

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6894

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 295°
Target Nimes, France Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU
4. GIVE: [a] Date 12 Jul 1944 Time 1050 Last known position 20 miles S.E. of Mirabeau, France
[b] Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last contacted by radio, No information **Exploded**
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 H AAF Serial Number 42-52723
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-43 AAF serial Number [a] CP-300275
[b] CP-300339 [c] CP-300359 [d] CP-304623
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50
[a] RW 998572 [e] LT 998471 [i] LB 998668
[b] RB 999525 [f] RU 998228 [j] RN 999436
[c] LW 997955 [g] RT 997948
[d] LU 999901 [h] LN 999699
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	Ray, Chester A., Jr., 2 nd Lt. 0-809872		Chester A. Ray, Sr. (Father) 5219 Commonwealth, Detroit, Michigan
[2] Co-pilot	Dargie, Richard V., 2 nd Lt. 0-813135		Edith E. Dargie (Mother) 394 Pleasant St., Malden, Massachusetts
[3] Bomb	Spring, Merrill T., 2 nd Lt. 0-695383		Frank E. Spring (Father) 201 Sycamore St., East Aurora, New York
[4] Nav	Ducatman, Arnold T., 2 nd Lt. 0-702912		Marie A. Ducatman (Wife) 317 E. 78 th St., New York, New York
[5] LWG	Smith Andrew T., S/Sgt. 6383767		Nancy N. Smith (Mother) Box 651, Tullos, Louisiana
[6] RWG	Cumming, Robert D., S/Sgt. 38103221		James Cumming (Father) 2046 Roanoke St., Colorado Springs, Colorado
[7] TTG	Moss, Thomas J., Sr., S/St. 13142963		Georgia M. Moss (Wife) 906 Hotsprings Road, Covington, Virginia
[8] BTG	Rahl, Gerald, Sgt. 36406936		Alvah Rahl (Father) 1520 W. Lyons St., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

[9] TTG	Wild, Rudolph H., S/Sgt. 17159390	Nelson A. Wild (Father) Rt 9, Edwardsville, Illinois
[10] NTG	Morgan, Arthur D., S/Sgt. 14199445	James T. Morgan (Father) Dunwoody, Georgia
[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] Lodder, Thomas E.	S/Sgt.	36725205		X		
[2] Jannetta, Richard A.	S/Sgt.	17037674		X		
[3] Cogswell, Norman H.	2nd Lt.	0-795279		X		

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: **None.**

Date: **15 July 44**

/s/ Robert A. Preciado
Capt., AC

766TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 520 US ARMY

STATEMENT

I saw one of the engines o ship number fifty-eight, Lt. Ray and crew, catch on fire. Four chutes from that ship blossomed out immediately afterward. The ship seemed to be under control after the chutes were seen. I did not see the ship crash.

/s/ S/Sgt. Thomas E. Lodder
ASN 36725205.

STATEMENT

After enemy fighter hit this aircraft ship number fifty-eight turned off to the left of the formation and started to go down. I did not see the ship after that.

/s/ S/Sgt. Richard A. Jannetta
ASN 17037674

STATEMENT

We were flying in number five position of C Flight. I saw three or four rockets pass between me and ship number forty-two. Ship number fifty-eight, Lt. Ray and crew evidently had been hit by one of the rockets. It immediately dropped one bomb through the front bomb bay door, then peeled off to the left seemingly under control. I lost sight of the ship after that.

/s/ Norman H. Cogswell
2nd Lt., AC
ASN 0-795279

Department
d __ Var ____

Republique Francaise

Arrondissement
d __ Toulon ____

Deces 1

Mairie
d __ Ollipres __

(Extrait du register des actes de l'etat civil)

Stat civil

Le Douse juillet 1944
a 11 hourve est decede Arnold T. Ducatman

Acte de decks
de Arnold H.
Ducatman

domiciles a: inconnu
ne a: id.

Decade le douse

Juillet 1944 Observation: Tombe de l'avion abattu le 12 juillet 1944
A 11 heure du matis a Ollieros.

Numero de l'acts

Drescela: le vingt trios Decembre 1944

Certifie conforms:

Le 23 December 1944

Le Maire,

s/ C. Cheilas

t/ O. Cheiles

Department
d __ Var ____

Republique Francaise

Arrondissement
d __ Toulon ____

Deces 1

Mairie
d __ Ollipres __

(Extrait du register des actes de l'etat civil)

Stat civil

Le Douse juillet 1944
a 11 hourve est decede Robert D. Cumming

Acte de decks
de Robert D.
Cumming

domiciles a: inconnu
ne a: id.

