CONFIDENTIAL

CASUALTY INFORMATION
(Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: McCauley, Richard T. (Name) 2nd Lt. (Rank) O-701617 (ASN)

742 (Squadron) 455 Gp (Group) 26 Aug 44 (Date of Casualty) 14 Sept 44 (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
MIA Co-pilot	Edwards	2nd Lt	Deceased
KIA Aerial engineer	Koblitz	S Sgt	Deceased BCR
KIA Rgt waist gnr	Tuthill	S Sgt	Deceased BCR
MIA Ball turret gnr	Peterson	S Sgt	Deceased
MIA Tail gunner	Rhodes	S Sgt	Deceased
MIA Nose gunner	Viken	T Sgt	Unknown

STATEMENT: All my beliefs are based on the word of Lt Kiesselback and Sgt Ambrosini for with the exception of Sgt Viken I was cut off from the others, being in the nose.

Lt Kiesselback and Sgt Ambrosini saw the lifeless bodies of Sgt David Koblitz and Sgt Bruce Tuthill near the wreckage of the plane. They were supposed to be buried near the town in Bulgaria where we were taken after capture. I do not know the name of that town.

Sgt Ambrosini saw Sgts Rhodes and Peterson pinned against the escape hatch when ship was in a spin.

Our captors claimed finding three dead bodies in the wreckage.

Sgt Viken left the ship at the same time I did, although we have found no trace of him since.

/s/ Richard T. McCauley

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

CASUALTY INFORMATION
(Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: Ambrosini, Edward (Name) T/Sgt (Rank) 32862617 (ASN)

742 (Squadron) 455 (Group) Aug. 26, 44 (Date of Casualty) Sept. 11, 44 (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
Pilot	Kieselbach, Edwin	1st Lt	Unknown
Co-Pilot	Edwards, John	2nd Lt	"
Bombardier	McCauley, Richard	1st Lt	"
Aerial Engineer	Koblitz, Dave	Sgt	Dead RCR
Top Turret Gnr	Tuthill, Bruce W	S/Sgt	Dead RCR
Tail Gunner	Rhodes, William	S/Sgt	Believed dead
Nose Gunner	Vikinn, Harold	S/Sgt	Believed to off bailed out.
Ball Turret	Stevenson, Willis	S/Sgt	Believed dead.

STATEMENT:

Bruce W. Tuthill and David Koblitz was found dead on side of mountain near crashed plane. Civilians of nearby town promised to bury them for us.
Tow is located at 42 - 10 N 20 - 49 E.
Rhodes and Stevenson were pinned on top of main hatch, they were thrown there by the terrific centrifugal force. They were still lying as I bailed out of waist window, seconds later the plane crashed. Civilians say they were in the plane.
Vikinn is still to be located, when the civilians counted the bodies in the plane there was one missing. I saw two men go out instantly, at the same time. It was the Bombardier and somebody behind him.
The pilot says the Co-Pilot was still in the plane when he left.

S/EDWARD AMBROSINI,
T/Sgt

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

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

AFPRA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9718

Name of crew member: AMBROSINI, EDWARD
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 32862617
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Radio Operator Gunner

This man was not a casualty

Did he bail out? YES

Where? N/west of Skoplje we walked from early morning until about 1500 then got on a small gauge railroad train arriving in Skoplje before sundown that evening

If not, why not? _____

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

This man returned t o the USA with me

Was he injured? Slight Flak wound

Where was he when last seen? Return to the USA

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 40

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONAIRE

Name of crew member : John EDWARDS

Rank : 2nd Lt

Serial number : unknown

Position : Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? N/West of Skpplje we walked from early morning until we reached the begining of a small narrow gauge railroad at about 1500 get on the train and arrived in Skopl je about one hour before sundown.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: This man was Co-Pilot I paid no attention to him during the attack by the five Me 109's However the no ## Three engine had been hit quite hard by the attacking Planes the top of this engine was severly damaged possibly he could have been wounded He said nothing nor did nothing during the attack or while I struggled with the ship as the engines intermittntly caught and ran away, He sat wedged in his corner after we started to spin I yelled to him to give me a hand and he still sat, When I determined that there was no chance (I had banged the Jump bell previously) waved for him to go . He stayed and I made my try. It was extremly hard to make the bomb bays in fact I believe I was thrown out, in a lucky break. This man had been on only one other mission.

Was he injured? Possiblye

Any hersay information : None

Total number of missions of above crew member : Two

Dates and destinations if possible : Bucharesti Roumania

AFPRA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File 9718

Name of crew member: KOBLITZ, David C.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 37255047
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes
Where? N/West of Skoplje, we walked from early morning until approx. 1500 got on a small gauge railroad and arrived in Skoplje Bulgaria before night fall that evening.
If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Transferring fuel to tanks that were not full of holes, This man bailed out but was hurled into the side of the mountain, instead of away from the abrupt side

Was he injured? His chute was opened but he had received a severe gash through the head.
Where was he when last seen? His body was located higher up the mountain than the air craft the natives promised to bury him in a near by cemetaby
Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File 9718

Name of crew member: RHODES, William M.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 34644861
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? ~~X~~ no

Where? N/West of Skoplje we walked from early morning until about 1500 that afternoon arriving at a narrow gauge railroad this railroad took me to Skoplje before sundown

If not, why not? This man was wounded by enemy aircraft fire early in the engagemant, The men had pulled him out of his tail turret and started to give him what aid they could. when we were hit in the waist by anti aircraft fire.

