

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6126

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 765th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 31 May 1944 Time 1100 Last known position Zagubica, Yugoslavia
[b] Specify whether: [] 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]
[] Enemy aircraft, [] Enemy anti-aircraft, [] Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 41-28685

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W 830-43 AAF serial Number [a] 41-3403
[b] 42-3385 [c] 42-3397 [d] 42-3399

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>967169</u>	[e] <u>967160</u>	[i] <u>937732</u>
[b] <u>966445</u>	[f] <u>967250</u>	[j] <u>967171</u>
[c] <u>967191</u>	[g] <u>967143</u>	
[d] <u>966711</u>	[h] <u>966952</u>	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] 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	Norris, Samuel N. 2 nd Lt. 0-540715		Isaac N. Norris, Father 1600 Bluff Ave., Owensboro, Kentucky
[2] CP	Baumann, Edwin 2 nd Lt. 0-681308		Arvilla Baumann, Mother RFD Box 411, Sonoma, California
[3] Nav	Kamps, Everett C. 2 nd Lt. 0-696102		Henry F. Kamps, Father 84-31 120 th St., Richmond Hill, New York, N.Y.
[4] Bomb	Stefenson, Edmund F. 1 st Lt. 0-649279		Walter Stefenson, Father 89-38 134 th St., Richmond Hill, New York, N.Y.
[5] TTG	Bindrim, Arthur J. S/Sgt. 34202986		Cora A. Dietrick, Mother 260 NW 24th St., Miami, Florida
[6] NTG	Culler, Bufort E. S/Sgt. 14181033		Dock W. Culler, Father Route #2, Pinnacle, North Carolina
[7] BTG	Curtin, Joseph S., S/Sgt. 32723135		Mary E. Curtin, Mother 674 58th St., Brooklyn, New York.
[8] TTG	Ranieri, Harry P. S/Sgt. 18199621		Paul Ranieri, Father 32 Cambridge St., East Orange, New Jersey
[9] LWG	Farrell, Jefferson L., Jr., S/Sgt. 14161846		Alma L. Farrell, Mother 333 Edwin Ave., Nashville, Tennessee
[10] RWG	DeSpain, Glen P. T/Sgt.		Clara DeSpain, Mother

36024888

New London, Iowa

[11]

[12]

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRAITE [one only] COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
[1] James J. Colavito	2 nd Lt.	0-674731		X		
[2] Louis (NMI) Graynor	2 nd Lt.	0-691992		X		
[3]						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: **Yes**
 Parachutes were used, Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,
 Other reasons [specify] **It is believed that nine (9) men are prisoners of war and one (1) man in General Hospital Bari, Italy (not confirmed)**

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: **No search made by this organization.**

Date: 4 June 1944

SAMUEL B. SINAI
1st Lt., AC, Adj.

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

4 June 1944

STATEMENT

On May 31, 1944 returning from the Ploesti raid I observed ship No. 24 about twenty-five (25) minutes away from target lagging behind. I didn't observe exactly where we were but we weren't far from the Danube.

/s/ James J. Calavito
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
765th Bomb Sq (H)

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

4 June 1944

STATEMENT

On 31 May 1944 at approximately 1100 we were headed back from Ploesti, Rumania, following a true course of 272°. We were about 15,000 ft. at 44°20' N, 22°00' E and off to our left was a barrage of heavy flak. Ship No. 24 piloted by 2nd Lt. Norris was below us and to our right when it suddenly went below us going about 250° toward the flak area of Zagubica, Yugo. 44°13' N, 21°45' E.

