

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

11994

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification changed  
to  
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MURKIN, Capt., AG  
JAN 15 1946  
**RESTRICTED**

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 Sterkrade, Germany Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clear
4. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month Jan Year 1945; Time 1333; and Location 5134N, 0642E  
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 Avail-  
able ( )
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 43-38850
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial  
Number (a) SW-029682; (b) SW-029897; (c) SW-029809; (d) SW-029848
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) 1031504 Browning; (b) 1031603 Brown; (c) 1031807 Colt; (d) 1031661 Colt;  
(e) 413621 Brown; (f) 1038977 Brown; (g) 1038013 Brown; (h) 1031138 Browning;  
(i) 1031179 Brown; (j) 1031896 Brown; (k) 1037447 Brown; (l) 1031024 Browning;  
(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	<u>Van Popering, Earle Allen</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-740984</u>	<u>MIA Pow</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Doherty, William Edward</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-577380</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Ferrell, Jack Gordon</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-462831</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
4. Toggler	<u>Ozyjowski, Eugene (NMI)</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>42103005</u>	<u>MIA</u>
5. Radio Oper.	<u>Reghout, Richard A.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>11102154</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
6. Top Turret	<u>Schulz, Russell Lloyd</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>19164757</u>	<u>MIA Pow</u>
7. Ball Turret	<u>Mathias, Charles W.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>18000850</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
8. Tail Gunner	<u>Denney, Roy E.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>38563685</u>	<u>MIA Pow</u>
9. Waist Gunner	<u>Maffei, Albert (NMI)</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>39332710</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
10.				
11.				

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Incl 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 (Last Name, First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
			by	Radio			
1. <del>Robert</del> John Robert	2nd Lt.	0-776216			x		
2. Hollingsworth, Fredrick Clay	2nd Lt.	0-712010			x		
3. Johnson, Donald Ernest	2nd Lt.	0-768569			x		

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

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 29 January 1945

*J. R. Wyatt*

(Signature of Preparing Office)

J. R. WYATT,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Ass't. Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Incl 3



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eb/3/28/45

1st Lt. Varle A. Van Popering

Mrs. Lina G. Van Popering (wife)  
1225 West Euclid  
McPherson, Kansas

2nd Lt. William E. Doherty

Mrs. Ethel M. Doherty (mother)  
949 South 2nd East  
Salt Lake City, Utah

2nd Lt. Jack G. Ferrell

Mrs. Haggis D. Ferrell (mother)  
507 4th Avenue West  
Birmingham, Alabama

T/Sgt. Richard A. Pechout

Mr. Anthony Pechout (father)  
99 Elm Street  
New Britain, Connecticut

T/Sgt. Russell L. Schulz

Mr. Clyde W. Schulz (father)  
235 Seventh Avenue W  
Port Dodge, Iowa

Sgt. Eugene Onjowski

Mrs. Joan Onjowski (wife)  
Rt 2 Box Number 40  
Great Meadows, New Jersey

Sgt. Charles W. Mathias

Mrs. Grace L. Mathias (mother)  
4507 Baldwin Ct.  
Denver, Colorado

Sgt. Ray E. Denney

Mrs. Millian E. Denney (mother)  
Box 224  
Stratford, Texas

Sgt. Albert Haffel

Mr. Santo Haffel (father)  
Box 45  
Hagle Creek, Oregon



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 # 43-38850 MISSION DATE 22/1/45

FIRST PILOT Van Pepering, Earle A. 1st Lt. 0-740984 DESTINATION Sterkrade, Germany  
NAME RANK ASN

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

(a) By coordinates 51 34N - 06 42E

(b) Approximate altitude 15,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading 300°

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation  
6 to 8 miles

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

**No enemy fighter opposition**

**Flak was intense, accurate and tracking**

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

**Extent of damage to aircraft is unknown. All 4 propellers going  
and no smoke or fire observed.**

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

**Aircraft peeled out of formation with one wheel down in a fairly steep  
dive. After the aircraft had dropped 10,000 feet to an approximate  
altitude of 15,000 feet it leveled off and was apparently under control.  
Aircraft was then lost to sight because it was beyond visual range.**

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 of fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.).

