

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10651

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 767th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course direct to target
Target Blechhammer, Germany Type of mission bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 17 Dec 1944 Time 1200 Last known position near Muglitz, Germany.
[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 J AAF Serial Number 42-51319
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None (Number 69 painted on sides)
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830 43 AAF serial Number [a] CP-312018
[b] 41-13312 [c] CP-313356 [d] CP-306785
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] Browning .50 cal

[a] LN 936567	[e] LB 986207	[i] LT 1236369
[b] RN 985954	[f] RB 086064	[j] RT 986646
[c] LU 1236553	[g] LW 1235999	
[d] RU 986043	[h] RW 986176	

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11

[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	Capalbo, Frederick B., 2 nd Lt. 0-825560	MIA	Mr. Frank L. Capalbo (Father) Edgewood Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut
[2] Co-pilot	Rundbaken, William C., 2 nd Lt. 0-824893	MIA	Mr. Frederick J. Rundbaken (Father) 815 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, Conn
[3] Nav	Hamilton, Jeff L., Jr., 1 st Lt. 0-673556	MIA	Mr. Jeff L. Hamilton, Sr. (Father) Route #1, Marchison, Texas
[4] Bomb	Behling, Gordon C., F/O T-4502	MIA	Mr. Arnold A. Behling (Father) Johnson Creek, Wisconsin
[5] TTG	Squires, Edgar A., Cpl. 32982944	MIA	Mrs. Eleanor Squires (Mother) Canoe Pl Rd., Hampton Bays, N.J.
[6] LWG	Villers, John A., Cpl. 36759120	MIA	Mrs. Marguerite Villers (Mother) 4062 S Cakenswald St., Chicago, Illinois
[7] NTG	McGuire, Richard, Cpl. 11104456	MIA	Mr. WilliamC. McGuire (Father) 49 Montgomery St., Waterbury, Conn
[8] RWG	Hughes, Frederick W., Cpl. 17132483	MIA	Mrs. Ruth I. Wiemann (Mother) 5076 Arlington St., St. Louis, Missouri
[9] TG	Koontz, Roger A., Cpl. 13189918	MIA	Mrs. Violet E. Koontz (Mother) 425 Mueller Ave., Crafton, Penn

[10] BTG	Graffao, Accuraio A., Cpl. 42064763	MIA	Mrs. Nettie Graffao (Mother) 2435 85 th St., Brooklyn, New York
[11] Photo	Robinson, Donald H., Cpl. 37446883	MIA	Mr. Lee H. Robinson (Foster-Father) 501 S. Main St., Albia, Iowa
[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] Arthur G. Hermansen, Jr.	Sgt.	16138988		X		
[2] Raymond B. Spencer	S/Sgt.	19115349		X		
[3] Robert F. Miller	S/Sgt.	11108352		X		
[4]						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Parachutes were used, Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,
 Other reasons [specify]..

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; plane downed in enemy territory.**

Date: 28 Dec 1944

/s/ Raymond L. Wilcovitz
Capt., Air Corps
Adjutant

767th Bombardment Squadron (H)
461st Bombardment Group (H)

STATEMENT

On 17 December 1944, as we started on the bombing run over Blechhammer, fighters attacked our formation. Number 69, who was straggling, was hit right off. He burst into flames and disintegrated. I saw no chutes.

/s/ Arthur G. Hermansen, Jr.
Sgt., 767 Bomb Sq

STATEMENT

I was flying tail gunner in the lead ship of C Flight, first attack unit. Right after the fighters hit I saw one ship from Captain Miller's flight explode. At the time I didn't know the ship number, out a waist gunner on our Number 2 man said it was ship 69. During the next minute I saw another ship from Miller's flight break up and go down, but I do not know the ship number. Because of the confusion in the target area it was difficult to identify particular ships.

