



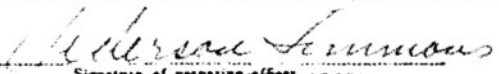
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

- Date 17 Dec 44
- ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanelle Air Base Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF  
Group 454th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bombardment Sq (H)
  - SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanelle Air Base Italy Course Blechnhammer Germany  
Target Blechnhammer O/R Germany Type of mission Bombing
  - WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
10/10 stratocumulus, base 6500 ft, tops 8000 ft. 6/10 to 8/10 cirrus at 25000
  - GIVE: [a] Date 17 Dec 44 Time 0910 Last known position Italy (41° 30' N - 16° 05' E)  
[b] Specify whether: [] Last sighted, [] Forced down, [] Seen to crash,  
[] Last contacted by radio. [] No information.
  - AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]  
[] Enemy aircraft, [] Enemy anti aircraft, [] Other Circumstances unknown. Aircraft last seen
  - AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-78671 after take-off
  - NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No nickname. Call name "Black Jiff".
  - ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number [a] BP-447102  
[b] BP-446812 [c] BP-447177 [d] BP-435267
  - INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] Browning 50 Cal M2  
[a] 1469423 [e] 1236732 [i] 1253490  
[b] 1272130 [f] 1272664 [j] 1253513  
[c] 1469445 [g] 1272183 [k] \_\_\_\_\_  
[d] 1469426 [h] 1272454 [l] \_\_\_\_\_
  - PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] Battle Casualty, [] Non Battle Casualty.
  - NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10  
[If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet]

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME [Last, first, initial]	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP	STATUS AND ADDRESS
EUS 1) Pilot	<u>McCreekmore, James T.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0555969</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Wife Mrs. Betty N Creekmore, 4452 West 61st St., Los Angeles, Calif. RTD</u>
EUS 2) Co-Pilot	<u>Henkel, Arthur R.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>0822675</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Wife Mrs. Gertrude B Henkel, 272 Hancock Ave., Jersey City, N.J. RTD</u>
EUS 3) Navigator	<u>Natzke, Herbert W.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>02060339</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Father Mr. Hubert H Natzke, Rural Route 2, Box 171, Merrill, Wisc. RTD</u>
KIA 4) Bombardier	<u>Hayes, William J.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0703383</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Father Mr. William J Hayes, 2351 N. 58th St., Apt 2, Philadelphia, Pa. KIA</u>
EUS 5) Eng Gunner	<u>McMahon, Daniel P.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>14048629</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Father Mr. James S McMahon, 907 Whaley St., Columbia, South Carolina. RTD</u>
EUS 6) RO Gunner	<u>Ficklin, Raby D.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>18151973</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Wife Mrs. Catherine Ficklin, None, Gonzales, Louisiana. RTD</u>
EUS 7) Arm Gnr	<u>Aylesworth, Richard B.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>37550515</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mother Mrs. Grace Aylesworth, Apt 2, Kelly Blk., Devils Lake, N. Dakota. RTD</u>
EUS 8) Arm Gnr	<u>Baer, Wayne B.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>oo 36531653</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mother Mrs. Clara Baer, RFD1, Marlette, Michigan. EUS</u>
KIA 9) Arm Gnr	<u>Dansereau, Frank E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>oo 14128287</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Wife Mrs. Noia L Dansereau, 2303 11th St., S., St Petersburg, Fla. KIA</u>
EUS 10) Arm Gnr	<u>Pease, Paul W.</u>	<u>S/Cgt</u>	<u>11086209</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mother Mrs. Mary E Pease, 124 Ferguson Ave., Burlington, Vermont. RTD</u>
(11)					
(12)					

- IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE [one only] COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:
- | NAME IN FULL                    | RANK         | SERIAL No.     | CONTACTED LAST BY RADIO | SAW SIGHTED | SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| [1] <u>Frank (IMT) Schiffel</u> | <u>2d Lt</u> | <u>0687702</u> |                         | <u>X</u>    |                          |
| [2] <u>Donald L Bahnsen</u>     | <u>2d Lt</u> | <u>0822343</u> |                         | <u>X</u>    |                          |
| [3]                             |              |                |                         |             |                          |
- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
[] Parachutes were used. [] Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.  
[] Other reasons [specify] Aircraft last seen after take-off 0910
  - ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
  - ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
  - ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No search made

