

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6377

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 Bucharest, Rumania Tpye of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 3 Jul 1944 Time 1445 Last known position 42° 50'N, 18° 10'E
 [b] Specify whether: [] Last sighted, [] Forced down, [X] 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, [X] Other Mechanical failure
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 G AAF Serial Number 41-29289
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65 AAF serial Number [a] 42-92919
 [b] 42-92791 [c] 42-92461 [d] 42092897
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
 [a] 973824 [e] 973924 [i] 965590
 [b] 940933 [f] 634387 [j] 940672
 [c] 967560 [g] 974005
 [d] 974332 [h] 705462

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	Lucas, Mac L. 2 nd Lt. 01683556		Kathryn Lucas, Mother Box 17, Crannell, California
[2] CP	Brown, Harold D. 2 nd Lt. 01683532		Mrs. Marion Brown, Mother 337 George St., Turtle Creek, Penn.
[3] Nav	Harlan, Edward F. 2 nd Lt. 0712813		Mrs. Mary Harlan, Mother 1215 A Soulard St., St. Louis, MO
[4] Bomb	Zeldin, Bernard 2 nd Lt. 0701444		Frances Zeldin, Mother 1724 Crotona Park E., New York, NY
[5] RWG	Lucas, Raymond J. S/Sgt. 38400503		Lyra B. Lucas, Mother 328 S. Yorktown St., Tulsa Oklahoma
[6] BTG	Sweezy, Robert C. Sgt 36796316		Pearl Sweezy, Mother 103 S. Montgomery St., Dayton, Ohio
[7] LWG	Jacobus, Edgar M. Jr., S/Sgt. 12094949		Dorothy G. Jacobus, Wife 515 Northfield Rd., West Orange, NJ
[8] TTG	Borchert, Alvin F. Sgt. 16116654		Dolores B. Borchert, Wife 2352 N. 37 th St., Milwaukee, WI
[9] TTG	Crown, Harry V. Sgt. 14077102		Ruth Irene Crown, Mother 1683 Canterbury St., Jacksonville, FL
[10] NTG	Merwald, Bernard J. Sgt. 27120760		John F. Merwald, Father 3612 Y St., Omaha, Nebraska
[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	FORCED LANDING
[1] John F. Wilson	1 st Lt.	0746497			X	

<u>[2] Lynn L. Britton</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0747200</u>	<u>X</u>
<u>[3] Ralph L. Merrow</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0811422</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: 8 July 1944

WILLIAM L. HALLAUER

1st Lt., AC, Adj.

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

STATEMENT

About ten minutes after leaving the target I saw the #2 engine on Lt. Lucas's ship smoking. Soon after this he feathered this engine. I left the flight I was in and flew #4 position on Lt. Lucas's plane. After flying there a few minutes I saw the #4 engine on his ship start smoking, it appeared to be detonation. I called him on the radio and told him and he took all the power possible off the engine and put the mixture in rich. At the same time he told me he was loosing oil pressure on #3 engine. They began throwing ammunition and loose equipment overboard. We were at the coast of Yugoslavia and were just crossing the coast when Lt. Lucas told me on the radio he was loosing #4 engine. He decided it was not possible to return to base, so he returned to Yugoslavia to bail out. After turning back, the plane started loosing altitude rapidly and just after recrossing the coast the crew started bailing out. Nine chutes were seen to open from the ship. Immediately after the last chute came out, the plane went into a steep diving turn to the right making about a 180° turn before striking the ground. It burst into flames immediately upon contact.

/s/ JOHN F. WILSON, 0746497
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

STATEMENT

We were flying #5 in A Flight in the 2nd Section. Fell out right after the target to cover #4 man who had lost his electrical system. Covered him until he regained a position in C Flight when we picked up ship #5 piloted by Lt. Mac Lucas as he called the Flight and Section leader telling him he was going to feather an engine and to slow down. His call was evidently not received and as he fell back we took his left wing. #2 engine of Lt. Lucas's ship was feathered, #4 engine was smoking badly, and they reported losing oil pressure on #3 engine. We followed him to the coast of Yugoslavia. Here due to losing oil pressure on engines 3 and 4 he decided to turn back and bail out in Yugoslavia. We turned back with him and observed the bail out. 7 chutes had appeared when the ship fell off in a spiral to the right. One chute came out in the turn and the last we could observe of the plane there seemed to be a man crouched in the waist and one pair of feet dangling out the bomb bay. We were above and behind the ship and observed the last chute come out from under the ship. Immediately after, the plane crashed and exploded. Only 9 chutes were observed. The plane was held in a straight and level course for approximately 10 minutes. Then the plane appeared to lose an engine on the right side and peeled off

