

13850

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

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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England Command or Air Force VIII ; Group 38th ; Squadron 544th ; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England ; Course As Briefed
Target or Intended Destination Leipzig, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
10:10 Undercast
4. GIVE: (a) Day 6 Month Apr Year 1945 ; Time 1018 ; and Location 115N-125E
20 miles SW of Frankfurt of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (☒); 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 () ; Other Circumstances as Follows: A/C collided with A/C 38801 of same sq. No 3 engine fell off and #4 was on fire. A/C went into a flat spin and fell apart.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G ; AAF Serial Number 43-39164 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____ ; AAF Serial Number (a) SW030603 ; (b) SW-024038 ; (c) SW-025842 ; (d) 43-60117
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) 1768052 Br. 1Ape (b) 1768155 Br. 1Ape (c) 1767963 Br. 1Ape (d) 1768218 Br. 1Ape ;
(e) 1769814 Br. 1Ape (f) 1767866 Br. 1Ape (g) 1768199 Br. 1Ape (h) 1768125 Br. 1Ape ;
(i) 1768056 Br. 1Ape (j) 1767962 Br. 1Ape (k) 1768215 Br. 1Ape (l) 415680 Brig. ;
(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 8 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 8
(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
1. Pilot	Gray, Fred Price	2nd Lt	0-822695	NTA
2. Co Pilot	Strang, Walter David	2nd Lt	0-786846	NTA
3. Navigator	Merriam, David Eugene	F/O	T-136433	NTA
4. Toggler	Poulsen, Leonard Irvin	S/Sgt.	37533708	NTA
5. Radio Operator	Kuadra, Michael (NMT)	Sgt.	13177385	NTA
6. Top Turret	McGullough, John Randolph	Sgt.	39022864	NTA
7. Ball Turret	Donini, Joseph (NMT)	Sgt.	33607080	NTA
8. Tail Gunner	Bull, Joe Walter	Sgt.	18078651	NTA RMC 14 APR 1945
9.				
10.				
11.				

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

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-
CRAFT, 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	Check Only One Column		
					Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	Kowals, Daniel Frank	1st Lt	0-828195		X		
2.	Heslop, Alfred Dominic	T/O	T-132935		X		
3.	Moerdyk, Herbert Williams	S/Sgt	36901221		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) _____

Six chutes seen to emerge

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 15 April 1945

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
J. R. WYATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

Incl 3



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

S-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 # 43-39164 MISSION DATE 6 April, 1945

FIRST PILOT FRED P. GRAY 2nd Lt. 0-822695 DESTINATION Leipzig, Germany
NAME RANK SER#

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

(a) By coordinates 5115N-1250E

(b) Approximate altitude 24,500 feet

(c) Last noted heading unknown

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation crashed in formation and then went into spin.

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

Meager, inaccurate flak at target. No enemy aircraft encountered.

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

A/C 164 collided with A/C 801 (Lt. Hastings, Pilot) of same squadron.
A/C 164 peeled off to right, the #3 engine fell out and #4 was on fire.
A/C went into flat spin and fell apart.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

See above.

(Over)

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5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort? No If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). _____

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

As many as 6 chutes were reported to have emerged from aircraft.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

8. Date of report 14 April, 1945

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	D. E. Kowats	1st Lt.	<u>C-828195</u>	<u>459</u>
2.	H. W. Moerdyk	Sgt.	<u>36901221</u>	<u>459</u>
3.	R. J. Petrosky	Sgt.	<u>19111692</u>	<u>459</u>
4.	A. D. Hesko	F/O.	<u>T-132935</u>	<u>459</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<u>John F. Meeth</u>	<u>1st. Lt.</u>	<u>0-874876</u>	<u>S-2 Officer</u>
<u>JOHN F. MEETH 456</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>DUTY</u>
<u>NAME</u>			

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.

