

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9754

Classification changed
by E. A. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AG
by Wm. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AG
Date MAR 15 1948

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 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed
Target or Intended Destination Cologne, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
10:10 Cloud Cover
4. GIVE: (a) Day 5 Month 05 Year 1944; Time 1125; and Location 51°18'N-06°18'E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (☒); Last contacted by _____
radio (); Force 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 43-38579
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number (a) SW-026079; (b) SW-026845; (c) SW-027138; (d) SW-027056
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) *SEE; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____;
(e) ATTACHED; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____;
(i) SHEET; (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
1. Pilot	Birckhead, Robert Bruce	1st Lt.	0-810804	MTA
2. Co-Pilot	Christian, Arthur Dean	2nd Lt.	0-886499	MTA
3. Navigator	Hedrick, Hilary Hann	1st Lt.	0-703993	MTA
4. Nose Gunner	Benson, Olin R.	T/Sgt.	6214885	MTA (545th) RPD
5. Radio Operator	Taylor, William Edson	S/Sgt.	16115332	MTA RPD
6. Top Turret	Bianca, Buddy Armand	T/Sgt.	20258225	MTA
7. Ball Turret	Vaniglia, Frank (NMI)	S/Sgt.	12082893	MTA
8. Tail Gunner	Batte, Clyde Delay	Sgt.	18148811	MTA
9. Waist Gunner	Adams, Benjamin Harold	S/Sgt.	14138880	MTA RPD
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
1.	Chmura, Edward (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0-820153		X	
2.	McFalls, Johnny W.	Sgt.	14188195		X	
3.	Einhouse, Raymond D.	Sgt.	33690182		X	

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used No; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) No 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 13 October 1944

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Incl 1

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

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

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS *

- a. 1314992 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- b. 1314648 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- c. 1315799 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- d. 1314033 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- e. 1315700 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- f. 1315923 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- g. 1315070 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- h. 1315095 Buffalo Arms Manufacturing Company
- i. 1482494 Frigidaire Division General Motors Company
- j. 1482469 Frigidaire Division General Motors Company
- k. 1482460 Frigidaire Division General Motors Company
- l. 1477868 Frigidaire Division General Motors Company

All guns were Cal. 50 Aerial Machine Guns

Incl 3

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~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 545th A/C # 579 MISSION DATE 5-Oct.-44
FIRST PILOT BIRCHHEAD, ROBERT B. 1st. Lt. 0-810804 DESTINATION COLOGNE, Germany
NAME RANK ASN

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

(a) By coordinates 5118N - 0618E

(b) Approximate altitude 27,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading 125 degrees Mag.

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation
About 4,000 feet below formation.

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

No enemy aircraft.

Intense and very accurate flak, encountered when A/C left formation.

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

Started to smoke and then exploded in flames.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Went into a whirling steep dive.

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

----- If, so, give distinguishing markins of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). -----

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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.):

NO CHUTES OBSERVED.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

N O N E

8. Date of report 5 October, 1944

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	CHMURA, EDWARD	2nd Lt.	O-820153	476
2.	MC FALLS, JOHNNY W.	Sgt.	14188195	476
3.	EINHOUSE, RAYMOND D.	Sgt.	33690182	476
4.	SINE, GEORGE H.	2nd Lt.	O-819420	476

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<i>John F. Meeth</i>				
<u>MEETH, JOHN F.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-874876</u>	<u>S-2 Officer</u>	
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

