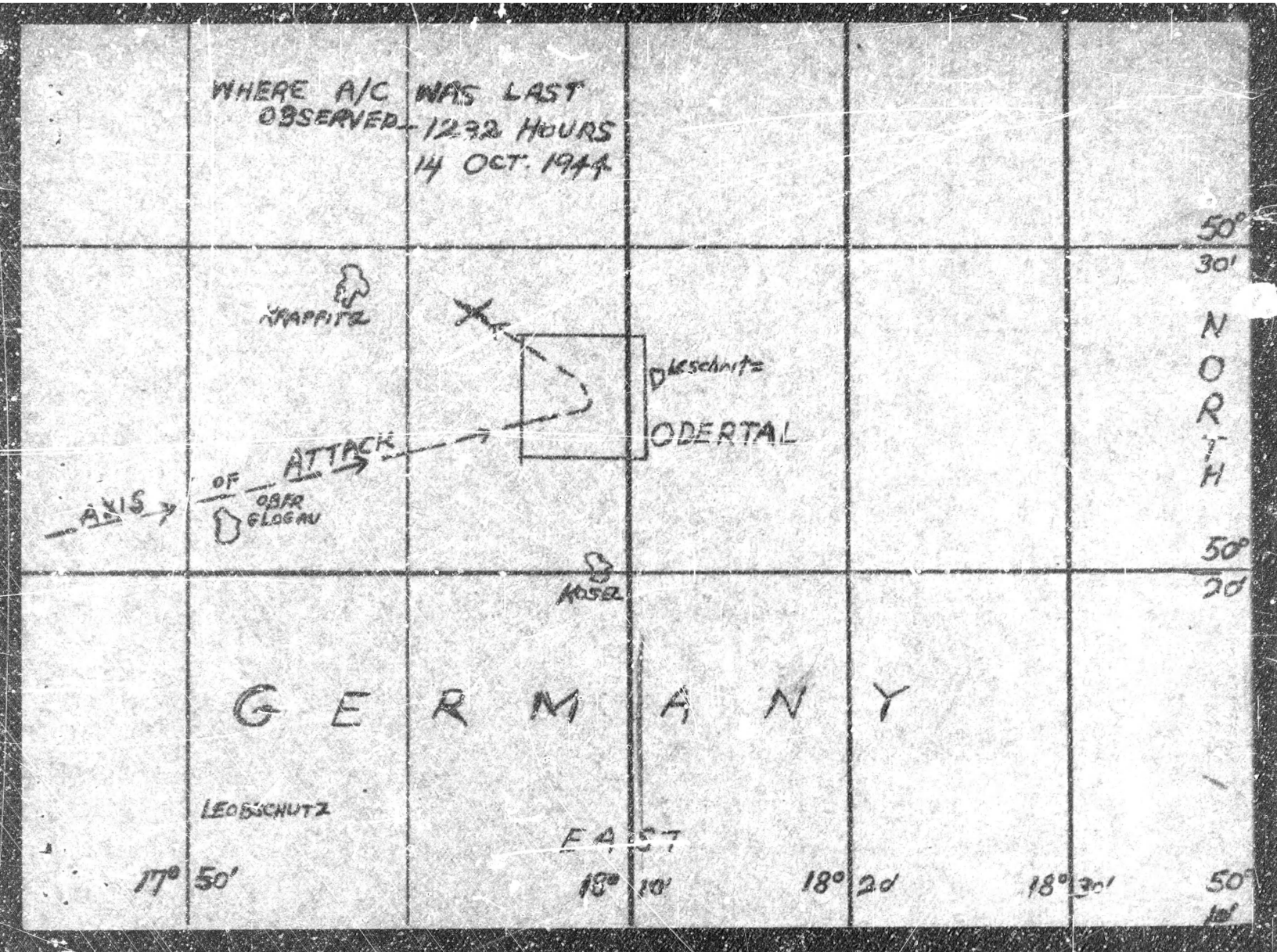
Date 17 Oct 44

Signature of preparing officer
JOHN F. DAVIS,
Capt. Air Corps, Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

Rec'd

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 735001
By: NARA NARA Date: 1973