/s/ Raymond B. Spencer
S/Sgt., 767 Bomb Sq

STATEMENT

I was flying tail gunner on the lead ship in the formation that was hit by the fighters. Ship number 69 was way out in the back approximately 1,000 yards behind the formation. The fighters made repeated attacks on the ship. After another that was out there with it went down, #69 was attacked by a single FW-190 which succeeded in knocking out number 3 engine, forcing the ship down toward the undercast.

/s/ Robert F. Miller
S/Sgt., 767 Bomb Sq

F/Kelsey
AFPPA-8/FK/slt/77117
Rm 4314 3/22/46

AFPPA-8

25 March 1946

SUBJECT: Request for investigation of Burial

TO: Missing Air Crew Research and Investigation Office
Chaves Registration Service Command
T8FET Rear
APO #887
New York, New York

1. The enclosed copies of correspondence regarding the burial of Second Lieutenant William C. Rundbaken, 0-824893, Corporal John A. Villars, 36759120 and First Lieutenant William J. Hayes, 0-703383 are self-explanatory.

2. Request that an investigation be made of the reported burials and this office advised of the results of the investigation.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ Herbet M. Light
Major, Air Corps
Acting Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch

Personnel Services Division, AC/A6-1

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
EUROPEAN THEATER AREA, MISSING AIRCREW RESEARCH AND
INVESTIGATION OFFICE
APO 887, U.S. ARMY, 16 April 1946

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters, Army Air Forces
Washington 25 D.C.
Attn: (A.F.P.P.A. - 8)

1. Investigation conducted this date revealed that the Isolated Burial Section, American Graves Registration Command, has information concerning the burial of Second Lieutenant William C. Rundbaken, 0-824893, First Lieutenant William J. Hayes, 0-703383, and Corporal John A. Villars, 36759120.
2. The remains of Lieutenant Hayes and Rundbaken and Corporal Villars have not be disinterred as yet, but will be removed to an American cemetery as soon as sweeping operations commence in Czechoslovakia.

/s/ Charles S. Marshall
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Director

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **17 December 1944 at 1200, CASUALTY NO. ME-2567**

PLACE OF CRASH **Biren near Mishran**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Air-Base-Headquarters Pressnitz**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
Capalbo, Frederick Behrans 11 March 1923 Greenwich, Conn.	2nd Lt.	0-825560	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Hamilton, Jeff Lee	1st Lt.	0-673556	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Koontz, Roget Allen 19 Dec 1923 East Carnegie, Pa.	Cpl.	13189919	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Robinson, Donald H. 4 Febr 1920 Ia	S/Sgt.	37446883	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Graffao, Accursio Anthony 15 March 1923 N.Y.	Cpl.	42064763	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Herling, Gordon C.	F/O		Wounded	Hospital
Squires, Edgar	Cpl		Wounded	Hospital

Casualty No: ME-2567

First supplemental report, dated 6 Febr 1945

Rundbaken, William	2nd Lt.	0-824893	Dead
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REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 10 Jan 1945.

	Rank	U.S.A. Name	ASN	ME-2567
DATE: 17 Dec 1944 at 1900	2nd Lt.	Capalbo, Frederick Behrans	0-825560	
PLACE: near Beran	2nd Lt.	Rundbaken, William	0-824893	
TYPE: Liberator	1st Lt.	Hamilton, Jeff Lee	0-673556	
MARKINGS:767th Sqd	F/O	Behling, Gordon C	T-4502	
461st Group; 49th Wing		Hospital III,		
TARGET: Airfield	Cpl.	Squires, Edgar	32982944	
Pressnitz		Alexander		
	Cpl.	Villars, John A.	36759120	Dead
	Cpl.	Graffao, Accursio	42064763	
	Cpl.	McGuire, Michael	11104456	
	Cpl.	Koontz, Roger Allen	13189918	
	Sgt.	Robinson, Donald R.	37446883	

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes, I threw him out the bomb bay but his chute was too badly burnt to do him any good.**

Where? **Over Pevov, Czecho.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Order to bail out.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was in the plane when last seen.**

