

**WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON**

The MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

7962

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 766th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Torretta, Italy Course 330°
Target Bucharest Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

4. GIVE: [a] Date 26 August 1944 Time 1250 Last known position Cattaro, 10 miles No. Lake Scutari

[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 **Fuel Shortage**

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-78332

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: none

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P&W R-1830-65 AAF serial Number [a] 42-62226

[b] BP-432351 [c] CP-309085 [d] BP-431988

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning Cal. 50

[a] LT 985694 [e] LN 985663 [i] LW 1249228

[b] RN 1258858 [f] RU 985316 [j] LB 1244414

[c] RT 124018 [g] RN 985878

[d] LU 967875 [h] RB 985582

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	Wilson, Howard O., 2 nd Lt. 0-768782		Dorothy Lane Wilson (Wife) 1751 Oakwood Place, Riverside, California
[2] Co-pilot	Bird, Frank S., 1 st Lt. 0-759343		Siddie M. Bird (Mother) Butler, Alabama
[3] Nav	Knoke, Norman E., 2 nd Lt. 0-723376		Ernest H. Knoke (Father) 2827 No. Sacramento Ave., Chicago, Illinois
[4] Bomb	Roylance, Earl L., Jr., 2 nd Lt. 0-773453		Doris V. Roylance (Wife) 35 Holly Park Ave., San Francisco, California
[5] TTG	Riddle, Earl C., Cpl. 35658256		Leona A. Riddle (Wife) R.F.D. #1, Chesapeake, Ohio
[6] BTG	Dominick, Harvey J., Cpl. 36458136		Irene Dominick (Mother) 1125 Cora St., Grand Rapids, Michigan
[7] TTG	Piercy, Blake F., Jr., Cpl. 19129953		Lucy E. Piercy (Mother) 933 East Main St., Morristown, Tennessee
[8] NTG	Sergiacomi, Armand E., Cpl. 32709549		Bobby Sergiacomi (Brother) 98-16 Alstyn Ave., Corana, New York

[9] LWG	Reiland, Thomas J., Sgt. 32780874	Margaret Reiland (Mother) 50 Sutton St., Brooklyn, New York
[10] RWG	Marsino, John F., Cpl. 33675499	Mary Marsino (Wife) 212 College St., Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
[11] Photo	Mulliner, David K., Cpl. 39286629	Mrs. Darline Bryant (Sister) 319 Elder, Nampa, Idaho
[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] Knapp, James B.	Lt. Col.	0-21890	X			
[2] Jehli, Arthur T., Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-700938	X			
[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]

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: 29 August 1944

/s/ Robert A. Preciado
Capt., AC

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

STATEMENT

I was flying in the lead airplane of the Group on 26 August 1944, the day on which Lt. Wilson's crew became MIA.

Shortly after leaving the target Lt. Wilson informed me that he had lost an engine and was unable to stay with the group. I slowed the group down but he was too far behind to catch up and so joined another group in the Wing. He could not stay with them.

He proceeded on alone and was not attacked by enemy fighters. As we reached the coast of Yugoslavia he informed me that he was running low on gas.

When I arrived at the coast I left our group formation and attempted a rendezvous with him. As we started toward his position he called and stated that he had lost a second engine. He later restored it with the cross-feed valves. Shortly after that as he was flying north along the coast to meet me, he reported that all his engines were "cutting out" intermittently. I advised him to turn inland and abandon his ship. I remained in contact with him until his men started leaving the ship but was never able to see him.

He abandoned his ship about ten miles north of Lake Scutari or just north of Catara (apparently he did not know exactly where he was). I believe that the entire crew may be assumed to have left the ship safely.

/s/ James B. Knapp
Lt. Col., Air Corps.

STATEMENT

29 August 1944

On the 26th of August while returning from a raid on Bucharest, ship #54 piloted by Lt. Wilson, reported that they were low on gas. By the time the formation had reached Yugoslavia one engine had already cut out and a few minutes later they lost another engine.