/s/ Louis (NMI) Graynor
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
765th Bomb Sq (H)

2nd Lt. Samuel N. Norris	Mr. Isaac N. Norris (Father) 1600 Bluff Avenue Owensboro, Kentucky
2nd Lt. Edwin Baumann	Mrs. Arvilla Baumann (Mother) Rural Free Beltway Box 411 Sonoma, California
2nd Lt. Everett C. Kamps	Mr. Henry F. Kamps (Father) 84-31 120th Street Richmond Hill, New York
1st Lt. Edmund F. Stefenson	Mr. Walter Stefenson (Father) 89-38 134th Street Richmond Hill, New York
T/Sgt. Glen F. DeSpain	Mrs. Clara K. DeSpain (Mother) General Delivery New London, Iowa
S/Sgt. Arthur J. Bindrim	Mrs. Gertrude M. Bindrim (Wife) 260 Northeast 24th Street Miami, Florida
S/Sgt. Bufort E. Culler	Mrs. Annie S. Culler (Mother) Route Two Pinnacle, North Carolina
S/Sgt. Jefferson L. Farrell, Jr.	Mrs. Alma L. Farrell (Mother) 333 Edwin Avenue Nashville, Tennessee
S/Sgt. Joseph S. Curtin	Mr. John D. Curtin (Father) 674 58th Street Brooklyn, New York
S/Sgt. Harry P. Ranieri	Mrs. Leslie M Ranieri (Wife) 32 Lafayette Street Orange, New Jersey

765TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

12 July 1944

STATEMENT

The pilot of this entire crew, 1st Lt. Samuel N. Norris was the last one to leave his ship after all the others had safely bailed out. It is my opinion that these nine men landed safely in enemy held territory, some of them were rumored by the Partisans to be German prisoners and the rest had not been heard from.

/s/ Robert E. Applegate
Lt. Col, Air Corps
Commanding

CASUALTY INFORMATION

(Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

NAME: NORRIS (Last Name) SAMUEL NEWTON (First Name) (Middle Name) (Rank) (A.S.N.)
 2ND LT 540715

31-May-44 2-Jun-44 765 Bomb 461 Bomb
 (Date of casualty) (Date reported to Allied) (Former) (Former Group) Squadron)

(Information is requested concerning the status of any U.S. personnel of whom you may know. The information will be used to establish their casualty status, for the information of their relatives, to the extent consistent with security, and their former units as well as the evidence to assist in determination of the proper safeguarding of their personal interests. Even fragmentary information is desirable, since it may be supplemented by information someone else can give. Information which you personally know to be reliable is most valuable, and should be indicated as so known. But hearsay and rumor may also be valuable, because, first, it furnishes a basis for further inquiry, and second, it may be confirmed by others. The following form is intended merely as an aid, and information which does not fit into it, should be given in statement form.)

YOUR CREW

<u>Crew Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Remarks (Incl. Basis of knowledge)</u>
Pilot	Norris, Samuel N.	2nd Lt.	0540715	RTD	
Co-Pilot	Bauman, Edwin (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0681308	MIA	
Navigator	Kamps, Everett C.	2nd Lt.	0696102	MIA	
Bombardier	Stefenson, Edmund F.	1st Lt.	0649279	MIA	
Radio Operator	DeSpain, Glen P.	T/Sgt.	36024888	MIA	
Aerial Engineer	Bindrim, Arthur J.	S/Sgt.	34022986	MIA	
Right Waist Gr	Culler, Bufort E.	S/Sgt.	14181033	MIA	
Left Waist Gr	Farrell, Jefferson L, Jr.	S/Sgt.	14161846	MIA	
Ball Turret Gr	Curtin, Joseph S.	S/Sgt.	32723135	MIA	
Tail Gunner	Ranieri, Harry P.	S/Sgt.	32466582	MIA	

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
APO 520 US ARMY

5 July 1944

SUBJECT: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report.

TO: Commanding Officer, 49th Wing, APO 520

1. The information on the attached form "Casualty Information" has been obtained from

<u>SAMUEL N. NORRIS</u> (Name)	<u>2ND LT</u> (Rank)	<u>054715</u> (ASN)	<u>461 Bomb Group</u> (Organization)
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who until recently was (Missing in Action).

2. In order to expedite notification of safety to next of kin, the Corrective Battle Casualty Report required by NATOUSA, Circular Number 10, cs, has been submitted by this Headquarters on personnel listed as "RTD" on the attached form.

