# RESTRICTED F. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC F. M. MERNOH, Copt., AS

### COHFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

### MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

	off Toratta rehateed mraaries				
,	ODCANTUATION. Togetion by Name Con Stan II. James	J 170 - 7	a Command a	n Lin Form	
т.	ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood	COURT OF THE PARTY	ma .	r with rold	
	WIII; Group 384th; Squadron 546th; De	e caciniciio.	-	-	
2	SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood,	The I and . (	ourse An Dw	i afad	
٠.	Target or Intended Destination Gladbeck, Germ	ang Land,	Type of Mi.	ssion Com	-
3.	WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRAS	SHOR WHEN	LAST REPOR	PED:	28.6
		210 010 111111	THE THE PARTY	Annual Control of the last of	
1	GIVE: (a) Day 23 Month Ma Vear 1945 : Time 1	31.6 : and	Location 51	35 N 0650	17
	GIVE: (a) Day 23 Month Maryear 1945; Time 1	sing airer	a ft.	27 110 0027	- Au
	(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sig				
	(n) abreveral marchant march march march	(44)	2200000000		
	radio ( ); Forced down ( ); Seen to Crash ( );	or Inform	nation not A	vail-	
	able ()				
5.	AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LO	OST. AS A	RESULT OF:	(Check	
	only one) Enemy ircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircra	oft (x): 0	ther Circums	stances	
	as Follows:	,,			
		-			3/6
6.	AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G	; AAF Ser	rial Number	43-39053	
7.	NICKNAME OF ALRCRAFT; If any "Heavenly Body"	-		Address of the space of	
8.	ENGINES: Type, Model and Series		; 1	AAF Serial	See.
	Number (a) SW-027762 ; (b) SW-031141 ;	(c) SVE-02	27659 ; (	d) SW-03125	56
9.	INSTALLED WELPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and S	Serial Num	ber);	STI SAMO	,
	(a)1265252 Frig; (b)12663061 Frig. (c)1262296			ig ;	
	(0)504898 Sav.; (1)419940 H.S.; (g)1262318	Frig ; (	h)451028 Ke.	lsav ;	
	(i)242754 Kelsay (j)12604672 Frig; (k)1536798	B.L. ; (	1)119475 Sa	V. ;	
	(m); (n); (o)	; (	p)	;	
10.	THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) I	Battle Cas	sualty :	x	
	or (b) Non Ba				
11.	NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Grew 10; Pass			10	
	(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following par				
1.	persons were aboard aircraft, list similar par	rticulars	on separate	sheet	
B	and attach original to this form.)				1.11
	Grew Position Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON ASSESSMENT ASSESSME	ent Status	SEP.
MC	1. Pilot 4 Connor, John Michael	2nd Lt.	0-780525	MIA CUS	P
vc.	2. Co-Pilot / Robinette, Mack (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0.929901	MIARING	RI
75	Navigator Bellavance, Paul Joseph, Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-207301.7	MIA BUS	3
75	14 · Togglier % Hollenbeck, Claude (NMT)	Sgt.	42092633	HEARME T	] PE
D	Radio Oper. 7 Fulton, Max Johns	Set.	37483431	MIA MIA	
75	10. Top Turret Farl, Willard G.	Sgt.	32786285	MIA RMC	RI
D	Ball Turret 9 Mendias, Ferdinand J.	Sgt.	19003096	MIA M/A	
ED VS	** Tail Gunner / Beasley, Delmar James	s/sgt.	35581546	MIA MIA	
	9 • Waist Gunner & Burke, Hal E.	Sgt.	36869562	MIAP	RT
D	10. Spot Jammer (Phr. Willard (NMI)	S/Sgt.	16117719	MIA M/A	
	11.				PAR

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME

Contacted Only One Column

Name in Ful	1	Serial	hir	Last	Saw	Forced
(Last Name Fir		Number	Radio	Sighted		Landing

