

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106 ; Command or Air Force VIII  
Group 384th ; Squadron 547th ; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106 ; Course As Briefed  
Intended Destination Aschersleben, Germany ; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Clear as far as undercast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 22 Feb 44 Time 1230 ; and Location 51°50'N, 06°25'E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether (X) last sighted; ( ) last contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forces Down; ( ) Shot Down; or ( ) Information not Available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR CREW BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check  
only one (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances  
as follows Ten to fifteen ME 109's attacking when last seen.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-C ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-39809
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 43-64942  
(b) 43-64667 ; (c) 41-004186 ; (d) SW-104523
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) ; (b) ; (c) ; (d)  
(e) ; (f) ; (g) ; (h)
9. THE PERSONS LISTED HEREIN ARE BELIEVED TO BE: ( ) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; 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
1. Pilot	Pilot	McDonald, Raymond L.	2nd Lt.	0-742756
2.	Co-Pilot	Smith, Paul M., Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-446478
3.	Navigator	Kontur, William J.	2nd Lt.	0-741789
4.	Bombardier	Bean, George H.	2nd Lt.	0-751585
5.	Radio Operator	Franzo, Anthony J.	T/Sgt.	12187814
6.	Top Turret	Pierce, Lee C.	T/Sgt.	33286699
7.	Ball Turret	Egger, Richard H.	S/Sgt.	19188500
8.	Tail Gunner	Egger, Robert R.	S/Sgt.	19188474
9.	Right Flexible Gun	Gabriel, Daniel (NMI)	S/Sgt.	31189278
10.	Left Flexible Gun	Odom, Rufus T., Jr.	S/Sgt.	14053028

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			Check Only One Column	
			by	Last	Saw	Saw Forced	
			Radio	Sighted	Crash	Landing	
1. Decker, Charles Edgar	2nd Lt.	0-671901		X			
2.							
3.							

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used 1 ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) 1 chute seen to emerge
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EXTENSIVE 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 22 February 1944

Incl 10'

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

J. R. WYATT,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Asst. Adjutant.

CASUALTY REPORT ON ALLIED AVIATORS NO.6 (31. Jan. 44 - 22 Febr. 44)

DISTRIBUTED TO ARMY INFORMATION CENTER.  
REGARDING: DOWNED BOEING FORTRESS AT GALEN NEAR DORSTEN.

DATE AND TIME: 22 FEBR. 1944

SURNAME: SMITH

FIRSTNAME: PAUL M.

RANK: OFFICER

A.S.N. 0-115478

DATE OF BURIAL: 25. FEBR. 1944

LOCATION GRAVE: COMMUNITY CEMETERY OF HERVEST - DORSTEN  
I PAPT. SECTION 2. LEFT SIDE GRAVE NO. 233

SIGN. C O

KIA

See KU 941

KU 959

2467  
42-39809

Wetland Cans?

KU 959 ' Feb. 22, 1944 ' Fortress

Franzo, Anthony Joseph, T/2gt.

Ident. Tag: 12 187 814

Taken prisoner

Egger, Richard Henry, S/2gt

Ident. Tag: 19 188 500

Taken prisoner

Odom, Rufus Thurman, 1st Lt. born Feb. 12, 1920

Ident. Tag: 14, 053 028

Taken prisoner

Kontur, William John, 1st Lt.

Ident. Tag: 0-741 789

Taken prisoner

Pierce, Lee Clifton, T/2gt.

Ident. Tag: 33 286 699

Taken prisoner

McDonald, Raymond Leroy, 2nd Lt.

Ident. Tag: 0-742 756

Taken prisoner

Bean, George Henry, 2nd Lt.

Ident. Tag: 0-751 585-

Taken prisoner

2467  
AIR BASE H.Q. (A) 238/ VI  
Technical detachment  
Technical direction.

Place and date: Station place 15. March 1944

Subj.: Report on investigation of the downing of American aircraft on  
22. February 1944  
At: CHESTUM near VENRAY

TYPE OF AIR CRAFT: BOMBING - FORTRESS, markings unknown, plant No. P 239 809

To distributor: Air craft was completely destroyed by hitting the ground and burning.  
DEAD bodies were not found. It can be assumed that the crew  
members were burnt.

Engines: WRIGHT CYCLOPE, number could not be stated

Arms: BROWNING 0,5 inches, number undefined

Equipment: burnt

Armour: not stated

Bombs: none

Destruction of craft: 98 %

Destruction of engines: 75 %

Attached: 4 type shields.

Air force engineer and technical  
director.

MAER 2467

- 1) 1 identification tag and 1 picture attached.

paul m. smith jr.  
O - 446473 T 43 O  
paul m. smith  
4603 e. priour pl.  
New Orleans la. p.