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



MACR 11994  
 B-17  
 AAF 43-38350  
 9 men

22 Jan. 1945 1415  
 Devanter  
 Type: Fortress  
 Markings: 338850-S  
 544 HBo Sqd. 384 Group  
 Target: Air district  
 Holland

7 Febr. H 125

KU 3610

1st Lt. VAN POPERING Mark A.  
 ( Hosp. Apeldoorn )  
 2nd Lt. DOHENY William Edward  
 2nd Lt. FARREL ; Jack G

O-740984  
 O-577380 capt  
 6462931

N 697	S/Sgt. CHYJOWSKI	Eugene	42103005	dead
	T/Sgt. SCHULZ	Russell Lloyd	19161757	capt
	S/Sgt. DENNEY	Roy Edward	38562685	capt
	T/Sgt. PICHOUT	Richard Anthony	11102154	capt
	S/Sgt. HATHIAS	Charles F.	18000850	
	S/Sgt. MAFFEI	Albert	39332710	

1 dead; Community Cemetery Vaassen, row 33,  
 class II

MACR 11994



Downing No: KU 3610

Report on Downing of an American Plane:

Date of Downing....: 22 January 1945 - 1415  
Place of Downing...: Deventer  
Type of Plane.....: Fortress  
Reporting Office...: Air District Holland

C R E W .....

DOHENY	William Edward	2nd.Lt.	0-577380	captured	Dulag Luft West
MATHIAS	Charles W.	S/Sgt.	18000850	captured	Dulag Luft West
PECHOUT 14 September 1924 Conn.	Richard Anthony	T/Sgt.	11102154	captured	Dulag Luft West
SCHULZ 1 July 1912	Russell Lloyd	T/Sgt.	19164757	captured	Dulag Luft West
DENNEY 1923	Roy Edward Okla.	S/Sgt.	38563685	captured	Dulag Luft West
VAN POPERING		1stLt.		wounded	Hospital Apeldoorn

MACR 11994

Dulag Luft, 9 February 1945 Wo.



To Computing Station West Oberursel/Taunus

Subject: Loss of Air Force over Holland

1. H 125 22 Jan 45, at 1415 hours, downed by flak B 17 F near Terwolde, 6 km northeast of Deventer. Serial No. 33 88 50. 99% destruction. 6 men captured, one of them seriously wounded in hospital Apeldoorn. Names look report of 23 Jan 45. 1 man recovered dead. Disposition of the rest unknown, presumably still in the aircraft.



Identification Tags

Eugene Czyjowski, 42103005

Van Popering, Earl A., 0 740984

Mathias, Charles W., 18000850

Doheny, William E., 0577380

Pechout, Richard A., 11102154

Denney, Roy Edward, 38563685

Schulz, Russell L., 19164757



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: OZYJOWSKI, Eugene (NMI)  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 42103005  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of the crew~~: Togglier

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: ~~XXXXXX~~ According to a letter from Albert Maffei (A member  
of the crew, recently discharged) OZYJOWSKI, Eugene (NMI) 42103005  
has been declared officially dead by the War Department and his mother  
has been notified as such.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

On the date of my capture the Germans told us that Ozyjowski  
had been found dead due to the failure of his chute to open. The  
Co-Pilot William Doheney saw his dog-tags. I did not see the body.

Total number of missions of above crew member: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11994

Name of crew member: DENNEY, Roy E.  
Rank: Sgt.  
Serial number: 38563685  
Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~XXXXXX~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Roy E. Denney has been discharged from the Army. At the present time  
he is living in Stratford Texas (P.O. Box 321) I have received  
several letters from him.

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: SCHULZ, Russell Lloyd  
Rank: T/Sgt.  
Serial number: 19164757  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of B-24D (101st Bomb Group)~~: Top Turret

Did he bail out? over Holland. Aprx. 25 miles south west of Arnheim.