Any hearsay information: **Yes – my armorer/gunner, Fred Hughes was with the underground for six months and he said he knew that Runbaken & Villars were both buried in Pevov, Czecho.**

Source: **Fred Hughes – my crew**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He suffered death by impact.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **33 sorties.**

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **I believe he was either mortally wounded or unconscious.**

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

Was he injured? **I believe he was.**

Where was he when last seen? **He was setting the radar Interrupter on the flight deck.**

Any hearsay information: **He is buried at Prevov Czecho.**

Source: **Fred Hughes – my armorer/gunner.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **This was the first.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Odertal (Blechhammer area) Dec 17, 1944.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **I do not think he did.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **I cannot say other than what I stated on AFPPA-12.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was calling off enemy fighters.**

Was he injured? **Questionable.**

Where was he when last seen? **Nose section.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **His first.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Odertal (Blechhammer area) Dec 17, 1944.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Frederick B. Capalbo** Rank **2nd Lt.** Serial No. **0-825560.**
2. Organization **461st Gp Commander Hawes** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Henry** Rank **Capt.**
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **oil**, target, **Blechhammer**, target time, **1245**, altitude, **27,000 ft** route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Over Prevov, Czecho.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes – except three.**
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". **As soon as the order to bail out was given everyone bailed out except the nose gunner, radio man. I threw the co-pilot out the bomb bay but his chute was too badly burned to help him any so he must have been killed by impact.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Near prevov, Czecho.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **To the best of my knowledge the nose gunner and radio man were still there.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **Nose gunner was out of his turret. Radio man was on flight deck.**
12. What was their condition? **They both must have had a severe case of shock or were mortally wounded. Fire and smoke made it hard to see.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **I saw the remainder of the crew in Lottarue, France when we sailed for the USA. All were in good health except for engineer, Squires, who still suffered from burns.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **I cannot give any definite information of other crews.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
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: **Didn't talk to him that I can remember.**

Was he injured? **Engineer & pilot said he was burned to death.**

Where was he when last seen? **Laying on the catwalk so the pilot and engineer told me.**

Any hearsay information: **Only that the engineer and pilot could give you the information for I was the tail gunner and the above was riding in the front of the ship.**

Source: ₂

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: ₂

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
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: **Didn't talk to him that I can remember.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen?;

Any hearsay information: **Again he was riding in the front of the airplane and I was riding in the tail.**

Source: **No knowledge.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **That was his first.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Dec 17, 1944, Blechhammer.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret 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 imagine it was about 4 or 5 minutes before loss.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

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

Any hearsay information: **The bombardier (Behling) and the navigator can give you the information.**

Source: **No knowledge.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **It was his first.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Dec 17, 1944, Blechhammer.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Koontz, Roer A.** Rank **Sgt.** Serial No. **13189919.**
2. Organization **461st Gp Commander Hawes** Rank **Col** Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **no knowledge**, target, , target time, , altitude, route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Tail end charlie.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes. Sperry ball gunner, engineer, pilot, bombardier, navigator, camera man, waist gunner.**
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 I know about the crew is that I saw the camera man bail out.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **No knowledge.**
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? **I met my sperry ball gunner, pilot, navigator and bombardier in prison camp. Saw my engineer once when we first were captured. I also saw the camera man.**
- 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: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

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: **Last contact when I told him over interphone two bombs were dropped.**

Was he injured?_

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information: **Because the bomb bay doors wouldn't open from the nose, Rundbaken went under the flight deck, opened the doors. He must have passed out and burned.**

Source: **Pilot and engineer.**

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: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left 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:.