3 Inclosures  
 Incl 1-Statement Date 19 December 44 of Lt Schiffel (septup)  
 Incl 2 Statement of Lt Bahnsen (septup)  
 Incl 3 Map of area where plane last seen (septup)

  
 Signature of preparing officer  
**ALDERSON SIMMONS,**  
 Capt., Air Corps,  
 Adjutant

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

18 December 1944

On 17 December, I flying Co-Pilot for Black Dog, followed Lt Creekmore on take off who was in Black Jigg. We were delayed on take off and didnt know where the the formation was, exactly, at the time. We followed Black Jigg who was climbing and flying a left hand pattern at about 5000 feet. I noticed a formation at our rendezvou point. We left Black Jigg and was on a south east heading when we joined the formation which was ours. I was on inter-phone and did not hear Black Jigg request the flares to be fired.

*Frank Schiffel*

FRANK (NMI) SCHIFFEL,  
2d Lt . 0687707  
779th Bomb Sq (H)  
464th Bomb Gp (H)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Incl 11*

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

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

18 December 1944

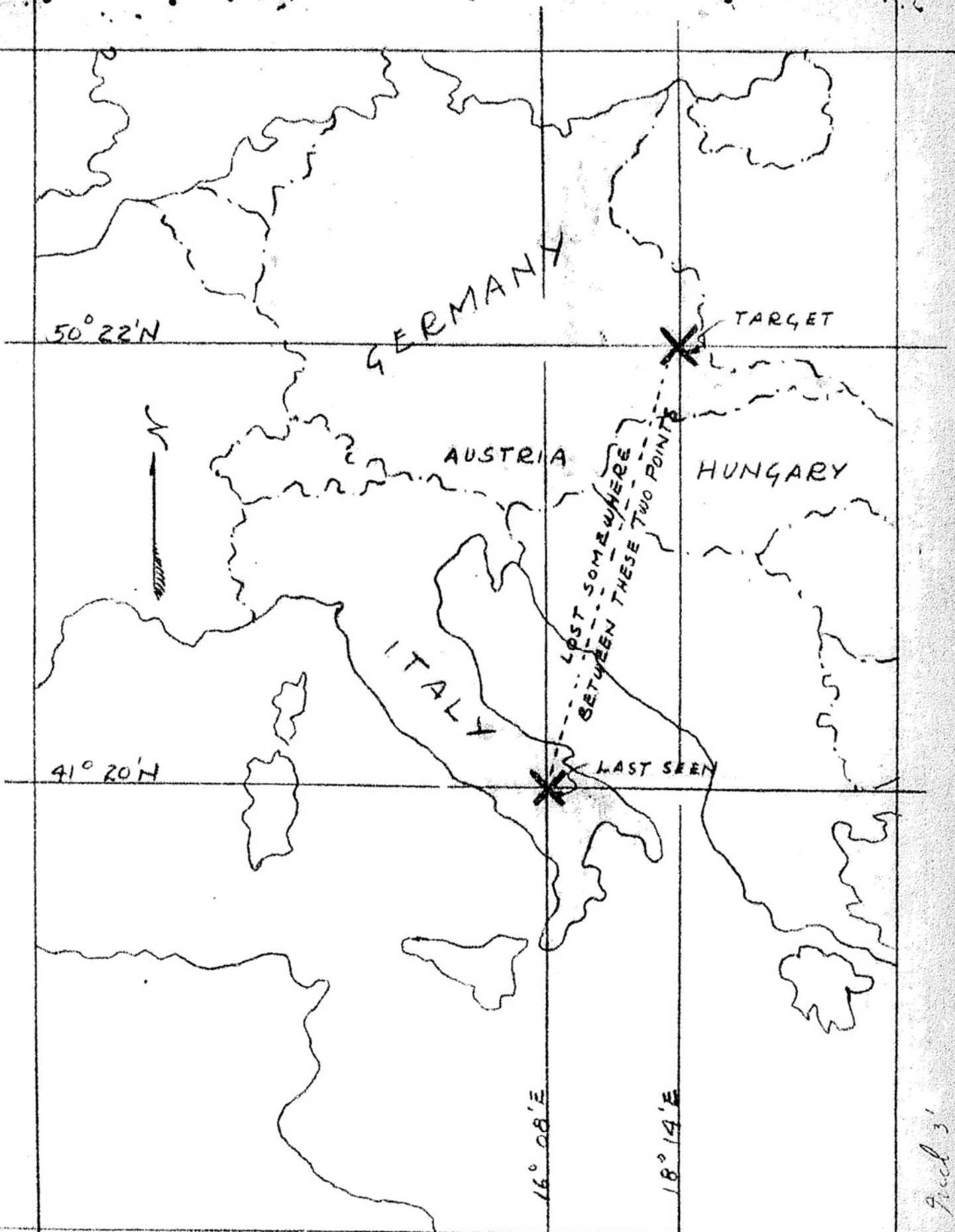
I, flying Black Dog followed Lt Creekmore off at take-off at 0855, 17 December 44. After flying west for approximately three minutes, I then turned to a heading of about seventy degrees and flew toward the Adriatic Sea. I saw the group formation off to our right and after nearing the coast turned one hundred and eighty degrees to the right. Lt Creekmore continued flying on the heading of seventy degrees. Shortly after joining the formation, I heard Lt Creekmore call the leader and ask him to fire a couple of flares. The leader fired the flares but I didnt hear Lt Creekmore acknowledge that he saw the flares. I asked my waist gunner if he had seen any thing of Black ~~Wigg~~ since we turned away but he replied that he did not.

