

10352

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

Classification changed

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Date MAR 15 1945

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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England Command or Air Force VIII ; Group 384th ; Squadron 544th ; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England ; Course As Briefed
Target or Intended Destination Merseburg/Leuna, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
3-5/10 Undercast tops 20-22,000 feet
4. GIVE: (a) Day 8 Month 11 ~~Nov~~ Mar 1944 ; Time 1245 ; and Location 5200 N, 0939 E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (x); Last contacted by
radio () ; Forced down () ; Seen to Crash () ; or Information not Available ()
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft () ; Enemy Anti-Aircraft (x) ; Other Circumstances as Follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G ; AAF Serial Number 42-97282 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If any Rebel
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____ ; AAF Serial Number (a) 43-62309 ; (b) SW-019239 ; (c) SW-026087 ; (d) SW-002510
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) See attached ; (b) _____ ; (c) _____ ; (d) _____ ;
(e) sheet ; (f) _____ ; (g) _____ ; (h) _____ ;
(i) _____ ; (j) _____ ; (k) _____ ; (l) _____ ;
(m) _____ ; (n) _____ ; (o) _____ ; (p) _____ ;
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 9
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	ASN	Current Status	G.T.E
1. Pilot	<u>Drake, William Bright</u> ✓	2nd Lt.	<u>0-771225</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Pow RTD</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Johnson, Richard Arthur</u> ✓	F/O	<u>T-3528</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Pow RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Dunning, Leonard Francis</u> ✓	F/O	<u>T-128721</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Pow RTD</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>Hart, Daniel Alphonse</u>	2nd Lt.	<u>0-780194</u>	<u>MIA</u>	
5. Radio Operator	<u>Clymer, Charles Richard</u> ✓	S/Sgt.	<u>13098554</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
6. Top Turret	<u>Pire, Irwin Joseph, Jr.</u> ✓	S/Sgt.	<u>16133914</u>	<u>MIA</u>	
7. Ball Turret	<u>Owen, Robert Ralph</u>	Sgt.	<u>32227794</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
8. Tail Gunner	<u>May, Gayle Gustavus</u> ✓	Sgt.	<u>16087010</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Pow RTD</u>
9. Waist Gunner	<u>Lewis, Richard Lowell</u> ✓	Sgt.	<u>19162171</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>RTD</u>
10.					
11.					