Was he injured?:

Where was he when last seen? **On flight deck.**

Any hearsay information: **Villars slumped over his desk as he was last seen.**

Source: **Pilot & engineer.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Dec 17, 1944, Odertal.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

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? **In his nose turret.**

Any hearsay information: **As soon as we were hit I tried to get emergency doors open (the bomb bay doors wouldn't open from the nose) while trying to get doors open navigator was getting McGuire out of turret. He jumped out of turret but wouldn't parachute to earth. When doors finally opened, we left in order but McGuire wouldn't jump.**

Source: **Navigator.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Dec 17, 1944, Odertal.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Gordon C. Behling** Rank **F/O** Serial No. **T-4502.**
2. Organization **461st Gp** Commander Rank Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Odertal**, target, **oil refinery**, target time, , altitude, **27,000 ft.** route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Somewhere in Czech.**
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". **Pilot, eng. bailed out of bomb bay. All gunners in the waist & the camera man bailed out of the rear escape hatch.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **No knowledge.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires).
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 have seen all crewmen except Villars, McGuire & Rundbaken since liberation.**
- 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: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Overcome by heat and lack of oxygen.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Handed him screwdriver to loosen throttle stops for more speed.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **Laying on the cat walk forward bomb bay.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Lack of oxygen and overcome by heat. He was opening the bomb bay doors with no mask and the bomb bay was on fire from leaking gasoline.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?:

If not, why not? **Either hit or died from shock.**

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? **Sitting at the radio with head on table.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I imagine he was hit because he slumped over the table just after it was hit.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible:.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

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

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: **No knowledge.**

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **No knowledge. He was in the nose turret and I was on the flight deck.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible:;

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Edgar A. Squires** Rank **Sgt.** Serial No. **32982944.**
2. Organization **461st Gp Commander Hawes** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **no knowledge** Rank **Capt.**
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **1st**, target, **Blechhammer**, target time, **1200**, altitude, **27,000 ft.**, route scheduled, **no knowledge**, route flown **no knowledge.**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Approx 45 minutes 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". **No knowledge.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Cockery, Czech.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **co-pilot, radio operator, nose gunner.**
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.;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **He was injured during enemy fighter attack.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **No knowledge.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Laying on the cat walk forward bomb bay badly burned from fire which was caused by enemy fire in mid-section of wing and bomb bay.**

Any hearsay information: **Right waist gunner who evaded said he had seen the three bodies of Rundbaken, Villars and McGuire. Right waist gunner was Fred Hughes.**

Source: **Pilot Lt. Capalbo and Eng. Sgt. Squires.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Believe he died instantly since he was beneath the wing when wing caught fire.**

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Believe he was wounded.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Last seen by pilot and engineer.**

Was he injured? **Unknown? From other sources, believed to be wounded.**

Where was he when last seen? **Sitting in the radio room with head bent over on radio table.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source: **Pilot and engineer.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Partly on supposition, the rest will have to be told by eye witnesses.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 1944, Blechhammer, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Believed not to have gotten out of aircraft.**

Where?;

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **1st Lt. Hamilton will be able to give you information concerning McGuire.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **Outside the nose turret.**

Any hearsay information: **He was seen by Fred Hughes after plane had struck the ground.**

Source: **Sgt. Fred Hughes.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 1944 Blechhammer, Germany.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Accursio Anthony Graffeo Rank Sgt. Serial No. 42064763.
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Rank Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year 1944 month Dec day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing, target, Blechhammer, Germany, target time, 1215, altitude, 27,500 ft., route scheduled, unknown, route flown unknown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Ten or fifteen minutes from I.P. slightly north of Prague, Czech.
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". The rest of the crew members were all accounted for. Robinson left after the fire in Bombay wing started through escape hatch in the waist. Robert Koontz left through escape hatch in waist. F/O Gordon Behling and Hamilton left through the nose wheel escape hatch. Also Edgar Squires left through the front bomb bay which caused him to get seriously burned. Fred Hughes was next to leave after helping me to remove my flak suit, but with no success. I left shortly after and I believe Lt. Capalbo left about the same time. After my chute opened, aircraft exploded and was believed to have been no more than 500 – 600 yards away at the time. Lt. Capalbo left through the front bomb bay and I left through the escape hatch in the waist..
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Aircraft exploded in mid air near a little town called Preavvic.
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. Rundbaken, Cpl. Villars and Cpl. McGuire.
11. Where were they in aircraft? McGuire was in the nose section. Rundbaken and Villars were on the flight deck.
12. What was their condition? Lt. Rundbaken was seriously burned or believed to have died instantly. He must have been just below the bomb bay wing section at the time the wing started afire. The other two, I have no knowledge of, except what was told to me by other members of the crew.