*Donald L. Bahnsen*

DONALD L BAHNSEN,  
2d Lt 0822343  
779th Bomb Sq (H)  
464th Bomb Gp (H)

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

*Incl 21*



BOMBING OF BLECHHAMMER  
DEC 17, 1944

Filed 31

1st Lt. James T. Creekmore ✓	Mrs. Betty E. Creekmore (Wife) 4452 West 61st Street Los Angeles, California
2nd Lt. Arthur E. Henkel	Mrs. Gertrude B. Henkel (Wife) 272 Hancock Avenue Jersey City, New Jersey
2nd Lt. Herbert W. Natzke ✓	Mr. Hubert H. Natzke (Father) Rural Foute #2, Box 171 Merrill, Wisconsin
1st Lt. William J. Hayes ✓	Mr. William J. Hayes (Father) 2331 North 58th Street Apartment D2 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
T/Sgt. Daniel P. McMahon ✓	Mr. James S. McMahon (Father) 907 Whaley Street Columbia, South Carolina
T/Sgt. Raby D. Ficklin ✓	Mrs. Catherine Ficklin (Wife) Gonzales, Louisiana
S/Sgt. Richard B. Aylesworth ✓	Mrs. Grace J. Aylesworth (Mother) Devils Lake, North Dakota
S/Sgt. Wayne B. Baer ✓	Mrs. Clara Baer (Mother) Rural Free Delivery One Marlette, Michigan
S/Sgt. Frank B. Dansereau ✓	Mrs. Nola H. Dansereau (Wife) 2303 11th Street South St. Petersburg, Florida
S/Sgt. Paul W. Pease ✓	Mrs. Mary R. Pease (Mother) 134 Ferguson Avenue Burlington, Vermont



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON



IN REPLY REFER TO: AFPPA-8

SUBJECT: Casualty Information of Crew Members

TO:

James T. Greckmora, 1st Lt.

1. You will be interested to know that there have been formed here in Washington and in the theaters overseas, Missing Aircrew Research and Investigation Offices to collect all information from our own and enemy sources, correlate this information and furnish it to search teams in the theaters who will go to the scene of the casualty incident and investigate. These teams will question those in the area who have knowledge of the incident and trace all leads down until they have the story. The German records we have translated are excellent. We have just received the Japanese records. By combining all this data with the story available in your memory, we can tell next of kin the things that mean so much to them.

2. You may or may not have been questioned in this manner before concerning the mission on which you were shot down and the events that followed. Regardless of previous questionnaires, it is important that we have the information requested here to complete our records concerning combat crewmen remaining in a casualty status.