MACR - ?
 9754
 B17
 9 men
 AAF H3-36579

DATE: 5 October 1944 AF: 1145

PLACE: Freudenberg near Dorsten

TYPE OF CRAFT: Fortress

MARKINGS: 957 MACR 9754

544th (HBo) Sqd. 384th Group

TARGET: Airdrome Command
 Gelsenkirchen-Euer

RANK	NAME	K U 3109
P/O.	✓ CHRISTIAN, Arthur Deen	Ser.No.: T -123742
1st Lt.	✓ BURKHART, <i>not in MACR</i>	Ser.No.: <i>9754</i>
1st Lt.	✓ HEIDRICH, H.H. (dead)	Ser.No.: O-703993
Off.	✓ BIRCKHEAD, R. B. (dead)	Ser.No.: O-810804
22	22 Buried at community Holsterhausen	
T/Sgt.	✓ BIANCO, Biddy Armand	Ser.No.: 20258225
T/Sgt.	✓ BENSON, Olin Ray	Ser.No.: 6214885
S/Sgt.	✓ TAYLOR, William Leon (KU 3160)	Ser.No.: 16115332
S/Sgt.	✓ ADAMS, Benjamin Harold (KU 3160)	Ser.No.: 14138885
Sgt.	✓ VANIGLIA, F. (dead)	Ser. No.: 12082893
76	76 Buried at community Marl	
Sgt.	✓ RATTLE, G. D. (dead)	Ser.No.: 1814888h
76	76 Buried at community Marl	

KV 3031

Incl. medal disk, without marks

EXTRACT
(by Names.)
REPORT ON CASUALTIES NO. 31.
Time-period from Sept. 20. to Oct. 9, 1944.

AMERICANS

Nation	NAME	First N.	RANK	Formation	Ser. No.	Date and Time of capture.	Remark
1) USA.	Hedrick	H. H.	Officer	Crew- member of Boeing Fortress	O 703993	Ulshette Run west Marl Oct. 5, 1944; 11.45 Yokohama	Interred: Communal Cemetery Marl, Sick -wacht-gratr. Sect. for Engl. Sold. <u>Grave No. 7a</u>
2) USA.	Vaniglin	F.	Sgt.	"	12082893	"	<u>Grave NO. 7b</u>
3) USA	Batte	G. B.	Sgt.	"	18148811	"	<u>Grave No. 7c</u>
4) USA	Birkhead	H. B.	Officer	"	O-510804	"	Communal Cemetery Holst-rhansen Sect. for POW.s Grave NO. 22

Airbase-Headquarters Rear
Airfield-Command.

T/Sgt. and Detail-leader
Signature.

MACR 9754

5 Oct 44
6 Oct. 44

Gesenkirchen

Type: Fortress

545 (H.B.) Sqd.

384 Group 41 Wing

Airfield: 106

N 1st Lt. BURKHEAD

R. B.

KV 3160

0-810804 lead

HEDRICK

Hillary H.

0-703993

S/Sgt. TAYLOR

William Edson

16115332 capt.

Sgt. ADAMS

Benjamin H.

14138880 capt.

1st Lt. Robert B. Birchhead

Mrs. Dorothy R. Birchhead, (mother) ✓
1633 Holenore,
Memphis, Tennessee.

2nd Lt. Arthur D. Christian

Mrs. Wayne Christian, (mother) ✓
714 South Cherokee Street,
Girard, Kansas.

1st Lt. Hilary H. Hedrick

Mrs. Anna B. Hedrick, (mother) ✓
11 Mountain Avenue, Southwest,
Roanoke, Virginia.

T/Sgt. Glen E. Benson

Mrs. Inez B. Benson, (mother) ✓
2910 10th Street,
Fort Arthur, Texas.

S/Sgt. William E. Taylor

Mr. Carroll C. Taylor, (father) ✓
165 East Ridge Street,
Ironwood, Michigan.

T/Sgt. Buddy A. Bianca

Mrs. Gilda G. Bianca, (mother) ✓
1812 Arthur Avenue,
New York, New York.

S/Sgt. Frank Vaniglia

Mrs. Angelina Vaniglia, (mother) ✓
41 Guyon Avenue, Oakwood Heights,
Staten Island, New York.

Sgt. Clyde D. Batte

Mr. Robert L. Batte, (father) ✓
Post Office Box 616,
Cameron, Texas.

S/Sgt. Benjamin H. Adams

Mrs. Newton A. Adams, (mother) ✓
321 North Jefferson Street,
Albany, Georgia.

File # 9754

BIRCKHEAD, Robert Dr. on

Reals:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

0-810804

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~:

Pilot

Did he bail out?

yes

Where?

Where? Over Gelsenkirchen, Germany (50 mile North

~~If not, why not?~~

of Köln)

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

Was he injured?

