

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

77248

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUMAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUEHCH, Capt., AO
Date 1943

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106; Course As briefed
Intended Destination Gelselkirchen, Germany; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
1 AQ th Good
- GIVE: (a) Date 12-8-43 Time unknown; and Location unknown
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or (x) Information not Available.
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows Apparently no eye-witnesses; details unknown
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series 0-17; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-5806
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 13-55866
(b) 13-58898; (c) 41-22885; (d) 41-23083
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers _____; Total 10
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars; if more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
KIA ¹ Pilot	Swank, Robert D.	2/Lt.	0-740975
EUS ² Co-Pilot	Hoffmeyer, William A.	2/Lt.	0-740813
EUS ³ Navigator	Bolin, Harold A.	2/Lt.	0-673466
RNCA Bombardier	Perkins, Howell E.	2/Sgt.	0-673730
EUS ⁶ Radio Operator	Mattoon, William E.	T/Sgt.	32393056
EUS ⁸ Top Turret	Kosse, Russel J.	T/Sgt.	19108771
KIA ⁷ Ball Turret	Johnson, Carl B.	S/Sgt.	18127982
EUS ⁸ Tail Gunner	Martin, J. D. (IO)	S/Sgt.	18066088
KIA ⁹ Flexible Gunner	Richey, Carl V.	S/Sgt.	34352496
KIA ¹⁰ Flexible Gunner	Serbe, Peter P.	S/Sgt.	31261461

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Last Sighted	Check Only One Column	
				Contacted Radio	Saw or Saw Forward Landing
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report 15 August 1943

W. M. Price 1st Lt. AC
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

BOMB AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
BOMB ARMY AIR FIELD
BOMB, NEW YORK

288

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

26 Oct 1945
Date

Name of Casualty

SWANK Robert D (?) 2nd Lt
Last First Middle Rank A.S.N.

Pilot 384th Bomb Gp 445 Bomb
Crew Position Unit

12 Aug 1943 Gilsenkirchen Germany
Date Last Seen Place Last Seen

I
Known information (Eyewitness)

II
Hearsay Information

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft: On way in to target hit
by flak. Fall out of formation, attacked by fighters.
Crew bailed out. Co Pilot (2nd Lt William
Hoffmeyer) and navigator (2nd Lt Harold Berlin) told
Sgt Mattoon when they met in prison, that
Lt. Swank bailed out. Sgt Mattoon has
never hear any more.

Additional details: Trac in Bomb bay. Lenses
blown out. Sgt Mattoon was isolated
from crew in front.

T/Sgt William Mattoon 32393056 4104 B
Name of Reporter A.S.N. Unit

80 Grant Ave Metley, N.J.
Home Address

Added

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

26 Oct 1945
Date

Name of Casualty _____
Last First Middle Rank A. S. N.

Johnson Carl B (?) S/Sgt _____
Ball turret gunner 354th Bomb. Grp. 445th Bomb. Gp.
Crew Position Unit

12 Aug 1943 _____
Date Last Seen Place Last Seen
Milsenkuchen, Germany

I
Known information (Eyewitness)

II
Hearsay Information

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft: On way in to target
hit by flak. Fell out of formation,
attacked by fighters. Crew bailed out.
Co Pilot (2nd Lt. William Hoffmeyer) and Navigator
2nd Lt. Harold Balice) told Sgt. Mattoon, when
they met in prison, that S/Sgt. Johnson bailed
out. Sgt. Mattoon has never seen any more.

Additional details: Sgt. Mattoon could hear operation
in ball turret normally. He noted that
operation had ceased about 10 min before he
bailed out. When oxygen went out Sgt Mattoon
tried to call Sgt Johnson on interphone. Got no
reply.

T/Sgt William Mattoon 32593056 4104B PAA 712
Name of Reporter A. S. N. Unit

80 Grant Ave Mitley G. J.
Home Address

HOME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
HOME ARMY AIR FIELD
HOME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

26 Oct 45

Name of Casualty

Date

Sorbo

Peter

P

S/Sgt

Last

First

Middle

Rank

A. S. N.

Waist gunner

384th Bomb. Grp. 445 Bomb Gp.