Decade le douse

Juillet 1944

Observation: Tombe de l'avion abattu le 12 juillet 1944
A 11 heure du matis a Ollieros.

Numero de l'acts

Drescela: le vingt trios Decembre 1944

Certifie conforms:

Le 23 December 1944

Le Maire,

s/ C. Cheilas

t/ O. Cheiles

STATEMENT

Je m'appelle Antoine Fecci et je demeure à Saint-Maximin (Var) (France). Le 12 Juillet 1944, à 10 heures du matin environ, je surveillais le travail de quelques ouvriers à ma propriété à 3 kilomètres Est de Saint-Maximin, quand je vis deux chasseurs Allemands attaquant une formation d'avions américains de bombardement. Il y avait 16 avions américains de bombardement. L'attaque des chasseurs allemands eut pour résultat que deux avions de bombardement américains se sont tombés près de nous et nous occupâmes au secours de l'un d'eux qui nous donna son nom: Lt. Chester A. Ray. Il était blessé gravement et nous l'avons pris à notre Maison de campagne pour le soigner et pour le cacher des Allemands.

Un mois à peu près, un autre aviateur a été trouvé, bien portant, qui nous a dit qu'il s'appelait: Sgt. Jerry Rahl, 36406936.

Un des deux avions continua sa course en pointant vers le sol en direction N.W. vers Seillons. L'autre explosa et les débris furent entraînés par le vent vers Ollieres.

Nous avons caché le premier, Lt. Ray, des Allemands et avant le débarquement, le maquis, le 5 Août, a pu lui faire regagner l'Italie. Le Deuxième, Sergent Rahl, s'est joint aux troupes américaines après le débarquement.

On nous a dit que quatre autres aviateurs étaient cachés dans le village de Bras, à la Cave Cooperative, que quatre autres étaient recueillis à St-Estève, que quatre étaient prisonniers des Allemands. On nous dit aussi que trois sont morts dans l'accident et que trois autres sont parties à pied, du lieu où ils étaient tombés et cachés.

/s/ Antoine Fecci

TRANSLATION

My name is Antoine Fecci and I live at Saint-Maximin (Var), France. On the 12 July 1944, at about ten o'clock in the morning, I was supervising the work of some workers at my property about three kilometers east of St. Maximim, when I saw two German pursuit planes attacking a formation of American bombers. There were sixteen American bombers. The attack of the German pursuit planes resulted in two American bombers leaving the formation. Immediately, my wife and I saw about fifteen parachutes fall from the planes. Two fell near us, and we ran to the aid of one who gave his name: Lt. Chester A. Ray. He was seriously wounded, and we took him to our farm house to care for and to hide him from the Germans.

A month later, another aviator was found, well, and told us that his name was: Sgt. Jerry Rahl, 36406936.

One of the two planes continued its course, pointing toward the ground in the direction of Seillons. The other exploded, and its debris was taken by the wind toward Ollieres.

We hid the first, Lt. Ray, from the Germans, and before the invasion of France, the underground, on the fifth of August, were able to reach Italy. The second, Sergeant Rahl, joined the American troops after the invasion.

We were told that four other aviators were hidden in the village of Bras, at the Cave Cooperative, that four others were gathered at St-Esteve, that four were taken prisoners by the Germans. We were also told that three are dead as a result of the accident, and that three others departed on foot from the place where they had fallen and were hidden.

/s/ Antoine Fecci

REQUEST FOR FILES

14 Apr 48
DATE

TO: Search Information Section

FROM: Ident. GBlarron
Section Branch Name

Request MACR, on following named individuals: (Use separate form for each different type file requested, cross out type not needed.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SN</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Ducatman, Arnold R.	2 nd Lt.	0-702912	6894

KU 2567

CF Files

1. Identification tags: Arnold R Ducatman 0-702912 T 42-43 PT
2. Identification tags: A. D. Morgan, 14139445 T 43-43 O/P
3. Identification tags: Richard V. Dargie 0-813135 T 43-43 A/P

No other information on file

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

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

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY DIVISION

DATE: **9/28/44**

NARRATOR:	Thomas J. Moss	SQUADRON:	766
ARMY SERIAL NO.:	13142963	GROUP:	461st BG
HOME ADDRESS:	Clifton Forge, Va	TYPE AIRCRAFT:	B-24
EX-REPORT NO.:		MISSION DATE:	July 12, 1944

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	Chester A. Ray	R.D.
CO-PILOT	Richard V. Dargie	KIA
Navigator	Arnold Ducatman	MIA
BOMBARDIER	Merril T. Spring	MIA
Engineer	Rudolph H. Wild	MIA
Radio Operator	Andrew T. Smith	POW
Ball Gunner	Gerald Rahl	R.D.
Waist Gunner	Cummings	MIA
Nose Gunner	Arthur D. Morgan	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	Thomas S. Moss	R.D.

