

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10677

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Torretta, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 461st Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 765th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course Direct to target
Target Odertal Oil Refinery, Germany Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Undercast
4. GIVE: [a] Date 17 December 1944 Time 1145 Last known position 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 42-50953
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: Flying Finger
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43A AAF serial Number [a] CP-313903
[b] CP-313864 [c] CP-313846 [d] CP-313904
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
[a] 1534095 [e] 1037802 [i] 218745
[b] 1534558 [f] 966915 [j] 270435
[c] 1527823 [g] 967142
[d] 1534228 [h] 1153339
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	Grossman, Philip J., 2 nd Lt. 0-709511	MIA	Mr. Theresa Grossman (Mother) 1100 E. Second St., Lima, Ohio
[2] CP	Kreps, Earl W., 2 nd Lt. 0-822200	MIA	Mrs. Marie E. Kreps (Wife) 1925 Metropolitan St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
[3] Nav	McLain, William L. Jr., 2 nd Lt. 0-2057977	MIA	Mrs. Elisabeth F. McLain (Wife) 304 Ridgecrest St., Montgomery, Alabama
[4] Bomb	Hanley, Hugh H., F/O T-3731	MIA	Mrs. Mary Hanley (Mother) 295 Whiton St., Jersey City, N.J.
[5] TTG	Geier, Leonard G., Sgt. 12156010	MIA	Mr. Samuel Geier (Father) 386 Ford St., Bronx, New York
[6] LWG	Barnson, Valden A., S/Sgt. 39906487	MIA	Mrs. Blanche Morrill Hayes (Mother) Gosher, Utah
[7] BTG	White, William C., Sgt. 12121163	MIA	Mrs. Marie White (Mother) 931 Foster Ave., Brooklyn, New York
[8] NTG	Eidsmore, Lawrence M., Sgt. 32312554	MIA	Mrs. Alice Eidsmore (Mother) 280 Warburton Ave., Hastings on the Hudson, New York
[9] RWG	Sainio, John A. Jr., Cpl. 13152875	MIA	Mrs. Hilda Sainio (Mother) 18 Second St., Brooklyn, New York
[10] TTG	Freeman, Bernard C., Sgt. 18020202	MIA	Mrs. Emma L. Freeman (Mother) General Delivery, Vimita, Oklahoma

[11] GO **Cody, Jack R., 1st Lt.** MIA **Mrs. Mary Lou Cody (Wife)**
0-560800 **3913 N. Editts St., Albuquerque,**
N.M.

[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] Robert T. Chalmers	Capt.	0-793437		X		

[2]

[3]

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

Parachutes were used, Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash,

Other reasons [specify] **Impossible to determine.**

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: **20 December 1944**

Alfred B. Taylor
1st Lt., AC, Adj.

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

19 December 1944

STATEMENT

At about 1145 hours our formation was attacked by about 50 enemy fighters in the vicinity of Muglitz, Germany.

Lt. Grossman was flying in number three position and I was flying in number two. At the time of the attack Lt. Grossman was in position but that was the last I saw of him. I do not know if he dropped back due to trouble or if he blew up. I believe that he dropped out of the formation and no doubt was able to bail his crew out. The reason for this belief is that I have not seen anyone who saw a ship blow up other than Lt. Smiths, 42-52025.

/s/ Robert T. Chalmers
Captain, Air Corps,
765th Bomb Sq (H)

Sgt. Geier 3 April 1924 12156010 a) fracture of the posterior left
Leonard New York T 43-44/C tibia and fracture of shell in the
KSU 2563 386 Ford St. right hollow of the knee.
USA b) 17 Dec. 1944
c) 11 Jan. 1945

KSU 2563 / Kb. Sgt. Leonard Geier, ASN: 12156010 T 43-44/0
Born: on 3 April 1924 at New York;
Home address: 386 Ford Street, New York;

Injury: Distors. Right hook; bullet would right knee.