Crew Position

Unit

12 Aug 1945

Bilsenkirchen, Germany

Date Last Seen

Place Last Seen

I

Knows information. (Eyewitness)

II

Hearsay Information

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft:

On way in to target hit by flak. Fell out of formation, attacked by fighters. Crew bailed out. Co Pilot (2nd Lt. William Hoffmeyer) and Navigator (2nd Lt. Harold Bahin) told Sgt. Mattoon, when they met in prison, that Sgt. Sorbo bailed out. Sgt. Mattoon has never heard any more.

Additional details:

Sgt Sorbo was hit in back by 20 mm. Sgt Mattoon saw Sgt Ritchey (L waist gunner) prop. Sgt Sorbo up and hook on emergency oxygen. When radio room was alive Sgt Mattoon went back to waist. Spoke to Sgt Sorbo. He did not answer and Sgt Mattoon believes he was dead.

T/Sgt. William

Mattoon

32 393056

4109 B.

Name of Reporter

A. S. N.

Unit

Home Address

180 Grant Ave. Tuttle, N. J.

ARMY AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ARMY AIR FIELD
BONG, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

26 Oct

Name of Casualty

Date

Ritchey Clarence V. S/Sgt

Last

First

Middle

Rank

A. S. N.

Waist Gunner

Crew Position

384th Bomb. Sq. 445 Bomb. Sq.

Unit

12 Aug 1943

Date Last Seen

Illenkirch, Germany

Place Last Seen

I

Known Information (Eyewitness)

II

Hearsay Information

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft:

On way in to target hit
by flak. Fuel out of formation, attacked by
fighters. Crew bailed out. Co. Pilot (2nd Lt. William
Hoffmeyer) and Navigator (2nd Lt. Balow) told
Sgt. Mattoon, when they were in prison, that
Sgt. Ritchey bailed out. Sgt. Mattoon has
never seen any more.

Additional details:

When Sgt Mattoon went into waist, aft
radio room was alive, Sgt Ritchey was ready
to bail out. He went to Sgt Mattoon just
before the Sgt. jumped. Later, Co Pilot Lt. Hoffmeyer
told Sgt. Mattoon that he had seen Sgt Ritchey's
dog tag, (shown by Germans) and had been told
that Sgt Ritchey was dead.

T/Sgt William Mattoon

Name of Reporter

32393056

A. S. N.

Unit

4104 B.

Home Address

80 Grant Ave. Nutley, N. J.

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SORBO, Peter P.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 31 281 461
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~cockpit~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? WAS WOUNDED BADLY

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NO

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? IN THE PLANE

Any hearsay information: LAST SEEN BY RADIO OPERATOR AND HE

WAS INJURED AT THE TIME. CARL V. RICHEY WAS TRYING
TO PUT HIS CHUTE ON SORBO.

Source: RADIO OPERATOR WILLIAM MATOON

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

EITHER DEAD BEFORE THE PLANE EXPLODED OR
WAS KILLED IN THE EXPLOSION.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: 12 AUGUST 1943 GELSONKIRCHEN

GERMANY

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ROCKY, Carl V.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 34 332 496
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~cockpit/Navigator~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? TRYING TO HELP PETER SARBO WHEN SHIP EXPLODED.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? NOT BEFORE SHIP EXPLODED

Where was he when last seen? IN WAIST OF PLANE

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I SAW HIS IDENTIFICATION TAGS AT BONN, GERMANY. GERMAN CORPORAL TOLD ME HE WAS KILLED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 JUNE 1943 HAMBURG, GER.
27 JUNE 1943 KASSEL, GER. 12 AUG. 1943 GELSEN-
KIRCHEN, GER.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Carl E.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 18 127 932
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and~~ ~~Light~~ ~~Attack~~: Ball Turret

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? NOT KNOWN

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? NOT KNOWN

Where was he when last seen? IN BALL TURRET

Any hearsay information: HE WAS IN BALL TURRET WHEN
THE PLANE EXPLODED.

Source: RADIO OPERATOR WILLIAM MATOON.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I SAW HIS
DOG TAGS AT AN AIR BASE AT BOWNGER. THEY HAD
BEEN BENT DOUBLE. THE GERMAN CORPORAL TOLD ME
HE WAS KILLED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 JUNE 1943 HAMBURG, GER.