3. The casualty status of personnel believed to be prisoners is being investigated by appropriate authority. In the event that reported Prisoner of War status is confirmed, or should they return to duty, your Headquarters will be notified promptly.

4. If the commanding officer of the individuals believed dead is convinced that available evidence establishes fact of death "beyond reasonable doubt" a corrected Battle Casualty Report will be submitted without delay. (See par 2b, Section II, NATOUSA Circular 10, cs; and par 6, WD Circular 195, 1 Sept 1943).

5. Information contained in attached form "Casualty Information" is not to be used as a basis for submitting a change of status on any casualty except in those cases where death has been established "beyond reasonable doubt".

By command of Major General TWINING:

/s/ WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, AC,
Assistant AG

Hq 461st Bomb Gp, APO 520, USA, 13 Jul 44

TO: CG, 49th Bomb Wg, APO 520, USA

1. Prior endorsement from 49th Bomb Wing to this Headquarters directing compliance with basic communication has been misplaced, and to avoid delay pending search it is deemed advisable to return the correspondence.

2. Paragraph 4a of basic communication has been complied with by squadron commander as indicated by Enclosure 2.

For the Group Commander:

/s/ R. Foster Scott
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant

Hq 49th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 14 Jul 44

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520

Attention is invited to preceding endorsement and enclosure number 2.

For the Wing Commander:

/s/ John E. Mitchell,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant

HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 17 July 1944

TO: CG, Allied Force Headquarters, Advance Command Post, APO 534. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Forwarded as supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report sent to your Headquarters on 29 June 1944.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Windle D. Reel,
Major, AC,
Assistant AG.

HQ, NATOUSA, APO 534, US Army, 23 July 1944

TO: CG, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

THRU: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (Att: Casualty Branch)

Forwarded as supplement to initial Missing Air Crew Report which was forwarded 9 July 44.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

/s/ Owen Elliot,
Major, AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General

War Department, The adjutant General's Office, Washington 26, D.C., 28 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Force, Washington 25, D.C.

ATTENTION: Major Bradunas, Notification Branch, Personal Affairs Division, Room
4310, Munitions Building.

Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report noted and forwarded for your files.

For the Adjutant General:

/s/ DANIEL P. POTEET
Colonel, A.G.D.
Officer in Charge,
Status Review and
Determination Section,
Casualty Branch, A.G.O.

Air Forces Command Southeast
Tactical Detachment/Tactical Group Ic 6
To the
Evaluation Station West
Oberursel/Taunus

June 22, 1944

With same mail is transmitted a receipt of the Finance Dept. of this post in the amount of \$277.-, 1 booklet over conduct by accidents and 9 indent. Tags of the on May 31, 1944 over Korcula downed and on June 10/44 placed in transfer to your place American PW's

Baumann	Stephenson
Kamps	Curtin
Despain	Culler
Bindin	Ranieri
Farrell	

For the Air Forces Command Southeast
The Chief of the General Staff
By order of:
Recker
Lt

Air Base Command E(v) 217/XVII

Billets, May 31, 1944

REPORT ON SHOT DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: May 31/44 at 1330 hrs

PLACE OF CRASH: Korcula on the Island Korcula

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Lancaster - - (should be Liberator B-24)

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command E (v) 212/XVII
Mostar, June 2, 1944

CREW

BINDRIN, Arthur J., S/Sgt, 34202986
KAMPS, Everett C., 2nd Lt, 0-696102
BAUMANN, Edwin, 2nd Lt, 0-681308
STEPHENSON, Edmund F., 1st Lt, 0-649279
DESPAIN, Glen P., T/Sgt, 36024888
CURTIN, Josef S., S/Sgt, 327273135
RANIERI, Harry Paul, S/Sgt, 32466582
CURLER, Buforth, S/Sgt, 14181033
FARRELL, J.R., S/Sgt, 14161848

CAPTURED: near Korcula WOUNDED: DEAD:
May 31/44

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Distributor:
Air Forces Adm. Command Hdq.
Dulag Air
Hospital

Air Forces Command Southeast
Group Ic/ Ic 6

June 10, 1944

KSU 1306

To the
Evaluation Station West
Oberursel/Taunus

Below mentioned PW's of the enemy Air Corps, which were shot down May 31/44 over the Island Korcula, will be started in transit to Oberursel June 10/44.

