

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

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AP0 520, U.S. Army Command or Air Force 15th Air Force  
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AAB, Pantanella, Italy Course North-East  
 Target Moosbierbaum, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
10/10 Stratocumulus, tops 12,000 feet, Visibility 20 miles.
4. GIVE: [a] Date 31 Jan 45 Time 1255 Last known position 48° 19' 17° 30'  
 [b] Specify whether: [X] Last sighted, [ ] Forced down, [ ] Seen to crash, [ ] Last contacted by radio. [ ] No information. Czechoslovakia
5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]  
 [ ] Enemy aircraft, [ ] Enemy anti aircraft, [X] Other Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51423
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Mary O"
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series P-1830-43 AAF Serial Number [a] CP-315569  
 [b] CP-315473 [c] CP-315656 [d] CP-315602
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]  
 [a] MG M2 1261640 [e] MG M2 1261844 [i] \_\_\_\_\_  
 [b] MG M2 1261588 [f] MG M2 1262059 [j] \_\_\_\_\_  
 [c] MG M2 1261908 [g] MG M2 1276309 [k] \_\_\_\_\_  
 [d] MG M2 1262033 [h] MG M2 1276388 [l] \_\_\_\_\_
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [X] Battle Casualty, [ ] Non Battle Casualty.
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
1) Pilot	<u>Arlington, Matthew T.</u> <u>1st Lt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>RTD</u>	<u>MIA Dorothy P. Arlington (wife)</u> <u>#9 Scott St., San Francisco, Calif.</u> <u>RTD</u>
2) Co-pt.	<u>Schneider, Anthony C.</u> <u>2nd Lt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>CRD</u>	<u>MIA Rose Schneider (mother)</u> <u>520 S. Duke St., York, Penna.</u> <u>RTD</u>
3) Nav.	<u>Dambkowski, Joseph</u> <u>1st Lt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>LIA</u>	<u>MIA Julia Dambkowski (mother)</u> <u>29 Sullivan St., Springfield, Mass.</u>
4) Emdr.	<u>Welsted, Gerald E.</u> <u>2nd Lt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>RTD</u>	<u>MIA William A. Welsted (father)</u> <u>North Evans, New York.</u> <u>RTD</u>
5) ENG	<u>Gross, Robert C.</u> <u>Sgt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>CRD</u>	<u>MIA Mary G. Gross (mother)</u> <u>210 Maple Ave., Altoona, Penna.</u> <u>CRD</u>
6) ROG	<u>Erickson, Ednor A.</u> <u>S/Sgt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>CRD</u>	<u>MIA Edward Erickson (father)</u> <u>Alvarado, Minn.</u> <u>RTD</u>
7) ARM G	<u>Newton, James R.</u> <u>S/Sgt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>CRD</u>	<u>MIA Esther M. Newton (wife)</u> <u>311 W. 5th St., Dover, Ohio</u> <u>RTD</u>
8) ARM G	<u>Ray, Mancell L.</u> <u>S/Sgt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>RTD</u>	<u>MIA Nora V. Ray (mother)</u> <u>1312 N. Nebraska, Oklahoma City, Okla.</u> <u>RTD</u>
9) ARM G	<u>Mamaux, Harry O., Jr.</u> <u>Sgt.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>RTD</u>	<u>MIA Harry O. Mamaux (father)</u> <u>2537 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna.</u> <u>RTD</u>
10) ARM G	<u>Peterson, Mack C.</u> <u>Cpl.</u> <u>[REDACTED]</u> <u>RTD</u>	<u>MIA Edith M. Peterson (mother)</u> <u>RPD #1, Milton, Morgan, Utah.</u> <u>RTD</u>
[11]		
[12]		

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 FORCED SIGHTED	SAW CRASH LANDING
[1] <u>Elliott, Robert E.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>X</u>		
[2]					
[3]					

13. 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.  
 [X] Other reasons [specify] Unknown