3. If you have been sworn to secrecy as a result of your escape, evasion or internment, you may consider yourself released from all restrictions as to disclosure or publication of experiences except:

- a. Secret intelligence activities and methods developed for use, or actually used, in prison camps.
  - b. Details of techniques employed by military intelligence organizations operating behind enemy lines to assist evasion and escape.
  - c. Negotiations conducted on high government or military level to secure release from internment in a neutral country. (See AAF Reg 46-8 dated 30 October 1945)
4. Please answer all the questions you can promptly and accurately. Re-

6-3842, AF

quest that, if possible, answers be typewritten; if not, printed. Mail the reply to Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Attention: AFPPA-8, Washington 25, D. C.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL ARNOLD:



JOHN J. SMITH  
Lt. Col., Air Corps  
Chief, Notification Section  
Personal Affairs Branch  
Personnel Services Division, AC/AS-1

Incls

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CREEKMORE, JAMES T. Rank CAPT. Serial No. 2-555964
2. Organization 464<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander SCHRODER Rank COL. Sqn CO GILSON Rank Lt. COL.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, COMBAT, target, BLECKHAMMER, target time, NOON, altitude, 25,400 route scheduled, NORMAL DIRECT, route flown AS SCHEDULED
5. Where were you when you left formation? MY PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN IN FORMATION. I MADE A LATE TAKE OFF AND JOINED THE 461ST GP ON THIS MISSION.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, - EXCEPT HAYES (NOT KNOWN)
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? 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? THE WAIST GUNNERS SAW DAN SCREAY BAIL OUT FIRST AND WE NEVER SAW HIM ANY MORE. HAYES WAS THE OTHER ONE WE COULD NEVER GET INFORMATION ABOUT. BARR AND HINKLE WERE IN JURED BUT WERE RETURNED TO THE U.S. AFTER V.E. DAY ALL OTHERS ARE OK.
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)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

Name of crew member: HAYES, William J.  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-703383  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? NOT KNOWN

Where? ACTION OVER ~~THE~~ CZECHOSLOVAKIA

If not, why not? NOT KNOWN

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

ASSISTING McMAHON CHECKING AN AMPLIFIER WHEN WE WERE HIT,

Was he injured? UNKNOWN. THEN HE WENT TOWARD NOSE.

Where was he when last seen? GOING FROM FLIGHT DECK TO NOSE.

Any hearsay information: NONE.

Source: NONE

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

MEM IN THE NOSE DIDN'T SEE HAYES, HE MAY HAVE BEEN

HIT WHILE IN THE TUNNEL, OR HIS CHUTE MAY HAVE

BEEN MISPLACED OR LOST OR DAMAGED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: 17 Dec. 44 MISSION WAS

TO BLACK HAMMER

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HENKEL ARTHUR R. Rank 1LT Serial No. 5-822675
2. Organization 404 Gp Commander BALSON Rank 1LT Sqn CO 779 Rank LT COL.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BLACK TANKER, target, B5MB, target time, 1130, altitude, 27,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? HIT DOWN INFORMATION
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". \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? WHERE WE LANDED IN OVERSHOTS  
*vicinity of Camp Khamou*
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? AT STATIONS
12. What was their condition? Light
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)

(OVER.)

I find these forms of willful use in my case.

Sgt Bell was in the hospital with me at Brown's barracks working with the gun team. The part of Sgt Hays is unknown to me other than I saw him bail out the B-24 thru the top hatch, where the engineer went thru then Hays then Crickmore and then myself.

If Sgt American was seen to have been the person to bail out of the engine hatch, that was told to me by Sgt Bell.

I have no knowledge of the name of the towers we were shot down in. All this took place in formation after being shot up by fighters

in case  
A. Heibel

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

✓ Name of crew member: **DANSEREAU, Frank B.**  
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **14128287**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SCOUT/ENGINEER~~: **Armorer Gunner**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER GERMAN - CZECHO - BORDER

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

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

FIGHTERS WAS COMING IN ON HIS TAIL.

Was he injured? NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Where was he when last seen? HE BAILED OUT JUST BEFORE I did.

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

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: GERMAN'S BROKE  
IN A DESCRIPTION OF A PERSON THAT FIT DANSEREAU. THEY  
SAID HIS CHUTE HAD NOT OPENED, WHICH I DOUBT  
BECAUSE I POSITIVE I SAW HIS CHUTE OPEN. THEY  
SAID HE WAS DEAD.