/s/ LYNN L. BRITTON, 0-747200,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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

STATEMENT

Flying #6, A Flight, 2nd Section in #632 airplane, we dropped back to cover plane 4, #459, who was having mechanical difficulties with his aircraft after peeling off from our primary target. Noticed Lt. Lucas's ship with a feathered #2 engine. He called for cover, and since Lt. Burton's #4 engine seemed to overcome its difficulties, we left him to cover Lt. Lucas. En route to the base we bombed the 1st alternate target. As we approached the Yugoslavian coastline, Lt. Lucas told us over command he was having difficult with #3 and #4 engines. Loss of oil pressure and power. At first he thought he could make Italy, but further mechanical failure of those two engines made it necessary for him to turn back to the Yugoslavian mainland. Lt. Lucas ordered his crew to bail out while he held the ship straight and level. Seven men bailed out while the ship was level, then as the ship fell off in a diving spiral to the right, two more chutes were seen to come out of the plane. After seeing the ship crash and noticing the chutes float towards the ground, we leveled off and headed home.

/s/ RALPH L.MERROW, 0-811422,
2nd Lt, Air Corps.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HARLAN, Edward F.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-712813**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia – near Lubimere Valley.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Last seen by me in the bomb bay of the aircraft.**

Was he injured? **Yes fatally (result of parachute jump)**

Where was he when last seen? **In the aircraft**

Any hearsay information: **Yes, Body found about 600 yards from wreckage of plane. Buried by Chetniks in vicinity of Lubimere Valley. When found, parachute was unopened. Two wrist watches found on his person. Description of one watch in particular, by Chetnik, tallies with watch that navigator purchased in Natal, S.A.**

Source: **Yugoslav Chetniks**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He definitely left the aircraft, only plausible explanation is faulty parachute, or, he froze, and never pulled the ripcord.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 7 sorties**

Dates and destinations if possible: **June 23, 1944 – Giurgui, Rumania**
June 25, 1944 – Avignon, France **June 26, 1944 – V Korneuburg, Austria**
June 28, 1944 – Bucharest, Rumania **June 30, 1944 – Blechhammer, Germany**
July 3, 1944 – Bucharest, Rumania

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **JACOBUS, Jr., Edgar M.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12094949**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia – near Lubimere Valley.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Saw him walking towards rear of aircraft (waist).**

Was he injured? **No**

Where was he when last seen? **Jacobus was picked up by Chetniks, and later brought to site of pilot, co-pilot, and myself.**

Any hearsay information: **Following information definitely not heresay... Jacobus, pilot, co-pilot, armorer gunner and myself spent three months together in Yugoslavia. We then were separated. Jacobus and armorer gunner were returned to Italy about one week before us.**

Source: **Actual fact**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Was definitely returned to zone of interior**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 10 sorties**

Dates and destinations if possible: **June 23, 1944 – Giurgui, Rumania**
June 25, 1944 – Avignon, France June 26, 1944 – V Korneuburg, Austria
June 28, 1944 – Bucharest, Rumania June 30, 1944 – Blechhammer, Germany
July 3, 1944 – Bucharest, Rumania

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Bernard Zeldin Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-701444
2. Organization 764th Gp Commander P.R. Hawes Rank Lt. Col Sqn CO Edwin T. Goree Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month July day 3 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bucharest, Rumania, target, Bucharest, target
time, ----, altitude, 24,000 ft route scheduled, -----
-----, route flown -----
5. Where were you when you left formation? Outside of Bucharest
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". See the next page.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Base of a mountain near Lubimere Valley, 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? See the next page.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Following is listing of other aircrew members of different crews. Anthony J. Buckner (EM) - Will H. Griffin (EM) - Roberts L. Eagan 2nd Lt. - Kenneth C. Fuller 2nd Lt. - B.E. Cole 2nd Lt. - Aforementioned men shot down April '44. Met them in July. All five returned to Allied control. Known fact. Following EM shot down July 3, 1944 - A.H. Ulmer - Robert Ferst - Both definitely returned to Allied control October 1944. 1st Lt. William Holloway, shot down April 1944 - Returned to Allied control October 1944. See the next page.