They were in contact with Lt. Colonel Knapp and told him that they were at 8,500 feet over the town of Catara and were going to leave the ship. He told Lt. Wilson to give him a call just before he went out. About three minutes later Colonel Knapp called again but received no answer.

/s/ Arthur T. Jehli, Jr.
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

Meidung über den Abschub eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschub-Nr. **ME 2181**

Abschubtag und Zelt: **26.8.44 – 13.15**
Abschubert: **b. Kotar**
Flugzeugtyp: **Liberator**
Meldande Dienststelle: **A.W. Sudost**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst grad	Erk. Marke	Gef.: Verw.: Tet:	Verbielb: Weiches Luger Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
Sergiaco, Armand Edward 26.1.19 Camden, N. Y.	Sgt.	32709549	Gef.	Stalag Luft
Mulline, David King 15.4.21 Twin Falls, Idaho	Sgt.	39286629	Gef.	Stalag Luft 4
Bird, Frank S.	1st Lt.	0-759343	Gef.	Stalag Luft 3
Mersino	Sgt.	11099567	Verw.	Laz.

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft. Den 9.11.44 Wo.

HEADQUARTERS
Army Air Forces Pilot School (ATE)

Turner Field, Albany, Georgia

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315 Munitions Bldg.

1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

- a. Name of Casualty **Dabid K. Mullines** **Sergecomi.**
- b. Rank **Pvt** **(?)** Crew position **Cameraman** **Gunner.**
- d. Date last seen **22 Sept 44** Place last seen **Prison at Budapest.**
- f. f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft **Out of gas – bailed out in Yugoslavia.**
- g. Known information (eye witness only)

Crew got out saw pilot last man to leave I and (3) three enlisted men Mulliner, Sergecomi and other EM (Pvt) can't remember his name but heard from his folks that he was repatriated because of broken leg. Was separated from them at Budapest. When I went to officers camp, they to enlisted.

- h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability)

(Note: Reverse side may be used if more space is needed in giving information requested above.)

/s/ Frank S. Bird, 1st Lt. AC

Rank and name of reporter

0-759343 **766th Sq., 461st Gp., 15th AAF**

ASN

Unit

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN **26 August 1944 at 1315,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2181**
PLACE OF CRASH **near Kotar**
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**
REPORTING OFFICE **Army Services District Command south west**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Sergacomi, Armand Edward 26 Jun 19 Camden, N.Y.	Sgt.	32709549	Captured	Stalag Luft
Mulliner, David King 15 Apr 21 Twin Falls, Idaho	Sgt.	39286629	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Bird, Frank S.	1st Lt.	0-759343	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Mersino, John Frederick	Sgt.	33695999	Injured	Hospital Dulag Luft

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 9 November 1944

		U.S.A.	ME-2181
DATE: 26.8.44 1315 hrs	Rank	Name	ASN
PLACE: near Kotar	1st Lt.	Bird, Frank S.	0-759343
(Montenegro)	2nd Lt.	Wilson	Fugitive
TYPE: Liberator	2nd Lt.	Knoke	Fugitive
766 Sqd	2nd Lt.	Roylance	Fugitive
461 Group	Sgt.	Mulliner, David King	39286629
BASE: Torretta	Sgt.	Sergicomi, Armand	32709549
TARGET: Airbase HQs		Edward	
Podgorie RW southwest.	Sgt.	Reiland	Fugitive
	Sgt.	Mersino, John	33675499
		Frederick	
	Cpl.	Dominick	Fugitive
	Cpl.	Riddle	Fugitive
	Cpl.	Piercey	Fugitive