Total number of missions of above crew member: THIRTY - ONE

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

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Natzke, Herbert W. Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. O-2060339
2. Organization 464 Bomb Gp Commander Schroeder Rank Col. Sqn CO Gilson Rank Lt. Col.  
779 BgMSqd. (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Dec. day 17 did you go down?  
So. Oil Refinery
4. What was the mission, Combat Bombing, target, Blechhammer, target  
time, 1210, altitude, 24 thousand route scheduled, OVER  
, route flown As Briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Prorov, Czechoslovakia
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Six to the best of my knowledge
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".  
Lt. Creekmore bailed out and taken. T/Sgt. McMahon Bailed out and taken  
S/Sgt. Pease bailed out and taken  Waist gunner was taken.  
S/Sgt. Ailsworth " " " " OTHER OVER
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 3 kilometers so. of Prorov, Czech.
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? Did not see any.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

4. Route scheduled: From Spur of Italy to Split, Yugoslavia western coast of lake Balaton; 25 miles east of Vienna, Austria; to Marava, Ostrou and then to Blechhammer. Return route the same.

8. S/Sgt. Pease and myself, Lt. Natzke, abandoned aircraft from nosewheel door.

Lt. Creekmore and T/Sgt. McMahon left aircraft through top hatch on flight deck.

Sgt. Ailsworth and other waist gunner left aircraft from waist windows.

THESE MEN WERE WITH ME IN PRISON CAMP.

I HAVE ONLY HEARSAY KNOWLEDGE OF

LT. HENKEL, LT. HAYS, SGT. DANSEUREAU + SGT. BAER

I DID NOT SEE ANY OF THESE MEN DURING OR AFTER THE ACTION. MEMBERS OF MY CREW SAW ONLY SGT. DANSEUREAU LEAVE THE AIRCRAFT

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

Name of crew member: **DANSEREAU, Frank B.**  
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **14128287**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Armorer Gunner**

Did he bail out? Believed so.

Where? Prorov, Czech.

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

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

No conversation. Inter-phone shot out.

Was he injured? Believed not.

Where was he when last seen? Leaving aircraft.

Any hearsay information: Members of my crew in the waist of aircraft

saw Dansereau leave aircraft but did not watch to see if his chute opened.

Source: Sgt. Ailsworth.

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

Chute probably failed to open or was killed by Germans.

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 40

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

Name of crew member: HAYES, William J.  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: O-703383  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Flight (Fighter): Bombardier

Did he bail out? Believed not.

Where? Did not.

If not; why not? Aircraft was on fire and blew up before he could clear it.

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

No conversation.

Was he injured? Believed not.

Where was he when last seen? On the flight deck of aircraft.

Any hearsay information: Pilot and engineer bailed out of top hatch

shortly before plane exploded. They believe Hayes did not have time to clear.

Source: Lt. Creekmore.

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

Believe did not clear plane.

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 45.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

Name of crew member: **BAER, Wayne B.**  
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **36531653**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Armorer Ganner**

Did he bail out? Believed not

Where? Didn't bail out.

If not, why not? Believe wounded and trapped in turret(ball)

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

No conversation.

Was he injured? Believed so.

Where was he when last seen? In his turret.

Any hearsay information: Before Sgt. Ailsworth left aircraft he attempted  
to help St. Baer from his turret but aircraft was about to blow up  
so therefore he could not remain to offer assistance.

Source: Sgt. Ailsworth

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

Believe trapped and went in with plane.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name FICKLIN, RABY D. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 18,51973
2. Organization 779 SQUAD BOMB GRP. 464 Op Commander Schroeder Rank LT Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 17th did you go down?  
 LAST TIME
4. What was the mission, GERMANY, target, BLECKHAMMER, target  
 time, 12:12, altitude, 29,000 FT. route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? DIDN'T LEAVE FORMATION
6. Did you bail out? YES (ON MY 51<sup>ST</sup> MISSION)
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". \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE IT ON QUESTIONNAIRES ATTACHED.

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? \_\_\_\_\_
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? \_\_\_\_\_
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)



CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name RICHARD B. AYLESWORTH Rank S / SGT. Serial No. 37550515
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander SCHROEDER Rank COL Sqn CO GOODYESR Rank COL  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, SOUTH OIL REFINERY target, BIECHAMMER, GER., target  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, 28,000 FEET route scheduled, UNKNOWN  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? WE NEVER GOT TO OUR OWN FORMATION BECAUSE  
OF DELAYED TAKE OFF DUE TO OBSTRUCTION ON RUNWAY
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? AS FAR AS I KNOW
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 OTHER WAIST GUNNER AND  
AND MYSELF BAILED OUT JUST ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE PILOT AND THE ENGINEER WENT  
LAST FROM THE TOP HATCH I SAW THEM BOTH THE SAME NIGHT.  
THE OTHERS, NO KNOWLEDGE
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 TO MY KNOWLEDGE
11. Where were they in aircraft? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What was their condition? \_\_\_\_\_
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already des-  
cribed above? IN STALG LUFT 1 BARTH GER.
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HAYES, William J.  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-703383  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? I THINK SO