No. 8 Cont.

At 1440, July 3, 1944, we started to bail out over Yugoslavia, the crewmembers going out in the following order. #1 Sgt. Robert Sweezy, #2 Sgt. Harry Crown, #3 S/Sgt. Raymond Lucas, #4 Sgt. Alvin Borchert, #5 Sgt. Bernard J. Merwald, #6 2nd Lt. David Brown, #7 2nd Lt. Bernard Zeldin, #8 2nd Lt. Mac Lucas.

Jacobus bailed out about the same time as Merwald. Lt. Lucas can give the best explanation of Lt. Harlan. Both were the last members to leave the aircraft.

Sweezy, Crown, Sgt. Lucas, and Borchert were picked up by the Partisans. They were returned to Allied control in 21 days.

The remaining five were brought together in the course of four days. (Lt. Lucas, Lt. Brown, Sgt. Merwald, S/Sgt. Jacobus, and myself.)

We spent 94 days with the Chetniks. Also with us at the time, were the eight men described in paragraph #14, on the previous page.

During the course of the 94 days, Lt. Cola, Lt. Fuller and Sgt. Buckner and Sgt. Griffin were returned to Italy by means of a small craft supplied by the Chetniks.

On the 94th day, Lt. Lucas, Lt. Brown, Sgt. Ulmer and myself left the Chetniks and went over to the Partisans. The remaining men were returned to Allied control approximately one week before us.

With the aid of the Russians, we were flown out of Yugoslavia on October 17th, 1944. We then learned that the other men with the exception of Lt. Harlan were safely returned to Allied control.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: 11/18/44

NARRATOR: Bernard Merwald
ARMY SERIAL NO.: 27120760
HOME ADDRESS: 3612 Y St.
EX-REPORT NO.:

SQUADRON: 764th
GROUP: 461st
TYPE AIRCRAFT: B-24
DATE OF MISSION: July 3, 1944

POSITION

MEMBERS OF CREW

PWIB RECORD

Lt. Mac L. Lucas
Lt. Harold D. Brown
Lt. Bernard Zeldin
Lt. Edward F. Harlan
Edgar M. Jacobus
Raymond J. Lucas
Robert C. Sweezy
Harry V. Crown
Alvin F. Borchert
Bernard J. Merwald

Pilot
Co-Pilot
Bomb
Nav
LWG
RWG
BTG
TTG
TTG
NTG

KNOWN INFORMATION:

Nav didn't jump from the airplane. Plane crashed and burned. A soldier in the Chetnik army told my pilot that he buried the Nav. He was found about 300 yards from the airplane.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: 11/28/44

NARRATOR: Bernard Zeldin SQUADRON: 764th
ARMY SERIAL NO.: 0-701444 GROUP: 461st
HOME ADDRESS: 1724 Crotona Park East TYPE AIRCRAFT: B-24
EX-REPORT NO.: DATE OF MISSION: July 3, 1944

POSITION MEMBERS OF CREW PWIB RECORD

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Mac L. Lucas</u>
<u>Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Harold D. Brown</u>
<u>Bomb</u>	<u>Bernard Zeldin</u>
<u>Nav</u>	<u>Edward F. Harlan</u>
<u>LWG</u>	<u>Edgar M. Jacobus</u>
<u>RWG</u>	<u>Raymond J. Lucas</u>
<u>BTG</u>	<u>Robert C. Sweezy</u>
<u>TTG</u>	<u>Harry V. Crown</u>
<u>TTG</u>	<u>Alvin F. Borchert</u>
<u>NTG</u>	<u>Bernard J. Merwald</u>

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All of crew with exception of navigator returned to duty.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Navigator dead.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: 11/28/44

NARRATOR: Harold D. Brown
ARMY SERIAL NO.: 0-1683532
HOME ADDRESS: 337 George St.
EX-REPORT NO.:

SQUADRON: 764th
GROUP: 461st
TYPE AIRCRAFT: B-24
DATE OF MISSION: July 3, 1944

POSITION

MEMBERS OF CREW

PWIB RECORD

Pilot

Mac L. Lucas

Co-Pilot

Harold D. Brown

Bomb

Bernard Zeldin

Nav

Unknown

ENG

Edgar M. Jacobus

BTG

Unknown

NTG

Bernard J. Merwald

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All members of crew under Allied control except navigator.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Navigator was said to have been killed in the plane when it crashed.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: 11/28/44