2. Jones. Ernest T. S/Sgt. 39212854

3. Humphrey. Loron K. S/Sgt. 38469318 x
13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)

2 to 4 chutes were observed. 14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEAR FROM:

15. ATTACH EYEVITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, TORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT

Date of Report 2 April 1945

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEM. To:

J. R. WYATT, Captain, Air Corps, Ass't. Adjutant.

Incl 1



### CONFIDENTIAL

### S-2 SUMMEARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups.

3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of thich will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 384th SQ 546th A/C # 43-39053 MISSION DATE 23 Merch, 1949

FIRST PILOT JEHN M. CONNOR 2nd Lt. 0-780525 DESTINATION Gladbook, Germany

NAME RANK SER#

- 1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:
  - (a) By condinates 5135N-0659E (Gladbeck)
  - (h): Approximate altitude Approxe 14,000 feete
  - (c) Last noted heading Approx. 1500 Mage
  - (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Below the formation
- 2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft

No E/A encountered.

Accurate moderate flak was encountered at Gladbeck. A/C 9053 received a direct burst of flak in the above area.

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

Direct flak burst started the #4 engine burning, and left the #2 engine smoking.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

A/C 9053 Bost from 8,000 to 10,000 feet of altitude in spin after being hit, and then exploded in mid aire

(Over)

CONFIDENTIAL

### CONFIDENTIAL

								formation			
-	escort?	No	If.	so, gir	re dis	tigui	shin	g markins	of Fig	hter Grou	p
-	if noted	(Grou	ip number,	color	and o	r fig	iter	aircraft	numbe "	s, nickna	mes,
	tc.)										

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

Two (2) to four (4) chutes were observed. Nothing further noted on approximate altitude or time between jumps.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

YE-W	TITNESSES: NAME	RANK	SER #	A/C #	
	1. Gordon, S. C.	s/Sgt.	13123434	8673	
	2. Cologne, A. J.	S/Sgt.	18139758	8678	
	3. Jomes. F. T.	S/Sgt.	39212854	8678	
	4. Humphrey. L. K.	S/Sgta	38469318	8678	

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will b. forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 ( 5 July 44) OB-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

Incl 2

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6-3861, AF

#### INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

FULTON Max Johns Name of crew member: Sgt Rank: 37 483 431 Serial number: Position: Crew (Bomber) of Flight Company Radio O. Did he bail out? Unknown Where? If not, why not? Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: In radio room on take-off Was he injured?Unknown Where was he when last seen? In radio room Any hearsay information: Hal Burke waist gurner wrote to the pilot and said he saw Fulton dead near the wreckage of plane Source: Written to me by Pilot Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None Total number of missions of above crew member: 15 Dates and destinations if possible: 2--25-45 Fredrechshafin 3-14-45 Minden 2--26-45 Berlin 3-1 45 Zossen 3-18-45 Berlin 2--27-45 Leipzig 2--28-45 Hagen 3+19-45 Pluen 3--2-45 Resitz 3-20-45 Hamburg 3--4-45 Ulm 3-22-45 Wasterholt 3-23-45 Gladbeck 3--7-45 Giessen 3--12-45 Betzdorf

Delmar James

### INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNALRE

Name of crew member: Rank: Serial number:	B E E S L E Y Delmar Ja S/Set 35 581 546	me
Position: Crew (Bomber) contribute (Bishton):	T G	
Did he bail out? <u>Unknown</u>		
Where?		_
If not, why not?		_
Last contact or conversation just prior to or a	at time of loss of plane:	_
Tast contact at take-off		_
Was he injured? <u>Halemown</u>		-
Where was he when last seen? In waist on t	ake-off	_
Any hearsay information: Hal Burke waist gu	nner wrote to the pilot and said	_
he saw Beesley dead near the wreckage	of plane	-
		-
		-
Source: Written to me by Pilot		-
Any explanation of his fate based in part or wh	holly on supposition: None	-
Total number of missions of above crew member:	34	
Dates and destinations if possible: Inhown		_

#### INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Rank:	E H R Willard (NMI)
Serial number:	S/Sgt 16 117 719
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Plinty Fighter	Spot Jammer
Did he bail out? Unknown	
Where?	
If not, why not?	
Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time	ne of loss of plane:
Last contact at take-off	
Was he injured? Unlongwn	
Where was he when last seen? In redio room on to	ke-off
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: IInkn	own
Dates and destinations if possible:	

Rank:

Name of crew member:

Ferdinand J.