- 1) T/Sgt Despain, G.P.
- 2) S/Sgt Curtin, J.S.
- 3) S/Sgt Ranieri, H.P.
- 4) S/Sgt Bindrini, A.J.
- 5) S/Sgt Farrell, I.R.
- 6) Lt Stephenson, E.F.
- 7) 2nd Lt Kamps, E.G.
- 8) 2nd Lt Baumann, E.

KSU 70A

- 9) and 10) Besides the above mentioned are arriving with the same transport the Air Corps PW's, Lt Johns, Lawrence and S/Sgt Bayer, Silvester-----KSU 1348 Johns was captured on May 30th or 31st in the vicinity of Split. From which downing he originates could not be determined.

KSU 1348

Bayer is a crew member of an American 4 motor Bomber, which on June 2/44 toward 1200 hrs in sector of Modrica Tarevci (31 km SE of Slovenic Brod) crashed and burned. The crew jumped by parachute. The parachuted flyers other than Bayer are being searched for by two companies of the at that place stationed Ustacha, but could not be apprehended up to now.

It is requested that a copy be made of the interrogation of the prisoners including the statement of the cause of crash, to this post, for the purpose of forwarding to the 20th Flak Division, as on May 31/44 numerous 4 motor planes were engaged by flak at that time. Interrogation of the PW's could not be accomplished on account of absence of the interrogation officer.

To each PW was turned over by this post thru the International Red Cross in Belgrade a food package.
The private property as well as the confiscated money of the captured are transmitted also.

For the Air Forces Command Southeast
The Chief of the General Staff
By order of:
Recker
Lt.

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: BAUMANN, Edwin

Rank: Lt.

Status: Single

Born: When June 19, 1923 Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: DESPAIN, Glen P.

Rank: ?

Status: Single

Born: When ? Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: RANIERI, Harry Paul

Rank: S/Sgt.

Status: Single

Born: When Feb. 14, 1918 Where? Whitesburgh, Kentucky

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)

Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.

See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: CURTIN, Joseph

Rank: S/Sgt.

Status: Single

Born: When August 15, 1918 Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)

Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.

See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: BINDRIN, Arthur

Rank: S/Sgt.

Status: Married

Born: When ? Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: FARREL, Jefferson

Rank: S/Sgt.

Status: Single

Born: When April 5, 1924 Where? Nashville, Tennessee

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: STEFENSON, Edmund

Rank: Lt.

Status: Single

Born: When Dec. 30, 1916 Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

ESCORT FORM

Of the captured,

Name, First Name: KAMPS, Everett Carl

Rank: Lt.

Status: Single

Born: When ? Where?

Place of Capture: Vicinity of Pupnat Sector: Island Korcula

When captured & apprehended: May 31, 1944

Circumstances under which capture was made (very short)
Parachute jump on account of burning aircraft

Objects (Weapons, Papers) which were found by mentioned at time of capture
(Documents, Letters, each written drawing, sketch, Propoganda material, Flight sheets are
to be absolutely included in the enclosure.
See combined index.

Remarks:

/s/ Rushl
Captain & Ass't Battalion Commander
Signature

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
 WAS SHOT DOWN **31 May 1944, 1330** CASUALTY NO. **ME 1306**
 PLACE OF CRASH **at Korcula**
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**
 REPORTING OFFICE **Air Force Command Southeast**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
STEPHENSON EDMUND	1st Lt.	0-649279	Captured	Dulag Luft
BAUMANN EDWIN	2nd Lt.	0-681308	Captured	Dulag Luft
KAMPS EVERETT CHARLES	2nd Lt.	0-696102	Captured	Dulag Luft
DESPAIN GLEN P.	T/Sgt.	36024888	Captured	Dulag Luft
CURTIN JOSEPH STEPHEN	S/Sgt.	32723135	Captured	Dulag Luft
BINDRIM ARTHUR JAMES	S/Sgt.	34202986	Captured	Dulag Luft
FARRELL JEFFERSON LAFAYETTE	S/Sgt.	14161846	Captured	Dulag Luft
RANIERI, HARRY PAUL	S/Sgt.	18199621	Captured	Dulag Luft