1st Lt. John Noske Jr.	Mrs. Betty Noske (Wife) 116 East 6th Street, Hobart, Oklahoma.
2nd Lt. Walter Shostack	Mrs. Goldie G. Shostack, (Wife) 1027 Riverview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.
2nd Lt. Elijah Ostrander Jr.	Mr. Elijah Ostrander, (Father) 4388 South Pine Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
2nd Lt. Edward W. Ruyter	Mrs. Emma M. Ruyter, (Mother) 412 North Bradford Street, Dover, Delaware.
Cpl. Alexander Dubetz	Mrs. Mary N. Dubetz, (Mother) 1159 Murray Avenue, Akron, Ohio.
Cpl. Jack R. Keopple	Mrs. Marie Keopple (Mother) 106 South First Avenue, Marshalltown, Iowa.
Cpl. Robert E. Spicer	Mrs. Betty J. Spicer, (Wife) C/O A. Lawter, Route #2, Weatherford, Oklahoma.
Cpl. Charles T. Shropshire	Colonel Charles T. Shropshire (Father) 135 Kingsbridge Road, Mount Vernon, New York.
Cpl. Robert L. Brewer	Mrs. Marilyn Sue Brewer, (Wife) Box 697, Merkel, Texas.
Cpl. John J. Stella	Mr. James Stella, (Father) 87 Birdsall Street, Winsted, Connecticut.

Meldung über den Abschuß eines feindlichen Flugzeuges
U.S.A.

Abschuß-Nr. ME 2163

Abschußtag und Zeit: 14.10.44 - 14.00

Abschußort: W. Bleiburg

Flugzeugtyp: Liberator

Meldende Dienststelle: Lfg. XVII

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienstgrad	Erk.-Marke:	gef.: verw.: tot:	Verbleib: welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grabl age
√ SHOSTACK 1.12.21	Walter Stratford Ct.	1.Lt.	0-711256	gef. Dulag-Luft West
√ KNOPPLE 4.3.23	Jack Richard Marshalltown, Iowa	Opl.	37657027	gef. Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen: MACR-9130

DULAG-LUFT, den 16.11.44 Wo.

Date and Time Aircraft was shot down: 14 October 1944 at 1400 — Mission No. [illegible]

Place of Crash: W. Bleiburg

Type of Aircraft: Liberator

Squadron & Group: [illegible] Air Division AAFE

Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of Interment
SUNDRAM Walter 1 Dec.21 Stratford Ct.	1st Lt	0-711256	captured	Bulag Left West
KNOWLE Jack Richard 4 March 23 Marshalltown, Iowa	Sgt.	37657027	"	ditto
Mission No. [illegible]	1. Supplement dated 21 December 1944			
[illegible] Alexander 2nd March 24 Uniontown, Ohio	Sgt.	35231661	"	ditto
Mission No. [illegible]	2. Supplement dated 26 January 1945			
[illegible] Ralph Sr.	2nd Lt	0-2057992	"	ditto

ALLEUS

Bulag Left, 26 November 1944

Air Ops Command A (O) 14/XII.

[redacted]

[redacted]

American Prisoners of War [redacted]

1 - Corporal [redacted]

[redacted]-2265

Air Base Command A (O) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

1Lt. Ostrander, Elijah [redacted]

Sgt. Dubuts, Alex [redacted]

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DUBETZ, ALEXANDER Rank C/O (Pilot) Serial No. 35231661

2. Organization 455 Bomb Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO REEDER Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month OCTOBER day 14 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, OBERTAL, GERMANY, target, OIL REFINERY, target time, 12:30, altitude, 20,000 ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

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

6. Did you bail out? YES I BAILED OUT LATER

7. Did other members of crew bail out? [redacted] SHROPSHIRE, KEOPPLE, SPICER, BREWER, OSTRANDER, SHOSTACK; NO KNOWLEDGE OF NOSKE; STELLA, RUYTER believed to have been killed over target

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". BREWER BAILED OUT WITH SPICER IN PARACHUTE; KEOPPLE, OSTRANDER, SHOSTACK AND MYSELF BAILED OUT IN THE VICINITY OF BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? IN THE VICINITY OF BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

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

11. Where were they in aircraft? STELLA & RUYTER WERE IN THE NOSE. NOSKE WAS PILOT

12. What was their condition? STELLA, RUYTER WERE DEAD. NO KNOWLEDGE OF NOSKE

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I LAST SAW SHROPSHIRE WHEN WE BAILED OUT. I FOLLOWED HIS PARACHUTE TO THE GROUND & HE SEEMED OK. I LAST SAW SPICER & BREWER IN THE AIR. THEIR CHUTE HAD OPENED. I COULD NOT FOLLOW THEM TO THE GROUND. THIS WAS ABOUT 1340 IN THE VICINITY OF BLEIBURG AUSTRIA

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 Jack Richard Keopple Rank Sgt. Serial No. 376 [redacted]7027

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO Reeder Rank Major
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month Oct. day 14 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Fourth, target, Odertal, Ger, target time, _____, altitude, 20,000 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". Robert Brewer Tail gunner bailed out on same chute as Spicer

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 15 miles from Lavamund Austria

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Believe 2nd Lt. Edward Ruyter and John Stella both Ic, Hed over target.