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

He screamed that he was hit, I ordered one waist gunner to his aid when the enemy broke off the attack. Our ship was attacked by five Me 109's then Bracked by anti aircraft fire.

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Lying on waist floor pinned to the floor by centrifugal force

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The soldiers who captured us claimed that they had found four bodies in the ship.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9718

Name of crew member: STIPHENSON, Willis C.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 17098886
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~ (Fighter): Asst. Radio Operator Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? N/West of Skoplje Bulgaria From the scene of the crash we walked from early Morn until about 1500 then got on a narrow gauge railroad train arriving in Skoplje before sundown

If not, why not? He was pinned to the floor of the waist by the centrifugal

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

Was he injured? Possibly by the last burst of flak that wounded Ambrosini

Where was he when last seen? He was seen by Ambrosini pinned to the floor

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 40

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9718

Name of crew member: TUTHILL, Bruce B.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 32800250
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Asst. Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? ~~Fell free of chip~~

Where? One days travel N/West of Skoplje, Bulgaria, we walked from early morn until ~~about 1500 that evening got on a small gauge railroad and arrived in Skoplje~~ that evening.

If not, why not? ~~His body lay higher than the ship he wore his harness but no~~ chute, can not explain why he did not have chute on

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:
He was busy transferring fuel prior to abandon ship signal the ship spun down he could have been ~~through~~ thrown out in that manner.

Was he injured?

Where was he when last seen? On maountain side about hundred feet higher than ship

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:
I believe that this man was thrown from the ship as it tumbled down, I myself was pitched out of the bomb bay after being tossed about in the ship, I wore a back type chute.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 40

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPRA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File 9718

Name of crew member: VIKEN, Harold L.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 3734[illegible]3274
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Unknown. The bombardier thinks that he did we never found his body
Where? N/West of Skoplje we walked from early morning until about 1500 that afternoon got on a narrow gauge railroad arriving in Skoplje about one hour before sundown

If not, why not? Unknown

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

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? Climbing out of nose turret

Any hearsay information: The Bombardier can not explain why he did not make it if he failed to bail, his fate is unknown. We think that he may have made it and met up with trouble later.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 35

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

9718

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADUHAL, Lt. Col., AC
By WM. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AC
Date MAR 15 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9718

Classification changed to RESTRICTED by E.J. BRADUMAS, Col., AC By W.W. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AC Date 5 Dec 1945

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Field, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
   Group 455th Bomb Gp. Squadron 742nd Sq.
   Place of departure San Giovanni Field, Italy Course Direct
   Target Bucharest, Rumania Type of mission High altitude formation bombing
2. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Clear
3. GIVE: (a) Date 26 Aug 44 Time 1145 Last known position Mitrovica, Yugoslavia
   (b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, ( ) Seen to crash,
   ( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) No information.
5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
   (X) Enemy aircraft, ( ) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24-G AAF Serial Number 42-78240
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT
8. ENGINES: Type, mode. & series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) CP307212
   (b) CP325712 (c) BP446730 (d) BP446838
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.) All are Browning Aircraft Mach Gun M-2
   (a) 967853 (e) 977150 (i) 968093
   (b) 967698 (f) 968097 (j) 978719
   (c) 979136 (g) 978953 (k)
   (d) 967661 (h) 977873 (l)
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 9 .
    (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	Kieselbach, Edwin C. 1st Lt 0761118		Monette A. Kieselbach, Wife, 532 E. Highland Ave., Ravenna, Ohio RTD
MIA (2)	Co-pilot	Edwards, John T. 2nd Lt 0822657		Mr. Harry L. Edwards, Father, 211 W. Maine, Gleason, Tennessee
EDS (3)	Bomb	McCauley, Richard T. 1st Lt 0701617		Florence M. McCauley, Wife, 66 Miller, Providence, R.I. RTD
RTD (4)	Rad Opr Gnr	Ambrosini, Edward T/Sgt 32862617		Isabella Ambrosini, Mother, 452 40th St, Brooklyn, N.Y.
(5)	Eng Gnr	Koblitz, David C. Sgt 37255047		Fred Koblitz, Father, RFD #4, Erie, Kansas
MIA (6)	Asst Rad Opr Gnr	Stephenson, Willis C. S/Sgt		17098686 Mrs. Charlotte Stephenson, Mother, 214 West 4th St., Topeka, Kansas
KIA (7)	Asst Eng Gnr	Tuthill, Bruce B. S/Sgt 32800250		Helen Tuthill, Mother, Merrick Rd., Seaford, N.Y.
(8)	Armorer Gnr	Viken, Harold L. S/Sgt 37343274		Andrew A. Viken, Father, 4795 Raleigh St. Denver, Colorado
MIA (9)	Gunner	Rhodes, William M. S/Sgt 34644361		Mrs. Laura P. Rhodes, Mother, Route 2 Gray Court, South Carolina
(10)				
(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 LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	FORCED LANDING
(1) John S. Ceklynski	Sgt.	20269828		X		
(2)						
(3)						

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) Information not available
14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
    ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None. Aircraft was lost over enemy territory.