1st Supplementary Report, dated 4 July 1944

CULLER, BUFORT EGGBERT	S/Sgt	14181033	Captured	Dulag Luft
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REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 21 June 1944. We

DATE: 5/31/44 1330

ME 1306

PLACE: near Korcula	1 st Lt.	STEFENSON, Edmund	0-649279	.
TYPE: Liberator	2 nd Lt.	BAUMANN, Edwin	0-681308	.
765 (HB) Sqd.	2 nd Lt.	KAMPS, Everett Charles	0-696102	.
461 Group; 49 Wing	T/Sgt.	DE SPAIN, Glen P.	36024888	.
Base: Torretta	S/Sgt.	CURTIN, Joseph Stephen	32723135	.
TARGET: Air Force	S/Sgt.	BINDRIM, Arthur James	34202986	.
Command Southeast				
	S/Sgt.	FARRELL, Jefferson Lafayette	14161846	.
	S/Sgt.	RANIERI, Harry Paul	32466582	.
	2 nd Lt.	NORRIS,		Missing
	S/Sgt.	CULLER, Bufort Eggbert	14181033	Missing

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CULLER, Bufort E.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **14181033**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **At approximately 1300 31 May 1944 over the Isle of Korcula in the Adriatic Sea.**

If not, why not?:

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Culler jumped as the rest of the crew did; we conversed just prior to the jump.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was taken prisoner 2 days following the jump.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Capture of the other 8 of us that were prisoners (Lt. Samuel N. Norris A.S.N. 0-540715 the pilot escaped and was returned to Italy by Partisans). We saw him some three weeks later at Stalag Luft No. 4B at Keifheice, Germany. I last saw Culler in October of 1944 when I visited his compound (I was moved out of his compound after he arrived in the camp. Other member of the crew saw him after that and he was well all right. His compound was on a 90-day forced march his fate on that I never heard.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **22 as I remember.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Not known.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Jefferson L. Farrell, Jr.** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **14161846**
2. Organization **461th Gp Commander Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Applegate** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **May** day **31** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Ploesti, Rumania**, target, **oil fields**, target time, **1130**, altitude, **21,000 ft** route scheduled, **as briefed**
?, route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Approximately 10 min after target time**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes all of us.**
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". **We left the ship in the following order as I remember: S/Sgt Curtin, Ball Turret; S/Sgt. Farrell, left waist gunner; S/Sgt Ranieri, tail gunner; T/Sgt. DeSpain, right waist gunner; Lt. Kamps, navigator; S/Sgt. Culler, nose gunner; Lt. Stephenson, bombardier; S/Sgt Bindrim, Top gunner; Lt. Baumann, co-pilot; Lt. Norris, the pilot was the last out of the ship.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **On the Isle of Korcula in the Adriatic Sea.**
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? **No.**
12. What was their condition?.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **I last saw Lt. Norris in the plane as we escapes and Sgt. Culler evaded for two days and did not go to the prison camp as the rest of us did. But I saw him on his arrival there.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CULLER, Bufort E.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **14181033**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Isle of Korcula (off coast of Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?:

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

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Lager A, M-Stammlager, Luft 3, Germany (POW).**

Any hearsay information: **I talked to him in prison camp. He said he had escaped from German guards on way to camp in Yugoslavia but had been recaptured.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was a prisoner of war and remained at M-Stammlager, Luft 3, when I was transferred to another camp on Feb 1, 1945 (check with camp leader – American Man of Confidence, Sgt. Paules, of above mentioned POW camp).**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approx 20.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Glen P. DeSpain** Rank **T/Sgt** Serial No. **36024888**
2. Organization **461st** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **?** Rank **?**
3. What year **1944** month **May** day **31** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **?**, target, **Ploesti Oil Fields**, target time, **1200**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, **?**, route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Target area after bombs away.**
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 over Isle of Korcula off coast of Yugoslavia. All 10 parachutes opened.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **On coast of island.**
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. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CULLER, Bufort E.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **14181033**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **On a small island off the coast of Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I helped him to throw out his ammunition just before we bailed out.**