27 JUNE 1943 KAISEL, GER. 12 AUG. 1943 GELSEN-
KIRCHEN, GERMANY

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SWANK, Robert D.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-740375
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? SHIP EXPLODED BEFORE HE COULD GET OUT.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME WHEN THE SHIP EXPLODED.

Was he injured? NOT BEFORE THE SHIP EXPLODED

Where was he when last seen? JUST BEFORE THE SHIP EXPLODED HE WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF MY NOSE RIGHT BESIDE ME.

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: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: 24 JUNE 1943 NORWAY; 25 JUNE 1943 HAMBURG, GER.; 27 JUNE 1943 KASSEL, GER.; 12 AUG. 1943 GELSENKIRCHEN GER.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HAROLD A. BOLIN Rank 1ST LT. Serial No. 0-673466
2. Organization 384th Commander PEARLEY Rank Col. Sqn CO NOT KNOWN Rank CAPT.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month AUG. day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, GELSENKIRCHEN, target, BY MET. CRUISE, target
 time, NOT KNOWN, altitude, 27,500 route scheduled, NOT
KNOWN, route flown NOT KNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? NEAR BONNER.
6. Did you bail out? I WAS BLOWN OUT, CHUTE WAS OPEN WHEN I CAME TO.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? DIP MATTON, KOSSE, PERKINS
HOFFMEYER, MARTIN
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". HOFFMEYER
WENT OUT FRONT ESCAPE HATCH.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR BONN
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NOT KNOWN
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. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SORBO, Peter P.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 31 281 461
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~cockpilot~~: flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? no

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was badly wounded

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I did not see or talk to Sgt. Sorbo after the plane reached altitude (30,000 feet) due to the fact that our interphone went dead at that time.

Was he injured? Yes in the neck by a 20 MM shell

Where was he when last seen? Sgt. Mattoon stated that he saw Sgt. Sorbo lying on the floor in the waist of the plane just before it exploded.

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt. Mattoon stated that at the time he saw Sgt. Sorbo lying in the waist he was apparently in a dying condition due to a wound in the neck believed to have been caused by a 20 MM shell. Sgt. Mattoon further stated that Sgt. Richey was trying to put a parachute on Sgt. Sorbo, just before the explosion.

Total number of missions of above crew member: It was his first mission with our crew.

Dates and destinations if possible: AUG. 12, 1943, Gilsenkirchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RICHEY, Carl V.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 34 352 406
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and fighter~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? To the best of my knowledge, he did not.

Where? ?

If not, why not? I think the plane exploded before he had chance .

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

saw Sgt Richey trying to put a parachute on Sgt. Sorbo just prior to the

Was he injured? To the best of my knowledge, he wasn't. ^{explosion}

Where was he when last seen? Sgt. In the waist of the plane.

Any hearsay information: None.

Source: _____

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

of opinion of surviving crew members was that he was killed when the

plane exploded or that he did not have on his parachute when the plane
exploded.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three

Dates and destinations if possible: July 25, 1943, Hamburgh, Germany.

July 30, 1943, Kassel, Germany. August 12, 1943, Gilsenkirchen, Germany.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Perkins, Newell E. Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. O-673730
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Budd J. Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn Cc Ketelsen Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month 8 day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing target, Gilsenkirchen, target time, Forgotten, altitude, 30,000 feet route scheduled, Forgotten, route flown Forgotten
5. ~~Where were you when you left formation?~~ I believe we were over the south West Edge of the Ruhr valley
6. Did you bail out? I was blown out when the plane exploded and parachuted to safety.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Lt. Hoffmeyer bailed out just before the explosion. The rest of the crew was in the plane when it exploded.
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". Lt. Swank instructed Lt. Hoffmeyer to tell Lt. Bolin and myself to bail out and then bail out himself. Lt. Swank gave this order because the interphone or the alarm would not work and the bomb-bay was a wall of flame so he could not get to the men in the waist. Lt. Hoffmeyer carried out his instructions and bailed out through the forward escape hatch.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Bonn, Germany
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? none
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SWANK, Robert D.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-740975
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? He did not have time

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I saw Lt. Swank
at or just before the plane exploded in the compartment under the pilot's
seat back of the forward escape hatch.