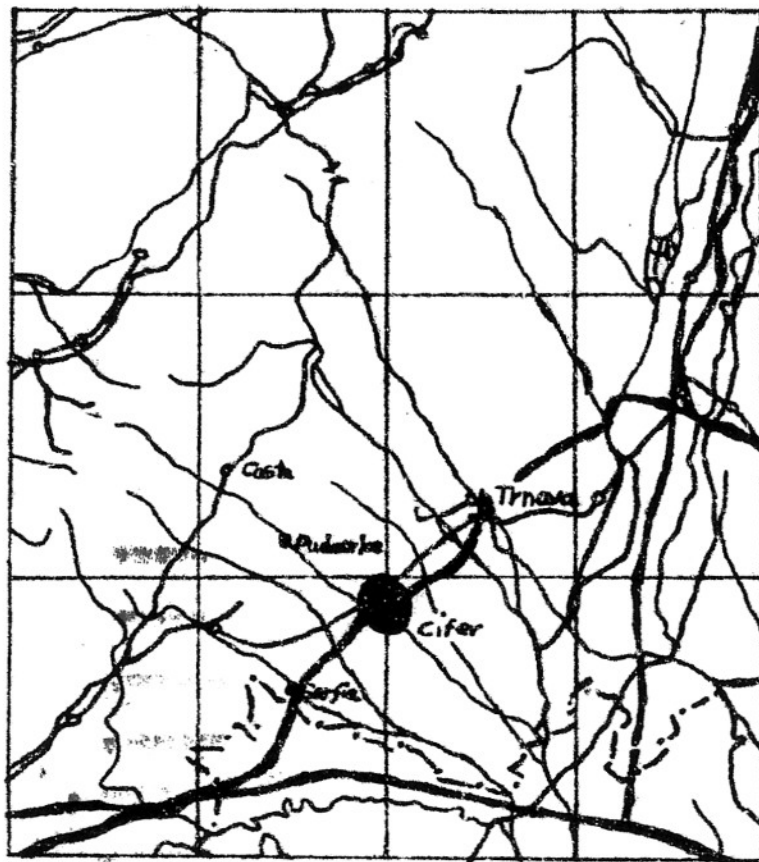
14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.  
 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.  
 16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. None

2 Inclosures.

- Incl 1-Sketch of app. Date 1 Feb 45 position.  
 Incl 2-Statement of Lt. Elliott.

Harry W. Cooke  
 Signature of preparing officer  
 HARRY W. COOKE,  
 1st Lt., Ord.,  
 Adjutant.

Incl 1



48° 40'

48° 10'

17° 10'

17° 50'

● INDICATES AREA IN WHICH  
LT. ARLINGTON'S CREW WAS  
LAST SEEN.

BEARING:- 48° 19' N. - 17° 30' E.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying lead position, as Pilot in Red I.

Red M was flying position E-21 when he called and stated that he was dropping out of the formation. He said that he had lost his number 2 engine and that it was feathered. This occurred approximately fifteen (15) minutes from the target. A second call came in from him mentioning something about fighters, but due to bad reception, I couldn't at first understand him. About two minutes later, I managed to interpret his message and immediately I tuned over but I then found that the group leader was calling the fighters. I then switched back to Command. I heard nothing from Red M since and I don't know whether the group leader contacted fighters or not.

*Robert E. Elliott*  
ROBERT E. ELLIOTT,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
~~0-776982~~  
776th Bomb Sq (H),  
464th Bomb Gp (H),  
APO 520, U.S. Army.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Matthew T. Arlington Rank Capt AC Serial No. [REDACTED]  
464th Bomb Gp. A. J. Byrd John Nance
2. Organization Gp Commander Rank Col, Sqn CO [REDACTED] Rank Lt. Col.  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 31st did you go down?  
Oil Installations
4. What was the mission, [REDACTED], target, Moosbierbaum, target  
 time, 1300, altitude, 23,000 route scheduled, not known  
[REDACTED], route flown as scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? In target area
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". all crew members bailed out over Arad, Rumania
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Exact location not known. Russians did not allow crew to revisit aircraft.
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? All crew members returned safely to 15th A.A.F. -- Bari, Italy
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: DANKOWSKI, Joseph  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on [REDACTED] (Bomber)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Arad, Rumania--10 kilometers east of City.