Time needed for treatment: approx 2 months;
Date of capture: 17 December 1944
Date of admittance: 20 December 1944

Signature: illegible,
Capt. M.C. and Medical
Superintendent of

Sick Division Ila

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **17 December 1944 at 1230, CASUALTY NO. ME-2563**

PLACE OF CRASH **Brenen**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Air Base Headquarters Presnitz**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
Hanley, Hugh Henry 1924 U.S.A.	F/O	T-3731	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Kreps, Earl William 1922 Pa.	2nd Lt.	0-822200	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Grossman, Philip James U.S.A.	2nd Lt.	0-709511	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
McLain, Jr., William L. 31 Aug., 1917 Ala.	2nd Lt.	0-2057977	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Eidsmore, Lawrence M.	Sgt.	32312554	Captured	Dulag-Luft West
Geier, L. G.	Sgt.		Wounded	Hospital
Cody, Jack Riley	1st Lt.	0-560800	Wounded	Hospital

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 10 January 1945.

		U.S.A.		ME-2563
	Rank	Name	ASN	
DATE: 17 Dec. 1944 at 1230	2 nd Lt.	Grossman, Philip James	0-709511	
PLACE: Area of Brenen	2 nd Lt.	Kreps, Earl William	0-822200	
TYPE: Liberator	2 nd Lt.	McLain, Jr., William L.	0- 2057977	
MARKINGS: 765 Sqd	F/O	Hanley, Hugh Henry	T-3731	
461 Group	Sgt.	Geier, Leonard George	12156010	
BASE: Torretta	S/Sgt.	Barnson, V. A.	39906487	
TARGET: Airfield of	Sgt.	White, William C.	12121163	
Presmitz	Sgt.	Eidsmore, Lawrence M.	32312554	
	Sgt.	Freeman, Bernard C.	18020202	
	Cpl.	Sanio, John A.	13152875	
	1 st Lt.	Cody, Jack R.	0-560800	

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2563

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Neutitschein**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII**
Prossnitz/Moravia 17 Dec 44

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Hanley**
FIRST NAME: **Hugh H.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **F/O**

SERIAL NUMBER: **T3731**

CAPTURED: **17 Dec 44** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: **Personal effects**

1 fliers purse with 48 dollars, 30 lire

1 identification tag

1 file

1 tag-(secret plane)

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2563

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH: **2 km S. of Neutitschein dist. Of Troppau**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command Prossnitz/Moravia 17 Dec 44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Grossman**
FIRST NAME: **Philip**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **2nd Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-709511**

CAPTURED: **18 Dec 44 at 950 hrs near Neutitschein** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: **Personal effects**

1 fliers purse with 48 dollars

1 knife

1 identification tag

1 container with morphine (hypodermic)

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2563

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **Maehrisch (Weisskirchen) Welka**

PLACE OF CRASH:

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command A (0)13/XVII Prossnitz 20
Dec 44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Eidsmore**
FIRST NAME: **Lawrence M.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **Sgt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **32312554**

CAPTURED: **17 Dec 44 at 1300 hrs** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: **Personal effects
1 identification tag**

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2563

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 at 1200**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Maehrisch (Weisskirchen) Welka**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII Prossnitz 20 Dec
44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Kreps**
FIRST NAME: **Earl W.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **2nd Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-622200**

CAPTURED: **PM of 17 Dec 44** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: **Personal effects**
1 fliers purse with 48 dollars
1 identification tag

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2563

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 at 1200**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Maehrisch (Weisskirchen) Welka**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator shot down by ME-109**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII Prossnitz 20 Dec
44**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **McLain, Jr**
FIRST NAME: **William L.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **2nd Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **0-2057977**

CAPTURED: **17 Dec 44 at 1400 hrs** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: **Personal effects**
1 identification tag
1 pocket knife
1 purse
1 saw
48 dollars

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GROSSMAN, Philip J.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-709511**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **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: **In La Havre, France in May 1945. I saw Lt. Kreps and F/O Hanley who stated that Lt. Grossman was with them awaiting shipment home.**

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: **BARNSON, Valden A.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39906487**

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? :

