

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

11978

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
 Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 764th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Straight to target
 Target Linz, Germany Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
4/10 coverage
4. GIVE: [a] Date 25 Jul 1944 Time 1103 Last known position 482° 17'N, 14° 19'E
 [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 A Combination of enemy aircraft and anti-aircraft
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 H AAF Serial Number 42-52459
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] 42-3070
 [b] 41-44850 [c] CP-313138 [d] CP-312730
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] <u>679539</u>	[e] <u>952173</u>	[i] <u>1153308</u>
[b] <u>681268</u>	[f] <u>951838</u>	[j] <u>1153455</u>
[c] <u>681163</u>	[g] <u>951851</u>	
[d] <u>679653</u>	[h] <u>952021</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	Stitch, Wray M. 2 nd Lt. 0700565		Matt Stitch, Father Box 74, Plainview, Minnesota
[2] CP	Harris, James E. 1 st Lt. 0747402		Mabel E. Harris, Wife Red Cloud, Nebraska
[3] Nav	Adelman, Melvin A. 2 nd Lt. 0723255		William E. Adelman, Father 1883 Winnebago Ave., Chicago, Ill.
[4] Bomb	Albright, William M. F/O T125542		Mrs. Arthur Albright, Mother 306 North St., Talladega, Alabama
[5] RWG	Dahlke, Gene C. Sgt. 16029479		Dora Dahlke, Mother E. 7th St., Bridgman, Michigan
[6] BTG	Ducray, Julian R. Cpl. 39126069		Laura Ducray, Mother 110 Colon Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
[7] LWG	Dalbec, Joseph R., Sgt. 11118294		Arthur Dalbec, Father 18 Willard St., New Bedford, Mass.
[8] TTG	McCulloch, Leroy S. Cpl. 18199621		Anne M. McCulloch, Mother Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Texas
[9] TTG	Feiler, Laurence G., Jr., Cpl. 36884529		Mrs. Velma M. Feiler, Wife Tekonsha, Michigan, RR1
[10] NTG	Knauber, Kenneth Cpl. 39691590		Mrs. Wanda J. Knauber, Wife 3403 L St., Bakersfield, Calif.
[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] Douglas A. Herrin	2 nd Lt.	0820747		X		

<u>[2] James H. Cain</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>01703166</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>[3] Edward D. Rose</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>12205996</u>	<u>X</u>

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] _____

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: 27 July 1944

WILLIAM L. HALLAUER

1st Lt., AC, Adj.

764TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

As I was flying no 5 position in C flight, I saw the 3 ships ahead of me go down. The fighters came from behind, apparently on our level and slight above. When one Fw-190 came about 10 feet above my left wing, he hit no. 4 ship flown by Lt. Stitch and forcing him out of the formation with 2 and 3 engines on fire, in a spiral.

Lt. Freeman's ship, flying no. 2 position was then hit from behind and a fire started in the bomb bay. He dropped out of formation and I saw one (1) man parachute out opening his chute immediately upon leaving the plane.

Lt. Mitchell's ship, flying no. 3 position dropped out with one engine on fire and I did not see him any more. The no. 1 ship of our formation was forced out with one engine on fire and I did not see him any more. However he got back to the home field.

I then took No. 6 position in the A flight with one engine feathered. The above happened within a period of about 1½ to 2 minutes, the fighters attacking just as we reached the flak and we were still in the flak when I got in no. 6 position of A flight.

The fighters were so numerous, the flak so heavy, and being engaged in trying to get in formation with A flight, I did not see the planes after they left the formation.

/s/ Douglas A. Herrin
2nd Lt., AG, 0820747

Flying position 5 on bomb run, tail gunner called "Fighters coming in at 6:00 o'clock". Four Fw-190's made a pass at us, pulled up, sprayed no. 2 ship, flown by Lt. Freeman, and no. 4 ship, flown by Lt. Stitch, then pulled up to the left. Fires started in these B-24's in forward bomb bays of each. Another pass by fighters and large pieces began breaking off Lt. Freeman's ship and it went down and to the right. I saw no chutes.

Fighters came in again hitting Lt. Stitch's ship and it went out of my view. A 190 hit #3 ship, flown by Lt. Mitchell, setting his #3 engine afire. Lt. Mitchell, presumably out of control, did a wingover to the left, then went into a nose dive out of sight. I saw no chutes.

/s/ James H. Cain
2nd Lt., AC

Tail gunner in lead ship of C Flight, which consisted of five ships, saw three ships from our flight destroyed by enemy fighters and flak. I saw about seven ships destroyed from four of our flights.