Incl 4

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

2nd Lt Fred P. Gray

Mrs. Eunice B. Gray, (Mother)
Post Office Box 17
Hillsboro, Alabama ✓

E U S 2nd Lt Walter D. Strang

Mrs. Frances J. Strang, (Wife)
2376 Webster Avenue
New York, New York ✓

F/O David E. Merriam

Mrs. Gladys M. Merriam, (Mother)
3763 Beverly Drive
Toledo, Ohio ✓

MIA S/Sgt Leonard I. Poulsen

Mr. Christian Poulsen, (Father)
R F D # 3
Tonganoxie, Kansas ✓

MIA Sgt Michael Kustra

Mrs. Mary Kustra, (Mother)
427 West Market Street
Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania ✓

MIA Sgt John R. McCullough

Mrs. Edna C. McCullough, (Wife)
39 Horizon Avenue
Venice, California ✓

Sgt Joseph Donini

Mr. Frank Donini, (Father)
R D 2
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania ✓

KIA Sgt Joe W. Bull

Mrs. Mary Bull, (Mother)
1618 South 5th Street
Abilene, Texas ✓

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GRAY, Fred Price**
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**
Serial number: **0-82269**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~ENGINEER~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? _____

If not, why not? TO ~~NOT~~ TAKE OFF FLAK SUIT
IF HE DIDNT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ADEQUATE TIME

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: THE ENGINEER
CONGRATULATED FRED GRAY ON THE FACT THAT IT WAS HIS LAST MISSION AND
THE BOMBS WERE ALREADY GONE--THERE WAS NO REPLY

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? CO-PILOT SAW HIM JUST BEFORE THE OTHER SHIP
HIT US.

Any hearsay information: CO-PILOT SAID HE SAW FRED GRAY STRUGGLING
TO TAKE OFF HIS FLAK SUIT JUST BEFORE OUR SHIP WENT INTO
A SPIN. HIS CHEST SHUTE WASN'T ATTACHED.

REPORTED BURIED IN A CHURCH YARD
NEAR LIEPSNIG, GERMANY

Source: WALTER D. STRANG - CO PILOT & GERMAN ARMY MAJOR

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE PROBABLY
WENT DOWN WITH SHIP SINCE THERE WERE ONLY A FEW SECONDS
AFTER WE COLLIDED TILL WE EXPLODED --

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 35TH MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE --

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **POULSEN, Leonard Irvin**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **37533708**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Radio Operator~~: **Togglier**

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? AD ECUATE TIME. HE DIDNT IT WAS BECAUSE HE DIDNT HAVE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ALL HE SAID WAS "BOMBS AWAY" —

Was he injured? NOT THEN —

Where was he when last seen? IN THE NOSE STRUGGLING TO TAKE OFF HIS FLAK SUIT.

Any hearsay information: ~~SAID~~ — REPORTED KILLED AND BURIED IN A CHURCH YARD NEAR LIPSNIG, GERMANY — NEAR SCENE OF ACCIDENT

Source: — GERMAN ARMY MAJOR

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE UNDOUBTLY WENT DOWN WITH OUT A CHUTE — I SAW HIM STRUGGLING TO TAKE OFF HIS FLAK SUIT AND A MOMENT LATE THE SHIP BLEW APART — HE DIDNT HAVE HIS CHEST CHUTE ATTACHED THEN.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 35TH MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible: NO KNOWLEDGE.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **K U S T R A , Michael (MUI)**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **13177385**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Radio Operator**

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? HE PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO PUT ON HIS CHUTE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? IN THE RADIO ROOM

Any hearsay information: WAS REPORTED BURIED IN A CHURCH YARD NEAR LIPSNI G GERMANY - NEAR SCENE OF ACCIDENT

Source: GERMAN ARMY OFFICER (MAJOR)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE OFF HIS PARACHUTE SUIT AND PUT ON HIS CHEST CHUTE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 7TH MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mc CULLOUGH, John Randolph**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **39022864**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer/Gunner~~: **Tpp Turret**

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: HE CONGRATULATED THE PILOT THAT IT WAS HIS LAST MISSION.

Was he injured? HE WAS AFTER THE SHIP EXPLODED.

Where was he when last seen? ON THE GROUND NEAR LIPSNI6, GERMANY

Any hearsay information: CO-PILOT SAID HE SAW JR. Mc CULLOUGH JUST AFTER THE SHIP EXPLODED - HIS FACE WAS BLOODY THEN HE AGAIN SAW JR. Mc CULLOUGH ON THE GROUND LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD - HE MADE A FREE FALL PART OF THE WAY DOWN. - REPORTED BURIED IN A CHURCH YARD ^{LIPSNI6} NEAR

Source: W. R. STRANG - COPILOT.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE APPARENTLY DIDNT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO TAKE OFF HIS FLAK SUIT AND PUT ON HIS CHEST CHUTE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 7TH MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **D O N I N I , Joseph (NMI)**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **33807080**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: **Ball Turret**

