

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10683

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 764th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course straight to target
Target Odertal, Germany Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Solid (10/10) coverage
4. GIVE: [a] Date 17 Dec 44 Time ____ Last known position 50°10'N, 17°00'E approx
[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 **Combination engine failure & enemy aircraft.**
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J-5-DT AAF Serial Number 42-51324
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: _____
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R 1830-45 AAF serial Number [a] BP 455371
[b] CP 330180 [c] CP 324233 [d] CP 307603
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] **All Browning Cal. 50**
[a] IN 1236162 [e] RT 1236174 [i] RW 896525
[b] RW 1236600 [f] LT 1236450 [j] LN 1236179
[c] LB 1236354 [g] RU 896629
[d] RB 1236556 [h] LU 896913
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] Battle Casualty, [] Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
[If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet]

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME [Last, First, Initial] RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
[1] Pilot	Smith, Kenneth B., 2 nd Lt. 0-825700	MIA	Mrs. Virginia Smith (Wife) 2002 N. Audubon Rd., Indianapolis, Ind.
[2] CP	Rudal, Chester H., 2 nd Lt. 0-713554	MIA	Mrs. Alma Rudal (Wife) Fessenden, North Dakota
[3] Bomb	Hokr, Frank V., 2 nd Lt. 0-2064256	MIA	Mr. Frank Hokr (Father) 5529 W. 23 Place, Cicero, Illinois
[4] Nav	Edmiston, Harry D., 2 nd Lt. 0-2061225	MIA	Mrs. Mary Edmiston (step-mother) 1960 Ivy St., Denver, Colorado
[5] RWG	Foss, Charles F., Cpl 31360952	MIA	Mrs. Mary A. Foss (Mother) Star Route, Machias, Maine
[6] LWG	Hymbaugh, Homer E., Cpl 16073922	MIA	Mrs. Doris M. Hymbaugh (Wife) Box 287, Delavan, Illinois
[7] BTG	Morin, Roland W., Cpl 20165518	MIA	Mrs. Louise M. Morin (Wife) Black Rock Rd., West Warwick, R.I.
[8] TTG	Trumpy, Robert T., Cpl 16126093	MIA	Mrs. Marion C. Trumpy (Wife) 618 S. Spring St., Wt Pulaski, Illinois
[9] TTG	Granger, Urbain H., S/Sgt. 36397799	MIA	Mrs. Lucille Kehr (Sister) 326 W. Greenwood Ave., Kankakee, Ill.
[10] NTG	Burkhardt, Edwin A., Cpl 33614032	MIA	Mrs. Anna Burkhardt (Mother) R.D. #1, Hunlock Creek,

Pennsylvania

[11]

[12]

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
[1] Marion C. Mixon	Capt	0-382615	X			
[2] James G. Taylor	2nd Lt.	0-776125		X		
[3] Clark C. Barritt	1st Lt.	0-695284		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] **Unknown; no one saw specifically what did happen.**

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.**

Date: 20 Dec 44

/s/ William L. Hallander
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant

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

STATEMENT

I was leading "A" Flight in the first attack unit on the mission of 17 December 1944 and Lt. Smith was flying in number seven position in my flight.

Lt. Smith called in at approximately 1130 – 1145 to tell me he had one turbo out, one rough engine and was low on fuel. He asked if he should return to his base. He was told to remain in formation if it was at all possible. He was seen leaving the formation a short time later. He did not make radio contact with the lead ship.

In my opinion he started for his base and either bailed his crew out because of a fuel shortage, or he was possibly attacked by enemy fighters that attacked our formation a short time after he left the formation.

/s/ Marion C. Mixson, 0-382615
Capt, Air Corps
Commanding

STATEMENT

On 17 December on the mission to Odertal, Germany, Lt. Smith's plane and crew were lost. I was flying on that same mission in number five position of "A" Flight, first attack unit, and Lt. Smith was flying in the same flight in number seven position. This was his first combat mission.

We were about one hour of flying time from the target and at an altitude of 22,000 feet when I heard Lt. Smith call Capt Mixson, who was leading our flight, and tell him that he was going to have to abort. Lt. Smith had lost power from one of his engines due to a bad turbo-super charger and was having trouble keeping up with the formation. He left our formation and that was the last I saw of him.