All 3 ships destroyed from C Flight were on fire and the ships flown by Lt. Freeman and Lt. Stitch blew up. Lt. Mitchell's ship burned until it hit the ground. There were at least five parachutes from that aircraft. The other two planes from C Flight, flown by Lt. Freeman and Lt. Stitch, had at least two or three chutes come from them before they blew up.

I could fairly say an average of three chutes left each ship. Due to the fact that we were under constant attack, I couldn't see any more. It is very possible more airmen escaped than I saw.

/s/ Edward A. Rose
S/Sgt, AAF

HEADQUARTERS
AAF REDISTRIBUTION STATION NO. 4
SANTA ANA ARMY AIR BASE
Santa Ana, California

CASUALTY INTERROGATION REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT
GENERAL'S OFFICE

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH IN ACTION OR DURING IMPRISONMENT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED:

Date of Interrogation **19 Oct 45**

FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Albright** **William** **F/O** **Bomb**
Last First Initial Rank Position

HOME TOWN OR STATE **Alabama**

UNIT **461st Bomb Gp, 764th Sq.**

DATE OF MISSION **25 July 44**

TYPE AIRCRAFT **B-24**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **Near Linz, Austria**

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION: **Last seen headed for the woods after he landed.**

/s/ Leroy S. McCulloch, 18199621,
Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Tex.

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Date of Interrogation **19 Oct 45**

FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Harris**
Last First Initial Rank Position **1st Lt. Co-pilot**

HOME TOWN OR STATE

UNIT **461st Bomb Gp, 764th Sq.**

DATE OF MISSION **25 July 44**

TYPE AIRCRAFT **B-24**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **Near Linz, Austria**

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION: **Last seen at the controls.**

/s/ Leroy S. McCulloch, 18199621,
Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Tex.

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Date of Interrogation **19 Oct 45**

FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Dahlke** **Gene** **Sgt.** **L. Waist**
Last First Initial Rank Position

HOME TOWN OR STATE **Michigan**

UNIT **461st Bomb Gp, 764th Sq.**

DATE OF MISSION **25 July 44**

TYPE AIRCRAFT **B-24**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **Near Linz, Austria**

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION: **Was last seen in the waist on the floor. Was helped up and got chute on.**

/s/ Leroy S. McCulloch, 18199621,
Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Tex.

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Date of Interrogation **19 Oct 45**

FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Dalbec** **Joe** **Sgt.** **R. Waist**
Last First Initial Rank Position

HOME TOWN OR STATE **Boston, Mass.**

UNIT **461st Bomb Gp, 764th Sq.**

DATE OF MISSION **25 July 44**

TYPE AIRCRAFT **B-24**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **Near Linz, Austria**

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION: **Nose gunner saw him under his gun dead. Killed by fighters.**

/s/ Leroy S. McCulloch, 18199621,
Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Tex.

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Santa Ana, California

CASUALTY INTERROGATION REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT
GENERAL'S OFFICE

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DURING IMPRISONMENT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES, YOU
ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE
DECEASED:

Date of Interrogation **19 Oct 45**

FULL NAME OF DECEASED **Ducray** **Julian** **Sgt.** **Ball Gunner**
Last First Initial Rank Position

HOME TOWN OR STATE **San Francisco, California**

UNIT **461st Bomb Gp, 764th Sq.**

DATE OF MISSION **25 July 44**

TYPE AIRCRAFT **B-24**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **Near Linz, Austria**

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION: **Last see at the ball turret.**

/s/ Leroy S. McCulloch, 18199621,
Rt 1, Box 7, Van Ormy, Tex.

HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 2 February 1945.

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. MACR for 2nd Lt. Kenneth E. Barnhart, Jr., 0-718991, was forwarded your headquarters on 22 August 1944. Duplicate copies were forwarded 26 January 1945, as a result of inquiry about Sgt. Robert B. Conrad, 17098098.

2. MACR for 2nd Lt. Melvin A. Adelman, 0-723255, forwarded your headquarters 7 August 1944. Copies inclosed. F/O William M. Albright, T-125542, included on this MACR.

3. MACR for 1st Lt. John W. Benton, Jr., 0-747192, forwarded your headquarters 7 August 1944. Copies inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ WINDLE D.REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

461st Bomb Group.

Second Lieutenant Kenneth E. Barnhart, 0718991, missing 7 August 1944

Second Lieutenant Melvin A. Adelman, 0723255, missing 25 July 1944

First Lieutenant John W. Benton, Jr., 0747192, missing 25 July 1944, 764th B. Sq.