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name **Frank S. Bird** Rank **1st Lt.** Serial No. **0-759343**
2. Organization **461st** Gp Commander **Glantzberg** Rank **Col.** Sqn CO **Word** Rank **Maj.**
3. What year **1944** month **August** day **26** did you go down?
4. What was the mission, **Bucharest**, target, **Airport**, target time, **about noon**, altitude, **22,000 ft** route scheduled, **--**, route flown **--**.
5. Where were you when you left formation? **Shortly after leaving target for home.**
6. Did you bail out? **Yes.**
7. Did other members of crew bail out? **Yes, the whole 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". **Cpl. Mulliner and Pvt Mercino I believe went through the rear hatch, the rest through the bomb bay. Mulliner and Mercino were in Northern Albania on the coast above Lake Skutari.**
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? **Two or three miles NW of Cetinje.**
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) **None.**
11. Where were they in aircraft?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? **I only saw Cpl Mulliner, Pvt Mercino and Pvt Sergicomi after getting on the ground. Mulliner and Sergicomi were in good condition. Mercino had a cut on his head and a broken leg which had been put in a temporary cast by the Germans.**
- 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: **Wilson, Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **About two or three miles from Cetinje, Yugoslavia, North.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Before I went into the bomb bay I looked back to check on him and he was behind the seat trimming the nose down and holding it up with the wheel. He left the ship immediately after I did and we were going down so close together I started to call to him once. I was busy with my own landing and didn't see him strike the ground. I didn't see him again or hear from him so I assume that he escaped.**

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: **There were evidently rival factions in the area as there was a lot of gunfire up the valley. I was turned over to the Germans by the Nationalists and held with Yugoslavian and Italian prisoners at Podgorica for about ten days until Pvt Mercino who had a broken leg could be moved. These prisoners were well informed and never mentioned any other crew member than Mercino which I am sure they would had they heard of his capture.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Wilson had a new crew and had had the customary two or three missions with an exp. pilot.**

Dates and destinations if possible: :

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **In vicinity of the Albanian-Yugoslavian border on the coast.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He was on the catwalk with several other members of the crew when I went back to bail out. I urged them out as they seemed a bit reluctant. I saw several of the chutes open but couldn't say for sure if they all did before passing from my sight behind the tail.**

Was he injured?;

Where was he when last seen? **Close to Cetinje, Yugoslavia when we bailed out.**

Any hearsay information: **No.**

Source:

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible:;

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mersino, John F.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **33675499**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right WaistGunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Cetinje, Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **All crew members were told to bail out on interphone.**

Was he injured? **He had a bad bump and cut on his head and his right (?) leg was broken when he hit the ground.**

Where was he when last seen? **With his leg in a cast, on a stretcher being carried from Belgrade to Budapest by boxcar. About 10-15 miles from Zeghedin (?), Hungary.**

Any hearsay information: **On the train from Budapest to Stalag Luft III I talked with an officer who had been in a hospital, talking to an EM with a broken leg who had seen two men escape from his train one night in Hungary. He gave other facts that make me positive that this was Mercino. (Mulliner and I jumped from the train on the night of Sept. 15, '44 under exactly the conditions he described.**

Source: **2nd Lt. Dave (?) Rosemore of Birmingham, Ala.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **After being liberated and returning home I was shown an old letter from his folks to my father, saying that he had been repatriated and was at home.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible:.

On August 26, 1944 I flew as an old co-pilot with 2nd Lt. Howard O. Wilson's crew on a mission to bomb the airport at Bucharest, Roumania.

This was a new crew and I believe all the crew with the exception of Lt. Wilson were on their first mission. He had had the two or three missions required, as co-pilot with a more experienced pilot before taking out his own crew. The photographer, Cpl. David K. Mulliner had 41 missions and I was on my 48th. I didn't know any of the crew personally before that morning.

Shortly after leaving the target the engineer called us on the interphone to say that we only had 250 gallons of gas left. He was very emphatic in that he had checked before take-off and the tanks were full also in that he had transferred all auxiliary fuel. We called Major Knapp who was leading the Group and gave him the details. He told us to reduce power and keep him informed. When we reached the coast of the Adriatic he turned to meet us and we turned north at about the Albanian border. When we realized that we would have to bail out the crew was informed. After the third engine quit we gave the order on interphone to bail out and kept check until we could contact no one on the interphone. Those from the front of the ship were all in the cockpit. I was cleared and I went to the bomb bay. Three men were still on the catwalk so I told them to jump and they went out. Just before jumping myself I looked back to check on Wilson and saw that he was out of his seat, holding the wheel. I bailed out.