NARRATOR: Lucas, Mac L. SQUADRON: 764th
ARMY SERIAL NO.: 0-1683556 GROUP: 461st
HOME ADDRESS: Box 17, Crannell, CA TYPE AIRCRAFT: B-24
EX-REPORT NO.: DATE OF MISSION: July 3, 1944

POSITION MEMBERS OF CREW PWIB RECORD

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Mac L. Lucas</u>
<u>Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Harold D. Brown</u>
<u>Bomb</u>	<u>Bernard Zeldin</u>
<u>Nav</u>	<u>Edward F. Harlan</u>
<u>LWG</u>	<u>Edgar M. Jacobus</u>
<u>RWG</u>	<u>Raymond J. Lucas</u>
<u>BTG</u>	<u>Robert C. Sweezy</u>
<u>TTG</u>	<u>Harry V. Crown</u>
<u>TTG</u>	<u>Alvin F. Borchert</u>
<u>NTG</u>	<u>Bernard J. Merwald</u>

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All but navigator returned to duty in Italy.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Navigator dead.

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
NEW YORK PORT OF EMBARKATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: 11/28/44

NARRATOR: Edgar M. Jacobus, Jr.
ARMY SERIAL NO.: 12094949
HOME ADDRESS: 134 S. Munn Ave.
EX-REPORT NO.:

SQUADRON: 764th
GROUP: 461st
TYPE AIRCRAFT: B-24
DATE OF MISSION: July 3, 1944

POSITION

MEMBERS OF CREW

PWIB RECORD

Pilot

Mac L. Lucas

Co-Pilot

Harold D. Brown

Bomb

Bernard Zeldin

Nav

Edward F. Harlan

LWG

Edgar M. Jacobus

RWG

Raymond J. Lucas

BTG

Robert C. Sweezy

TTG

Harry V. Crown

TTG

Alvin F. Borchert

NTG

Bernard J. Merwald

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All members of crew returned to base.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Navigator was not seen to jump and was reported killed.

2nd Lt. Bernard Zeldin	Mr. Marvin Zeldin (Brother) 1724 Crotona Park East Bronx 60, New York
2nd Lt. Mac L. Lucas	Mrs. Kathryn Lucas (Mother) Box Number 17 Crannell, California
2nd Lt. Edward F. Harlan	Mrs. Mary Harlan (Mother) 1215 A Soulard Street Saint Louis, Missouri
2nd Lt. Harold D. Brown	Mrs. Marion Brown (Mother) 337 George Street Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt. Raymond J. Lucas	Mr. Rufus J. Lucas (Father) 328 South Yorktown Street Tulsa, Oklahoma
S/Sgt. Edgar M. Jacobus, Jr.	Mrs. Dorothy G. Jacobus (Wife) 515 Northfield Road East Orange, New Jersey
Sgt. Alvin F. Borchert	Mrs. Hather E. Borchert (Mother) 1942 South 73rd Street West Allis, Wisconsin
Sgt. Robert C. Sweezy	Mrs. Edna F. Sweezy (Mother) 103 South Montgomery Street Dayton, Ohio
Sgt. Bernard J. Merwald	Mrs. Lucille A. Bonson (Sister) 3412 Y Street Omaha, Nebraska
Sgt. Harry V. Crown	Mr. John Sam Crown (Father) 1683 Canterbury Street Jacksonville, Florida

CASUALTY INFORMATION
(Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: **Lucas, Ramond J.** **S/Sgt.** **38400503**
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

764 Sq **461 Gp** **3 July 1944** **24 July 1944**
(Squadron) (Group) (Date of Casualty) (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.)

<u>Crew Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Lucas,</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Brown,</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>Navigator</u>	<u>Harlan, Edward</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>Bombardier</u>	<u>Zeldin, Bernard</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>Aerial Engineer</u>	<u>Jacobus, Edgar M.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>Nose Gunner</u>	<u>Merwald, Bernard J.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>Unknown</u>

STATEMENT: **Partisans reported one officer killed and four men turned over to Germans at Trebinje by Chetniks. Status of remaining men is unknown.**

BALANCE OF CREW RETURNED TO DUTY.