Did he bail out? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where? NO KNOWLEDGE

If not, why not? HE PROBABLY DIDNT HAVE ENOUGH TIME

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? HE WAS IN HIS BALL TURRET

Any hearsay information: HE WAS REPORTED BURIED IN A

CHURCH YARD NEAR LIPSING, GERMANY - NEAR

SCENE OF ACCIDENT -

Source: GERMAN Army MAJOR -

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

WENT DOWN WITH SAID - NOT ENOUGH TIME TO GET

OUT OF BALL TURRET -

Total number of missions of above crew member: HE WAS ON HIS 7TH MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible:

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DAVID EUGENE MERRIAM Rank F/O Serial No. T-136433
2. Organization ⁵⁴⁴⁹⁶384BG Gp Commander MILTON Rank COL Sqn CO _____ Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month APRIL day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ^{LIEPZIG GERM.}MARSHLING YARDS, target, MARSHLING YARDS, target time, 1005, altitude, 27000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 60 MI SE OF LIEPZIG
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? CO PILOT AND TAIL GUNNER GOT 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". _____

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 60 MI SE OF LIEPZIG
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? NO KNOWLEDGE

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I MET THE TAIL GUNNER OF THE PLANE THAT COLLIDED WITH OURS A FEW DAYS LATER. HE BELIEVED THAT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO GET OUT OF HIS SHIP.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **G R A Y , Fred Price**
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**
Serial number: **O-822695**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer (Observer)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? No Knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After
hearing "Bombs Away" he said "This makes
my last one"

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

German officer told us he had buried
12 of our crew members. After the
crash. We were only flying 5 to each
ship so this did tally.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 34

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **P O U L S E N , Leonard Irvin**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **37533708**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer (Engineer)~~ **Togglier**

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: _____

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: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

K U S T R A , Michael (NMI)

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

If not, why not?

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

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:

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mc CULLOUGH , John Randolph**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **39022864**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~ENGINEER~~: **Top Turret**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: Lt. Strang. my co-pilot stated
sgt McCullough jumped out on him as his chute
was lost in the explosion. When the chute opened
McCullough fell off probably due to his
injuries. He also stated he saw him after
Source: landing & that he was crashed nearly

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

in the ground.

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **D O M I N I , Joseph (NMI)**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **33607080**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: **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: _____

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: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Joe W. Bull Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 18078651
2. Organization 384th Gp Commander Rank Sqn CO Maj. Lindsey, R.L. Rank
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month April day 6th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 7th, target, Leipsiz, target time, 10:05 A.M., altitude, 27,000 route scheduled,
route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Approximately 20 miles from target
6. Did you bail out? Blown out
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Unknown as I was passed out from lack of oxygen.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? Unknown
12. What was their condition? "
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Lt. Strang, F/O Merriam & Sgt Bonacker, (survivor from other plane that crashed us) We were all prisoners together
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.
Lt. Strang (co-pilot) informed me that Sgt John R. McCullough fell from him when chute opened as he was injured & unable to hold on.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I was tail gunner & . . .
immediately upon having
the mid air collision, I
got off oxygen & attempted
to bail out. As the ship
was in a spin, I was
unable to do so, & passed
out from oxygen. Our ship
blew up afterwards,
blowing me clear & when
I awoken, I was about
8,000 feet altitude. I
have no knowledge
therefore of any members
who were not prisoner
with me. These members
I have written on the
reverse side. I
deeply regret being of
no better benefit to
you & their families
regarding their outcome.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GRAY, Fred Price**
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**
Serial number: **O-822895**
Position: Crew (Bomber) on ~~XX~~ **Pilot**

Did he bail out? **NO**

Where? _____

If not, why not? **WE WERE RAMMED FROM BENEATH - HE STILL HAD FLAC SUIT ON**

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **LT. GRAY HAD TAKEN CONTROLS. HE ASKED ME TO GET MY FLAC SUIT OFF. JUST GOT IT OFF AS CRASH CAME.**

Was he injured? **NO - NOT DUE TO COLLISION**

Where was he when last seen? **I LAST SAW HIM FIGHTING TO GET HIS FLAC SUIT OFF**

Any hearsay information: **WHEN I WAS INTERROGATED BY A GERMAN AIR FORCE MAJOR HE INFORMED ME THAT THE REST OF THE CREW, NOT BEING HELD CAPTIVE, HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE OF OUR PLANE. I SAW THE FUSELAGE OF THE SHIP HIT AND I BELIEVE MYSELF THAT THEY WERE IN IT.**