As soon as my chute opened I looked around and saw Wilson about a half mile away and just a little above me. I started to call to him but my attention was taken by a lot of ground firing further up the valley and I didn't see him again.

I was turned over to the Germans in Cetinje by the Yugoslavian Nationalists and on the morning of the 28th they took me to Podgorica in a truck convoy. On the way I was taken back to another truck and put in with Pvt. Mercino who was on a stretcher. I didn't recognize him and didn't know he was from the crew until later. He was put in a small hospital and I was put in a prison in Podgorica. I was the only American there but I was told that a whole crew had been there about ten days before. Prisoners there (Former Italian soldiers and Yugoslavians) worked outside during the day, and seemed to be pretty well informed. They told me that my "friend" was in the hospital and I was in contact with his CO but they never seemed to hear the other members of the crew. Later I was taken out, picked up Mercino and was taken to Skutari, Albania. There we picked up Cpl. Mulliner and Pvt. Sergicomi. While being taken from Belgrade to Budapest, the first night after crossing the Danube, Col. Mulliner and I escaped from the train and stayed free for three days. When we left the train Cpl. Mercino was on a stretcher in the boxcar. At Budapest Mulliner and I were separated and I never saw any of them again.

I believe that other prisoners in the same area would have followed the same route but if so they were not with us so I had assumed that all but Mulliner, Mercino, Sergicomi and myself had evaded capture. According to mail from Mercino's home he was repatriated. I have heard from Mulliner since returning, he is now a civilian and of the rest I have no idea.

/s/ Frank S. Bird, 1st Lt. 0-759343

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mersino, John F.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **33675499**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right WaistGunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

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? **Left him in Budapest – he had a fractured hip, leg.**

Any hearsay information: **He's still being operated on in a US Army hospital in Europe. He thought it was only a fractured leg. Here in States, disclosed a fractured hip.**

Source: **Correspondence.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:.

Dates and destinations if possible: **Aug. 26, 1944 – Airdrome in Roumania.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **I don't think so.**

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

Any hearsay information: **Lt. Knoke was not captured with us. After I got back to States, thru corresponding, I was informed that Lt. Knoke was killed in action on his 10th mission.**

Source: **My crew member, Harvey Dominick wrote to me.**

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **?**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wilson, Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **Don't think so.**

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

Any hearsay information: **He's okay.**

Source: **Letters from crew member.**

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

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **?**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Armand Edward Sergiacomi Rank Sgt. Serial No. 32709549.
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Rank, Sqn CO Preciado Rank Capt.
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, over Roumania, target, airdrome, target time, 11:00, altitude, 20,000 ft route scheduled, over Baltic, route flown true route.
5. Where were you when you left formation? On way home – nearing Yugoslavia.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". Everyone on our ship bailed out – that's verified.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In Yugoslavia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?.
- 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: **Mersino, John F.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **33675499**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia between Cetigne and Cattaro, a few miles from Lake Scutari and the Albanian border.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Just before he bailed out.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen?_

Any hearsay information: **When he left I saw his chute open but he was being fired upon from the ground. He was later taken prisoner and was in a Hungarian prison hospital before he was transferred to one in Holmark, Germany. He is now in the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital in Staunton, Virginia.**

Source: **From letters I received from his mother.**

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: **Bucharest, Roumania August 26, 1944.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia between Cetigne and Cattaro a few miles from Lake Scutari and the Albanian border.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He bailed out just before I did.**