HENDIAS

#### INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Rank: Serial number: Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fight)	Sgt. 19 003 096 B T G
Did he bail out? U nknown	
Where?	
If not, why not?	
Last contact or conversation just prior to or at ti burst of flak Mendias called Pilot on inter four engines were leaking gas	me of loss of plane After first -phone and told him that all
Was he injured? Unknown	
Where was he when last seen? In radio room on ta	ke-off
Any hearsay information: Hal Burke waist gunner	wrote to the pilot and said
he saw the ball turret buried in the ground	
Source: Written to me by Pilot	
Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly	on supposition:
Don't believe he had a chance of getti	ng out of the ball-turret
because we got a direct hit im the bombay	and we still had our bonb load
Total number of missions of above crew member: 10	
Dates and destinations if possible:	



HEADQUARTERS
GOODFELLOW FIELD
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Wik:odw

13.61

31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

: Commanding G. ral, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315 Munitions Building

- 1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:
  - a. Name of casualty: Willard Ehr
  - b. Rank: Staff Sergeant
  - c. Crew Position: Radar Operator
  - d. Date last seen; 23 March 45
  - e. Place last seen: In B-17 aircraft after take-off on bombing mission to Gladbeck, Germany
  - March 1945, our B-17 aircraft was hit by flak a minute before "bombs away" over target, Gladbeck, Germany. The aircraft received three direct hits, one in each wing and one in the waist section. Bombs were dropped on target. Approximately three minutes after subject aircraft was hit, the airplane exploded.
  - Mission and was flying the aircraft when it was hit. When the aircraft exploded, I was blown out through the nose of the plane. Between the time the aircraft was hit and the time the aircraft exploded, I was endeavoring to keep the plane under control and was also trying to get the C-l equipment operating. I did not see Sgt. Ehr bail out, nor was Sgt. Ehr accounted for after I landed by parachute. The last time I saw Ehr was in the plane shortly after take-off.
  - h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named Casualty, with estimate of reliability): None

MACK ROBINETTE, 2d Lt, AC

0-929901, Goodfellow Field, Texas

cc: CG, AFTRC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

cc. CG, AAFCFTC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.



13611

### GOODFELLOW FIELD SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

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

- 1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:
  - a. Name of casualty: Hal Burke
  - b. Rank: Sergeant
  - c. Crew Position: Waist Gunner
  - d. Date last seen: 23 March 45
  - e. Place last seen: In B-17 Aircraft after take-off on bombing mission to Gladbeck, Germany
  - March 45, our B-17 Aircraft was hit by flak a minute before "bombs Away" over target, Gladbeck, Germany. The aircraft received three direct hits, one in each wing and one in the waist section. Bombs were dropped on target. Approximately three minutes after subject aircraft was hit, the airplane exploded.
  - Mission and was flying the aircraft when it was hit. When the aircraft exploded, I was blown out through the nose of the plane. Between the time the aircraft was hit and the time the aircraft exploded, I was endeavoring to keep the plane under control, and was also trying to get the C-l equipment operating. I did not see Sgt. Burke bail out, nor was Sgt. Burke accounted for after I landed by parachute. The last time Isaw Burke was in the plane shortly after take-off.
  - h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability: About a month and a half to two months ago, I received a letter from 2d Lt. Paul J. Bellavance, who was navigator on subject mission and who presently resides at 52 Peck St, Attleboro, Mass. In his letter Bellavance indicated that he had heard that Sgt Burke had got back.