On returning to our base, I heard, but only from hearsay, that after leaving our flight Lt. Smith joined with "A" Flight, second attack unit and went on to go over the target area.

/s/ James G. Taylor, 0-776125
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Pilot, 764 Bomb Sq.

STATEMENT

Regarding the mission to Odertal, Germany, on 17 December 1944. At approximately 1125 o'clock, the tail gunner called the navigator and said, "Ship number twelve (flown by Lt. Smith) is dropping out of formation".

No further report was given the navigator. However, while under fighter attack, which occurred at approximately 1140, I noticed a plane from the 461st Bomb Group at 5 o'clock low from our plane. At the time it looked like number twenty-two. However, as I think of it and after finding out that on the 17th our Group did not fly a plane number twenty-two, it may have been plane number twelve (Lt. Smith). The plane was being attacked by two or three German fighters, which, I believe, were Fock-Wolfe 190's.

/s/ Clark C. Barritt, 0-695284
1st Lt., Air Corps
Bombardier, 764 Bomb Sq.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **17 December 1944 - 1145,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2561**

PLACE OF CRASH **Omsenie / Slovakia near Trentschin**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Air Force Headquarters 201/VIII**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
Hokr, Frank Vladimir 1924, Ill.	2nd Lt.	0-2064256	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Smith, Kenneth Butler 18 Feb 1921	2nd Lt.	0-823700	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Edmiston, Harry Duke 4 Dec 1919	2nd Lt.	0-2061225	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Granger, Urbain H. 12 Feb 1918	S/Sgt.	36397799	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Hymbaugh, Homer Edward 1920, U.S.A	Cpl.	16073922	Captured	Dulag Luft West
Rudal, Chester	2nd Lt.	0-713554	Wounded	Hospital
Foss, Charles	Cpl.	31360952	Wounded	Hospital
Trumpy, Robert Theodore	Cpl.	16126093	Wounded	Hospital
Morin, Roland	Cpl.	20165518	Dead	Buried cemetery Trentschin

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft on 12 January 1945.

		U.S.A.		ME-1269
DATE: 17 Dec 1944 1145	Rank	Name	ASN	
PLACE: near Omsenie northeast of Trentschin/Slovakia	2nd Lt.	Rudal, Chester (hospital)	0-713554	
TYPE: Liberator	2nd Lt.	Edmiston, Harry Duke	0-2061225	
764th (HB) Sqd	2nd Lt.	Hokr, Frank Vladimir	0-2064256	
461 Group	2nd Lt.	Smith, Keneth Butler	0-825700	
TARGET: Airfield HQ N(v) 201/VIII	Sgt.	Granger, Urbain H.	36397799	
	Cpl.	Foss, Charles (hospital)	31360952	
	Cpl.	Trumpy, Robert Theodore	16126093	
	Cpl.	Hymbaugh, Homer Edward	16075518	
	Cpl.	Burkhardt, Edwin (missing)		
	Cpl.	Morin, Roland W. (KIA) buried on 18 Dec 44 in cemetery Trentschin	20165518	

TELEGRAM

2-XII-44

13:55

LLEN

A LOTR 47 18/12 1230

To Oberureal near Frankfurt

Forced landing of a Liberator near Omsenie, N.E. of Trentschin/Slovakia on 17 Dec 44 at 1145

A) Captured 17/12 at 1600 near Omsenie

B and C) Lt Ruel Chester 0-713554, T43-44 A wounded

Corporal Foss Charles 31360952 T43-44 wounded

Lt Edmiston Harry 0-2061225 captured

Lt Hokr Frank 0-2064256 captured

Lt Smith Kenneth 0-713554 captured

Corporal Trumpy Robert T 16126093 captured

Corporal Hymbaugh Homer 16073922 T42-43 captured

Corporal Morin Roland 20165518 T41 SA2 0 recovered dead

Corporal Burkhardt Edwin Presumably escaped

Sgt Granger Urbain presumably escaped

D) Liberator.

E and F) Not established

G) By flak and fighter

Captives were sent out to Oberureal

Air Base Command B(V) 201/VIII Trentschin Slovakia

Signed Anecke-Major

(within another telegram is given the same information – this telegram is the same but for the following:

19 Dec 44

1805

LLEN

Lt. Edmiston

Lt. Hokr (spelling different)

Air Base Command E(O) 201/VII Trentschin/Slovakia

KSU 2561

Com.