Flight Officer William M. Albright, T125542, missing 25 July 1944

Second Lieutenant David A. Ashby, Jr., 0669156, missing 24 May 1944, 767th Sq.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HARRIS, James E.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **0-747402**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Believed to have.**

Where? **About ten miles north of Linz, Austria.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was at the controls as mine were inoperative at the time and he was trying to hold the ship level as long as possible.**

Was he injured? **He was not injured when I opened the top hatch and he told me to go ahead.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was still sitting in the co-pilot's seat at the controls.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **If he left by the top hatch he may have been knocked unconscious the same as I and not have regained consciousness in time or he may have gone through the bomb bay and as the bombs were still in there and the very thick fire his chute may have caught on there. It could also be possible that he never got out of the ship.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Fifty-one**

Dates and destinations if possible: 49th Mission on July 24, Yugoslavia; 51st Mission July 25, Linz Austria

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **ALBRIGHT, William M.**
Rank: **F/O**
Serial number: **T-125542**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Believed to have bailed out.**

Where? **About ten miles north of Linz, Austria.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I heard him direction of the firing on the ship.**

Was he injured? **Absolutely had been injured.**

Where was he when last seen? **The nose gunner stated that the bombardier was not in the nose when he bailed out and that the nose wheel door was open so he, Bombardier is presumed to have left that way.**

Any hearsay information: **Sgt. McCulloch has stated he saw a person taking off across a field whom he believes was the bombardier at the same time he landed from his parachute.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I believe he may have been shot by the Germans there as there was quite a bit of shooting going on around the vicinity where we landed and it can be presumed that we landed within a reasonable distance of one another. I know personally that I was shot at a number of times before being captured.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Four**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 22, 1944 Mission to Ploesti, Rumania; July 24, 1944 Mission to Yugoslavia; July 25, 1944 Mission to Linz, Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DALBEC, Joseph R.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **11118294**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **He very probably did.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **The tail gunner had informed me that he was either dead or very critically wounded.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Had radio contact with him just a few minutes prior to the attack and everything was all right.**

Was he injured? **Not at that time.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was last seen by the tail gunner lying in the waist.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **We had several 20 mm direct hits in the bomb bay and waist just prior to bailing out. The tail gunner told me later on the ground that when he left the tail he saw Sgt. Dalbec laying in the waist and apparently beyond help.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Four**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 22, 1944 Mission to Ploesti, Rumania; July 24, 1944 Mission to Yugoslavia; July 25, 1944 Mission to Linz, Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DUCRAY, Julian R.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **39126069**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Radio contact at IP and he entered ball and lowered same in readiness for the fighters which had just been sighted. Nothing was heard after that.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the ball turret just before the fighters struck.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **As we had a number of direct hits in the bomb bay and the waist it is presumed that he was hit at that time.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Third mission**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 24, 1944 Mission to Yugoslavia; July 25, 1944 Mission to Linz, Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DAHLKE, Gene C.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **16029479**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **He very probably did not.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **The tail gunner had informed me that he was either dead or very critically wounded.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Had radio contact with him just prior to the attack and everything was OK then. Reported fighters coming in. That was the last radio contact.**

Was he injured? **Not at that time.**

Where was he when last seen? **Tail gunner last seen him lying in the waist.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **We had several 20 mm direct hits in the bomb bay and waist just prior to bailing out. The tail gunner told me later on the ground that when he left the tail he saw Sgt. Dahlke laying in the waist and apparently beyond help.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Three**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 24, 1944 Mission to Yugoslavia; July 25, 1944 Mission to Linz, Austria.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Wray M. Stitch Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-700565
2. Organization 461th Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Not known Rank
3. What year 1944 month July day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Hvy. Bombardment, target, Linz, Austria tank factory, target time, 1158, altitude, 22,000 ft route scheduled, IP 20 miles due north, route flown IP direct to target
5. Where were you when you left formation? Approximately 10 miles from 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". Nose gunner went out the nose wheel door. Nose gunner was Cpl. Kenneth Knauber. Nav Melvin Adelman left via bomb bay followed by Cpl. Leroy McCulloch, top turret gunner, who also left by bomb bay. Cpl. Larry Feiler, tail gunner, bailed out of waist escape hatch. I, Lt. Stitch left through the top hatch in the flight deck.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately ten miles north of Linz.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Sgt. Joseph R. Dalbec, left waist gunner, Cpl. Julian R. Ducray, ball turret gunner, and Sgt. Gene C. Dahlke, right waist gunner were all believed to be in the aircraft.
11. Where were they in aircraft? They were in the waist and the ball gunner was in the ball.
12. What was their condition? They were either killed or very badly wounded.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Saw co-pilot in the seat of the plane, still at the controls, apparently not injured.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HARRIS, James E.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **0-747402**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-pilot**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **No knowledge.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I suppose he went down with the plane.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **49.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DUCRAY, Julian R.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **39126069**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **No knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Conversation between tail gunner and pilot and Ducray whether to lower the ball turret just before we were shot down.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I suppose he was in his turret. He must have been killed or wounded so he couldn't bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **2**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DALBEC, Joseph R.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **11118294**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **He was wounded (Hearsay).**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **Yes, according to tail gunner's story.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **According to the information received from my tail gunner (Cpl. Larry Fieler) he was laying in the waist of the plane seriously injured or dead.**

