

11716

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AFPO 520, US Army, Pantanella, Italy Command of Air Force 15th AF
Group 464th B Gp Squadron 776th Sq

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AAB, Pantanella, Italy Course NE
 Target guns A/C factory, Budapest, Hungary type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN FIRST REPORTED
3/10 to 4/10 strato cumulus at 10,000 ft. 12 to 15 miles visibility with haze.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 30 Jul 44 Time 1115 Last known position 47 deg 20' N - 19 deg 00' E.
 (b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash
 Last contacted by radio, No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF (Check one only)
 Enemy aircraft, Enemy anti-aircraft, Other bombs fr group formation above dropping on plane.

6. AIRCRAFT Type, model & series B-24 E AAF serial Number 42-52402

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT

8. ENGINES Type, model & series R-2830-43 AAF Ser # Number (a) 42-58988

(b) CP-308668 (c) 42-44977 (d) 306517

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Make, type and serial number) Browning WC-M2 .50

(a) 952131 (b) 1153416 (c) 1153443

(d) 6812 (e) 951521 (f) 951431

(g) 218583 (h) 951141 (i)

(j) 951941 (k) 951825 (l)

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty 10

11. 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 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Pilot | Kirkland, Paul J. 2nd Lt 0803216 | POW Mrs. Nina R. Kirkland, wife, Rt 1 & TD Laurel, Mississippi |
| 2nd Pilot | Voytish, Michael Jr. 2nd Lt 0820113 | POW Mrs. Anem Voytish, Mother, Box 115, 2TD Van Voorhis, Penna. |
| 3rd Pilot | MacDougall, Earl A. 2nd Lt 0712113 | Mr. George F. MacDougall, Sr., Father 107 Orange St., Waltham, Mass. |
| 4th Pilot | Schwier, Leslie J. 2nd Lt 0764417 | POW Mrs. Leslie J. Schwier, Mother, 408 R. TD Kadsworth, Collinsville, Illinois |
| 5th Pilot | 1st Lt Cpt. Ger. Brismette, Arthur J. T/Sgt 16080551 | Francis J. Brismette, brother, RTO 4133 N. Greenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill. |
| 6th Pilot | 1st Lt Cpt. Pietronigro, Angelo R. T/Sgt 32229576 | POW Mrs. Margaret Pietronigro wife RTO 97-39 102nd St., Ozone Park, N.Y. |
| 7th Pilot | 1st Lt Cpt. West, Leonard I. S/Sgt 7817007 | POW Mrs. Alice West, wife, RTO 1105 Boynton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. |
| 8th Pilot | 1st Lt Cpt. Williams, Robert S. S/P 3956835 | POW Mrs. Ingeborg A. Williams, wife, RTO 411 Powell Ave., Cresson, Penna. |
| 9th Pilot | 1st Lt Cpt. Asbridge, Rachel L. S/Sgt 37287398 | POW Mrs. Louise Asbridge, Mother, RTO XX West Thayer St., Bismarck, N.D. |
| 10th Pilot | Ball Cpt. Cook, Fred H. S/Sgt 42021195 | KIA Mrs. Minnie Cook, Mother, 23 South Buffalo St., Hamburg, N.Y. |

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (see notes) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME

| NAME IN FULL | RANK | SERIAL No. | CONTACTED LAST BY RADIO | SAW | FORCED LANDING |
|--------------------|--------|------------|-------------------------|-----|----------------|
| (1) James L. Munro | 2nd Lt | 0686582 | | | |
| (2) Thomas G. Gray | T/Sgt | 39550655 | | | |
| (3) | | | | | |

13. IF PERSONS 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)

14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE

To search possible as formation directly over target.