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Did not see any of the above mentioned. Anything said of the above mentioned was told to me by members of the crew who ave witnessed the incident.**

14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **No knowledge.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Hamilton, Jeff L. Jr.** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-673556.**
2. Organization **461st Gp Commander** **?????** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **Donavan** Rank **Maj.**
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Odertal**, target, **oil refinery**, target time, **1200**, altitude, **28,000 ft.** route scheduled, **straight from Cerignola, Italy**, route flown **same.**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **About 2/3 to 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". **No knowledge except the bombardier. He bailed out as soon as we were hit & fire started.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Close to Muglitz, Germany.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Co-pilot, Rundbaken, Nose gunner, Villars and Radio operator, McGuire.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **McGuire in nose, others on flight deck.**
12. What was their condition? **McGuire seemingly OK, others unknown.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Have not seen Squires since morning we were shot down (engineer was told he was placed in German hospital.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **No information of value.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **RUNDBAKEN, William C.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-824893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **No, not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Do not know.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Only routine enroute.**

Was he injured? **Do not know.**

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

Any hearsay information: **Nothing definite.**

Source:;

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Heard something about his passing out – on fire – may have been wounded – do not know.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Unknown – believe tour was about complete.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Unknown.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VILLARS, John A.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **36759120**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No, not to my knowledge.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Unknown.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Routine in flight.**

Was he injured? **Do not know.**

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

Any hearsay information: **According to the pilot, he did not move from his station.**

Source: **Pilot Capalbo.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **May have been wounded – perhaps no oxygen.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 1944, Odertal.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MCGUIRE, Richard**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **11104456**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **May have been wounded in the attack.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Shouted at him to bail out. No response or answer.**

Was he injured? **Do not know.**

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

Any hearsay information: **Am positive he did not bail out – was killed.**

Source: **1st Lt. Hamilton 0-673556.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Perhaps wounded – did not show – perhaps no oxygen – my belief – shock or fright.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 1944 Odertal.**

1st Lt. Jeff L. Hamilton, Jr.	Mr. Jeff Lee Hamilton, Sr. (Father) Route Number One Marchison, Texas
2nd Lt. Frederick B. Capalbo	Mr. Frank L. Capalbo (Father) Edgewood Drive Greenwich, Connecticut
2nd Lt. William C. Rundbaken	Mr. Frederick J. Rundbaken (Father) 815 Farmington Avenue West Hartford, Connecticut
Cpl. John A. Villars	Mrs. Marguerite T. Villars (Mother) 4062 South Cakenswald Street Chicago, Illinois
Cpl. Edgar A. Squires	Mrs. Eleanor C. Squires (Mother) Canoe Place Road Hampton Bays, New York
Cpl. Richard McGuire	Mr. William C. McGuire (Father) 49 Montgomery Street Waterbury, Connecticut
Cpl. Frederick W. Hughes	Mrs. Ruth I. Wiemann (Mother) 5076 Arlington Saint Louis, Missouri
Cpl. Roger A. Koontz	Mrs. Violet A. Koontz (Mother) 425 Mueller Avenue Crafton, Pennsylvania
Cpl. Accursio A. Graffao	Mrs. Nettie Graffao (Mother) 2435 85th Street Brooklyn, New York
Cpl. Donald H. Robinson	Mr. Lee Henry Robinson (Father) Meravia, Iowa
F/O Gordon C. Behling	Mr. Arnold A. Behling (Father) Johnson Creek, Wisconsin