Was he injured? apparently not

Where was he when last seen? Just back of the forward escape hatch

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe he was
killed by the explosion of the fuel tanks as he was very close to them
at the time of the explosion.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Four

Dates and destinations if possible: July 24, 1943 Heroya, Norway

July 25, 1943, Hamburgh, Germany. July 30, 1943 Kassel, Germany, we were
forced to abort on the Kassel raid but I believe we were given credit
for the mission. August 12, 1943, Gilsenkirchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Carl B.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 18 127 982
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Ball Turret~~: Ball Turret

Did he bail out? To the best of my knowledge, he did not.

Where? _____

If not, why not? ?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I did not see or talk to Sgt. Johnson after the plane reached altitude (30,000 feet) due to the fact that our interphone went dead at that time.

Was he injured? I do not know

Where was he when last seen? entering the ball turret shortly after take off

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The consensus of opinion of surviving crew members was that he must have been killed shortly after we were attacked as nobody saw him after that time and his guns were not heard by any surviving crew member.

Total number of missions of above crew member: three

Dates and destinations if possible: July 25, 1943, Hamburg, Germany

July 30, 1943, Kassel, Germany. August 12, 1943, Gilsenkirchen, Germany

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Martin, J.D. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 18066088
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander B. Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month August day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing target, Gelsencheren, target time, _____, altitude, 29500 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? _____
6. Did you bail out? No.
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".
W.A. Hoffmeyer, Bonn, Germany W.E. Mattoon, Bonn, Germany
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 check with 3 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? _____

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SCREO, Peter P.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 31 281 461
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator/Pilot~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? Not Known

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

None

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? At Position

Any hearsay information: Heard he was hit in the head by 20mm.

Source: Crew Member: W.E. Mattoon

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: August 12, 1943: Gelsencheren, Germany

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Carl B,
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 18 127 962
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~: Ball Turret

Did he bail out? Not known

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

None due to loss of interphone

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? at Position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

I think he was hit by flak when plane was hit.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three

Dates and destinations if possible: July 25, 1943; Hamburg, Germany

28 July, 1943; Kassel, Germany; August 12, 1943; Gelsenkirchen, Germany

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RICHEY, Carl V.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 34 352 496
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Observer~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? Not Known

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

None, due to loss of interphone

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? At Position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

I saw his burned dog tags.

Total number of missions of above crew member: three

Dates and destinations if possible: July 25, 1943; Hamburg Germany; July 25, 1943

Kassel, Germany; August 12, 1943; Gelsenkirchen, Germany

REPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SHANK, Robert D.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-740975
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? Not Known

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

None due to loss of interphone

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? At position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

Yes: I think he went down with the plane.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Four

Dates and destinations if possible: July 24, 1943; Somewhere in Norway:

July 25, 1943 Hamburg, Germany; July 28, 1943, Kassel, Germany:

August 12, 1943, Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SORBO, Peter P.** 288
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **11 281 461**
 Position: **Crew (Bomber) ~~or Fighter~~ Flexible Gunner**

Did he bail out? NO CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE -

Where? _____

If not, why not? FROM ALL APPEARANCES S/SGT SORBO WAS DEAD IN SHIP FROM 20 MM. WOUND

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: When I left
Radio room S/SGT SORBO WAS DRIPPED AGAINST FUSelage NEAR BALL TURRET. ASKED HIM WHAT WAS
THE MATTER - NO ANSWER REACHED OUT TO SHAKE HIM AND NOTICED LARGE WOUND IN THE
MIDDLE OF HIS BACK - HE GAVE ALL APPEARANCES OF BEING A D-DEAD AT THAT TIME.

Was he injured? ADUVE

Where was he when last seen? ADUVE

Any hearsay information: NO KNOWLEDGE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: either crashed
with a ship or was blown out when ship exploded

Total number of missions of above crew member: FIVE

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JOHNSON, Carl E.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 10 127 902
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Ball Turret~~: Ball Turret

Did he bail out? NO Knowledge

Where? "

If not, why not? "

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

Was he injured? NO Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Ball Turret

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NO ANSWER ON

INTERVIEW FROM Ball Turret FOR half hour prior to loss of plane but because
of constant attack no one could check - From condition of ship especially AT Ball
Turret I supposed that S/Pgt. Johnson had either been hit or oxygen had
been crippled

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 July 43 Hamburg, Kassel 20 July 43

Gelsenkirchen 12 Aug 43

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **RICHIE, Carl V.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **34 392 496**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~unclassified~~: **Flexible Gunner**