Air Base E(V)201/VIII Trentschin 18 Dec 44

Trentschin, Slovakia

List of confiscated personal effects of
Smith Kenneth

Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie

1 fountain pen	1 chime (for clock)
1 pair heated gloves	1 xxxxx
14 cigars	755 Lira
1 pocket knife	1 gold piece-10 dollars and personal papers
1 pocket watch, chain and charm	
1 signet ring (gold)	1 belt – cloth
1 wedding ring	1 handkerchief
1 lge. Insignia for cap	1 cravat
1 nail cleaner	1 pr shoe large
1 lighter	1 piles indiggie
1 rank insignia	1 red xxxx
	3 coins

KSU 2561

Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII

Trentschin, Slovakia Trentschin 18 Dec 44

List of confiscated personal effects of

Lt. Hokr Frank 0-2064256

Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie /Slov

1 pair gloves (with heat unit)	1 cravat
1 wrist watch	1 belt (cloth)
1 celluloid capsule with contents	1 celluloid case & contents
1 silver ring	1 handkerchief
1 gold ring	1 leather folio & photo

KSU 2561

Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII

Trentschin, Slovakia Trentschin 18 Dec 44

List of confiscated personal effects of

Corporal Foss Charles 31360952 T43/44

Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie

1 purse containing 2905 Lire and 12 coins

48 dollars American

personal papers

KSU 2561

Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII

Trentschin, Slovakia Trentschin 18 Dec 44

List of confiscated personal effects of

Lt. Edmiston Harry D. 0-2061225

Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie

260 lire and purse

43 American dollars
private papers.

KSU 2561

Air Base Command (etc)

List of confiscated personal effects of
Corporal Trumpy Robert 16126093
Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie /Slo
48 dollars American money
1 private letter

KSU 2561

Air Base Command (etc)

List of confiscated personal effects of
Corporal Morin Roland E. 20156518 T41 S42 0
Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie /Sl
1 medal
1 identification tag

KSU 2561

Air Base Command (etc)

List of confiscated personal effects of
Hymbaugh Homer 16073922 T42-43
Forced landing-by Liberator 17 Dec 44 at 1145- Omsenie
40 lire
1 pocket knife
1 personal paper

KSU 2561

TELEGRAM

10 Jan 45

0620

LLEN

A LTKB 22 5/1 0900

To Computing station Wert-Oberureal near Frankfurt/M.

The American PW Trumpy Robert, of the crew of Liberator of 17 Dec 1944 which was forced to land at Omsenie, Slovakia has been released from hospital, 5 Jan 45 and is being sent to you – Ser. No. 16186093

Signed Major Waschke

KSU 2561

Trencin 18 Dec 44

Report of capture of A.F. instruments & plane parts

Day of crash-Time – 17 Dec 44 at 11:45

Place – Omsenie, SE of Trencin Teplion/Slov. Grid 29/1/2

Marking – Kokards

To or from mission – To bombing place

Manner – shot or disabled by flak & FW-190

Crash – forced landing – place burned

Search – By Secret Ploice and 3D of Trencin

Watch over plane – Air Base Command E(V) 201/VIII

Filas captured unfinished – none found, no logs, messages, maps.

Plane totally destroyed

KSU 2561

Whereabouts of crew

Dead: one man

Name	No.	Cause	Confirmed by	Burial place
Morin, Roland W.	20156518	Crash	ident. Tags	Trentschin sketch follows (Trencin)

Captured: seven men

Rank	Name	No.	Place & Time Capt.	Disposal	Date
Lt.	Rudal Chester Oberureal	0-713554	Omsenie	Keep	
		T43/44 A	17 Dec 44	Trentschia	unknown
Corp	Foss Charles	31360952	at 16	“	“
		T43/44	“		
Lt.	Edmiston Harry D.	0-2061225	“	---	18 Dec
44					
Lt.	Hokr Frank V.	0-2064256	“	---	“
Lt	Smith Kenneth	0-825700	“	---	“
Corp	Trumpy Robert	16186093	“	---	“
Corp	Hymbaugh Homer	16073922	“	---	“
		42/43			

Escaped: 2 men

Rank Name

Corp. Burkhardt Edwin

Sgt. Granger Urbain H.

No.