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: **SAINIO, John A. Jr.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **13152875**

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: :

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: **WHITE, William C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **12121163**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret 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? :

Any hearsay information: **In La Havre, France in May 1945. I saw Lt. Kreps and F/O Hanley who stated that Lt. Grossman was with them awaiting shipment home.**

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: **Freeman, Bernard C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **18020202**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret 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? :

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:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Jack Riley Cody Rank Capt. Serial No. 0-560800
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Baker Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month 12 day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, , target, Blechhammer, Germany, target time, 1300, altitude, 25,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? In upper turret.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Saw one other chute. Met 4 other crewmen on ground.
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. I was wounded shortly after fighters attacked and was in semi-conscious condition when I bailed out. Have no knowledge of events after being hit.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In Czechoslovakia near German border.
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? After hitting ground, I saw F/O Hanley, Lt. Kreps and Lt. McLain. All were in good shape – merely shaken up. In La Havre, France May 20, 1945 I again saw F/O Hanley and Lt. Kreps. They said that Lt. Crossman and Lt. McLain were with them awaiting shipment home. Stated that they believed the tail gunner, right and left waist gunner, and ball gunner had been killed.
- 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: **GROSSMAN, Philip J.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-709511**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Czechoslovakia – German border.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Checking on crew by interphone & ordering “abandon ship”.**

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:

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNSON, Valden A.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39906487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **I believe not.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Interphoned that German fighters were attacking.**

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

Where was he when last seen? **At radio while over our field in Italy.**

Any hearsay information: **Yes. While in Czechoslovakia just about 8 hrs after my capture, I heard that (5) bodies were found in or around a crashed bomber. Later on I knew only four of our crew were missing therefore never mentioned this.**

Source: **Czech civilian police.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I believe he was killed or wounded in the fighter action and never bailed out. Did not acknowledge pilots "Bail out" message.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **12 sorties or 20 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **October 13, Vienna; October 17, Munich; November 16, Vienna; November 18, Northern Italy; November 20, Odertal (Blechhammer); December 2, Yugoslavia; December 15, Munich; December 6, Vienna; December 17, Odertal (Blechhammer).**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHITE, William C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **12121163**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **I believe not.**

Where? :

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

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

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

Where was he when last seen? **Just before take off in plane.**

Any hearsay information: **Same as for Barnson.**

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 sorties or 15 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SAINIO, John A. Jr.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **13152875**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **I believe not.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Called out he sighted enemy fighters.**

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

Where was he when last seen? **In plane just before take off.**

Any hearsay information: **Same as for Barnson.**

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 sorties or 15 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Freeman, Bernard C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **18020202**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Do not believe so.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Reported over interphone that he got German fighter.**

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

Where was he when last seen? **In plane prior to take off.**

Any hearsay information: **Same as for Barnson.**

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 sorties or 15 missions.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Lawrence M. Eipsmore Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 32312554
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Baker Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
 4. What was the mission, Blechhammer, target, Oil refinery, target time, 1200, altitude, 26,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? 10 minutes from target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes (all but tail, waist and ball turret gunners.
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, co-pilot, navigator, engineer, Squadron Gunnery Officer (wounded) and myself bailed out from bomb bays.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Czechoslovakia northern border.
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? In rear of aircraft.
12. What was their condition? No knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?;
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNSON, Valden A.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39906487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Unknown**

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

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Was told by Czech captors that our plane which crashed and burned about 8 miles SW of Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia (I actually saw plane crash and explode while descending in my chute) contained 4 bodies. Possible that Barnson was one of the four since I have heard nothing of him since crash.**

Source: **Czech civilian police in Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia (names unknown).**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Freeman, Bernard C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **18020202**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Unknown**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Over interphone at time fighters hit us, Freeman called me and stated that he had gotten a ME-109 from his position in tail turret.**

Was he injured? **Unknown (his call over interphone was broken off indicating that he may have been hit. Unable to contact him again).**