Did he bail out? no knowledge

Where? "

If not, why not? "

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: while I was trying to remove waist door S/Sgt Richie was preparing to leave. release would not work and I called to him that I was going to try a push it open to get out - He waved and said okay

Was he injured? not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? at above time in waist of ship

Any hearsay information: LT. W.A. Hoffmeyer after being captured was being taken across a railroad bridge (on foot) he noticed a crowd on the tracks below from what he could see there was a body on the tracks which looked like S/Sgt Richie - later he was shown Richies dog tags -

Source: T/SGT R. J. KOSSE - who was with LT. Hoffmeyer at time

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: From what could be seen it appeared that S/Sgt Richie (if it were he) chute had not opened

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 July 43 Hamburg
28 July 43 Kassel
12 Aug 43 Gelsenkirchen

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SHANK, Robert D.**
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-740975**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ **Pilot**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? NEAR BONN GERMANY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? AT NAVIGATORS HATCH AS HE LEFT SHIP

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 4

Dates and destinations if possible: 24 July 43 Norway 25 July 43 Hamburg

26 July 43 Kassel 12 Aug 43 Gelsenkirchen

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name MATTOON, WILLIAM E. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 32393066
2. Organization 384 B Gp Commander Budd J. Peasley Rank Col Sqn CO KeTelsen Rank CAPT
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month August day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Gelsenkirchen target, GelsenKirchbe y; target time, 0930 (APPROX), altitude, 30,000 + route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? NEAR BONN GERMANY
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". All surviving crew members bailed out AT SHORT INTERVALS AND WERE CAPTURED ON LANDING. LT. SUTTK (individual questionnaire) also known to have bailed out. LT. HOFFMEYER, LT. BOWEN, LT. PARKER, 1/2LT MARTIN, 1/2LT KOSSE & MYSELF known survivors.
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? _____
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

138¹ LINDEN AVE
Glen Ridge, N.J.
March 1, 1946

Sir:

As additional information which might help in identifying remains of this plane, the ship was seen to explode in midair soon after I left, and as I landed on a small island on the east side of the Rhine River, 12 kilometers south east of Bonn, Germany. The plane must have crashed in that vicinity.

Hope that this information may be of some help to a search team in identifying a plane.

Sincerely:

William E. Mattan

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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PPA 2

1. Your name Hoffmeyer, William A. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. O-740813
- Organization 38th BG. Gp Commander Peaslee Rank Col. Sqn CO Kettelson Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month Aug. day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Gilsenkerchen, target, Oil refinery, target
time, 9-28 A. M., altitude, 30000 Ft. route scheduled, ?
route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? In the air
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? No they were blown out.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Plane blew up, and the crew parachuted to earth.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Dontknow.
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? _____
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back) 9-1

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RICHKY, Carl V.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 34 352 496
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~as Pilot (Fighter)~~: Flexible Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? About 35 miles southeast of Bonn.

If not, why not? He was putting a chute on S/Sgt. P. E. Serbo, and failed to get into his, giving his life to help another, when the plane blew up.
 Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: No contact, but
radioman Sgt. Mattoon, saw the above action.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In the waist.

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: 3- Three

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 July 43, Hamburg, Germany. 28 July 43, Kassel
Germany. 12 Aug. 43 Gilsenkerchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SHANK, Robert D.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-740975
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? No.

Where? About 35 miles southeast of Bonn.

If not, why not? Plane blew up before he had the chance.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: When he gave order to bail out.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? At the nose escape hatch.

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: Four.

Dates and destinations if possible: 24 July 43 Heroya, Norway. 25 July 43 Hachtburg
 Germany. 28 July 43 Kassel, Germany. 12 Aug. 43 Gilsenkerchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: JUNSON, Carl E.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 18 127 981
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~gunner~~ Ball Turret

Did he bail out? Don't Know.

Where? About 16 miles southeast of Bonn.

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? ?

Where was he when last seen? Entering the ball turret

Any hearsay information: no

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Three

Dates and destinations if possible: 25 July, Homburg, Germany. 28 July /3, Kassel
 Germany. 12 Aug. 43 Gilsenkerchen, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SEIB, Peter P.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 31 281 461
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~cockpit~~: 1st Able Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? ? About 35 miles southeast of Bonn

If not, why not? He was wounded, and unconscious.