cc: CG, AFTRC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

cc: CG, AAFCFTC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

MACK ROBINETTE, 2d Lt, AC



36/1

### HEADQUARTERS GOODFELLOW FIELD SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

31 October 1945

Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War SUBJECT:

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

- 1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:
  - a. Name of casualty: Max Fulton
  - Rank: Sergeant
  - c. Crew Position: Radio Operator
  - d. Date last seen: 23 March 45
  - e. Place last seen: In B-17 aircraft after take-off on bombing mission to Gladbeck, Germany
  - f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft: At approximately 1350, 23 March 1945, our B-17 Aircraft was hit by flak a minute before "bombs away" over target, Gladbeck, Germany. The aircraft received three direct hits, one in each wing and one in the waist section. Bombs were dropped on target. Approximately three minutes after subject aircraft was hit, the airplane exploded.
  - g. Known information (eye witness only): I was co-pilot on this mission and was flying the aircraft when it was hit. When the aircraft exploded, I was blown out through the nose of the plane. Between the time the aircraft was hit and the time the aircraft exploded, I was endeavoring to keep the plane under control and was also trying to get the C-l equipment operating. I did not see Sgt. Fulton bail out, nor was Sgt. Fulton accounted for after I landed by parachute. The last time I saw Fulton was in the plane shortly after take-off.
  - h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability): None

cc: CG, AFTRC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

cc. CG, AAFCFTC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

MACK ROBINETTE, 2d Lt, AC



### GOODFELLOW FIELD SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

MK:odw

31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

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

- 1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:
  - a. Name of casualty: Do not remember
  - b. Rank: Do not remember
  - c. Crew Position: Tail gunner
  - d. Date last seen: 23 March 45
  - e. Place last seen: In B-17 Aircraft after take-off on bombing mission to Gladbeck, Germany
  - March 1945, our B-17 Aircraft was hit by flak a minute before "bombs away" over target, Gladbeck, Germany. The aircraft received three direct hits, one in each wing and one in the waist section. Bombs were dropped on target. Approximately three minutes after subject aircraft was hit, the airplane exploded.
  - Rhown information (eye witness only): I was co-pilot on this mission and was flying the aircraft when it was hit. When the aircraft exploded, I was blown out through the nose of the plane. Between the time the aircraft was hit and the time the aircraft exploded, I was endeavoring to keep the plane under control and was also trying to get the C-l equipment operating. I did not see the tail gunner bail out, nor was he accounted for after I landed by parachute. The last time I saw him was in the plane shortly after take-off.
  - h. Mearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability): The family of this tail gunner live in a rural section of Indiana approximately twenty miles from Cincinnatti, Chio. About a month ago, my wife wrote to me that she read in the newspaper that the tail gunner was officially declared dead.

cc: CG, ARTRC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

cc: CG, AAFCFTC, Attn: Pers. Affairs Off.

MACK ROBINETTE, 2d Lt, AC

13.611



### GOODFELLOW FIELD SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

WMK:odw

31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

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

- 1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:
  - a. Name of casualty: Ferdinand Mendois
  - b. Rank: Sergeant
  - c. Crew Position: Belly gunner
  - d. Date last seen: 23 March 45
  - e. Place last seen: In B-17 Aircraft after take-off on bombing mission to Gladbeck, Germany
  - f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft: At approximately 1350, 23
    March 1945, our B-17 aircraft was hit by flak a minute before
    "bombs away" over target, Gladbeck, Germany. The aircraft received three direct hits, one in each wing and one in the
    waist section. Bombs were dropped on target. Approximately
    three minutes after subject aircraft was hit, the airplane exploded.
  - Mnown information (eye witness only): I was co-pilot on this mission and was flying the aircraft when it was hit. When the aircraft exploded, I was blown out through the nose of the plane. Between the time the aircraft was hit, and the time the aircraft exploded, I was endeavoring to keep the plane under control and was also trying to get the C-l equipment operating. I did not see Mendois when he bail out, nor was he accounted for after I landed by parachute. The last time I saw him was in the plane shortly after take-off.
  - h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability): In conversation with the pilot of subject aircraft after I had landed by parachute, the pilot told me that Sgt. Mendois had notified him by intraphone communication that the left wing was hit and that gasoline was streaming out. This would indicate that Mendois was not killed immediately when the aircraft was struck by the flak. I believe that mendois was in the plane when it exploded because