Was he injured? **Not to my knowledge.**

Where was he when last seen? **When he left the plane.**

Any hearsay information: **He later made it back to Italy and flew on more missions but on his 13th to Linz, Austria, his ship received a direct hit and exploded over the target. No one was believed to have gotten out. I received this information from the crew of Lt. Thomas who was flying deputy lead that day.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 13.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Bucharest, Roumania, Nov 26, 1944; Vienna, Austria, Oct. 13, 1944; Augsburg, Germany, Nov 4, 1944; Munich, Germany, Nov 16, 1944; Linz, Austria, Dec. 15, 1944; Regensburg, Germany, Feb. 5, 1945; and his last one to Linz, Austria. I'm not positive that these are all correct and I don't know them all. If you ever have any information from other sources I would appreciate it very much if you could send me what you could.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wilson Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over te same area as the rest of us.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **When he informed us that the ship wouldn'thold up any longer.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **I didn't see him bail out as he was the last one to leave.**

Any hearsay information: **He later made it back to Italy but was transferred to another outfit but I do not know what happened to him after that.**

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: **Bucharest, Roumania, August 26, 1944.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Harvey John Dominick Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 36458136.
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO DeSpain Rank Lt.
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, first, target, Bucharest, Roumania, target time, 11:00, altitude, 24,000 ft route scheduled, over Yugoslavia, route flown Bulgaria and Roumania.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Yugoslavian and Bulgarian border.
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". Cpl. Armand E. Sergiacomi, Cpl. Blake F. Piercy and Cpl. David K. Mulliner went out through the escape hatch in the waist. The rest of us bailed out through the forward section of the bomb bay.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the mountains about 2 miles N.W. of Cetinge.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires).
11. Where were they in aircraft?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? We were being fired upon from the ground as we were coming down and I saw only two other parachutes in the sky. One below me I believed to be Cpl. Mersino who I believe was hit and later learned that he was. The one above me was either Cpl. Piercy or Lt. Wilson. I later saw a chute near the wreckage of the plane but to this day do not know whose it was.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I did not know all the men well on this crew but I know the pilot was Lt. Farnham, co-pilot Lt. Eugene B Thomas, who was our original co-pilot in the States, engineer S/Sgt. Thomas Conally, radio operator Sgt. Peterson, tail gunner Sgt. Shay, waist gunner Sgt. Sanderson, and nose gunner Cpl. Roscoe Teal. Their plane received extensive damage over Vienna, Austria. All the enlisted men were wounded and Sgt. Peterson died soon after they left the target area. They had to bail out over Yugoslavia later. He went down with the plane but

later received a decent burial by his crew mates, and the people of the country. If you want any detailed information I suggest that you write to Roscoe Teal whose home is somewhere in Nebraska. If you wish to know where Sgt. Peterson is buried he would be the best one to tell you as they were very close friends.

I met Lt. Roylance, Sgt. Reiland, and Cpl. Riddle about seven days after we bailed out and we came back together to Italy. Lt. Bird, Cpl. Sergiacomi, Cpl. Mersino and Cpl. Mulliner were taken prisoner. Cpl. Sergiacomi is now at home and Cpl. Mulliner is still in the hospital in Virginia. I do not know what became of Lt. Bird and Cpl. Mulliner.

Lt. Knoke, Cpl. Piercy and Lt. Wilson came back to Italy together. Lt. Knoke is believed to have been killed on his 13th mission. Cpl. Piercy is now at home but I do not know anything about Lt. Wilson except that he was flying for the A.T.C. when I left Italy.

Please excuse my humble typing and printing and I hope this may help you in whatever you are trying to accomplish. If you feel that I may be able to furnish any more information do not hesitate to write.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mersino, John F.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **33675499**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Lake Scutari, Albania.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **I do not know.**

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

Any hearsay information: .