- 7) 1 identification tag

edwin m. sager  
39611335 T 42 - 43 O  
P

- 2) 1 identification tag

r. t. odon jr.  
14053028 T 43 49 B  
Mrs. r. t. odon  
Rockingham nc. p

- 8) 1 identification tag

edward w. lundgren  
O - 745132 T 42 O  
Mrs. ed. lundgren  
warren minn. p

- 3) soldiers individual pay records

odon rufus, t. jr.  
asn. 14053028  
rank: sp1.  
years of service: 4 yr. 8 mo.

- 9) bicycle permit.

edward w. lundgren  
asn. 745132  
organization a.-c.

- 4) 1 immunisation register 1

odon, rufus jr. 14053028

- 5) 1 identification tag

george j. littleton  
O - 676965 T 43 O  
Mrs. pearl h. watson  
tyro miss. p

- 6) 1 identification tag

edwin m. sager  
39611335 T 43 O  
frances sager  
265 3rd. ave. e.n. p  
kalispell, mont.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

FILE # 2467

Name of crew member: SMITH, Paul W. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: 2-416478  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~at flight (Fighter)~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where: OVER WESEL, GERMANY, 20, 1944.

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

FW-190 AT 0230 HIGH - WHICH SHOT SMITH.

Was he injured? YES IN LEG AND CHEST

Where was he when last seen? IN COPILOT'S SEAT

Any hearsay information: GERMAN COL. AT STALAG I RECEIVED  
INFO THRU GESTAPO SAYING THAT SMITH HAD  
BAILED OUT AND WAS KILLED TRYING TO ESCAPE.  
THIS INFO WAS CONVEYED TO ME BY C.O. (GERMAN)  
IN OCT. 45. "SMITH IN HOSPITAL AT WESEL - LEG WOUND."

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

20MM WOUND IN LEG - CHUTE PARTIALLY DAMAGED -  
EITHER KILLED BY GERMAN DOCTORS OR DIED FROM  
LOSS OF BLOOD - ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT SMITH WAS  
OK AT DORTMUND HOSP. ON NIGHT OF FEB. 23 1944.

Total number of missions of above crew member: THIRTEEN

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

Certified by: William J. Koxner

1st Lt. A.C.  
6-3861-AF

0741789

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WILLIAM J. KONIUR Rank 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. Serial No. 0-741789
2. Organization 384 BOMB GRP Gp Commander D.O. SMITH Rank COL. Sqn CO ~~PARSON~~ Rank MAJ.  
347 SQU. (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month FEB. day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, \_\_\_\_\_, target, AASCHERSCHLEBEN, target time, 1255, altitude, 23,500 route scheduled, AS BRIEFED, route flown 30 MI. S. OF COURSE
5. Where were you when you left formation? NIM WEGEN NEAR WESEL
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES - ALL TEN.
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 MEMBER LEFT AIRCRAFT AS PREVIOUSLY BRIEFED
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? UNKNOWN
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? G. BEAN (BOMBR.), McDONALD (PILOT); H. FRANZO (RD. OPN);  
LAST SEEN AT BARTH, GER. STALAGT, MAY 13, 1945. - FAIR CONDITION  
PIERCE; R. ODOM (WAST GRP); GABRIEL, R. EGGER AT DULAG LUFT,  
FRANKFURT, (ON MAINZ Rv) GERMANY, - FAIR CONDITION.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. LT. MARKOW'S CREW - 384 BOMB GRP.  
PILOT, NAV BOMB GRP. AND WAST GRP. GR.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

FILE # 2467

Name of crew member: SMITH, Paul M. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd.Lt.  
Serial number: O-446478  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator (Navigator)~~; Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Approximately 15 kilometers east of Wesel, Germany

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Immediately before he bailed out of the navigators escape hatch.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? As he was leaving the ship at the navigators escape hatch

Any hearsay information: It was rumored that he was in a hospital, told by other AAF Personnel. While in prison, I, Raymond L. McDonald initiated investigation through the Germans of my camp as to Lt. Smith's fate. I received the following information: 2nd Lt. Paul M. Smith, Jr. O-446478 was killed in action on February 22, 1944 and was buried at Hervest-Dorsten, Germany.

Sources:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe that Lt. Smith was killed when his burned parachute failed to support him. His 'chute pack was laying on the floor back of the copilots seat near the top turret when our hydraulic panel was hit by a 20 mm shell which also exploded our oxygen bottles and the ensuing fire partially burned his chute.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 12 to the best of my knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: Unable to recall

I have written to the parents of Lt. Smith and given them a detailed account of his fate at their request.