/s/ Raymond J. Lucas

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HARLAN, Edward F.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-712813**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not? **Fear froze him to plane.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I saw him standing in bomb bay, with chute on – apparently ready to jump.**

Was he injured? **Killed**

Where was he when last seen? **Other planes stated he was in waist, prior to crash.**

Any hearsay information: **Pilot attempted to force him from plane, but plane went into spin and the pilot was forced to jump – plane was at low altitude at this time.**

Source: **Conversation with pilot.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **It is fact: Partisans found his body and identification near the wrecked plane. Have information of burial site of body – it is in possession of the pilot.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 13**

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **JACONUS, Jr., Edgar M.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12094949**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia near Trebijnea**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No contact – in different part of ship.**

Was he injured? **Complained of back injury.**

Where was he when last seen? **I saw him land in field, but failed to contact him later.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was returned to safe hands.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 13**

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

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Alvin F. Borchert** Rank **Sgt** Serial No. **16116654**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Lawhorn** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Talent** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **3** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bucharest**, target, **Oil dumps**, target
time, **1100**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Over Yugoslavia.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes, nine men out of ten.**
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 individuals not attached bailed out over Yugoslavia, near Trebijne and were apparently in good shape, outside of minor injuries.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Near Trebijne, 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) **2nd Lt. Edward F. Harlan 0-712813 – was in plane when it crashed.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **He was seen to be in the waist section.**
12. What was their condition? **Fear frozen.**
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.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Harlan, Edward F.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-712813
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes, or so it is assumed since hi was found some distance from the plane with an opened chute..

Where? In the vicinity of the village of Turani, Hercegovina, Yugoslavia.

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Just before I jumped I attempted to throw him clear of the bomb bay.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Dangling beneath the fuselage, clinging to bottom of bomb bay.

Any hearsay information: Buried at village cemetery in Turani.

Source: Native, Bozo Popovac.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Clung to the plane until too late to have sufficient altitude for chute to open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 11.

Dates and destinations if possible: 23 June 1944, Giurgui, Rumania; 26 June 1944, V Korneuburg, Austria; 28 June 1944, Bucharest, Rumania; 30 June 1944, Blachhammer, Germany; Others unknown.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Jacobus, Jr., Edgar M.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12094949**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near village of Turani, province of Hercegovina, 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?

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Returned to Allied control 12 October 1944 at Bari, Italy. Returned to USA immediately after.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 10.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Mac L. Lucas** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-1683556**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Goree** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **3** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bucharest**, target, **Oil refinery**, target
time, **unknown**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown **unknown**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Five miles west of target.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes.**
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". **All members of the crew bailed out at about 1430 o'clock in the area known as Lubinje, near the village of Turani, province of Hercegovina, Yugoslavia.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **In cherry orchard near Turani.**
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? **10 November 1944, Bari, Italy all in sound physical condition.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **Edward F. Harlan's chute failed to open. According to the tale of a native, on Bozo Popovac, Harlan was buried in the village cemetery of Turani. Popovac was a member of the Chetniks.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HARLAN, Edward F.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-712813
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? No.

Where?

If not, why not? Panic, failed to jump before ship spun in.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: No conversation remembered from time we left target.

Was he injured? Unknown.

Where was he when last seen? On catwalk in bomb bay, walking to & fro, looking down.

Any hearsay information: I understand that before the pilot jumped, Harlan might have gone into the rear to try leaving by camera hatch. He was too late. The plane winged over and spun into ground. Harlan's body was found by Yugoslavs with chute pushed into his chest. His body was about 200 feet from wreckage. He might have jumped at last moment or been thrown clear by force.

Source: Questioning of pilot and other crewmembers on their return to Italy.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: That above. Crewmembers of other ship observing our bail out, report only nine chutes seen to leave our ship..

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown dates. He flew on raids to Vienna, Munich, Avignon, Budapest, Bucharest, Port de Magira and others.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **JACOBUS, Jr., Edgar M.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12094949**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Southern Yugoslavia, about 15 miles from Adriatic.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No remembered conversation. I was off interphone, throwing equipment from plane to lighten load.**

Was he injured? **Yes, When he struck ground. His chute was torn.**

Where was he when last seen? **Immediately after striking the ground.**

Any hearsay information: **He was observed by Sgt. Borchert to bail out. Borchert saw 3 rips in Jacobus' chute. He descended much faster than Borchert. He must have injured his back on impact. Borchert said he saw him rocking back and forth holding his stomach when he passed over a hill top and out of sight.**