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **It was his 1st.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Aug 26, 1944 Bucharest, Roumania.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Lake Scutari, Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Heard him giving position to radio man before we left ship.**

Was he injured? **Not that I know of.**

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

Any hearsay information: **He made contact with Partisans and they took him to secret Allied airfield in Ygo from which he was flown by C-47 back to Italy.**

Source: **Partisan in civilian jail at Scutari, Albania.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **I do not know.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Last mission Aug.26, 1944, Bucharest, Roumania.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wilson Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Near Lake Scutari, Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **He ordered us all to bail out.**

Was he injured? **Not that I know of.**

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

Any hearsay information: **He made contact with the Partisans and they took him to a secret Allied airfield where he was picked up by C-47 and flown back to Italy.**

Source: **Partisan in civilian jail at Scutari, Albania.**

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **I don't know for sure – about three.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Last mission August 26, 1944, Bucharest, Roumania.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name David K. Mulliner Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 39286629.
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander Glantzberg Rank Col. Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing, target, airfield 4 miles N.E. Bucharest, Roumania, target time, 1213, altitude, 22,000 ft route scheduled, across Yugoslavia to Roumania, route flown same.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Yugoslavian.
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". Cpl. Armand E. Sergiacomi bailed out right after me. I did not see the rest leave the ship though later on the ground I saw 1st Lt. F. L. Bird.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In the Yugoslavian mountains near Lake Scutari.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft?;
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Last saw Lt. F. L. Bird in Budapest, Hungary Sept. 23, 1944. Last saw Cpl. A. E. Sergiacomi Feb 6, 1945 Stalag Luft #4D.
- 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: **Mersino, John F.**

Rank: **Cpl.**

Serial number: **33675499**

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

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **To try and get together on ground. He was my best friend.**

Was he injured? **Yes.**

Where was he when last seen? **Leaving plane Last seen Jan 6, 1946 in hospital in US.**

Any hearsay information: .

Source:.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Left leg broken badly.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **We had bombed Bucharest Roumania and were returning to base.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

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

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **We came back to the base together.**

Any hearsay information: **His ship blew up on another mission. He was never heard from again.**

Source:.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **Approximately 20.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Not any.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wilson Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Over Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **We left the ship at the same time.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **We came back to base together.**

Any hearsay information: **We never flew any other missions. Was transferred to an airbase near Bari, Italy.**

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: **Last mission August 26, 1944, Bucharest, Roumania.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Blake F. Piercy, Jr. Rank Sgt. Serial No. 19129953.
2. Organization Gp Commander Rank, Sqn CO Rank.
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, airfield, target, Bucharest, Roumania, target time, , altitude, route scheduled, , route flown.
5. Where were you when you left formation? On return from target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No knowledge". The two men that went out first were taken prisoner. Two other men were taken also but I don't remember just when they went out.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Yes.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft?.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I have heard from all my crew members since I got back to the States.
- 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: **Mersino, John F.**
Rank: **Cpl.**
Serial number: **33675499**
Position: Crew (Bomber) **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Convincing the men that we were to bail out and helping him with chute.**

Was he injured? **Before bailing out - no.**

Where was he when last seen? **Last seen in air after bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **Yes – he was suppose to be shot in the leg while still in the air and taken prisoner after hitting the ground.**

Source: **Partisan movement.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **The last I heard of Cpl. Mersino he was at home in Canonsburg, Penn. June 1945. He was visited by S/Sgt. M. J. Dominiack the nose gunner of our crew also received a letter from his mother stating the same.**

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **Bucharest, Roumania August 26, 1944.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Knoke, Norman E.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-723376**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Navigator**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **Stating position of ship to radio man.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **In air after bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **Yes – Lt. Knoke contacted Partisan underground movement and managed to return to our base in Italy on or about Sept. 24, 1944. He returned to flying status and made about 12 – 15 more missions – was later reported killed in action on a mission to southern Germany – no knowledge of date.**

Source: **US Army AF 766th Bomb Sq, 461st Bomb Gp.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Several of the crew on the same mission saw his ship get hit and explode in mid air – no one saw any chutes.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **About 15.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **August 26, 1944 was the first mission to Bucharest – no knowledge of the other all were towards the end of 1944. I also flew with Lt. Knoke when we got back to our base in Italy.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Wilson Howard O.**