KNOWN INFORMATION: I saw eight men come out of the ship and one of the men chute was burning which caused his death – Lt. Dargie. Did not see Lt. Spring or Sgt. Morgan come out of the ship. Letter from his mother stated that Andrew T. Smith was or is prisoner of war.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:.

DATE: 7/18/44, 10.50	Rank	U.S.A.	ASN	KU-2567
PLACE: Boulon	2ns Lt.	Ray, Chester A.		Missing
TYPE: Liberator	2nd Lt.	Dargie, Richard V.		
766 Sqd	2nd Lt.	Spring, Merrill	0-695383	Hosp.
461 Group	2nd Lt.	Ducatman, Arnold T.		
BASE: Foggia	S/Sgt.	Smith, Andrew T.	6383767	
TARGET: Airbase Hq.	S/Sgt.	Wild, Rudolph Henry	17159390	
Le Loco	S/Sgt.	Cumming, Robert	38103221	
		Donald		
	S/Sgt.	Morgan, Arthur		
	S/Sgt.	Moss, Thomas J.		
	Sgt.	Rahl, Gerald		

KU 2567

Liberator shutdown at 2 Am ne of Olliers 31 km e of Aix Provence 12 July 44 at 1015

Ducatman, Arnold R. dead and buried 0-702912 T 42 3 P

At place of crash

2 Unknown dead and buried at cemetery of Olliers

KU 2567

July 12, 1944; 1015 Lt. Ducatman, Arnold R. 0-702912 dead

2 km NO of Olliers Dargie, Richard V. 0-813135

31 km O Airman Provence Morgan, A.D. 14139445

Liberator 252723

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN **12 July 1944 - 1050, CASUALTY NO. ME-1599**

PLACE OF CRASH **Boulon**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**

REPORTING OFFICE **Airbase Detachment Le Lue**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Wild, Rudolph Henry Edwardsville, Ill.	S/Sgt.	17157590	Captured	Dulag-Luft
Smith, Andrew Tyrus 19 June 1916 Uronia, La.	S/Sgt.	6383767	Captured	Dulag-Luft
Cumming, Robert Donald 31 Oct 1912 Colorado Springs, Color.	S/Sgt.	38103221	Captured	Dulag-Luft
Spring, Merrill	2nd Lt.	Wounded	Hospital	

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 20 July 1944. Wo.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE

APO 520

US ARMY

AG 360.33

8 January 1945

S: 23 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report.

THROUGH: Commanding General, 49th Wing, APO 520.

TO: Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520.

1. The 2616th Investigating Detachment (OVHD), investigating casualty personnel, has reported information relative to the following former aircraft crew of your command:

2nd Lt. Richard V. Dargie, 0-813135, MIA 12 July 1944

2nd Lt. Arnold R. Ducatman, 0-702912

S/Sgt. Robert D. Cumming, 38103221

2. It is desired that this evidence be considered with a view toward correcting the present casualty status of the individuals named. If sufficient to indicate decease, a corrected Battle Casualty Report will be submitted. If evidence is not considered conclusive of death beyond a reasonable doubt, full statement will be made substantiating such decision.

3. A report will be submitted, by indorsement hereon, of action taken in either case.

4. The following information is submitted:

A body was found by the Germans near the town of Scillons, France, on 12 July 1944, identified as Richard Dargie, and given to the mayor of Scillons for burial. Two bodies were taken from the wreckage of a B-24 near the town of Ollieres on the same date. They were identified as Arnold R. Ducatman and Robert D. Cumming and buried at Ollieres. A copy of each certificate of death and a statement concerning the incident are inclosed.

By command of Major General Twining:

/s/ Windle D. Reel,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

AG 360.33 1st Ind. S: 21 Jan. 45
HQ 49th BOMB WING(H), APO 520, 10 January 45.

C-WRT-9

TO: CO, 461st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520.

For necessary action.

By command of Brigadier General Lee:

/s/ Frank E. Marek
Major, Air Corps
Asst. Adjutant

AG 360.33 2nd Ind. S: 19 Jan 45
Hq. 461st Bomb Group (H), APO 520. 13 Jan 45.

LCF/rfg

TO: CO, 766 Bomb Squadron, APO 520.

For a compliance with basic communication.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Lawhon:

/s/ Louis C. Pfister
1st Lt., Air Corps
Asst. Personnel Officer.

AG 360.33

3rd Ind.