Where was he when last seen? **Tail turret.**

Any hearsay information: **Was told by Cazeck captors that our plane which crashed and burned about 8 miles SW of Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia contained 4 bodies. Possible that Freeman was one of the four.**

Source: **Czech civilian police in Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia.**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SAINIO, John A. Jr.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **13152875**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

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

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

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Was told by Czech captors that our plane which crashed and burned about 8 miles SW of Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia contained 4 bodies. Possible that Sainio was one of the four.**

Source: **Czech captors in Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia.**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHITE, William C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **12121163**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Over interphone White stated that he was trying to lower ball turret at time fighters hit out plane. He was unable to lower it, however before orders were given to bail out.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist.**

Any hearsay information: **Was told by Czech captors that our plane which crashed and burned about 8 miles SW of Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia contained 4 bodies. Possible that White was one of the four.**

Source: **Czech civilian police in Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia.**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GROSSMAN, Philip J.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-709511**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Gave him heading to fly toward Russian lines. Interphone went out then.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **Above named officer was a POW at Stalag Luft I and was subsequently released and returned to the States.**

Any hearsay information:;

Source:

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GROSSMAN, Philip J.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-709511**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Mähr-Weisengrad - Kutzendorf area.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Giving me the order to leave the ship.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, June 24, 1945.**

Any hearsay information: **I know for a fact that this man is alive as we correspond regularly.**

Source:

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BARNSON, Valden A.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39906487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Very unlikely.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Believed wounded or dead.**

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

Was he injured? **Probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist about 10 minutes before attack.**

Any hearsay information: **Body found in plane. No dog tags.**

Source: **German police in Pohl Sudetenland.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Believed to be dead. Had lots of time to bail out.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHITE, William C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **12121163**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Very unlikely.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Believed wounded or dead.**

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

Was he injured? **Probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist about 10 minutes before attack.**

Any hearsay information: **Body found in wreckage – no dog tags.**

Source: **German police.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Almost certainly dead. Had lots of time to bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SAINIO, John A. Jr.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **13152875**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Very unlikely.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Believed wounded or dead.**

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

Was he injured? **Probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **Waist about 10 minutes before attack.**

Any hearsay information: **Body found in wreckage – no dog tags.**

Source: **German police.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Almost certainly dead had lots of time to bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Freeman, Bernard C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **18020202**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Very unlikely.**

Where? :

If not, why not? **Believed wounded or dead.**

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

Was he injured? **Probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **Tail about 10 minutes before attack.**

Any hearsay information: **Body found in wreckage – no dog tags.**

Source: **German police**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Almost certainly dead – had lots of time to bail out.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **8.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Hugh H. Hanley Rank F/O Serial No. T-3731
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Hardy Rank Lt. Col.
3. What year 1944 month Dec. day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 6 – 500 lb RDX, target, Odertal oil refinery, target time, 1230, altitude, 26,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? In the area of the Blechhammer oil refinery.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Pilot, co-pilot, navigator, nose gunner, engineer and top turret gunner (11 man crew).
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". We were attacked by approximately 100 German fighters in the area of the Blechhammer oil refineries. During the fight the waist suddenly stopped firing and we lost our interphone. Having 3 engines out we were losing altitude rapidly and the pilot put the ship on a southeasterly course. I left the nose and just as I got to the flight deck the pilot waved me out of the ship. I was captured immediately upon landing and taken to the town of Pohl which is very close to the German-Czech border. There I was told later by the German police that four bodies were found in the wreckage of the ship.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the vicinity of Mähr-Weisengrad & Kutzendorf, Czechoslovakia.
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 am of the opinion that William White, Bernard Freeman, Valden Barnson and John Sainio were in the aircraft when it crashed.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Waist and tail.
12. What was their condition? Unknown – believed wounded or dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GROSSMAN, Philip J.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-709511**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Last known home address – 1100 Second St., Lima, Ohio. Lt. Grossman made the boat trip home with Lt. Kreps.**

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: **BARNSON, Valden A.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **39906487**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Left Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown – bombardier thought he saw someone bail out waist (not certain).**

Where? .