Unknown

“

Information – given by

Info by Lt. Hokr

Info by Lt. Hokr

Signed Major Waschke

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2561

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 – 12**

PLACE OF CRASH:

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII.**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Granger**
FIRST NAME: **Urbain H..**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **Sgt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **36397799**

CAPTURED: **17 Dec 44 at 12** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Personal effects
1 roll paper money (sticking together)
1 ident. tag

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2561

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 at 1145**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Forced landing at Omsenie, S Trentschin-Teplica**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII Trentschin,
Slovakia 17 Dec 44.**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Rudal**
FIRST NAME: **Chester**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **Lt.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **O-713554**

CAPTURED: **Omsenie 17 Dec 44 16'o'clock** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

Hospital at Trentschin

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2561

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 at 1145**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Forced landing at Omsenie, SE Trentschin map
grid 89/1/2**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII Trentschin,
Slovakia (Trencin) 17 Dec 44.**

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME:	Edmiston Harry D.	Smith Kenneth	Hokr Frank V.	Trumpy Hymbaugh Robert Homer
DATE OF BIRTH:				
RANK:	2nd Lt.	2nd Lt.	2nd Lt.	Corp. Corp.
SERIAL NUMBER:	o-2061225	0-825700	0-2064256	16186093 16073922 T42-43

CAPTURED: **Omsenie 17 Dec 44 at 16 o'clock** WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

Transferred to Oberureal

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
KSU-2561

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: **17 Dec 1944 45**

PLACE OF CRASH: **Forced landing SE Trencin at Omsenia**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE: **Air Base Command E(V)201/VIII Trentschin,
Slovakia 17 Dec 44.**

CREW

SURNAME, AND **Morin**
FIRST NAME: **Roland W.**

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: **Corp.**

SERIAL NUMBER: **20156518 T41 S42 0**

CAPTURED: WOUNDED: DEAD: **Recovered dead**

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: **Universal Cem at Trentschin (Trencin)**

REMARKS:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Slovakia.**

If not, why not? **Above.**

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

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Luftwaffe barracks – Trencin, Slovakia.**

Any hearsay information: **Hospitalized by Germans – recovered from injury & was released by American troops.**

Source:.

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Blechhammer synthetic oil refinery.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Killed by 20mm from FW-190.**

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

Was he injured?.

Where was he when last seen?.

Any hearsay information: **Body recovered from crashed plane & buried in cemetery in Trencin Slovakia. Funeral attended by Frank V. Hokr, then 2nd Lt. navigator.**

Source:.

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: **17 Dec 44 Blechhammer synthetic oil refinery.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Stalag Luft #1 Barth Germany.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

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: **17 Dec 44 – Blechhammer synthetic oil refinery.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Trencin, Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Trencin state hospital.**

Any hearsay information: **Broke ankle when he hit ground. Stayed in hospital till about Feb 1, 1945 then transferred to POW camp.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Last heard from at home south Perkin, Illinois.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **0.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 – First mission - Odertal oil refinery.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Killed before rest left plane.**

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: **Hit almost immediately when plane was hit. Cpl. Charles F. Foss last man to see him.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **0.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **On first mission to Odertal oil refinery.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Trencin, Slovakia.**

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? **Trencin, Slovakia after bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **Believed to be back in the States.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **0.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **On first mission to Odertal oil refinery.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Rudal, Chester H.** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-713554**
2. Organization **461st** Gp Commander **Hawes** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Nixon** Rank **Capt.**
3. What year **1944** month **Dec** day **17** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Oil refinery**, target, **Odertal**, target time, **1220**, altitude, **25,000** **ft** route scheduled, , route flown **as scheduled**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Over Germany north of Budapest.**
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". **Sgt. Granger left plane before rest. No knowledge others bailed out just before I did. Corp Morin did not bail out.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **In Slovakia about 15 mi from Trencin.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Cpl. Morin.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **Waist.**
12. What was their condition? **Believed dead.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **Cpl. Trumpy (individual questionnaire); Cpl. Foss – state hospital Trencin in hospital 2 Apr 45, right arm badly hurt; Lt. Smith (see individual questionnaire).**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **None.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Trencin, Czechoslovakia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Was in regard to seriousness of fire in left wing.**

Was he injured? **Not at time of bail out.**

Where was he when last seen? **In Trencin after we were captured.**

Any hearsay information: **After capture he was taken to a hospital for treatment of foot injury sustained after bail out.**