Date 29 Aug 44

WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lt., AC
Signature of Preparing Officer
Adjutant.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WILLIS L. BURNS, JR.
1st Lt., AC, USA

1/3

(Yugoslavia)

SHKODRA (Scutari)



SHIP LAST SEEN NEAR MITROVICA ON COURSE Q UNDER CONTROL

45

mlw/12/13/44

1st. Lt. Edwin C. Kieselbach	Mrs. Merietta A. Kieselbach, (Wife) 532 East Highland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.
1st. Lt. Richard T. McCauley	Mr. John L. McCauley, Sr., (Father) 185 Charles Street, Providence, Rhode Island.
2nd. Lt. John T. Edwards	Mr. Harry L. Edwards, (Father) 211 West Main Street, Gleason, Tennessee.
T/Sgt. Edward Ambrosini	Mr. Alphonse Ambrosini, (Father) 452 40th Street, New York, New York.
Sgt. David C. Koblitz	Mrs. Ethel Koblitz, (Mother) Erie, Kansas.
S/Sgt. Willis C. Stephenson	Mr. Walter C. Stephenson, 216 West 4th Street, Topeka, Kansas.
S/Sgt. Bruce W. Tuthill	Mr. Clifford W. Tuthill, (Father) Merrick Road, Seaford, New York.
S/Sgt. Harold L. Viken	Mrs. Isabel Viken, (Mother) 4795 Raleigh Street, Denver, Colorado.
S/Sgt. William M. Rhodes	Mr. Charles F. Rhodes, (Father) Route Number Two, Gray Court, South Carolina.

MACR 9718

EDWARDS, John T.	0822657	DED	081061
KIESELBOCH, Edwin C.	0761118	KUS	288146
KOBLITZ, David C.	37255047	KIA	252
McCANLEY, Richard T.	0701617	KUS	288146
RHODES, William M.	34644861	DED	081061
STEPHENSON, Willis C.	17096886	DED	081061
TUTHILL, Bruce W.	32800250	KIA	252

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name EDWIN C. KIESELBACH Rank 1st Lt Serial No. O-761118

2. Organization 455 Bomb Gp. Gp Commander Col Cool (full name) Rank Col. Sqn CO EDWIN C. AMBROSIN (full name) Rank Lt Col

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

4. What was the mission, BUCKARESTI, Roumania, target, German Troops in city, target time, Approx. 1130, altitude, Approx. 22000 route scheduled, Direct Italy to Bucharest, route flown Direct

5. Where were you when you left formation? No Five position I believe, about five minutes after hitting the target.

6. Did you bail out? Yes, in the mountains

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Two others successfully, two others whose bodies we found later, it is believed the others were in ship it burned after crash.

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". Lt Richard Mc Cauley Bombardier bailed out of nose ship, S/Sgt Edward Ambrosini bailed out waist of ship, Ambrosini estates that those in the waiste were pinned to the floor by centrifugal force, the tail gunner had been wounded by enemy aircraft machine gun fire previously

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? The aircraft struck in Yugoslavia N/West of Skoplje, high in mountains, we walkedfrom early morn. until approx. 1500 that afternoon then took a small gage railroad arriving at Skoblje before night fall.

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt John Edwards, Co-pilot, S/Sgt William Rhodes Tail Gunner, S/Sgt Harold Vikens Nose Gunner, S/Sgt Willis C. Stephenson Ball turret Gunner

11. Where were they in aircraft? As listed, however all were out of turrets the tumbling ship pinned them to the floor etc

12. What was their condition? The tail gunner was severly wounded the others knocked out the Co-Pilot slumped in his seat. No. three engine severely hit by Enemy fire evidently causing his injurys.

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? S/Sgt Bruce Tuthill and S/Sgt David Koblitz killed, theirbodies had been smashed into side of mountain. Tuthill had only a harnes to his shute Koblitz chute was opened but his head gashed through above the eyes. Bothe men were dead The natives promised to bury them in a small cemetary close by. We were shown the spot as we were lead down the mountain side.

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

S T A T E M E N T

Ship No. 240 dropped out of formation and started to lag behind. About two miles behind the formation he was attacked by three (3) ME 109's. One P-38 went back to cover him and the three 109's left. About five minutes later we hit a flak area and I saw him behind going into the clouds below. No 109's around and the P-38 still with him.

/S/ JOHN S. CEKLYNSKI
JOHN S. CEYLINSKI
Sgt., 20269828

A true copy -

Ellis L. Burns Jr.
ELLIS L. BURNS, JR.
CWO, USA