Was he injured? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **I met him in PW camp Luft 4D near Stettin, Germany.**

Any hearsay information: **He told us that he had evaded for two days, then was captured. Later he escaped for two more days and finally was captured again.**

Source: **from Culler.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The other enlisted men of the crew & I were transferred to another compound at PW camp 4D. Then our compound was evacuated by boxcar from Stettin to Nurenburg. I never saw him again. His compound stayed behind. That was Jan 1945.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **That was the first mission I flew with Culler's crew. I was taking another man's place. I imagine Culler had over 20 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Joseph S. Curtin** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **32723135**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Applegate** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **May** day **31** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **bombing**, target, **Ploesti Oil Fields**, target
time, **1230**, altitude, **20,000 ft.** route scheduled, **?** , route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Near Rumanian border.**
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 were captured except the pilot, Lt. Norris & we were sent to Prisoner of war camp. The pilot was sent back to Italy by the Partisans of Yugoslavia.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **On an island off the coast of 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) **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? **I saw the co-pilot (flak wound on face), the navigator (injured leg), & bombardier (injured leg) last at Dulag Luft interrogation center. The enlisted men except Culler were last seen by me, in good condition, at Nurenburg camp. I finally met the bombardier on the boat coming home.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CULLER, Bufort E.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **14181033**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Isle of Korcula, Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Interphone about 1100 Logged routine conversation.**

Was he injured? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **Suspended by parachute over Korcula.**

Any hearsay information: **Heard he evaded capture through help of Partisans – recaptured by Germans escaped – captured again – interned in Germany.**

Source: **Squadron members captured after us.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 20.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **May 31, 1944 1300 o'clock bailout.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Edmund F. Stefenson** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-649279**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **Applegate** Rank **Lt. Col.**
3. What year **1944** month **May** day **31** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Ploesti Rom.**, target, **S.E. refinery**, target
time, **1200**, altitude, **21,000** route scheduled, **Direct** , route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Ploesti.**
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". **1300 Isle of Korcula, Yugoslavia – all men bailed out – two men (Norris & Culler) were not captured with the rest of us – do not know details of their further experience.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Isle of Korcula, 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) **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? **Norris & Culler – descending in opened parachutes although I cannot be positive of Culler's position, I watched Norris' chute very carefully.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **Met seven other crewmembers (besides myself) in German infirmary May 31, 1944 about 1700 o'clock. Baumann, Curtin and myself had injuries that later responded to treatment.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CULLER, Bufort E.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **14181033**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret 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: **Don't remember.**

Was he injured? **Slight flak wound.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was supposedly processed and waiting for boat to come home.**

Any hearsay information: **Talked to him.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **20.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **First mission flown on Palm Sunday, 1944 to Behek, Yugoslavia – last one, May 31, 1944 to Ploesti, Rumania. Intervening ones to Italy, France, Rumania, Yugoslavia.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Bindrim, Arthur J.** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **34202986**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **Applegate** Rank **Major.**
3. What year **1944** month **May** day **31** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Ploesti**, target, **oil fields**, target
time, **1200**, altitude, **20,000 ft.** route scheduled, **?**, route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Ploesti.**
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 bailed out at same time. Landed on island off coast of Yugoslavia mainland.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **On island.**
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? **Saw Farrell, Curtin, DeSpain, Ranieri, and Culler at Stalag Lift IV, Germany, all in good condition. Saw DeSpain, Curtin, Ranieri, Farrell, 1st Lt. Stefenson, Lt. Kamps, Lt. Baumann at Mooseberg when liberated. Saw Culler again at Camp Lucky Strike, France after liberation.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. .