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

Check Only One Column

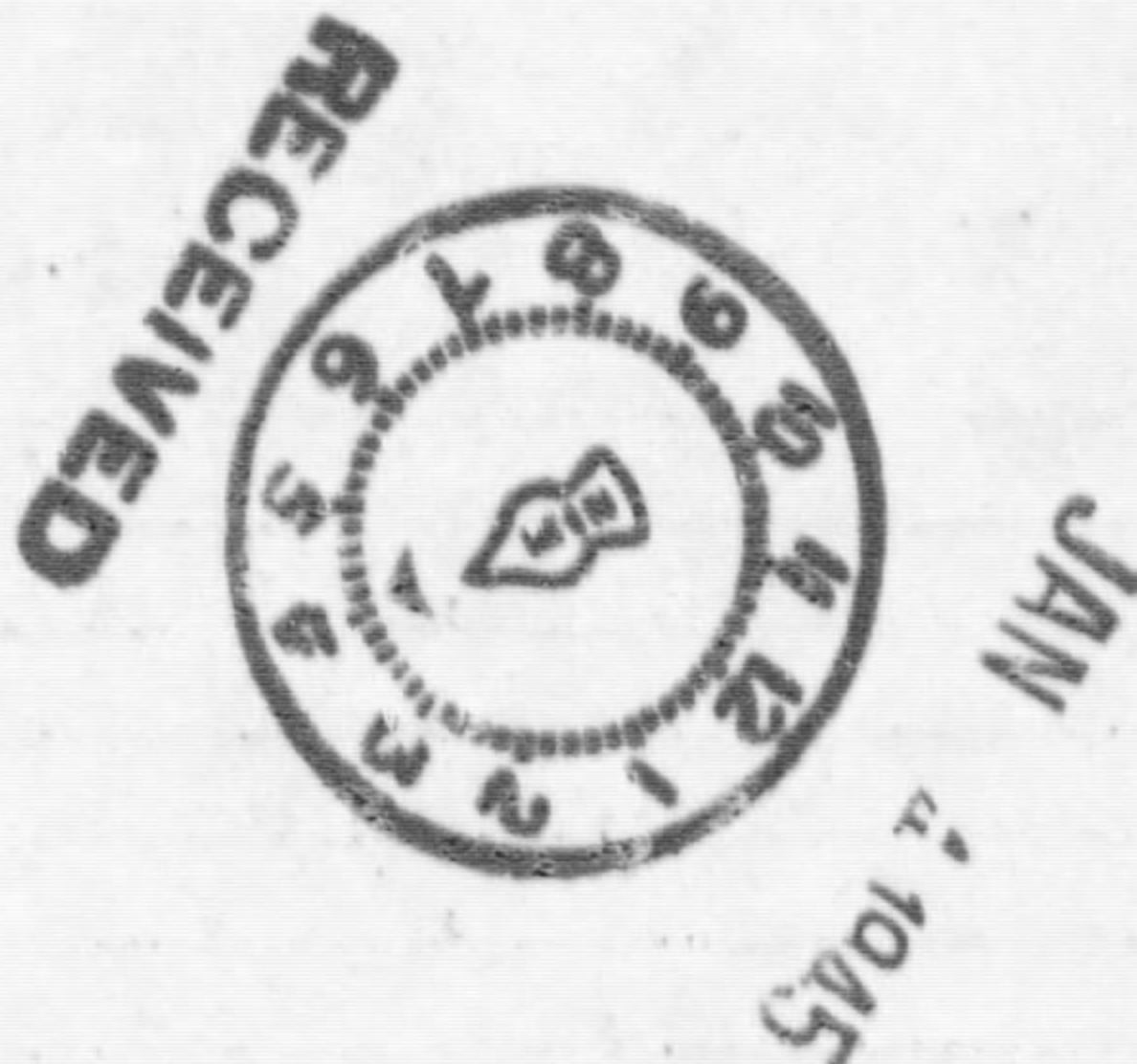
Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Thompson, Ledru M.	Sgt.	37358839		x		
2. Early, Francis M.	Sgt.	13179075		x		
3. Cardell, Raymond	Sgt.	13123820		x		

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) 4 chutes seen to emerge by another Group of the formation.
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEAR FROM.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED 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 16 November 1944.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Office)
J. R. WYATT
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't. Adjutant.



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9. INSTALLED WEAPONS

- a. 607128 High Standard
- b. 72780 General Motors
- c. 622423 General Motors
- d. 653016 General Motors
- e. 656939 General Motors
- f. 651171 General Motors
- g. 72778 General Motors
- h. 175074 High Standard
- i. 972070 General Motors
- j. 972156 General Motors
- k. 972033 General Motors
- l. 652484 General Motors

All guns were Caliber .50 Aerial Machine Guns.

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C O N F I D E N T I A LS-2 SUMMARY 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 which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 384th SQ 544th A/C # 297282 MISSION DATE 8 Nov., 1944
FIRST PILOT WILLIAM B. DRAKE 2nd Lt. 0-771225 DESTINATION Merseburg/Louna, Germany
NAME RANK ASN

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

(a) By coordinates 5200N-0939E

(b) Approximate altitude 23,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading None available

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation
Aircraft had just left the formation under control.

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft):

There were no enemy aircraft attacks on formation.

Flak fire encountered in the Merseburg/Louna area only was intense, but inaccurate.

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

A/C 297282 observed leaving the formation with #3 engine feathered but under control. (See No. 7 on reverse side).

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft under control. (See No. 7 on reverse side).

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort?

Yes If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). 2 P-51s

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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

See No. 7 below.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Information received over the telephone from Headquarters, 1st Bombardment Division, 12 November, 1944, informed us that Lt. Drake's aircraft was last sighted by aircraft of another group in the area South of Cologne, 4 chutes observed out, and aircraft then crashed to ground South of Cologne. The aircraft had been hit by flak.

8. Date of report 14 November, 1944.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	L. M. Thompson	Sgt.	37358839	409
2.	R. R. Kotnik	Sgt.	15375650	409
3.	F. M. Early	Sgt.	13179075	917
4.	R. H. Cardell	Sgt.	13123820	917

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

Alexander L. Janes

ALEXANDER L. JANES

2nd Lt.

0-581986

S-2 Officer

NAME

RANK

ASN

DUTY

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be 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.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

KU 3281

Report on Downings of an USA Aircraft.