Source: **I was present when the Germans took him.**

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: **17 Dec 44 – Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **He was killed before the bail out order was given.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Morin was calling positions of attacking fighter planes.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **I last saw him at take-off time.**

Any hearsay information: **He was wounded after the second pass by fighters and killed by a 20mm in the chest. His body was recovered from the crashed aircraft by German soldiers. Identification was by dogtags only since the body was charred beyond recognition by the burning plane.**

Source: **His death: by tail gunner Urbain Granger S/Sgt, ident of body by German officer.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **His body was interred at the Trencin Cemetery with an identifying cross. I was taken to see the grave by permission of the German officer in charge.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Trencin, Czechoslovakia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **His last command was the bail-out order.**

Was he injured? **Not at time of bail-out.**

Where was he when last seen? **At Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany.**

Any hearsay information: **We remained together from time of capture in Trencin until liberation from Stalag Luft I by Russian troops.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **I last heard from him in a letter he wrote after his return to the U.S.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Frank Vladimir Hokr Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-2064256
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Mixon Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, oil refinery, target, Odertal, Germany, target time, 1200, altitude, 26,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? German, Czech border.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All except ball turret gunner, Morin, Roland W.
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 Granger, Urbain was first out, in Germany. Remainder of crew bailed out over Czechoslovakia at same time. The body of Cpl Roland Morin was in the plane when it crashed.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Trencin 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) Cpl Roland W. Morin.
11. Where were they in aircraft? He was in the waist.
12. What was their condition? Dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All at take-off time. Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Harry D. Edmiston; pilot, 2nd Lt. Kenneth B. Smith, engineer, Cpl Homer Hymbaugh, and I were captured together all uninjured. Upper turret gunner, Cpl Robert Trumpy had injured his foot in the parachute landing and I saw him before he was taken to the hospital.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Nose gunner, Cpl Edwin Burkhardt evaded capture and was assisted by Czech & Yugoslavian partisans to the Russian lines. Radio Op, Cpl Charles Foss was wounded by fighter fire but managed to bail out. He was in the same hospital as Robert Trumpy who I later saw in La Havre, France. Co-pilot, Lt. Rudal broke his back after bail out and was in the hospital with Foss & Trumpy.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **He was wounded seriously.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was in the waist of the ship and since I was in the nose I hadn't talked to him since we left the ground.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **According to other crew members who were also in the tail of the ship he was in the waist.**

Any hearsay information: **I got information from underground of Slovakia that he was buried near Trencin.**

Source:.

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: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes, he left ahead of me.**

Where? **Bomb bays.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called out about fighters coming in on us over interphone system.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Leaving bomb bays.**

Any hearsay information: **I have seen him since I am back in the States. He was a prisoner of war.**

Source:.

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: **Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Bomb bays.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before fighters attacked us.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **Piloting ship.**

Any hearsay information: **He is back in the States. He was taken prisoner of war.**

Source: **I have heard from him since arriving back from overseas.**

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: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Edwin A. Burkhardt Rank Sgt. Serial No. 33614032
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Mixon Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, oil refinery, target, Odertal, Germany, target time, , altitude, 27,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Ten minutes from the target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? I saw only seven other chutes but know that eight bailed out.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". I saw Hymbaugh, Homer, Trumpy, Robert, Edmiston, Harry and Hokr, Frank bail out. I have heard from all since I am back in the States. Roland Morin is the only one who didn't bail out. His parents have been notified that he was killed. Charles Foss was wounded and is in a hospital in Framingham, Mass. Smith, Granger and Rudal are also back in the States.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near the village of Trencin, Slovakia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Cpl Roland W. Morin, lower gunner.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Waist of the ship.
12. What was their condition? He was wounded very seriously.
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: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Trencin, Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **We jumped out of plane together.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Trencin Slovakia hospital.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

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: **17 Dec 1944 Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **He was shot up bad & went down with plane.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He called out bombardier & told him he was going to fire a waist gun.**

Was he injured? **Yes, shot by enemy fighters.**

Where was he when last seen? **In waist of our plane.**

Any hearsay information: **12-17-44 while being interrogated at Trencin Slovakia. German officer showed me his (Morin's) burned identification tags & told me that Morin was dead.**