Source: **Cpl. Larry Fieler.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **six**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **ALBRIGHT, William M.**
Rank: **F/O**
Serial number: **T-125542**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **He bailed out two or three minutes before I did and I landed approximately 30 kilometers from Linz, Austria.**

If not, why not?;

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **None.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Last seen bailing out.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **No knowledge.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DAHLKE, Gene C.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **16029479**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

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: **No knowledge.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **No knowledge.**

Any hearsay information: **The tail gunner found him laying in the waist of the plane shocked. He helped him with his chute and then the tail gunner bailed out.**

Source: **Cpl. Fieler.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Six**

Dates and destinations if possible: **No knowledge.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Kenneth Knauber** Rank **S/Sgt** Serial No. **39691590**
2. Organization **15th AAF** Gp Commander **Don't know** Rank **?** Sqn CO **?** Rank **?**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **25** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Linz, Austria**, target, **Herman Goering Tank Factory**, target time, **1130**, altitude, **22,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Just started on the bomb run.**
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". **Tail gunner bailed out left waist window about 1125 and about 30 kilometers from Linz. Upper gunner bailed out bomb bay same time and landed same place. Navigator bailed out bomb bay just before upper gunner. Pilot bailed out bomb bay just before upper gunner.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **About 30 kilometers from Linz.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **No knowledge.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **No knowledge.**
12. What was their condition? **No knowledge.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Saw Albright in Bombardier compartment. He bailed out.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **No knowledge.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **ALBRIGHT, William M.**
Rank: **F/O**
Serial number: **T-125542**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes, supposedly seen by nose gunner.**

Where? **Linz, Austria.**

If not, why not?;

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called and told me when we were on the bomb run.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **On the ground near Linz, Austria.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Our nose gunner saw him and waved to him as we headed for some nearby woods. Later we found a handful of bomb safety fuses about 10 miles from there which could have been dropped by him.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **4**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July – Ploesti, Rumania; July - Yugoslavia; July – Linz Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HARRIS, James E.**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **o-747402**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-pilot**

Did he bail out?_

Where?

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information:_

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DALBEC, Joseph R.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **11118294**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?:

If not, why not? **Believed killed by fire from enemy planes.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called the position of enemy planes just as we were attacked.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the plane over Linz, Austria.**

Any hearsay information: **No.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I filled his death report on my return to the States as I am quite sure he was killed outright by enemy fire.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **6.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July – Unknow; July – Ploesti, Rumania; July – Yugoslavia; July 25 – Linz Austria.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DUCRAY, Julian R.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **39126069**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **BTG**

Did he bail out?:

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: **No information as I didn't see him or hear him at all during the scrap or when I left the ship.**

Total number of missions of above crew member:.

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DAHLKE, Gene C.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 16029479
Position: Crew (Bomber) Right Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? No.

Where?

If not, why not? Unconscious.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I was trying to get him out of the plane.

Was he injured? No – not seemingly.

Where was he when last seen? In plane.

Any hearsay information: No.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Probably, as I couldn't get him out, he went down with the ship.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3.

Dates and destinations if possible: July – Ploesti; July 25 – Linz, Austria.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Laurence Feiler, Jr.** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **36884529**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **?** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **25** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **bombing**, target, **Tank Factory, Linz, Austria**, target time, **1125**, altitude, **?** route scheduled, **?** , route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **On bomb run.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Part of them.**
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". **Pilot, Lt. Wm Stitch – still in Army – somewhere in Texas; Navigator, unknown; upper gunner, Leroy McCulloch – Von Ormy, Texas; nose gunner - unknown.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **About 20 miles south of Linz.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Unknown for sure as the ship wasn't entered before it blew up.**
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? **Would be glad to help in any way possible other than or rather besides filling these questionnaires. I believe all crew members still missing are dead other than F/O Albright, who was seen on the ground near where we landed and seemed to be OK. Nose gunner says the bombardier had left ship before him.**
- 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: **DALBEC, Joseph R.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **11118294**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No Knowledge.**