Date and time: 8. November 1944 at 1251 P.M.

Place of crash: Harstain

Type: Fortress

Reporting Office: Air District Command XIV

Name:	Rank:	ASN:	
Day of birth: D RAKE ??, William Bright 1922, Ky.	2. Lt.	O-771225	captured
DUNNING, Leonard Francis 25. November 1921	P/O	T-128721	"
JOHNSON, Richard Arthur 9. August 1924 Cokato, Minn.	P/O	T 3528	"
PIER, Irvin Joseph 3. March 1924 Madison, Wisc.	T/Sgt.	16133914	"
OLYMER, Charles Richard	T/Sgt.	13098554	"
MAY, Gayle Gustavus 24. June 1923, Mich.	S/Sgt.	16087010	"

Additional report to KU 3281 of 4. January 1945:

8. June 1922.			
LEWIS, Richard Lowell	S/Sgt.	19142171	"
OWEN, Robert Ralph	S/Sgt.	32227794	"
Mr. Manor, N.I.			

All captured and in Dulag Luft West.

Dulag Luft West on 24. November 1944 v.S.

one dead

Identification Tags

1) OWEN, Robert R.	32227794 T42-43	O P
2) CHARLES R. CLYMER	13098554 T43-44	A C
3) GAYLE G. MAY	16087010 T42-43	A P
4) LEONARD F. DUNNING	T-128721 T43-44	O C
5) WILLIAM B. DRAKE	0-771225 T43-44	O P
6) RICHARD JOHNSON	T-3528 T43-44	O P
7) IRWIN J. PIRE Jr.	16133914 T43-43	A P

11/8/44

1251 hrs.

Fortress 17

in Niedorstein/-Rhine

Air Base XIV

5 prisoners
1 dead
rest escaped

American Papers were found:

1) Identification Card

to be retained by passenger

Form S.S. 2 Rt
15646

Pere Marquette

Railway Company

2) A small bill with following inscription:

Sgt. Gayle G. May - 16057010

485 th Hdqs. & A.B. Sqdn.

18 th Repl. Wing

Army Air Base

Kearney, Nebraska

8 Nov 44

KU 3281

4)

NIERSTEIN / LOERZWEILER 18 km
SOUTH OF MAIN Z; 1300; BOEING, 80 %; 1 dead;
5 prisoners; rest escaped; FACT.NR. 297282.
MARKINGS H COCKADE, S U. - RR 5 -

8 7 9244

4.) Nierstein 18 Km. south of Mainz 4 engines, 1 dead 4 captured. (Km 3281)
Rest escaped. -RRS- 1140

American Papers were found:

- 1) Letter for Richard L. Lewis, 19162171, from: Klayne Morelan, 1613 Chest
7 th St. Faribault, Minn.
Date: 11/11/44
- 2) Order
C.S. Russels (York) LTD., Motor Cycle Engineers
Lawrence Street, York
Machine Nr. V.M. 9819
Make: B.S.A. M/Cycle
- 3) In Emergency Published and distributed by Steele's Aid to Pilots.
2227 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, Calif.
Name: Richard L. Lewis, 718 W 6 th St. Faribault, Minn.
- 4) Operator License Nr. 3006857
Irwin Joseph Pire Jr., 725 N. Central Ave. Chicago.
- 5) Wisconsin's Motor Vehicle Operator's License.
Nr. 329360 Oct. 9, 1941
Irwin Joseph Pire Jr. 307 Fourth Ave., Eau Claire, Wisc.
- 6) Identification Card
Irwin J. Pire 310 - 12 th St., Eau Claire, Wisc. Tel.No. 3701
- 7) Elks War Commission Card
Irwin Pire Jr. Eau Claire Lodge No. 402
- 8) Talisman-Card
Irwin J. Pire Jr. Father Dugon
Chaplain's Signature
- 9) Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit
permit # 337 Operator's ASN: 16133914.
Cpl. Irwin J. Pire Jr.
- 10) Receipt for Remitter Nr. 2033
about \$ 80.-- Stamps: New York NY. APO 546 Br. 11/6/44
- 11) Newspaper Advertisement Dewey reports G.I. Vote System Great Success,
Albany, NY Aug. 26.
- 12) Visit Card (for office only) 390 - 16 - 1353
Irwin J. Pire, 307 - 4 th Ave. Eau Claire, Wisc.