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

Was he injured? Yes 20 MW in shoulder and neck.

Where was he when last seen? In the waist.

Any hearsay information: The above

Source: Raidio Man

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

fall without parachute.

Total number of missions of above crew member: One

Dates and destinations if possible: 12 Aug. 43 Gilsenkerchen, Germany

U.S. 12 Aug 1943 Fortness
1302 Kosser, Russell J., T/Sgt. Born 16 Dec, 1920
Ident. Tag 19 102 771
Taken prisoner.

Martin, J. D. S/Sgt. Born 20 July 1932
Ident. Tag 18 066 089
Taken prisoner.

Hoffmeyer, William Alfred, 2nd Lt.
Born 5 Sept. 1918
Ident. Tag 0-740 813.
Taken prisoner.

Mattoon, William Earl, T/Sgt.
Born 18 Nov. 1921.
Ident. Tag 32 893 056
Taken prisoner.

6010

Perkins, Newell Edward, 2nd Lt.
Born 5 Apr. ?
Ident. Tag 0-673 730
Taken prisoner.

Bolin, Harold Andrew, 2nd Lt.
Ident. Tag 0-673,466
Taken prisoner.

MACR 388

Case 595
6080

(KU 7 cont)

✓ f	Richie, Charles V;	S/Sgt. Ident. Tag 34, 35, 2, 4, 6
	Ac. AV 318/43	Dead Buried 14 Aug
	filed with MACR 383	1943 in Waldorf
		Cemetery, near Born-
		heim, grave No. 202.

Nationality: USA

Name: 4 Unknown

Rank: Airmen

Unit: Aircraft type B 17 F

Dead

Delay and Changes: Died 12 Aug 43, Vollmershofen-Heiden, 10 km southwest of Bonn

Place of Graves: 13 Aug 43, Cemetery Witterschlick

Reported by: Airfield Command Bonn-Mangelar, Loss No. 10, from 31 Jul to 12 Aug 43; V 4 a Ref IV 1 with Sketch

A. V. 317/43
Dead List No. 13
Serial No. 92-95

SD 595-8

MACR 288



Wohnort:
Geburtsort:

Platzangehörigkeit:

U. I. R.

Nr. der Liste:

Seite der Liste:

Name:

H. Hübner

Beruf:

Religion:

Vorname:

Dienstgrad:

Mg.

Ort und Tag der Verhaftung:

Truppenteil:

J. 17 8
Retr. Nr.

Vorname des
Vaters:

Komp. u. w.

Familiennamen der
Eltern:

Ort und Tag der Befreiung:
oder Internierung:

Stand u. Anschrift der
in Betracht kommenden
Person:

~~Verwandungen~~
~~Verlobungen oder Ehen~~

wann und von
wo freigesetzt:

Verhaftung u. Verurteilung: 12.8.43 Vollmorsbaben - Heilgen 11 km. südwestl. von

Grablage: 13.8.43 Friedh. Wittersehlich

Gene. d. 22. 22. 1843. John. Hengeler Carl No. 10 v. 317. Alt. 43
v. 4 a. Ref. IV a. in. Thigge

abod. A. T. 518/43
Island. no. 13
Ref. no. 95-95

See
AV 318

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:
PLACE OF CRASH:
DATE OF CRASH:

B17 F
Vellmerhofen, Haidgen.
22 - Aug. 1943.

KU - 7

KU 7

JONSON, Carl E. /
18 127 982

1/2gt

dead

KIA
SD case 5958

Vol 1, 1 deck KUS 116
701-950

REMARKS: Cemetery Hittershlick, together with the
remains of the other crewmembers.

AV 318/43

18) Downing of a B 17 F ✓ Unknown
on 18 August 1943
at Vollmerhofen-
Heiden, 10 km south-
west of Bonn.

Interred on 18 Aug 43
at Witterschlied
cemetery, (see sketch
attached).

19) • ✓ Unknown •
20) • ✓ Unknown •
21) • ✓ Unknown •

AV 318

Hungary, 18 August 1943

(Stamp)

Signature
Major and Commander

See SD Case 5958

See
KV 7

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754-233
1-2-4
9/21/4

Y-2515
X-2516
Y-2517
X-2518
2519 + 2520