*Raymond L. McDonald*  
Raymond L. McDonald, 1st Lt. A.C. O-742756

6-3861-AF

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name McDonald, Raymond L. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. O-742756
2. Organization 384 Bomb. Sq., 547 Bomb. Sq. Gp Commander D. O. Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO H.E. Frink Rank Capt.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month February day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Axcherleben, Germany, target time, approx. 1330, altitude, 24,000 feet route scheduled, direct  
route flown direct
5. Where were you when you left formation? near Wesel, Germany
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all.
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". Lts. Bean and Kentur used navigators escape hatch. T/Sgt. Pierce used same. Sgts. Franze, Gabriel, Odom, and R.H. Egger used main door. Sgt. R.R. Egger used tail gunners escape hatch. I, the pilot, used navigators hatch after helping copilot. All other men bailed out immediately upon my order to leave.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Aircraft exploded in air shortly after I 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? XXX
12. What was their condition? XXX
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Last saw copilot when he left the ship through the navigators escape hatch. He was not wounded, but very nervous. His 'chute was 1/2 burnt but he bailed out regardless as we felt the ship would blow up very soon. We were unable to use my 'chute together since fire prevented us using the bomb bay to bail out, although we did consider doing so.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. A Sgt. Ross of 2nd Lt. Kew's crew of my squadron was brought in by the Germans dead. He had bailed out successfully but evidently had died of wounds received in his ship and perhaps some while in the air and the shock of hitting the ground. As I remember one of his ankles was broken. Lt. Kew was reported as dead. Suggest you contact 2nd Lt. O'Hara, Lt. Kew's navigator for further information concerning that crew.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

FILE # 2467

Name of crew member: SMITH, Paul M. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd.Lt.  
Serial number: 0-446478  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~CO-PILOT~~: Co-Pilot

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? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on suppositions: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18 MISSIONS

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

FILE # 2467

Name of crew member: SMITH, Paul M. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd.Lt.  
Serial number: 0-446478  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Co-Pilot~~: Co-Pilot

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? No KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13 Missions

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name RICHARD H. EGGER Rank S/SGT Serial No. 19188500
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander SMITH Rank COL Sqn CO RINK Rank LT COL  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month FEB day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 14, target, OSCHERSLEBEN target  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, 25,000 FT. route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? 50 MILES NORTH EAST OF DUSSELDORF
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES BOMBARDIER NAV. BOTH WAIST GUNNERS  
TOP TURRET, RADIO MAN, PILOT, TAIL GUNNER, NO KNOWLEDGE OF  
CO-PILOT
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? 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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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

FILE # 2467

Name of crew member: SMITH, Paul M. Jr.  
Rank: 2nd.Lt.  
Serial number: 0-446478  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Co-Pilot~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? —

If not, why not? ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

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

Interphone - CALLED OFF FIGHTER ATTACK

Was he injured? Pilot said HE believed HE had been Wounded

Where was he when last seen? AT FORWARD ESCAPE HATCH BY PILOT

any hearsay information: Pilot Told Me His Chute Caught Fire And

was put out and that he left the plane before the plot did. Navigator

Told Me That A FRIEND OF HIS HAD BEEN IN A GERMAN HOSPITAL

AT Wheel with LT Smith AND THAT: LT Smith HAD died.

LATER LEARNED FROM AMERICAN PRISON CAMP COMMANDER THAT

Source: He has learned through The Red Cross That Lt Smith was killed  
at Harvest Mountain

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

Some of the Panels MAY have BURNED OUT of His Chute...

And it may not have checked his fall enough to keep

him from being fatally injured or he may have died.

From Wounds Received in the Fighter Attack

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible; No Knowledge.

George H Bean 1st Lt A.C. O.R.C.  
6-3861-40

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name GEORGE H BEAN Rank LTJGRC Serial No. 0-751585
2. Organization 389<sup>th</sup> Bb Gp Commander Smith Rank Col Sqn CO FRINK Rank CAPT  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month FEBRUARY day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ASCHERSLEBEN, target, JUG8 PLANT, target time, -, altitude, 22000 FT route scheduled, -, route flown -
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 20 Miles inside GERMAN Border <sup>NEAR</sup> Duisburg
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 Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge - Was Told it Exploded
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? Plat. ENGINEER - Radio Operator - Ball Gunners - CAPTURED IN SAME AREA - ENGINEER had MINOR Shrapnel Wounds - Met NAVIGATOR - AND Both Waist GUNNERS at Dulag Luft - FRANK FORT on the MAIN - LAST SAW Robert Egger - Tail Gunner before TAKEOFF - LAST SAW PAUL M SMITH IN COCK PIT AFTER I HAD FUSED bombs - LATER LEARNED He had BEEN KILLED BUT KNOW NO DETAILS - LEARNED FROM Red Cross THAT he was BURIED AT HERVEST DORSTEN
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)

My Pilot LT Raymond L McDonald Told me That LT Smiths Chute  
had Caught Fire From Hydraulic Fluid AND That ~~he had~~ helped  
him put out The Fire. He said That ~~LT Smith~~ IT Looked As IF  
ONLY The Cover had burned off AND That LT Smith Had bailed  
out of The FORWARD Escape Hatch Shortly before He did.