Not Before he Bailed Out.

Where was he when last seen?

Where was he when last seen? In Building (after Captured) in Gelsenkirchen

Any hearsay information:

Any hearsay information: He died the next day in Hospital.
(Oct. 6, 1944). Adams told me at Dulag Luft.

Source:

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

When I saw him on the ground (after Captured) he had internal injuries and was unconscious.

Total number of missions of above crew member: *Over 25*

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

HEDRICK, Hilary Hann

Rank:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

O-703993

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

Navigator

Did he bail out?

I don't know

Where?

If not, why not?

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

None on mission

Was he injured?

Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

As we entered ship before mission

Any hearsay information:

Benson (Toggler) said, He was looking around the nose for parachute or something.

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member:

Over 25

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

BATTIE, Clyde Delay

Rank:

Sgt.

Serial number:

18248911

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

Tail Gunner

Waist gunner

Did he bail out?

I know nothing all about BATTLE

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:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: VANIGLIA, Frank (NMI)
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 12082893
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): ~~Ball Turret Gunner~~ Ball Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? I know nothing about Vaniglia

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: _____

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Arthur Dear Christian Rank 2nd Lt Serial No. 0-886499
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Buck Rank 1st Lt Sqn CO Stone Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Oct. day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Ford factory (Köln), target time, approx 11:00, altitude, 26 000 Approx route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? just past Target
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Some of them at least
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 pilot ordered me to bail out. I opened the hatch and left. No one was hurt at that time. I was first to leave.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? I don't know
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) I don't know.
11. Where were they in aircraft? ~~NA~~ 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? I saw all that lived at Du lag Luft. Adams had a head injury. about Oct. 13, 1944.
I saw Benson again at Camp Lucky Strike in 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

File # 9754

Name of crew member: BIRCKHEAD, Robert Bruce
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-810804
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? yes

Where? near Gelsinkirchen

If not, why not? —

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

no contact

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? on the ground

Any hearsay information: that he had been injured by flak

or when he landed - condition critical and

supposed to have died

Source: Benson - toggler on crew with him on ground

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

His death is supposition, but probable

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1st mission of 2nd tour

Dates and destinations if possible: no knowledge

6-3861, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HEDRICK, Hilary Hann
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: O-703993
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? no knowledge at all on above person

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: _____

6-3861, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BATTE, ClydeDeLay
Rank: Sgt.
Serial number: 18348811
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? doubtful

Where? _____

If not, why not? unconscious or injured

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

none

Was he injured? probably

Where was he when last seen? standing in waist position

Any hearsay information: the above was, to my knowledge,

flying the waist position, not tail. B. Adams

was in the tail position

Source: Adams - tail gunner

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

supposition - the plane blew up while BATTE was

in the waist and he may have been injured or

rendered unconscious and had no chance to use

his parachute.

Total number of missions of above crew member: no knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: no knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VANDOLIA, Frank (NMI)**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12082893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? never left turret position

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? getting into ball before run on target

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

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

things happened before he had a chance to
get out of ball turret. Plane went into spin
and exploded, so he probably went down with
the ball turret.

Total number of missions of above crew member: no knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: no knowledge

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Taylor, William E. Rank S/sgt. Serial No. 1615332
2. Organization 384th B.G. Gp Commander Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO Jones Rank Capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month October day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, no knowledge, target, Cologne, target time, about 1240, altitude, no knowledge route scheduled, no knowledge, route flown no knowledge
5. Where were you when you left formation? no knowledge
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".
Sgt. Benjamin Adams - tail gunner bailed out from
tail escape - no further knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? near Gelsinkirchen
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
Vainiglia, Frank - S/sgt. 12082893 no knowledge of rest.
ball turret gunner
11. Where were they in aircraft? in ball turret
12. What was their condition? no knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Co-pilot (name unknown) in Doleg Luft at
Frankfort - condition normal
Toggler: Benson by name - same place - condition normal
Engineer: (name unknown) - " " - " "
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)

See other side

This was the first time I had ever flown with this crew — in fact, it wasn't a regular crew. As a consequence I was not familiar with any one of them, except Adams, the tail-gunner, who I knew slightly.