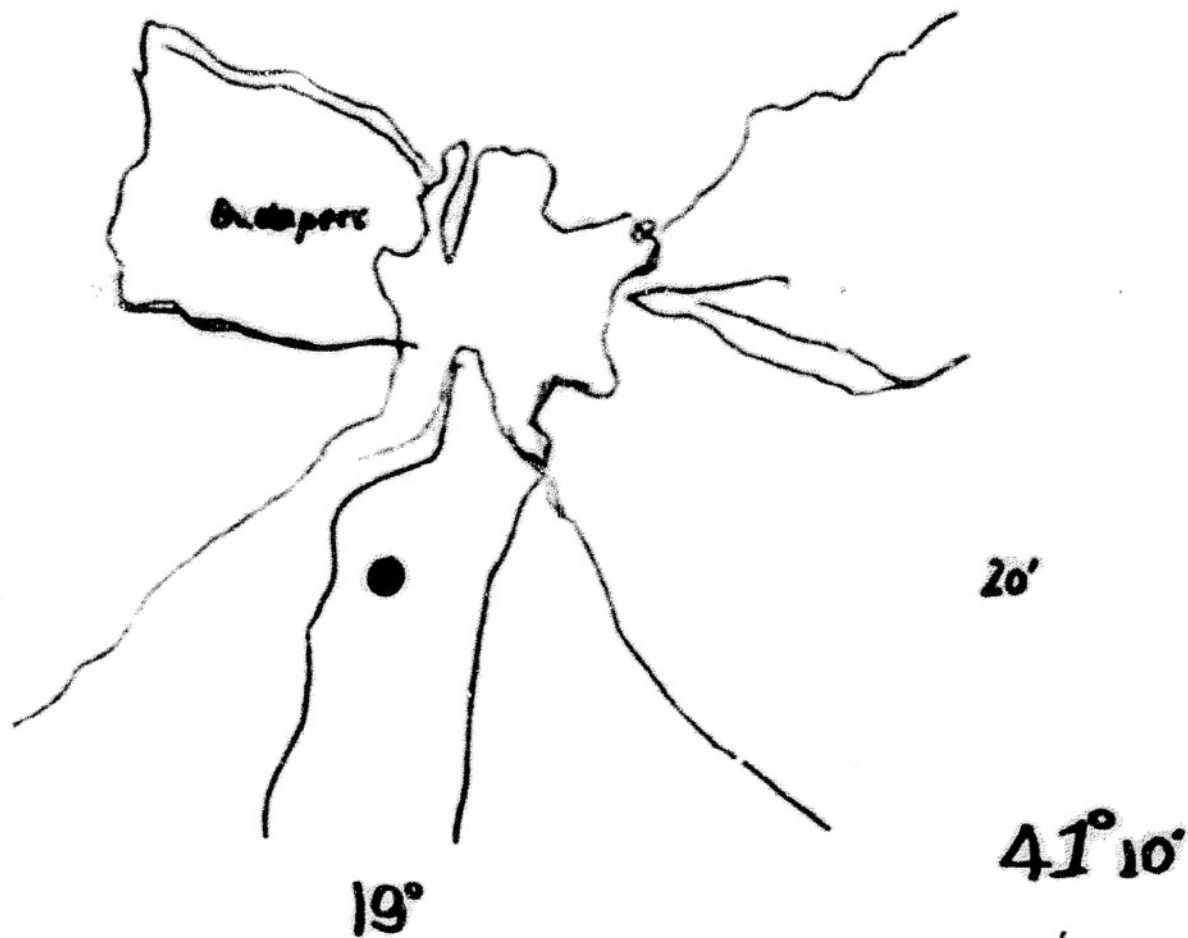
Inclosures

3 Date 1 August 44

A true copy:

WILLIAM H. REDELL
 Major, US,
 Commanding

WILLIAM H. REDELL, JR., CMC, USA.



● INDICATES AREA WHERE LT KIPOLAN'S CREW
WAS LAST SEEN

BEARING - 47° 20' N. 19° E

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1171

1. Your name Paul J. Kirkland rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-803216
2. Organization 4th B. Sq. 77th B. Sq. 40 Co Commander William Goddel rank 1st. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 30 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, bombing target, Podgorze, Hungary target
 time, 11:20 Sunday eve. altitude, 23,000 route scheduled,
 route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? 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".
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 9 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)

Dear Sir:

Here is the story as far as I am able to tell it to you. We were over the target and had just released our bombs, when we were hit ~~with~~ with something. I was later told a 500 lb. bomb. I the 1st. Pilot was knocked out at once. The bomb hit No. 2 engine. I came to at about 3,000 ft. (a guess). The co-pilot gave me the control wheel less in my hand, the ship in a hopeless condition. I jumped to save myself. No. 2 engine had been blown through the airframe behind me. The other three engines on fire and the bomb bay on fire. I bailed out of the hole No. 2 engine made. There was no one on the flight deck. I left the ship my chute opened and I hit the ground. My chute was damaged and I hit hard. I was alone. I was picked up at once, by the Hungarians. My right leg was badly hurt. I could not walk. I was taken to town and saw some of my crew there. I was told by the co-pilot that the Navigator bailed out of the same place as I but hit the stabilizer. I was told that he was found dead on the ground. The waist-guns told me that the last they saw of the ball turret gunner was he was holding onto the turret. I know no more. The nose turret gunner on and the Bombardier were badly hurt. I hope this information will help.