Rank: **2nd Lt.**

Serial number: **0-768782**

Position: Crew (Bomber) **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **Yes.**

Where? **Yugoslavia.**

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **A command to change the position of fuel valves before bailing out.**

Was he injured? **No.**

Where was he when last seen? **In air after bail out.**

Any hearsay information: **He contacted the partisan movement and was in the same party as Lt. Knoke. He returned to his base in Italy about Sept 24, 1944.**

Source: **Partisan while MIA and I flew with him when we got together.**

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: **Wilson was grounded by the flight surgeon for about a month then he was transferred to A.T.C. He was doing his flying out of Bari, Italy.**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **3.**

Dates and destinations if possible: **Austria was considered 2 missions Sept 24, 1944 – Bucharest Roumania August 26, 1944.**

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Thomas J. Reiland Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 32780814.
2. Organization 461st Gp Commander no knowledge Rank. Sqn CO Phillips Rank Maj.
3. What year 1944 month August day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bucharest, Roumania, target, airfield, target time, about 1230, altitude 26,000 ft, route scheduled, no knowledge, route flown same as briefed.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Yugoslavia.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.
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". Cpl. A. Sergiacomi, Cpl. B. Piercy and Cpl. D. Mulliner – out camera hatch in waist. Lt. E. Roylance, 1st Lt. F. Bird, Cpl. A. J. Dominick, Cpl. E. Riddle and myself Sgt. Thomas Reiland bailed out the R forward bomb bay.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? In Yugoslavia about 10 miles east of Albania.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft?;
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All men above with the exception of Cpl. David K. Mulliner and Lt. Frank S. Bird returned to Italy. These two were taken prisoner.
- 14 Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN **26 August 1944 at 1315,** CASUALTY NO. **ME-2801**
PLACE OF CRASH **near Kotar**
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT **Liberator**
REPORTING OFFICE **Army Service District Command**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
Sergiacomi, Armand Edward 26 Jan. 19 Camden, N.J.	Sgt.	32709549	Captured	Stalag Luft
Mulliner, David King 15 Apr. 21 Twin Falls, Idaho	Sgt.	39286629	Captured	Stalag Luft 4
Bird, Frank S.	1st Lt.	0-759343	Captured	Stalag Luft 3
Mersino, John Frederick	Sgt.	33695999	Injured	Hospital Dulag Luft

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft: 9 November 1944. Wo.

1st Lt. Frank S. Bird	Mr. L. Bird (Father) Butler, Alabama
2nd Lt. Earl L. Roylance, Jr.	Mrs. Doris V. Roylance (Wife) 1623 9th Avenue Francisco, California
2nd Lt. Howard O. Wilson	Mrs. Dorothy L. Wilson (Wife) 3751 Oakwood Place Riverside, California
2nd Lt. Norman E. Knoke	Mr. H. Knoke (Father) 2827 North Sacramento Avenue Chicago, Illinois
Sgt. Thomas J. Reiland	Mrs. Margaret M. Reiland (Mother) 50 Sutton Street Brooklyn, New York
Cpl. Blake F. Piercy, Jr.	Mrs. Lucy E. Piercy (Mother) 933 East Main Street Morristown, Tennessee
Cpl. Harvey J. Dominick	Mr. Michael J. Dominick (Father) 1125 Corn Street N.W. Grand Rapids, Michigan
Cpl. Earl C. Riddle	Mrs. Leona A. Riddle (Wife) Route Number One Chesapeake, Ohio
Cpl. David K. Mulliner	Mrs. Darlina Bryant (Sister) 319 Elder Street Nampa, Idaho
Cpl. Armand E. Sergiacomi	Mr. Bobby A. Sergiacomi (Brother) 98-16 Alstyne Avenue Corona, New York
Cpl. John F. Mersino	Mrs. Mary E. Mersino (Mother) 212 East College Street Canonsburg, Pennsylvania