Where? **No Knowledge.**

If not, why not? **No Knowledge.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **About an hour before he was on flight deck helping transfer fuel.**

Was he injured? **Don't know but never heard his gun fire.**

Where was he when last seen? **Was on flight deck when I last saw him but returned to waist.**

Any hearsay information: **I heard he was laying under his gun with blood all over him. He was laying there not making a move. They said he must have been dead already.**

Source: **I heard this from the tail gunner – Lawrence Feiler**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I think he was right because he bailed out of the waist window.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Completed two and was on a double.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **July 23 – Ploesti; July 24 – don't remember target in Yugoslavia.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DUCRAY, Julian R.
Rank: Cpl.
Serial number: 39126069
Position: Crew (Bomber) BTG

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? No Knowledge.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: On oxygen check just before we were hit. He answered the bombardier – Roger.

Was he injured? Never heard his guns fire.

Where was he when last seen? Was last seen by me when I was transferring fuel.

Any hearsay information: I heard that the ball turret couldn't be seen for flame and smoke.

Source: I heard this from the tail gunner – Lawrence Feiler.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: As he came to the waist to bail out he looked that way but couldn't see a thing.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Don't remember.

Dates and destinations if possible:.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DAHLKE, Gene C.
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 16029479
Position: Crew (Bomber) Right Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? No Knowledge.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I heard him answer on oxygen check.

Was he injured? No Knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? Don't remember.

Any hearsay information: I heard that he was laying on the camera hatch and was helped up and handed his parachute.

Source: I heard this from the tail gunner – Lawrence Feiler.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: As he was coming from the tail to waist to bail out he did this.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Don't remember.

Dates and destinations if possible:.

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ALBRIGHT, William M.
Rank: F/O
Serial number: T125542
Position: Crew (Bomber) Bombardier

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? No Knowledge.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He hollered bomb bay doors open. We were hit right after.

Was he injured? No Knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him by the bomb sight about an hour before.

Any hearsay information: I heard he was seen to land and take off across the field toward the woods. I heard he was not seen in the nose when the nose gunner bailed out. Heard there was blood around his position.

Source: I heard this from the nose gunner, Kenneth Knauber.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He wasn't for sure it was the bombardier. He said he thought it was him. Said it looked like him but he wouldn't swear to it.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Completed two and was on a double.

Dates and destinations if possible: July 23, Ploesti; July 24, don't remember target, but was in Yugoslavia.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HARRIS, James E.
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-747402
Position: Crew (Bomber) Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No Knowledge.

Where? No Knowledge.

If not, why not? No Knowledge.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Don't remember.

Was he injured? No Knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? He was in the co-pilot's seat when I got out of the turret.

Any hearsay information: When I got out of the upper turret he was in the co-pilot's seat. I made a start toward him to see if he needed help and was pinned to the flight deck. When I got up I got my chute and got out.

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Completed 49 and was on a double.

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge.

6-3861, AF

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Leroy S. McCulloch** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **18199621**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **?** Rank **?** Sqn CO **?** Rank **?**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **25** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **?**, target, **Linz, Austria**, target
time, **1130**, altitude, **22,500** route scheduled, **?**, route flown **?**
5. Where were you when you left formation?.
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **There were five of us who 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". **The pilot bailed out of the upper hatch. The navigator and myself went out through the bomb bay.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **In the vicinity of Linz, Austria - northeast.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **I bailed out and have no idea who was in the aircraft when it struck the ground.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **If they were in it yet when it struck the ground they were in their positions.**
12. What was their condition? **Unknown**
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. .

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**Mrs. Mabel E. Harris (Wife)
Red Cloud, Nebraska**

2nd Lt. Wray M. Stitch

**Mrs. Bertha L. Stitch (Mother)
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2nd Lt. Melvin A. Adelman

**Mr. William E. Adelman (Father)
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F/O William M. Albright

**Mrs. Minnie D. Albright (Mother)
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Talladega, Alabama**

Sgt. Gene C. Dahlke

**Mrs. Dora S. Dahlke (Mother)
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Bridgman, Michigan**

Sgt. Joseph R. Dalbec

**Miss Irene A. Dalbec (Sister)
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Cpl. Julian R. Ducray

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Cpl. Leroy McCulloch

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Cpl. Lawrence G. Feiler, Jr.

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Cpl. Kenneth Knauber

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