The plane was hit by flak and immediately dropped out of formation. It was on fire. Crew members in the nose bailed out first and the others from the waist back after the plane exploded. So we didn't land together and I had no chance to observe what happened to the others.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BIRCKHEAD, Robert Bruce
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: O-810804
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight Officer (Bomber)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? little town outside Cologne

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? Unconscious on ground - no visible wounds

Where was he when last seen? in German headquarters outside Cologne

Any hearsay information: believed to have died in hospital

Source: Tail gunner Adams

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: No

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

BATTE, Clyde Delay

Rank:

Sgt.

Serial number:

18148811

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

Tail Gunner

Did he bail out?

no knowledge

Where?

no knowledge

If not, why not?

-

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

no contact

Was he injured?

no knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

no knowledge

Any hearsay information:

no

Source:

-

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

no knowledge

Total number of missions of above crew member:

-

Dates and destinations if possible:

-

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: VANIGLIA, Frank (NMI)
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 12082893
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Ball Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? no knowledge

Where? no knowledge

If not, why not? —

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

Was he injured? no knowledge

Where was he when last seen? no knowledge

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: —

Dates and destinations if possible: —

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BIANCA, BUDDY A Rank T/SGT Serial No. 20258225
2. Organization 384th B.Gp Commander SMITH Rank COL Sqn CO ? Rank ?
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month OCT day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, COLOGNE?, target, COLOGNE, target time, 11:55 AM.?, altitude, 22,000 FT route scheduled, ?
route flown AS BRIEFED
5. Where were you when you left formation? One or two minutes away 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". Benson, Togglear, Bailed out, Brown, Radio operator, Spio blew up with him in it, but got out alright, Tail gunner, Adams, same Brown, Christianson, Bailed out thru nose hatch. #
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) Hedrick, Batte Vaniglia, Birchhead bailed out but injured on ground. Believed dead on knowledge of Adams.
11. Where were they in aircraft? No Knowledge
12. What was their condition? Hedrick alright - others no Knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Benson, Moosburg Prison camp 4/29/45 - good, Brown - Distribution camp, Germany 10/7/44 - condition - good. Adams - Atlantic City, N.J. Aug 1/45 Condition good. Birchhead - immediately after being captured outside of Cologne - condition - unconscious, no visible wounds.
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) a - 1

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HEDRICK, Hilary Hann**
Rank: **1st Lt.**
Serial number: **O-703993**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Navigator**

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? Unknown

If not, why not? I don't believe he had time to bail out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After the plane was hit the second time and the crew checked in with the pilot.

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? When I bailed out.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: None

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2nd Mission on 2nd tour of overseas duty

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BATTE, Clyde Delay**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **18M48811**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ **Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? No

Where? Unknown

If not, why not? I don't believe he had time to bail out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After plane
was hit the second time and crew checked in with the pilot.

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? At take-off

Any hearsay information: None

Source: None

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

No

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **VANIGLIA, Frank (NMI)**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12082893**
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? Unknown

If not, why not? I don't believe he had time to bail out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After plane
was hit the second time and crew checked in with the pilot.

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? At take-off

Any hearsay information: None

Source: None

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

No

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible:

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Olin R. Benson Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 6214885
2. Organization 384th Bomb Group Commander Col. Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO Unknown Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Oct. day 5 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Cologne, target, Ford Plant, target
time, 1100, altitude, 26,500 route scheduled, Unknown
route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Gailenkirchen
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Three (3) crew members 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".
2nd Lt. Arthur D. Christian--Bailed out at same time as myself.
S/Sgt. William E. Taylor-- No Knowledge
T/Sgt. Buddy A. Bianca-- Bailed out at same time as myself.
S/Sgt. Benjamin H. Adams-- Last seen at interrogation of prisoners.
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) Unknown
11. Where were they in aircraft? Unknown
12. What was their condition? Unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? 1st Lt. Robert B. Birkhead--Last seen at place of capture. He was bleeding at the nose and mouth and was unconscious. S/Sgt. Adams informed me that he died in the hospital.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Unknown

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9754

Name of crew member: BIRCKHEAD, Robert Bruce
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: 0-810804
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Flight Engineer~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Gailenkirch

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After the plane
was ~~hit~~ hit the second and the crew checked in with the pilot.