KU 3282

(cont'd from page XX 1)

13) Visit - Card

Irwin J. Pire

President

703 N. Oxford Ave.

Eau Claire, Wis.

14) Receipt Nr. 50

Date: 11/4/44

about 1 coverall
Pire

XX 2

11/8/44

1248 hrs.

Fortress 17

2 km E. Leersweiler (Bodenheim)

8 km S. Mainz

Air Base XIV

Emergency Landing

Stampot

Dulag - Luft, Weislar
Received: 11/12/444 prisoners
the other men escaped

II 3

871W44

KU 3282

3)

200 m SOUTH OF BODENHEIM
MAINZ, 1248 BOEING 707
10 PRISONERS

- U O 3 -
10 km SOUTH OF
BELLY LANDING,
- RR "2" -

8 Nov. 44 at 1248

Laerzweiler

Fortress

Target: Air Distr.

XIV

LEWIS 3281 1 Richard L.

19162171

KU-3282

MJD, 1/25/45

2nd Lt. William B. Drake

Mr. Uriah T. Drake, (Father)
408 North College Street,
Somerset, Kentucky.

2nd Lt. Daniel A. Hart

Mrs. Marce A. Hart, (Wife)
Route Number One, Box 67,
Corbin, Kentucky.

F/O Leonard F. Dunning

Mrs. Margaret M. Dunning, (Mother)
Box 114,
Spalding, Nebraska.

F/O Richard A. Johnson

Mr. Arthur E. Johnson, (Father)
Route Number Two, Box Number 7,
Dassel, Minnesota.

S/Sgt. Irwin J. Pire Jr.

Mrs. Betty J. Pire, (Wife)
310 12th Street,
Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

S/Sgt. Charles R. Clymer

Mrs. Margaret T. Clymer, (Mother)
1743 Roselyn Terrace,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sgt. Richard L. Lewis

Mr. Lowell C. Lewis, (Father)
513 Eighth Avenue, Southwest,
Faribault, Minnesota.

Sgt. Robert R. Owen

Mrs. Ida M. Cobb, (Mother)
Hovina Center, New York.

Sgt. Cayle G. May

Mrs. Eva M. May, (Mother)
Route Number Three,
Hart, Michigan.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Fire, Irwin Joseph Jr.

Rank:

S/sgt

Serial number:

16133914

Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Pilot/Navigator~~:

Top Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? THIS MAN IS OK AS I HAD A LETTERWhere? FROM HIM AFTER I GOT BACK IN THEIf not, why not? STATES.

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

HIS ADDRESS IS

Was he injured? _____

MR IRWIN J. FIRE JR.

Where was he when last seen? _____

310-12TH ST

Any hearsay information: _____

Eau ClaireWISCONSIN

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name OWEN ROBERT R Rank Sgt Serial No. 32227794
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander MILTON Rank Col Sqn CO Booska Rank Maj
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, Meiseburg GERMANY, target
time, 0600, altitude, 10000 route scheduled, No Knowledge
No Knowledge, route flown No Knowledge
5. Where were you when you left formation? RETURNING 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".
NO CREW LIST ATTACHED BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW ALL MY CREW
BAILED OUT AND ARE NOW BACK IN THE STATES EXCEPT THE
BOMBARDIER WHO CHUTE I WAS TOLD NEVER OPENED
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) NONE TO MY
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:

Hart, Daniel Alphonse

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-780194

Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~:

Bombardier

Did he bail out? yesWhere? ~~approximate~~ About 20 miles south-west of Frankfurt on MaineIf not, why not? -----Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ~~just as we~~~~to me~~ just before we jumped. He was alright then.Was he injured? no.Where was he when last seen? at time of bail-out.Any hearsay information: ~~I saw~~ Irwin Pire (Sgt) saw him hit the ground with his parachute not opening.Source: S/Sgt Irwin Pire, Eau Claire, WisconsinAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: a body from our ship was seen to hit the ground with no parachute canopy showing. All other members of the crew except Lt Hart have been contacted.Total number of missions of above crew member: 7Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 25, 1944 through Nov 8, 1944. all in the Rhine Valley except Mersberg, our last mission.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Pire , Irwin Joseph Jr.
Rank: S/sgt
Serial number: 16133914
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: Top Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? yes

Where? about 20 miles south-east of Frankfurt on the maine

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: just as we
recieved the order to bail out.