Source: **German interrogator.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was killed while firing at German fighter planes & is buried at Trencin Slovakia by the Slovaks in a Slovakian cemetery.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Trencin, Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **Unknown.**

Where was he when last seen? **I was in prison with him – he is back home now.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

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: **17 Dec 44 Odertal, Germany.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Hymbaugh, Homer Rank Sgt. Serial No. 16073922
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Mixon Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Odertal, target, , target time, 12:17, altitude, 24,000 ft route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Behind.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All but Morin.
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". Smith, Rudal, Hokr, Edmiston, Foss, Trumpy, Burkhardt & Granger all bailed out & are now in the States.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Trencin, Slovakia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Cpl Roland W. Morin, lower gunner.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Waist of the ship.
12. What was their condition? He was wounded very seriously & dead or dying.
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: **TRUMPY, Robert T.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **16186093**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Between Prostejov, Czech and Trencin, Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Guns out of commission and he was preparing to leave plane (last conversation).**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **La Havre, France, June 1945.**

Any hearsay information: **He informed me he stayed in hospital from date he went down to date of liberation. Hospitalized somewhere in Czech. Exact location of hospital unknown.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Cpl. Trumpy, R.T. was returning to States when seen at La Havre, France in June 1945.**

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: **MORIN, Roland W.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **20156518**

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

Did he bail out? **No.**

Where?.

If not, why not? **Injuries fatal.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Soldier complaining of being wounded.**

Was he injured? **Yes, fatally.**

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

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Soldier received direct bullet hits which were fatal.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Blechhammer, Germany.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SMITH, Kenneth B.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-825700**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Between Prostujev, Czech and Trencin, Slovakia.**

If not, why not?.

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

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **La Havre, France, June 1945.**

Any hearsay information: **Above officer informed me that he spent his prison term at Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany.**

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Officer on way to the States when last seen at La Havre, France, June 1945.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **17 Dec 44 Blechhammer, Germany.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Granger, Urbain H. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 36397799
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Hawes Rank Col Sqn CO Mixon Rank Major
3. What year 1944 month December day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, airiel raid, target, Blechhammer Oil Ref, target time, 1159, altitude, 27,500 ft route scheduled, Adriatic Sea, Austria, Czechoslovakia, route flown same as above.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Prostajev, Czechoslovakia.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, except one, Roland Morin, ball turret gunner. Killed in Action.
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". Crew members for which no quest were incl bailed out between 1200 and 1215 during course of battle between Prostujev and Trencin, Czech. All bailed out in accordance to instructions.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Trencin, Slovakia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Cpl Roland W. Morin, ball turret gunner.
11. Where were they in aircraft? In rear of plane.
12. What was their condition? Dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Smith K.B. (Pilot) La Havre, France, June 1945; Hymbaugh, H. (Eng), La Havre, France, June 1945; Trumpy, R.T. (Top TG) La Havre, France, June 1945. (Above names were of my crew.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge. I confirm Cpl. Roland Morin's death for he died in my arms while giving him first aid.

2nd Lt. Keneth B. Smith	Mrs. Virginia C. Smith (Wife) 2002 North Audubon Street Indianapolis, Indiana
2nd Lt. Chester H. Rudal	Mrs. Alma M. Rudal (Wife) Fessenden, North Dakota
2nd Lt. Frank V. Hokr	Mr. Frank Hokr (Father) 5529 West 23rd Place Cisere, Illinois
2nd Lt. Harry D. Edmiston	Mrs. Mary N. Edmiston (Mother) 1960 Ivy Street Denver, Colorado
Cpl. Charles F. Foss	Mrs. Mary A. Foss (Mother) Star Route Nashias, Maine
Cpl. Homer E. Hymbaugh	Mrs. Beris M. Hymbaugh (Wife) Box 357 Delavan, Illinois
Cpl. Roland W. Morin	Mrs. Louise M. Morin (Wife) Black Rock Road Anthonic, Rhode Island
Cpl. Robert T. Trumpy	Mrs. Marion C. Trumpy (Wife) 618 South Spring Street Mount Pulaski, Illinois
S/Sgt. Urbain N. Granger	Mrs. Hester M. Granger (Mother) 324 North Greenwood Street Kankakee, Illinois
Cpl. Edwin A. Burkhardt	Mrs. Anna S. Burkhardt (Mother) Route Number One Runlock Creek, Pennsylvania