If not, why not? **Unknown – ship went down fast, Lt. Kreps was extremely busy – no contact with waist.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Unknown exactly but it was during the fight.**

Was he injured? **Unknown, but probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **To the best of my knowledge – in the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Probably went down with the ship – from German E.M. (bodies or remains found in ship; this knowledge came to me in interrogation center). The one saw him bail out- our tail was shot up badly (controls were very bad) – ball turrets were up so jerries criss crossed almost at will from underneath – ship was in very bad shape..**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **9 (I believe – possibly more as Sqdn was short of A.O's.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Vienna – Oct 44; Blechhammer – Oct 44; air field (Italy) – Nov 44 (Lt. McLain would probably know).**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **WHITE, William C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **12121163**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **During the fight probably.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Probably went down with the ship – ship was severely shot up – German E.M. at interrogation center said (bodies or remains found in ship). The ship exploded upon impact with the ground – the Czechs had not heard about that.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 8.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Good information unavailable.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SAINIO, John A. Jr.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **13152875**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Unknown exactly – before fighter contact was made through oxygen checks.**

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Probably killed – ship badly riddled (damage was severe). Went down fast – ship exploded near or on the ground – German E.M. said (remains found in ship – poor information source).**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 8.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Good information unavailable.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Freeman, Bernard C.**

Rank: **Sgt.**

Serial number: **18020202**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Tail Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Unknown.**

Where? :

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **During enemy contact said, "Got him" – not sure but I think he sounded as though he were hit bad.**

Was he injured? **Probably.**

Where was he when last seen? **In the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Probably killed – ship went down fast – exploded near or on ground – no one actually saw him bail out – the crew who bailed out started at about 22,000 and the last was out at about 1,500.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **8 approximately.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Good information unavailable.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Earl William Kreps Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-822200
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
 4. What was the mission, high altitude bombing, target, Odertal Oil refinery, target time, 1230, altitude, 26,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown same as scheduled.
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 20 minutes from I.P.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier, nose gunner, engineer (top turret normally) and Lt. Cody (operating top turret) – gunnery instructor.
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". Navigator, engineer, nose gunner, Lt. Cody, co-pilot (myself) bailed out near Kutzendorf (German name), Czechoslovakia – others (not certain) – that town was on the border of Germany.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Within 10 miles of Kutzendorf.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Probably Sgts. Barnson, White, Freeman & Cpl. Sainio.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Tail and waist.
12. What was their condition? Unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Pilot Grossman & bombardier Hanley were met en route to Frankfort.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

2nd Lt. William L. McLain, Jr.	Mrs. Elizabeth W. McLain (Wife) 304 Ridgecrest Street Montgomery, Alabama
F/O Hugh H. Hanley	Mrs. Mary Hanley (Mother) 295 Whiton Street Jersey City, New Jersey
1st Lt. Jack R. Cody	Mrs. Mary Lou Cody (Wife) 3913 North Edith Street Albuquerque, New Mexico
2nd Lt. Earl W. Kreps	Mrs. Marie E. Kreps (Wife) 1925 Metropolitan Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2nd Lt. Philip J. Grossman	Mrs. Theresa Grossman (Mother) 1100 East Second Street Lima, Ohio
S/Sgt. Valden A. Barnson	Mrs. Blanche M. Hayes (Mother) Gosher, Utah
Sgt. William C. White	Mr. William White (Father) 931 Foster Avenue Brooklyn, New York
Sgt. Leonard G. Geier	Mr. Samuel Geier (Father) 386 Ford Street New York, New York
Sgt. Lawrence M. Eidsmore	Mrs. Alice M. Eidsmore (Mother) 280 Warburton Avenue Hastings on the Hudson, New York
Corp. John A. Sainio, Jr.	Mr. John A. Sainio, Sr. (Father) 18 Second Street Brooklyn, New York
Sgt. Bernard C. Freeman	Mrs. Emma L. Freeman (Mother) General Delivery Vimita, Oklahoma