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? at Dulag Luft where we were separated and sent to prison

Any hearsay information: His mother wrote he was at home. I also have been
corrospending with him by mail.

Source: His mother

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is
confirmed that he is safe in the U.S.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 7

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct 25, 1944 through Nov 8, 1944 Targets:

Gelsinkercen, Rhine, Mersburg.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard A. Johnson Rank F/O Serial No. T-5523
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO Johnson Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov. day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Mersberg, target, Oil Refinery, target
time, 1130, altitude, 29,000 ft. route scheduled, FROM ENG. to
Holland to Mersberg, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? At Mersberg
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 entire crew bailed out 20 miles south-west of Frankfurt on Main Sgt. Lewis received a flak wound on his knee prior to bailing out. All others for which no forms have been attached landed safely and have since been returned to U.S. Control.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately where we bailed out.
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? none in aircraft.
12. What was their condition? Sgt. Lewis wounded, I had a dislocated shoulder, no knowledge of Lt. Hart, Owen had sprained ankles, all others O.K.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. May, Sgy Pire, Sgt. Clymer, Lt. Drake, and F/O Dunning were all seen in good condition on a German train bound for P.O.W. camp. Have also seen Dunning and Drake since they have been returned to U.S. control.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. none

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Hart, Daniel Alphonso
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: O-780194
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? I was told he did.

Where? Near a little German village, Elzey.

If not, why not?

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

No conversation - interphone was shot out.

Was he injured? Not that I know of.

Where was he when last seen? He was in his Bombardier's position the last I know.

Any hearsay information: The engineer told me that he (Daniel Hart) had bailed out and his chute did not open until it hit the ground.

Source: Engineer, Irwin J. Pine (Eau Claire Wis.)

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

Have no idea as to his fate.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 7 missions.

Dates and destinations if possible: The missions are listed in my service record at Washington, D.C. (Oct. 30 to Nov. 8th 44)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Fire, Irwin Joseph Jr.
Rank: S/sgt
Serial number: 16133914
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Top Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? I was told he did.

Where? Near a little German village, Elzey.

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Not that I know of.

Where was he when last seen? He was in his Bombardiers position the last I know.

Any hearsay information: The engineer told me that he (Daniel Hart)

Irwin J. Fire is not a casualty.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard Lowell Lewis Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 19162171
2. Organization 384th BGP Commander Rank — Sqn CO — Rank —
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov. day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, do not remember, target, —, target
time, Apr. 12:00 Noon, altitude, 27,000 ft. route scheduled, —
—, route flown —
5. Where were you when you left formation? Somewhere in North-West 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 members in the nose of the ship bailed out before those of us in the rear. Charles Clymer, Robt. Owen, Gayle G May, And myself, bailed out the waist door after we saw the chutes of the members from the nose of the ship - (Wini. Pire, Richard Johnson, Daniel Hart, William Orville, and Leonard Dunning)
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Do not know - It was in a slight left bank, going down. Was set on Auto-pilot. (Must have been near C/24).
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. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

(over)

Boyle May, Robert Owen, Charles Clymer, and I landed near a little village on what I believe was the Rhine R.. From there Owen and I were taken to the German Hospital at Elzey, a village of about 15,000 population, and approx. 10K from the point we landed at.

Because of my injuries, I was wheeled into the small village on a bicycle, and was given first aid by soldiers.

We landed in a vine-yard on the banks of the river; the tail-gunner landed in the river.

The time of day was about one-o'clock P.M.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Hart, Daniel Alphonse

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-780194

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

Bombardier

Did he bail out?

YES

Where?

SOUTH WEST OF FRANKFORT ON MAIN NEAR MAINTZ GERMANY

If not, why not?

-

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

CONCERNING
DIRECTION TO AMERICAN BATTLE LINES

Was he injured?

NO

Where was he when last seen?

LEAVING SHIP

Any hearsay information:

NONE

Source:

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

I WAS FIRED
UPON DURING MY DESCENT. GUNS USED WERE OF A 30 CAL. TYPE.
MY CHUTE WAS PENETRATED BY BULLETS IN THREE PLACES. IT
IS POSSIBLE THAT LT. HART WAS FIRED UPON DURING OR AFTER
DESCENT.