Yours:

Paul J. Kirkland
1st Lt. US
C-803216
Inactive Reserve.

KIRKLAND, Paul J

2/Lt

G-23479

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name LEONARD E. WEST rank 1st SGT Serial No. 32417987
4642 2 Co 50
2. Organization 77th Co Commander _____ rank Col Sqn CO _____ rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 30 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target Airfields - BUDAPEST, target time, approx - 1200, altitude approx - 24000 ft route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? What Leans formation - was knocked down by having 4 - 500 lb Demo bombs - Dropped on us.
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". Other side.
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? Lt Kirkland - Pilot - O.K. - at Land Prior in Budapest - 2 Engineer - 1st Petras - in Camp Lucky Stars - France. O.K. - 1st MAIT - Green. 1st - Williams - at dead - you taking last 4 - O.K. - 4 - 1st Gunner - O.K. - ASBIDE - O.K. - O.K. - E. RADIO OPERATOR - O.K. - O.K. - 1st - Roberts - in Camp Lucky Stars - France.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No Information.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

3. - Lt. Kierland - Bailed out from Flight Deck through hole in fuselage opposite Radio Compartment made by propeller from No 2 Engine. Over Budapest on July 30, 1944 about 1200 o'clock

Copilot - same way

Bombardier - Bailed out from Nose wheel - Budapest - July 30, 1944 at 1200 o'clock

Navigator - Lt - Ensl & MacDougal - same as pilot.

Engineer - 1/sgt - Patroniro - same as pilot

RADIO - 1/sgt - Brissette - Bailed out of nose wheel - Budapest - July 30, 1944 at 1200 o'clock.

Right Waist - 1/sgt - Robert Williams - Bailed out of escape (Crew) Hatch - Budapest - July 30, 1944 - 1200 o'clock

Tail Gunner - Sgt. H. Bridge - same as Williams.

Left Waist - 1/sgt LEONARD & West - same as Williams

Ball Gunner - Sgt. FRED Cook - same as Williams.

Note - Sgt. Remembers names of Copilot - Bombardier as they were flying replacement on our Crew.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WILLIAMS, ROBERT S. rank S/SGT Serial No. 33568833
2. Organization ^{449 8th AF} 7th SFG ^{70th} Commander Kirkland ^{2nd LT} 5th CO BONNER rank COL
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JULY day 30 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, Hungary, target, _____, target time, 1200, altitude, about 20000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER city
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". I was in waist
Robert S. Williams - First Leonard J. West - 2nd
William Asbridge - 3rd Fred Cook lost from waist.
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" only of men in waist.
interphone and 2nd man but were out
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? Paul Kirkland - Leonard West - Bill Asbridge
Art Grissett - Angelo Petrone - were all I saw
after bailing out. July 30, 1944 in the interrogation
office of the Germans.
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)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard L. Schridge rank S/Capt serial no. 3733 1394
2. Organization 5th Air Commando Group rank Col SQN CO 1st rank Capt
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 30 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Subsist, target, Marching yard, target
line, 11 AM, altitude, 22,000, route, Scheduled, from Atwell
airbase, route flown to Andaput Ridge
5. Where were you when you left formation? Outside of Andaput
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? all but one - bail triggered
quicker - seemed to be too frightened to jump
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 but the above mentioned member bailed out at the same time and place. I saw 3 bail out before bailed myself a short distance.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Went down over city road
on opposite side from where we were
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 1 pilot - bail out
one crew member - bail out - bail out quicker
11. Where were they in aircraft? Information from Germans - was that
Ball bailed with all 300 ft from ground
12. What was their condition? chute did not open
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members, not already described above? saw 2 at Andaput except, bail
parachuted out
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

MAC DOUGALL, Earl A.

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-712 113

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~W/TTTWW/TTTWW/TTTWW~~:

Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes.Where? Aves Budapest.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Talking withMac Dougall at city police Budapest.Was he injured? One ankle sprained.Where was he when last seen? Budapest.Any hearsay information: Mac Dougall told me that hewas going to an officer's training camp.Some time in Germany at that time.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 50.Dates and destinations if possible: Mac Dougall was areplacement.

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: COOK, Fred H.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 42 021 195
 Position: Crew (Bomber) Ball Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes - while in flight

Where? over the ocean

If not, why not? _____

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

When he was last seen he seemed to be in good health.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in the air

Any hearsay information: German was informed that

Cook bailed out at 3000 ft. alt. chute had

been opened and hit the ground.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 12th mission

Dates and destinations if possible: July 11 - 1947 - Over the ocean