Source: **GERMAN INTERROGATOR**

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

THIS SAME INTERROGATOR SHOWED ME A LIST OF THEIR NAMES IN ENGLISH AND SAID THEY HAD BEEN BURIED IN A CHURCHYARD IN A TOWN NEAR THE CRASH OF THE WRECKAGE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: **35**

Dates and destinations if possible: **THE LAST MISSION WAS FLOWN ON APRIL 6 1945 AND WAS MADE ON LIEPZIG GERMANY. JUST 5 TO 10 MINUTES AFTER TARGET AND BOMBS AWAY NO. 3 MAN SLID UNDER US AND RAMMED US TRY TO GET BACK. THE TAIL GUNNER WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE OTHER B-17.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **POULSEN, Leonard Irvin**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **37533708**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer~~: **Togglier**

Did he bail out? I DO NOT BELIEVE SO.

Where? _____

If not, why not? NAVIGATOR STATES HE SAW POULSEN DIVING FOR PARACHUTE WHEN THE OTHER AIRCRAFT STRUCK HIS FROM BENEATH.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NAVIGATOR STATES HE (POULSEN) STILL HAD FLAC SUIT ON BUT NO CHUTE.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN NOSE OF PLANE TRYING TO GET TO HIS CHUTE.

Any hearsay information: SAME AS THAT ON PILOT, F. P. GRAY.

LIFTWAVE INTERROGATOR SAID HIS BODY WAS FOUND WITH PILOTS, BALLGUNNER AND RADIO OPERATOR. THIS WAS AT AIR BASE ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS FROM ALTENBERG. THE BASE FELL TO ALLIES ABOUT APRIL 14.

Source: GERMAN MAJOR INTERROGATOR

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

GERMAN INTERROGATOR SHOWED ME A LIST PRINTED IN ENGLISH WITH MEN FOUND IN WRECKAGE LISTED WITH THEIR SERIAL NUMBERS NEXT TO EACH.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 29TH OR 30TH

Dates and destinations if possible: THIS LAST MISSION WAS APRIL 6TH 1945 ON LIEPZIG. 5 TO 10 MINUTES AFTER BOMBS AWAY COLLISION OCCURED.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **K U S T R A , Michael (NMJ)**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **13177385**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Radio Operator**

Did he bail out? I CANNOT SAY. HE WAS NOT LAST OBSERVED
BY ANY SURVIVOR. I DO DOUBT IT HOWEVER FOR REASONS
BELOW.

If not, why not? HE WAS IN RADIO ROOM AND DUE TO EXTREME QUICKNESS
WITH WHICH ACCIDENT OCCURED I DOUBT IF HE HAD A CHANCE.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE WAS LAST HEARD SAYING THAT ALL BOMBS HAD BEEN DROPPED

Was he injured? DO NOT KNOW.

Where was he when last seen? IN RADIO ROOM

Any hearsay information: SAME AS PILOT AND TOGGLIER. GERMAN
INTERROGATOR STATED THAT HIS BODY WAS IN WRECKAGE
OF FLISLAGE WHICH HAD THE WINGS BLOWN OFF BY
EXPLOSION AFTER COLLISION FROM BENEATH. THE
EXPLOSION EXPLAINS WHY ANYONE SURVIVED.

Source: GERMAN MAJOR INTERROGATOR

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: GERMAN INTERROGATOR SHOWED ME A LIST IN
ENGLISH OF MEN FOUND IN WRECKAGE WITH SERIAL
NUMBERS NEXT TO EACH.

Total number of missions of above crew member: SEVEN

Dates and destinations if possible: LAST MISSION APRIL 6TH.
LEIPZIG. COLLISION 5 TO 10 MINUTES AFTER BOMBS
AWAY.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Mc GULLOUGH, John Randolph**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **39023864**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer~~: **Tpp Turret**

Did he bail out? **NO - HE TRIED TO HOLD ONTO ME AS I LEFT THE WRECKAGE**

Where? **WE WERE ON SINCE HE HAD NO CHUTE. WE WERE ONLY A FEW THOUSAND FEET AT TIME. WHEN I OPENED CHUTE**
If not, why not? **HE WAS GONE AND I DON'T REMEMBER JUST WHEN HE LEFT ME DUE TO MY HYSTERIC CONDITION.**
Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: **HE WAS TRYING TO FREE US FROM THE WRECKAGE SO WE COULD OPEN**