Basic: Ltr, subj: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War, Hq, GFF, Texas, 31 Oct 45

it takes about five minutes to get out of the ball turret and bail out of the plane, and he did not have sufficient time to get out of the plane from the time the aircraft was hit until the aircraft exploded.

cc: CG, AFTRC

Attn: Pers. Affairs Office

cc: CG, AAFGFTC

Attn: Pers. Affairs Office

MACK ROBINETTE, 2d Lt, AC

### INTERROGATION REPORT

NAME OF REPORTER

WILLARD, George Earl

RANK and ASN

S/Sgt.-32786285

UNIT

384th Bombardment Group 546th Bombardment Squadron 8th Air Force

### CASUALTIES

S/Sgt. George Earl Willard

(---) Willard Ere

Sgt. Max Fulton

Sgt. Ferdinand Mendias

## HEADQUARTERS ATLANTIC OVERSEAS AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND PORT OF NEWARK NEWARK 5. N.J.

### PERSONAL AFFAIRS SECTION

### INTERROGATION OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

- 1. NAME: BEASLEY, (---)
  RANK: Unknown
  ASN: Unknown
- 2. CREW POSITION: Tail Gunner
- 3. UNIT: 384th Bombardment Group, 546th Bombardment Squadron, 8th Air Force
- 4. DATE LAST SEEN: 23 March 1945
- 5. PLACE LAST SEEN: Over Glodbeck, Germany
- 6. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT:
  - a. KNOWN INFORMATION: While flying at 28,000 feet, the B-17 on which the reporter was the engineer was hit by flak in the bomb-bay and the nose about 30 seconds before bombs-away. The ship blew up and the reporter was blown out. He did not see any other members of the crew leave the plane.
  - b. HEARSAY INFORMATION: The pilot informed the reporter at the Prisoner of War Camp that he new nothing of the fate of the above-named casualty.

Mrs. Anna M. Connor, (Mother) 2nd Lt John M. Connor 12 West 1st Street Hazelton, Pennsylvania Mrs. Dorothy M. Robinette, (Wife) 2nd Lt Mack Robinette 3715 Glenway Ave Cincinnati, Ohio Mrs. Mildred E. Bellavance, (Wife) 2nd Lt Paul J. Bellavance, Jr. 52 Peck Street Attleboro, Massachusetts Sgt Claude Hollenbeck Mr. Charles A. Hollenbeck, (Father) Rural Free Delivery Number One Walworth, New York Mrs. Helen V. Fulton (Mother) Sgt Max J. Fulton 1401 M Hastings Avenue Hastings, Nebraska Mrs. Leony R. Earl, (Wife) Sgt Willard G. Earl 8820 85th Street Woodhaven, New York Mrs. Adela J. Mendias, (Mother) Sgt Ferdinand Mendias 481 North Pasadena Avenue Los Angeles, California Pasadena 3 Cal fornia

S/Sgt Delmar J. Beesley Mrs. Carrie Beesley, (Mother) V Rural Route Number Two Harrison, Ohio

S/Sgt Willard Ehr

Sgt Hal E. Burke

Mrs. Myrtle M. Nelson, (Mother)

15824 Ilene St

Detroit, Michigan

Mrs. Manette L. Ehr, (Wife) 977 S 56th St Milwaukee, Wisconsin