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Was he injured? No, not to my knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? Dulag-Luft prision camp. Feb-March 1945

Any hearsay information: No

I have no information after my transfeer to Nurenberg. I believe  
he was transfeered also just prior to myself.

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

File # 11994

Name of crew member: VAN POPERING, Earle Allen  
Rank: 1st Lt.  
Serial number: O-740984  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~COPILOT/ENGINEER~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Holland. Aprx. 25 miles south-west of Arnhem.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I went up to the cockpit of our ship to give first aid to the co-pilot and found

Was he injured? Van Popering seriously injured. He was hit in the stomach.

Where was he when last seen? Just prior to his bailing out.

Any hearsay information: The Germans said that he had been found alive but badly injured and had been sent to a nearby hospital.

I believe his wife has been notified that he died in the hospital. Checking of official records will prove this statement true or false

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 A. Pechout Rank T/Sgt Serial No. 11108154
2. Organization 384 bgp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Unknown, target, \_\_\_\_\_, target  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, \_\_\_\_\_ route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just leaving target
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Everyone.
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? Holland. south-west of Arnheim
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 # 11994

Name of crew member:

VAN POPERING, Earle Allen

Rank:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

O-740984

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Engineer (Tail)~~:

Pilot

Did he bail out? YesWhere? GERMANY

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He told usto get ready to leave ship - told me to get out of the ball turretWas he injured? YesWhere was he when last seen? Going out of planeAny hearsay information: That the Germans put him in the hospital  
after that nothing -Source: GERMAN'SAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NONETotal number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWNDates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11994

Name of crew member:

OSKOVSKI, Eugene. (DNI)

Rank:

S/Sgt.

Serial number:

42103005

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~OSKOVSKI, Eugene.~~

Toggler

Did he bail out? Yes

Where?

GERMANY

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Told him toGo ahead and jump - Reply was O.K.Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen?

IN NOSE OF PLANE

Any hearsay information:

GERMAN'S told us his parachute did  
not open - showed us his dog tags and bloody chute

Source:

GERMAN'S

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

This could  
be true as we all got the drop-tuft together - he did  
not arrive there

Total number of missions of above crew member:

UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible:

UNKNOWN



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11994

Name of crew member:

SMITH, Russell Lloyd

Rank:

2/Sgt.

Serial number:

19164757

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

Top Turret

Did he bail out? YesWhere? GERMANY

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane? Asked him"if the Pilot was O.K." he Replied didn't know for sureWas he injured? NOWhere was he when last seen? Prision Camp Nurenburg

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

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWNDates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Charles W. Mathias Rank Sgt Serial No. 18000850
2. Organization 384<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO Besska Rank MAJ.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1942 month JAN. day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, DOWN, target, ? oil, target  
time, 1:30-PM, altitude, 22,000 ft route scheduled, ?  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just after Bombs away
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". 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Doherty bailed out o.k. - Tech Sgt. Richard Pechent - o.k. Sgt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Fernal o.k. (Sgt. Albert Maffei - 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) ?
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? Sgt. Albert Maffei last seen standing at waist window - spoke and was answered went ahead and bailed out - was told by the German's that one body was found in the airplane. Did not see either the above or man they said was killed when chute did not open - so can only say the German's told us this information
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)



**Meldung über den Abschluß eines  
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

**Abschuß-Nr.** KU 3610

**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 22.1.45 - 14.15

**Abschußort:** Deventer

**Flugzeugtyp:** Fortress

**Meldende Dienststelle:** Lg. Holland

**Besatzung:**

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

✓ DOHENY	William Edward	2.Lt.	0-577380	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ MATHIAS	Charles W.	S/Sgt.	13000850	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ PECHOUT 14.9.24	Richard Anthony Conn.	T/Sgt.	11102154	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ SCHULZ <sup>z</sup> 1.7.12	Russell Lloyd	T/Sgt.	19164757	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ DENNEY 1923	Roy Edward Okla.	S/Sgt.	38563685	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ VAN POPERING		1.Lt.		verw.Laz. Apeldorn

**Bemerkungen:**

MAC 119 94

**DULAG-LUFT, den** 9.2.45 No.