Where? ABOUT TEN OR FIFTEEN MIN. FROM THE TARGET WHICH WAS BLECHEMMER

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

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

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

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

Any hearsay information: IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE CO-PILOT HAYES CHUTE AND HAYES HAD THE CO-PILOTS CHUTE. THE GERMANS FOUND A MAN WHO COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BECAUSE OF HIS INJURED CONDITION. HE HAD A GOLD WEDDING BAND ON HIS LEFT HAND., HIS PARACHUTE DID NOT OPEN AND IT HAD THE CO PILOTS NAME ON IT. HOWEVER IT WAS NOT THE CO PILOT BECAUSE HE WAS SEEN AT CAMP LUCKY STRIKE LA HARVE, FRANCE. I THINK IT WAS HAYES.....

Source: PILOT AND OTHER CREW MEMBERS.

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: **BAER, Wayne B.**  
 Rank: **S/8gt.**  
 Serial number: **36531653**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Armorer Gunner**

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: I LAST

SAW THIS MAN WHEN HE OPENED HIS TURRET DOOR AND LOOKED OUT AT US HE WAS NOT INJURED

Was he injured? AT THAT TIME.

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

Any hearsay information: THE POST CARD ATTACHED TO THIS FORM WAS RECEIVED BY

MY MOTHER BEFORE I WAS RELEASED FROM THE CAMP

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

**MANNEBAU, Frank B.**

Rank:

**S/Sgt.**

Serial number:

**14125237**

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

**AIRPORT GUARD**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? ABOUT TEN (10) MIN FROM THE TARGET, BLECHAMMER, GER.

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

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

NONE

Was he injured? I DON'T KNOW

Where was he when last seen? LEAVING THE SHIP FROM THE CAMERA HATCH

Any hearsay information: NONE

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

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

I SAW HIM BAIL OUT AND JUDGING FROM HIS ACTIONS HE WAS NOT INJURED

IN ANY WAY.

Total number of missions of above crew member: APPROXIMATELY 48 MISSIONS

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10496

Name of crew member: **BAKER, Frank B.**  
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **14128287**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) **ARMORER GUNNER**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? UNKNOWN

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? BEFORE TAKE OFF

Any hearsay information: NONE

they crew members told me he bailed out.

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

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

Have heard they found engine shreds into room where others were, but that could have been shreds of igniter as my own must have been brought in.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HAYES, William J.**  
 Rank: **1st Lt.**  
 Serial number: **0-703383**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? NO

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

If not, why not? TO MY KNOWLEDGE FIGHTERS GOT HIM IN PLANE

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

Was he injured? - F -

Where was he when last seen? FLIGHT DECK

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

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: EITHER THE  
DEERTY FIGHTERS GOT HIM OR HE WAS CAUGHT IN BOMBARD  
WITH FIRE. ACCORDING TO MY KNOWLEDGE HE WAS  
KILLED IN PLANE

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

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BAER, Wayne B.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 36532653  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~36532653~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? NEAR PROSTOVEN, ~~HEEZ~~, CZECHLOVAKIA

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He NEVER SAID ANYTHING THAT I REMEMBER

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? He WAS SENT HOME AFTER VE DAY

Any hearsay information: HIS MOTHER WRITES THAT HE WAS HOME AND HAD RECOVERED FROM SEVERE BURNS RECEIVED WHEN HE BAILED OUT OF THE BURNING PLANE

Source: HIS MOTHER

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He WAS IN THE LOWER BALL TURRET AND FLAMES FROM THE BOMB BAY REACHED HIM BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF. HIS FACE WAS SEVERELY BURNED BUT OTHERWISE HE CAME OUT OK.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 7

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

HEADQUARTERS  
LINCOLN ARMY AIR FIELD  
Lincoln 1, Nebraska

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.  
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315 Munitions Building.