11. Where were they in aircraft? In the nose

12. What was their condition? dead

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw my navigator, 2nd Lt. Elijah Ostrander Wetzlar, Germany. P.O.W. camp. He seemed all right except for his shoulder which he had sprained on landing.

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 ELIJAH (Wm) OSTRANDER JR. Rank 2ND LT. Serial No. O-2057992

2. Organization AC Gp Commander (NOT KNOWN) (full name) Rank ___ Sqn CO READER (full name) Rank MAJOR

3. What year 1944 month OCT. day 14 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, _____, target, BLEACKHAMMER O/E REF., target time, 1205 PM, altitude, 23000 route scheduled, TO BLEACKHAMMER & BACK NEAR KNOWN, route flown SAME

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". WALTER (CO-PILOT) HOSTACK BAILED OUT RIGHT AFTER MYSELF FROM THE BOMBAY IN VACINITY OF BLIEBURG AUSTRIA. JACK KOEPPLE AND ALEXANDER DUBETZ BOTH GUNNERS BAILED OUT OF REAR HATCH A FEW MINUTES BEFORE I BAILED OUT BOMBAY WE ALL WENT OUT IN THE VACINITY OF BLIEBURG AUSTRIA.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR BLIEBURG AUSTRIA

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) JOHN STELLA NOSE GUNNER AND EDWARD RUYTER BOMBARDIER HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED AND THERE REMAINS WERE IN THE PLANE.

11. Where were they in aircraft? BOTH IN THE NOSE.

12. What was their condition? DEAD

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WALTER SHORTALK Rank 2ND LT Serial No. 0-711257

2. Organization 455th Gp Commander Col SNOWDEN Rank Col Sqn CO ? Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month OCT day 14 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, BLECHHAMMER, target time, 11:30, altitude, 23,000 route scheduled, ?, route flown FROM CERIGNOLA ALMOST DIRECT

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

6. Did you bail out? YES BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY WE FLEW 1½ HRS

7. Did other members of crew bail out? ALL EXCEPT 2

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 BAILED OUT OVER LEIBURG AUSTRIA. THOSE STILL ALIVE ESCAPED FROM RAINBOW HOMEY.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? LEIBURG AUSTRIA

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) BOMBARDIER - NOSE GUNNER WAS BLOWN OUT WITH TURRET- NO RECOGNIZABLE PARTS OF EITHER

11. Where were they in aircraft? NOSE

12. What was their condition? DEAD AND MUTILATED BEYOND RECOGNITION

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? NAVIGATOR - IN PRISON CAMP

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

Air Base Command & (O)

Ref: Report of Capture

Subject: Parachuting

American Bomber (

Crew: Prisoner captured

Kaufbeuren on

Type of Plane: Unknown

Cause of crash:

Gun captive: Corporal

CASUALTY NO.
MIS-KRU-2205

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: 14 Oct. 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Bleiburg

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: - - -

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII - Klagenfurt - 22 Oct. 1944

CREW

SURNAME, AND Dubatz,
FIRST NAME: Alex.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: 35 231 661

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:
At Bleiburg - 16 Oct. 1944 at 12.00 o'clock
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
MK-KRU-2263

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN: 14 Oct. 1944

PLACE OF CRASH: Bleiburg

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: - - -

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII - Klagenfurt - 22 Oct. 1944

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: Ostrander, Elijah Jr.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Lieutenant

SERIAL NUMBER: O-2 057 992

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:
At Bleiburg - 16 Oct. 1944 at 12,00 o'clock
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

G-3224.A7(6)

CASUALTY NO.
MR-KSU-2263

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

MIA A 14 Oct 44

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN: 16 Oct. 1944 - Noon

PLACE OF CRASH: (Gau Corinthia) Raid on O. S. Industrial Area by flak - over target

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: - - -

REPORTING OFFICE: 7th Special A. F. Wing - Laibach - 5 Nov. 1944

CREW

SURNAME, ABB: Shosteck,
FIRST NAME: Walter

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: O-711 256 - T-44-44-B Protestant

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:
To Oberursel
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Captured in the hills east of Laibach 27 Oct. 1944 - at Noon

0-3234.AF(6)

67 8134

STATEMENT

The Aircraft #42-51912, piloted by Lt. Noske Jr., received a direct flak hit in the nose, severing part of the nose, directly over the target at 1233 hours at 20,000 feet. Immediately after being hit this aircraft began to lose altitude, gliding down in a spiral and apparently under contol. Further observation was impossible when plane disappeared in undercast.

George J. Huber

George J. Huber
Pvt. 35235941,
741st Bomb Sq.

Incl 2 to AHAC Noske's crew