Total number of missions of above crew member:

7

Dates and destinations if possible:

LAST MISSION NOV 8, 1944

MERSEBURG GR. - OTHER INFO NOT AVAILABLE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Piro, Irwin Joseph Jr.

Rank:

S/sgt

Serial number:

1613391A

Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: Top Turret GunnerDid he bail out? YESWhere? SOUTH WEST OF FRANKFORT NEAR MAINZ GERMANYIf not, why not? -Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: CONCERNING CREW MEMBERS IN WAIST OF SHIP. HE TOLD ME THEY HAD BAILED OUT.Was he injured? NOT BEFORE LEAVING SHIPWhere was he when last seen? IN THE TRANSIT AULT CAMP AT WETZLAR GERMANYAny hearsay information: HE IS NOW AT HOME IN EAUCLAIR WIS.ADDRESS 310 12TH STREET -Source: CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIMAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE IS ALL RIGHT AS FAR AS I KNOW.Total number of missions of above crew member: 7Dates and destinations if possible: LAST- NOV 8, 1944 MERSEBORG
GL. INFO NOT AVAILABLE -

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WILLIAM B DRAKE Rank 1ST LT Serial No. O-771225
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander _____ Rank _____ Sqn CO BOOSKA Rank MAJ
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month NOV day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, #7, target, MERSEBURG, target time, 3:00 PM, altitude, 30,000 ± route scheduled, NO BRIEFING, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? TURNING 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". ED RICHARD JOHNSON, ED LEONARD DUNNING + SGT PIRE LEFT SHIP THROUGH NOSE DOOR SGT GEMAY; RL LEWIS; RP OWENS; C.R. CLYMER LEFT SHIP BY WAIST DOOR.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? SOUTH OF MAINZ 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) SOUTH OF MAINZ NO CREW MEMBERS WERE IN AIR CRAFT.
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? SAW - SGT PIRE, SGT MAY SGT CLYMER NOV 13 1944 WETZLAR GERMANY IN GOOD HEALTH UN INJURED - ED JOHNSON + DUNNING WERE IN SAME POW CAMP WITH ME WE WERE LIBERATED APRIL 29 1945. I SAW SGT RL LEWIS AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE IN FRANCE MAY 1945
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: **Pire , Irwin Joseph Jr.**
Rank: **S/sgt**
Serial number: **16133914**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer (Engineer)~~: **Top Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near Frankfurt

If not, why not? He Did

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

I saw him bail out right after the Co-pilot and Before the Bombardier

Was he injured? Not to My knowledge

Where was he when last seen? A prisoner of the Germans (Also meant him in Miamia in August of 1945)

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

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

Was Returned to the United States

Total number of missions of above crew member: Seven

Dates and destinations if possible:

Oct. 25, 1944 Hamm

Nov. 1, 1944 52-18N-0608 E

Nov. 5. 1944 Frankfu rt

Oct 30, 1944 Hamm

Nov. 2, 1944 Rhiers

Nov. 6, 1944 Bottrop

Nov .8, 1944 Murseburg

6-3861, AF

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Leonard F. Dunning Rank F/O Serial No. T-128721
2. Organization 384 Bomb Gp 544 Bomb Sq Commander Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO Boester Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Murseburg, target
time, about 10 am, altitude, about 30,000 route scheduled, Yes
route flown Yes
5. Where were you when you left formation? First turning point after leaving target
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All bailed out
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge".
The Co-Pilot, Bombardier and Top Turret Gunner bailed out shortly before I did from the nose hatch of the plane. At the time the plane was about ten miles from Frankfurt Germany. The other men bailed out at a later time. All the rest used the rear side door except the pilot, who used the front hatch.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Frankfurt 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) None to my knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? Bailed out
12. What was their condition? Unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Lt Drake and F/O Johnson were POW with me until liberated on April 29, 1945. Saw Sgt. Lewis in Camp Lucky Strike in May 1945
Saw Sgt. Pier in Miami Beach in August 1945
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)

American Papers were found:

- 1) Letter for Richard L. Lewis, 19162171, from: Elayne Morelan, 1613 Chest
7 th St. Faribault, Minn.
Date: 1/11/44
- 2) Order
C.S. Russels (York) LTD., Motor Cycle Engineers
Lawrences Street, York
Machine Nr. V.N. 9819
Make: B.S.A. M/Cycle
- 3) In Emergency Published and distributed by Steele's Aid to Pilots.
2227 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, Calif.
Name: Richard L. Lewis, 718 W 6 th St. Faribault, Minn.
- 4) Operator License Nr. 3006857
Irwin Joseph Pire Jr., 725 N. Central Ave. Chicago.
- 5) Wisconsin's Motor Vehicle Operator's License.
Nr. 329360 Oct. 9, 1941
Irwin Joseph Pire Jr. 307 Fourth Ave., Eau Claire, Wisc.
- 6) Identification Card
Irwin J. Pire 310 - 12 th St., Eau Claire, Wisc. Tel.No. 3701
- 7) Elks War Commission Card
Irwin Pire Jr. Eau Claire Lodge No. 402
- 8) Talisman-Card
Irwin J. Pire Jr. Father Dugon
Chaplain's Signature
- 9) Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit
permit # 337 Operator's DEN: 16133914.
Cpl. Irwin J. Pire Jr.
- 10) Receipt for Remitter Nr. 2033
about \$ 80.-- Stamps: New York NY. APO 546 Br. 11/6/44
- 11) Newspaper Advertisement Dewey reports G.I. Vote System Great Success,
Albany, NY Aug. 26.
- 12) Visit Card (for office only) 390 - 16 - 1353
Irwin J. Pire, 307 - 4 th Ave. Eau Claire, Wis.

KU 3282

(cont'd from page XIX 1)

13) Visit - Card

Irwin J1 Pire

703 N. Oxford Ave.

President

Eau Claire, Wis.

14) Receipt Nr. 50

Date: 11/4/44

about 1 coverall
Pire

XIX 2

KU 3282

11/8/44

1248 hrs.

Fortress 17

2 km E. Laerzweiler (Bodenheim)

8 km S. Mainz

Air Base XIV

Emergency Landing

Stamps:

Dulag - Luft, Wetzlar
Received: 11/12/44

4 prisoners
the other men escaped

II 3

10352

Identification Tags

1) OWEN, Robert R.	32227794 T42-43	O P
2) CHARLES R. CLYMER	13098554 T43-44	A C
3) GAYLE G. MAY	16087010 T42-43	A P
4) LEONARD F. DUNNING	T-128721 T43-44	O C
5) WILLIAM B. DRAKE	0-771225 T43-44	O P
6) RICHARD JOHNSON	T-3528 T43-44	O P
7) IRWIN J. PIRE Jr.	16133914 T43-43	A P

11/8/44

1251 hrs.

Fortress 17

in Niederstein/-Rhine

Air Base XIV

5 prisoners
1 dead
rest escaped

American Papers were found:

1) Identification Card

to be retained by passenger

Form S.S. 2 Rt
15646

Pere Marquette
Railway Company

2) A small bill with following inscription:

Sgt. Gayle G. May - 16087010

485 th Hdgs. & A.B. Sqdn.

18 th Repl. Wing

Army Air Base

Kearney, Nebraska

Numerical order of cases in this book follows the order of the original.

HEADQUARTERS
Army Air Forces Pilot School (ATE)
Turner Field, Albany, Georgia

10353

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 Danial A. Hart.
- b. Rank 2nd. Lt.. Crew position Bombardier.
- d. Date last seen 8 Nov. 1944. Place last seen Over Germany
- f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Flak.

g. Known information (eye witness only)
Engineer saw him falling to ground without parachute opening.

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

None.

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

3/0 Richard A. Johnson
Rank and name of reporter

F-3528 384 GP
ASN Unit

**Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges****Abschuß-Nr.** KU 3281**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 8.11.44. 12.51.**Abschußort:** Nierstein**Flugzeugtyp:** Portress**Meldende Dienststelle:** Lg. XIV**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
✓ DRAKE 1922	William Bright Ky.	2/Lt.	0-771225	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ DUNNING 25.11.21.	Leonard Francis	F/O.	T-128721	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ JOHNSON 9.8.24.	Richard Arthur Cokato, Minne.	F/O.	T-3528	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ FIRE 3.3.24.	Irwin Joseph Madison, Wisc.	T/Sgt.	16133914	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ CLYMER	Charles Richard	T/Sgt.	13098554	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ MAY 24.6.23.	Gayle Gustavus Mich.	S/Sgt.	16087010	gef. Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen: MAC 10352**DULAG-LUFT, den** 24.11.44. **v.S.**