CRP/sdb

766th Bomb Sq, 461st Bomb Gp (Hv) APO 520 c/o PM, NY. 15 Jan 45.

TO: CO, 461st Bomb Gp (Hv), APO 520 c/o PM, New York, N. Y.

1. The evidence submitted in basic communication, and inclosures thereto, combined with the statement made by 2nd Lt. Chester A. Ray, Jr., (on file Hq 15th AF) upon his return to Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, is considered conclusive of death only in the case of 2nd Lt. Richard V. Dargie. A corrected Battle Casualty Report is being submitted this date.

2. However, the evidence is not considered conclusive in the cases of the other two individuals inasmuch as this organization has received information from the mother of Sergeant Cumming stating that he is known to be a Prisoner of War in Germany. The French evidently did not have positive means of identifying bodies and, therefore, it is felt that if a mistake was made in the identification of one body, a mistake could have been made in the identification of another, thus the evidence cannot be considered as conclusive of death in either case.

/s/ Charles R. Phillips
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

AG 360.33

4th Ind.

LGP/rfg

Hq. 461st Bomb Group (H), APO 520. 16 Jan 45.

TO: Commanding General, 49th Bomb Wing, APO 520

/s/ L.G.P.

AG 360.33
HQ 49th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, 17 January 45.

5th Ind.

C-WRT-9

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

Attention invited to 3rd indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Frank E. Marek
Major, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant

360.33
Hq Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520, 22 January 1945.

6th Ind

GP/B/oh

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

It is requested that a check be made to ascertain whether S/Sgt. Robert D. Cumming, 38103221, has in fact been reported CAP, and this headquarters be notified.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Windle D. Reel
Major, Air Corps
Assistant AG.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Merrill T. Spring**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-695383**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Not sure.**

Where? **If he did it was near Lyons, France.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before we crossed the coast of France.**

Was he injured? **Not sure.**

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

Any hearsay information: **His father received a letter from him while he (Lt. Spring) was in a prison camp.**

Source: **Mr. Frank Spring (Father).**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 37.**

Dates and destinations if possible:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Chester A. Ray, Jr. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-809872
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col Sqn CO Dooley Rank **Major.**
3. What year 1944 month Jul day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Nimes, France, target, Marshalling yards, target time, 1100, altitude, 22,000 ft route scheduled, direct, route flown direct
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lyons, France.
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 crew list attached. No direct knowledge.
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?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. Thomas Moss in good condition. He was with the same underground people that were taking care of me.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Lt. Richard Dargie bailed out and upon reaching the ground the Germans took and shot him (French underground). Sgt. Gerald Rahl bailed out successfully and fought with the French underground until the Allies reached him. (A letter from Sgt. Rahl). Sgts Rudolph Wild and Andrew Smith were prisoners of war (a letter from Lt. Ducatman's mother).

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Ray, Chester A., Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-809872**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **About 60 miles northeast of Toulon, France.**

If not, why not?

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? **Peimbino, Italy.**

Any hearsay information:.

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He was burned by fire in an attempt to gain control of plane after we had been hit. (This information gained through conversation with him).**

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Dargie, Richard V.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813135**

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: **Orders for radio silence.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **By the pilot as he left the controls to bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **The French said that his chute was on fire & he was killed as he struck the earth. I did not see his body, but I saw the funeral procedure. The Germans were supposed to have taken his dog tags but his name was shown to me as it was taken from his wallet.**

Source: **French underground (names unknown).**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Spring, Merrill T.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-695383**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

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

Where?;

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He received bearings from navigator.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **At air base.**

Any hearsay information: **A letter from him stating that he had been captured & his right foot had been amputated.**

Source: **Father of Merrill T. Spring.**

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Ducatman, Arnold T.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-702912**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

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: **Gave bearings to Bombardier.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **At air base.**

Any hearsay information: **No knowledge.**

Source:.

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Morgan, Arthur D.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **14199445**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose 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: **Oxygen report.**

Was he injured? **No knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **At air base.**

Any hearsay information: **No knowledge.**

Source:.

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

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

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

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Thomas Joseph Moss** Rank **S/Sgt.** Serial No. **13142963**
2. Organization **461st** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Dooley** Rank **Major.**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **12** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bombing**, target, **Nimes, France**, target time, **no knowledge**, altitude, **22,000 ft** route scheduled, **no knowledge**, route flown **no knowledge**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **down.**
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? **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? **T/Sgt. A. T. Smith & S/Sgt. Cumming & G. Rahl were at waist windows in good condition as I jumped out.**
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. **S/Sgt Robert Weisfelt, T/Sgt. James Kelly & 2nd Lt. Robert Sanders all of the same crew & shot down the same day as my crew was joined me through the help of the underground & we evaded at the same time.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Ducatman, Arnold R.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-702912**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Don't know.**

Where?;

If not, why not? **Don't know.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was standing beside me after the plane was hit and he seemed OK.**

Was he injured? **Don't know.**

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

Any hearsay information: **None.**

Source:;

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 30.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Don't know.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Spring, Merrill T.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-695383**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Meins, France.**

If not, why not?.