THE CHUTE LAST I SAW HIM IN THE AIR.
Was he injured? **YES HE WAS CUT AROUND THE FACE.**

Where was he when last seen? **WHEN I LANDED ON THE ROOFTOP I SAW HIM LYING DEAD IN THE COURTYARD BADLY MESSED UP.**
Any hearsay information:

WHEN I WAS SAVED FROM CIVILIANS WITH GUNS BY A GERMAN WOMEN AND HER SON AND DAUGHTER, SHE LATER TOLD ME WITH GESTURES THAT HE WAS A TERRIBLE MESS. SHE HAD TAKEN ME IN HER HOUSE AND CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND AN ANGRY CROWD

IT WAS HER ROOF THAT I LANDED ON.
Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

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

Dates and destinations if possible: **LAST MISSION APRIL 6TH 1945 ON LIEPZIG.**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **DONINI, Joseph (NMI)**
Rank: **2gt.**
Serial number: **3387080**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: **Ball Turret**

Did he bail out? I CANNOT SAY, BUT IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY.

Where? HE WAS IN HIS TURRET WITHOUT HIS CHUTE.

If not, why not? THE PLANE HIT US FROM BENEATH.

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

COMMENTED ON BOMBING RESULTS AND FLAC.

Was he injured? PROBABLE

Where was he when last seen? IN TURRET

Any hearsay information: JOE DONINI WAS ON A LIST PRINTED
IN ENGLISH SHOWN TO ME BY A GERMAN
INTERROGATOR. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A LIST OF
THOSE FOUND IN WRECKAGE. THEIR SERIAL NO.
WERE ALSO THERE.

Source: GERMAN MAJOR INTERROGATOR

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

ONLY ABOVE

Total number of missions of above crew member: SEVEN

Dates and destinations if possible: LAST MISSION LIEPZIG

APRIL 6TH.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WALTER DAVID STRANG Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-786846
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander THEODORE R. MILTON Rank COL Sqn CO MAURICE A. BOOSKA Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month APRIL day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, LIEPZIG, target time, 10:05, altitude, 29,000 FT. route scheduled, ASSEMBLY OVER FRANCE, route flown ZIG ZAG INTO CENTRAL GERMANY.
5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 8 MINUTES SOUTH OF LIEPZIG
6. Did you bail out? DELAYED - UNCONCIOUS IN WRECKAGE, BAILED AFTER HAVING TO PUT ON CHUTE AND GET OUT OF WRECK.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES NAVIGATOR AND TAIL GUNNER WERE BLOW CLEAR
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". NAVIGATOR HAD JUST PUT ON CHUTE AND WAS BLOWN OUT FULLY CONSCIOUS. TAIL GUNNER BLOWN CLEAR CAME TO AND OPENED CHUTE. I WAS UNCONCIOUS ON SMALL PIECE OF NOSE OF PLANE, CAME TOO FOUND A CHUTE, PUT IT ON STRUGGLED CLEAR AND JUST OPENED CHUTE AT 500 FT.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? ON A HILL 1500 YDS. FROM ROOFTOP THAT I LANDED ON. WRECKAGE HIT THE SAME ROOFTOP.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) PILOT TOGGLIER BALL TURRET GUNNER
11. Where were they in aircraft? IN THEIR POSITIONS
12. What was their condition? GERMANS SAY THEY WERE DEAD.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? SAW OUR TAIL GUNNER AT HARTMANNSDORF GERMANY WHERE HE WAS LIBERATED. NAVIGATOR AND I WERE MADE TO MARCH ON INTO GERMANY BECAUSE WE COULD WALK. TAIL GUNNER HAD INJURED RIBS AND WAS LEFT BEHIND TO BE LIBERATED BY ADVANCING AMERICAN TROOPS.
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)

If the woman and children who saved my life, by arguing for my life with the angry farmers, is interregated I would like to know the name and location.

At the risk of her own life pushed aside guns that were being pointed at me and helped me into her house. She fed me tended my wounds and I therefore am forever indebted. If possible her name and location would be valuable to me as a personal remembrance

Thank you

Sincerely and
Respectfully

Lt. Walter D. Shang (Res.)

P.S. I hope my statements are complete enough and prove useful.