Was he injured? Not at that time, to my knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? In Gailenkirch, being taken to the hospital

Any hearsay information: S/Sgt Adams informed me that he died in the hospital at
Gailenkirch.

Source: S. Sgt. Benjamin H. Adams, Tail Gunner.

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

Source and information already given is all I know about his death.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2nd Mission on his 2nd Tour of Overseas ^{Duty}

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

6-3861, AF

MACR 9754

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN

5 October 1944 1145 hrs.

CASUALTY NO.

KU 3109

PLACE OF CRASH

Frederberg near Duxton

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE

Hq Air Base Gelsenkirchen-Buer

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
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CHRISTIAN ✓ Arthur Dean 2nd Lt. T-123742 captured Dulag Luft West
USA

BYANCO ✓ Buddy Armand T/Sgt. 20258225 captured Dulag Luft West
USA

BENSON ✓ Olin Ray T/Sgt. 214885 captured Dulag Luft West
222 August 1903 USA

BURKHART ✓ 1st Lt. wounded Hospital

Casualty No. KU 3109 First Supplementary Report, dated 5 January 1945

MEIDRICH ✓ H.H. 1st Lt. 60-703993 dead Community Cemetery,
Holserhausen

BIRCKHEAD ✓ R.B. Officer 0-610804 dead same as above, grave 22

VANIGLIA ✓ T. Sgt. 12082893 dead Community Cemetery Marl,
grave 7c

BATTE ✓ C.D. Sgt. 18148811 dead same as above, grave 7c

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft, 28 October 1944 No.

MACR 9754

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN 6 October 1944

CASUALTY NO. KU 3160

PLACE OF CRASH Galsenkirchen

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE Galsenkirchen

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
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ADAMS	Benjamin Harold	S/Sgt. 14138880	captured	Dulag Luft West
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TAYLOR ✓ 21 April 1923	William dso3	S/Sgt. 16115332	captured	Dulag Luft West
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Casualty No. KU 3160

First Supplementary Report , dated 5 December 1944

BURKHEAD ✓ R.B.

1st Lt. 8-510804 dead

REMARKS:

10 November 1944

No.

KU- 3109

Identification Tags

Benson , Olin R. 6214885
Taylor , William A. 16115332
Christian , Arthur D. T-123742

KU 3160

On File:

1 Identification Tag # BENJAMIN H. ADAMS
14138880 T 42 - 43 O P

1 " " HILARY H. HEDRICK
O - 703993 T 43 - T 43 O C

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KU 3160

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER:

LLBL

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE: 19 October 1944

THROUGH:

TIME: 08.40

ROLL:

FROM: L L E N

THROUGH: Maut

REMARKS:

- . -

To: Computing Station West Oberursel.

Subject: Additional Report of Enemy Aircraft on 7 October 1944
Day-attack Kassel & Emmerich.

15.) Date & Time: 10.17 Type of Craft: Liberator Place: 16 Km. south-west Coesfeld
IP 4/I Constitution destroyed 990/o - 2 Men dead & 7 Men Captured

16.) Time: 12.45 Type of Craft: Typhoon-Lette, Place: 6 Km. south-east Coesfeld IP
5/I Condition: 950/o destroyed. 1 Man dead

Luftgau Command 6/Ic on 17 October 1944

Certified by
Lobbe, Rank: Major.

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6-3224, AF(5)

**Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges****Abschluß-Nr.** KU 3160**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 6.10.44**Abschußort:** Gelsenkirchen**Flugzeugtyp:** Fortress**Meldende Dienststelle:** Gelsenkirchen**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtsdag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	gef.: verw.: tot:	Verbleib:
				welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage

ADAMS	Benjamin Harold	S/Sgt. 14138880	gef. Dulag-Luft West
TAYLOR 21.4.23	William Edson	S/Sgt. 16115332	gef. Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen: 9754**DULAG-LUFT, den** 10.11.44 **Wo.**