1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

- a. Name of casualty Frank B. Dansereau
- b. Rank S/Sgt . c. Crew position Tail Gunner
- d. Date last seen 17 Dec 1944 . Place last seen Prostegen, Czech.
- f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Fighter caused fire in  
bomb-bay. B-24J, 779th Sqd. 464 Grp. 15th AF.
- g. Known information (eye witness only)

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

Reported by waist gunners, (Richard Aylesworth and Raby Ficklin) that casualty left plane first by parachute. On ground reporter was approached by German guard with a parachute who wrote casualty's name but conversation in German was not understood by reporter. (See reverse side) (Note: Reverse side may be used if more space is needed in giving any information requested above.)

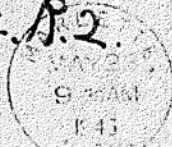
12^17. James T. Creechmore  
Rank and name of reporter  
0-555969 A-1  
ASN Unit

cc: CG, AFTRC  
cc: Sub Comd Hq

Continued:

Guard made motions pointing to legs and body. A P-38 pilot, David Miles, (also prisoner) told reporter that he saw a Fighter make a pass at a man in a parachute.

Mrs Clara Baer  
Marlette, R. 2.  
Mich



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs Grace Ayresworth  
Devels Lake  
North Dakota

Dear Mrs Aylesworth  
we have recieved  
a Telegram from  
our son Wayne  
saying he would  
be seeing us  
soon we also  
got word our son  
Clayton will be  
home in July we  
have so much to  
be thank full  
for hope you have  
good news also  
Sincerely  
Mrs Clara Baer

MACR 10496

B-24

10 man crew

APC# 42-78671

DATE: 17 Dec. 1944 at 1200/  
*10496*

U S A S/L HE 2568

A S N :

PLACE: near Prerua (Protectorat)

1st Lt. CRICKMORE, James Thurman

0-558969

TYPE: Liberator

2nd Lt. MILES, David Russel

0-821888

MARKINGS: 775th (HR) Sqd.  
464 Group

T/Sgt. McMANIS, Daniel Paul

14048629

T/Sgt. FICKLIN, Raby Dawson

18161978

2nd Lt. HATZKE, Herbert William

0-8060389

S/Sgt. PRASE, Paul William

11086209

S/Sgt. AYLESWORTH, Richard Benjamin

37550515

TARGET: Airfield A(e) 13/XVII

+ S/Sgt. BANSHEREAU F. B.

14128287 dead

(Cemetery Dlubowitz near Prerua)

S/Sgt. BARR, Wayne B.

36531653 missing

2nd Lt. HENKEL, Arthur R.

0-822875

*S.O. 100.7642*

*IDED (KIA)*

*David R Miles, 821888, not in crew*

*Other crew members on MACR 10496 are:*

*WAL. J. HAYES, 0703383 - KIA*

MACR IV  
10-196 ME 2565

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN 17 December 1944 at 1215 CASUALTY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF CRASH 1 km south of Katsenberg (or Katsenberg)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE Air-Base-Headquarters A (O) 13/IVII

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
BAER 20 July 1921 Wayne Burton Snowar, Mich.	S./Sgt.	36531653	captured	Dulag-Luft West
HARBORD JR. Sugg P.	2nd Lt.	0-2061074	dead	buried: Cemetery Katsendorf
KILLIAN Iryl L.	2nd Lt.	0-2056804	dead	buried: Cemetery Neusigen
HERMAN Jacob	Sgt.	12178959	dead	buried: Cemetery Neueigen
FAJKUS Julius G.	Sgt.	18248730	dead	buried: Cemetery Neueigen

REMARKS:

Dulag-Luft on 31 Jan. 1945.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Headquarters A. Air Base A (o) 13/AVII

PLACE: Prossnitz

DATE: 17 December 1944

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF,EM. LANDING: AT:

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

HENKEL

FIRST NAME:

ARTHUR H. Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA)

O-822675

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED)

wounded, Hospital Bruenn, *Br*

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

AF-Hospital Bruenn

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

23 Dec 1944 to Hospital Bruenn

Personal property: 48 Dollars  
 ----- 1125 Lire  
 1 address-book  
 1 certificate

Distributions: 1 x Air District Command

----- 1 x Dulag

1 x Hospital

Sgt. <u>Bayne</u>	born 20 July 1917 Marlette Marlette St. Michlan	/	2nd - 3rd degree burning in face 3 weeks 17 Dec. 1944 18 Dec. 1944
<u>KSU 2568</u>			
Lt. <u>Henkel</u> <i>ARTHUR H</i>	26 Dec. 1917 New Jersey New Jersey 272 Hancock Avenue	/	fracture of the upper part of the 4 month 17 Dec. 1944 18 Dec. 1944
<i>KSU 70 A - 100 11018</i>			