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? **In a little barn in France close to Miens.**

Any hearsay information: **He wrote two letters to his father after he was in the hospital and told him that he was expecting to be repatriated soon.**

Source: **His father.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **He had a large hole in his right foot and was badly burnt. No doubt he died from infection or some other complication with his foot.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 36.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Don't know.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Dargie, Richard V.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-813135**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Co-Pilot**

Did he bail out? **I Don't know.**

Where? **I Don't know.**

If not, why not? **I Don't know.**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **I don't remember it was a long time before we were hit.**

Was he injured? **I Don't know.**

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: **None.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Don't know.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Ray, Chester A., Jr.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-809872**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **The same place as the rest of the crew. Over southern France.**

If not, why not?.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Don't remember the conversation never talked to him after we were hit.**

Was he injured? **Not to my knowledge. Rumored that his ankles were sprained.**

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

Any hearsay information: **Just that he hurt his ankles.**

Source: **Don't remember.**

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Can't remember them. Ask him – he should know.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Rudolph Henry Wild** Rank **T/Sgt.** Serial No. **17159200**
2. Organization **461st** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col** Sqn CO **Dooley** Rank **Capt.**
3. What year **1944** month **July** day **12** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Miens, France**, target, **Railroad yard**, target time, **1025**, altitude, **21,000 ft** route scheduled, **direct to target**, route flown **direct to the target**
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Just a little way over the coast.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **The tail gunner, ball gunner, pilot, waist gunner, radio man and the bombardier. I don't know about the rest.**
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". **Radio man, waist gunner, ball gunner and the tail gunner went out the waist windows.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **On a hill in the woods close to Miens, France.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **Don't know.**
11. Where were they in aircraft? **Don't know.**
12. What was their condition? **Don't know.**
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **The navigator, radio man, waist gunner, ball gunner and tail gunner were OK when they bailed out of the ship.**
- 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: **Morgan, Arthur D.**

Rank: **S/Sgt.**

Serial number: **14139445**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Nose gunner**

Did he bail out? **Don't know.**

Where?:

If not, why not? **Don't know.**

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

Was he injured? **Don't know.**

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

Any hearsay information: **The bombardier helped him to get out of the turret and he was not hurt at that time.**

Source: **The bombardier.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The bombardier said that the last thing that he saw before he left the ship was an open chute. He thought that the nose gunner opened the chute in the ship.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Don't know.**

Spring, Merrill T. 2nd Lt.

Interrogation: 2nd Lt. Chester A. Ray
S/Sgt. Andrew T. Smith
S/Sgt. Robert D. Cumming
S/Sgt. Thomas J. Moss, Sr.
Sgt. Gerald Rahl
S/Sgt. Rudolph H. Wild

1/7/45 H. Pennington

**2nd Lt. Chester A. Ray, Jr.
Ray, Sr. (Father)**

Mr. Chester A.

**5219 Commonwealth
Detroit, Michigan**

2nd Lt. Richard V. Dargie

**Mrs. Edith E. Dargie (Mother))
394 Pleasant Street
Malden, Massachusetts**

2nd Lt. Merrill T. Spring

**Mrs. Agatha K. Spring (Mother)
201 Sycamore Street
East Aurora, New York**

2nd Lt. Arnold T. Ducatman

**Mrs. Marie A. Ducatman (Wife)
317 East 78th Street
New York, New York**

S/Sgt. Andrew T. Smith

**Mrs. Nancy N. Smith (Mother)
Post Office Box 651
Tullos, Louisiana**

S/Sgt. Robert D. Cumming

**Mr. EJames Cumming (Father)
2046 Roanoke Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

S/Sgt. Thomas J. Moss, Sr.

**Mrs. Georgia M. Moss (Wife)
906 Hotsprings Road
Covington, Virginia**

Sgt. Gerald Rahl

**Mr. Alvah Rahl (Father)
1520 West Lyons Street
Mount Pleasant, Michigan**

S/Sgt. Rudolph H. Wild

**Mr. Nelson A. Wild (Father)
Rural Delivery Number Nine
Edwardsville, Illinois**

S/Sgt. Arthur D. Morgan

**Mr. James T. Morgan (Father)
Route #1
Dunwoody, Georgia**