Source: **Sgt. Borchert.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Borchert went to spot where Jacobus landed but found only his chute. It was supposed that the Chetniks had picked him up or he had wandered away to the south for Albania or Greece.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Vienna, Avignon, Munich, Bucharest, Budapest, and others in north Italy and Yugoslavia.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Harry V. Crown Rank Sgt. Serial No. 14077102
2. Organization 461 Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Unknown Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month July day 3 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bucharest, target, Oil refinery, target
time, 12:00, altitude, 23,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Iron Gate territory near Danube.
6. Did you bail out? Yes, I was first man to leave ship.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes. I saw two more chutes before I lost sight of ship.
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". S/Sgt. Lucas and Sgt. Sweezy came out of rear of ship after me. Sgt. Borchert, Sgt. Merwald, Lt. Zeldin, Lt. Brown, Lt. Lucas all left by way of open bomb bay in that order.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge. I never found the wreckage.
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. Lt. Harlan's body was said to have been found 200 feet from wreckage.
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? After situation became difficult. I saw only Sgt. Sweezy, S/Sgt. Lucas and S/Sgt. Jacobus. All were busy throwing equipment out of ship.
- 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: HARLAN, Edward F.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-712813
Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator

Did he bail out? No, however he was not destroyed in the crash for he was found, torn in half, and was buried.

Where?

If not, why not? Apparently paralyzed by fear.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None, for he was forward and I was aft.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Flight deck.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The Partisans told us that an officer was killed, but we could only guess who it was. I rather thought it was Harlan, for he became airsick often, & more than once told me of his fear of parachuting.

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

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JACOBUS, Jr., Edgar M.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 12094949
Position: Crew (Bomber) Left Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Somewhere east of Trybena, by way of bomb bay.

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None, he was forward and I was aft.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Upper turret, on flight deck.

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None.

Total number of missions of above crew member: About eighteen (18)

Dates and destinations if possible: 9 June 1944, Munich, Germany; 11 June 1944, Giurgui, Rumania; 13 June 1944, Port Marghera, Italy; 14 June 1944, Szonz, Hungary; 22 June 1944, Trieste, Italy; 23 June 1944, Giurgui, Rumania; 25 June 1944, Avignon, France; 26 June 1944, V Korneuburg; 28 June 1944, Blechhammer; 3 July 1944, Bucharest.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Sweezy, Robert C.** Rank **T/Sgt.** Serial No. **35796316**
2. Organization **461** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Goree** Rank **Major**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **3** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bucharest**, target, **Oil installations**, target
time, **12:26**, altitude, **20,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown **No knowledge.**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **About ready to cross Adriatic Sea, & ready to leave Yugoslavia.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes**
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". **Harry Crown tail gunner, Raymond Lucas, right waist gunner & myself went out through the camera hatch.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **East of town of Trybena.**
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? **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.**

AIR BASE HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former POW's.

THRU: Commanding General, Fourth Air Force, San Francisco, 6, California.
ATTN: AC/S, A-2

Commanding General, Continental Air Force, Bolling Field, Washington,
20, D.C.

TO: Commanding General
Army Air Force
Washington, 25, D.C.
ATTN: Personal Affairs Branch
Room 4315, Munitions Building

1. The information below is submitted in compliance with the provisions of Letter from CG CAF to CG 4AF, File 383.6 (2 Oct 45), dated 2 October 1945, and 1st Endorsement thereto.
2. This report is exempt from reporting procedures per Par. 4a, WD Cir 168, 1945.
 - a. Name, Rank and ASN of casualty:

HARLAN, Edward H., 2nd Lt., ASN unknown.
 - b. Crew Position: Navigator
 - c. Unit: 15th Air Force, 461 Bomb Group, 764 Bomb Sqdn.
 - d. Date Last Seen: 3 July 1944
 - e. Place Last Seen: Unemeir (spelling uncertain), in the vicinity of Turani.
 - f. Circumstance of loss of aircraft: Shot down by enemy flak.
 - g. Know information (eyewitness):

Upon reaching the ground after parachuting, I observed Lt. Harlan on the ground, dead, with parachute unopened.
 - h. Hearsay Information:

I understand that Lt. Harlan was buried by Bozo Popovac, Turani, Hercegovina, Yugoslavia.
 - i. All other information with estimate of reliability:

None

j. Name, ASN and unit of reporter:

LUCAS, Mac L., 1st Lt., ASN 0-1683556
460th AAF Base Unit, Signal Maintenance Section