KSU 2568

17 Dec 44

Liberator B-24

Pursuit

P.-1st Lt Creekmore, James Thurman  
CP.-2nd Lt Miles, David Russell  
N-2nd Lt Matzke, Herbert Wm-  
E.T/S McMahon, Daniel Paul  
R. T/S Fieclin, Raby, Dawson

779  
464

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH: Prerau(Moravia)  
TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator  
REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII  
Prossnitz 17 Dec 44

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME:	McMakon Daniel Paul	Creekmore James	Miles David R.	Natske Norbert W.
DATE OF BIRTH:				
RANK:	1st Sgt	1st Lt	2nd Lt	2nd Lt
SERIAL NUMBER:	14348629	O-555969	O-821858	O-2060339(tag lost)
<u>CAPTURED:</u> 17 Dec 44-1200 hrs	<u>WOUNDED:</u>		<u>DEAD:</u>	
<u>DISTRIBUTION:</u> WHICH CAMP:			<u>TYPE OF INJURY:</u>	

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Lost in landing(McMakon)	Personal effects(Creekmore)
personal effects	1 ident. bracelet
2 prayer books	1 ident. tag
1 carbonic acid cartridge	1 lighter
	1 nail clipper
Personal effects(Miles)	1 grease holder
1 ident. tag with chain	1 inhalator
	1 prayer book
	1 personal identification

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN:17 Dec 44  
Unknown

PLACE OF CRASH:

Unknown

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:

Unknown

REPORTING OFFICE:

Air Base Hdq. A (e) 13/XVII Pressnitz  
Dec. 17, 1944CREWSURNAME, AND  
FIRST NAME:

H E N K E L

Arthur R.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

Lieutenant

SERIAL NUMBER:

O - 822675

CAPTURED:WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:  
Air Forces Hospital Bruenn

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Distributor:Air Forces Adm. Hdq. Command  
Dulag Air  
Hospital

( On reverse side:)

Personal Effects:48 Dollars  
1125 Wire  
1 Address booklet  
1 Identification

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 Dec 44 about 1330(Aylesworth)

PLACE OF CRASH: (at Brodek-Aylesworth)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(O)13XVII  
Prossnitz 17 Dec 44 at 1200 hrs

## CREW

SURNAME, ABO	PEASE	FICKLIN	AYLESWORTH
FIRST NAME:	Paul W.	Raby D.	R.B.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:	Cpt	T/Sgt	Sgt
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SERIAL NUMBER:	11086209	18151973	37550515
	(1 id. tag)		

<u>CAPTURED:</u> 17 Dec 44-1200 hrs	WOUNDED:	DEAD:
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DISTRIBUTION: about 1230(Aylesworth)	WHICH CAMP:	TYPE OF INJURY:
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## GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Personal effects(Ficklin)

- 1 id. tag
- 2 pocket knives
- 1 small saw
- 1 rank insignia
- 1 (decorated) buckle
- 1 comb
- 1 compass
- 1 leather folio with photos & papers
- various letters and papers

Personal effects

- 1 ident. tag
- 1 pocket knife
- 1 lighter

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 Dec 44 at 1230

PLACE OF CRASH: Dluhonitz

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)13/XVII  
Prossnitz 28 Dec 44

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CREW

SURNAME, AND Dansereau  
FIRST NAME: F. B.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: 14128287 T42-43 T44 A

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Local cemetery at Dluhonitz  
near Prerau/Prot.

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REMARKS:

First supplementary REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES dated 17 March 1945

PLACE:

DATE:

NAME AND FIRST NAME OF PRISONER:  
ASN:

DAN SEREAU, F.B. *rank*  
14128287 *8/8/45*

YEAR OF BIRTH:

./. AC

RANK:

./.

PLACE AND DATE OF CAPTURE:

dead, Cemetery Dluhonitz near Prerau

PARTICULARS CONCERNING CAPTURE:-  
(CRASHED? EMERGENCY LANDING? SHOT DOWN?)

MIA 17 Dec 44

" " " "

TYPE OF CRAFT

REMARKS:

KIA 17 Dec 44  
SO Case No. 4642