If not, why not? -----

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Affirmative  
answer from all crew members on order to bail out.

Was he injured? Yes, broken ankle.

Where was he when last seen? At A.A.F. hospital in Bari, Italy.

Any hearsay information: -----

Source: -----

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Believe Lt.  
Dankowski returned to States as war casualty.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Thirty or more sorties.

Dates and destinations if possible: Not known

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Anthony C. Schneider Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Serial No. 0-930713  
776 B.S.
2. Organization 464 BG Gp Commander Schroeder Rank Col Sqn CO Reddell Rank Lt. Col  
 (full name) Bard Rank Col (f) WANGE Rank Lt. Col
3. What year 1944 month November day 20 did you go down?  
1945 month January day 31
4. What was the mission, my 3<sup>rd</sup>, target, Blechhammer, Germany.  
" 10<sup>th</sup>, target, Moosebierbaum, Austria, target  
 time, Approx Nov 12:30, altitude, 23,000 ft route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, route flown as briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near Kosel, German Silesia  
Cifer, Czechoslovakia  
Ditched first time
6. Did you bail out? On second adventure - yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? First time - no  
Second time - 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". Lt Dankowski cleared the ship and aside from a fractured leg was ok when last seen at the 26<sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp. Bari, Italy. On 20 November '44 Sgt James Hurst was last seen as the aircraft struck the water. Aircraft broke apart and sank apparently carrying Sgt Hurst with it. In the Adriatic Sea among the Dalmatian Islands
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately 15 mi. NW of ARAD, ROUMANIA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) At the time of ditching all crew members were in the ship. On 31 January '45 - all crew members were out of the aircraft when it struck the ground. Sgt Hurst was seated directly behind the pilots
11. Where were they in aircraft? seated.
12. What was their condition? Perfectly healthy and normal
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? 20 November '44, just before the ship hit the water I spoke to Sgt Hurst and he was in excellent physical condition. The position of the ditching was among the Dalmatian Islands.
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 -

6-3862.AF

List of personnel aboard on 20 November 1944 (9 men crew flown)

			(Date of Ditching)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Matthew T. Arlington	P	(Slightly injured)
"	Anthony C. Schneider	CP	(No injuries)
"	Gerald E. Welsted	B-N	(Slightly injured)
Sgt	James E. Hurst	E	(MIA) probably KIA now
"	Ednor Erickson	R	(Slightly injured)
"	Mancell L. Ray	AG	(Slightly injured)
S/Sgt	James R. Newton	G	(Slightly injured)
Sgt	Harry O. Mameaux Jr.	G	Fr (Sprained back)
"	True Tower	G	(Severely injured - sent stateside after return to Allied control)

Personnel aboard 31 January 1945 (10 men crew flown)  
(Date of Bailout)

1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Matthew T. Arlington	P	(No injuries)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Anthony C. Schneider	CP	" "
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.	Joseph Dambkowski	N	(Fractured leg) - sent stateside
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.	Gerald E. Welsted	B	(No injuries)
Sgt	Robert C. Gross	E	" "
S/Sgt	Ednor Erickson	R	(Fractured ankle)
"	Mancell L. Ray	AG	(No injuries)
S/Sgt	James R. Newton	G	" "
Sgt	Harry O. Mameaux Jr.	G	" "
Cpl	Mack C. Peterson	G	" "

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Gerald Edwin Welsted Rank I'st Lt. Serial No. 01998977
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander Rank Unk. Col. Nance Lt. Col. Rank
3. What year 1945 month Jan. day 31 (full name) did you go down? Yes.
4. What was the mission, Unk., target, Unk., target time, Unk., altitude, Unk. route scheduled, Unk. route flown Unk.
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 100 miles north west of Budapest, Hungary
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". All crew bailed out safely, but two were injured upon landing. Dambkowski was one the other was Ednor Erickson of Alvarado, Bx. 573 Minn.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About 10 miles from Arad, Rumania.
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. ----

~~I'm not sure I have answered these questions as you desire but it is to the best of my ability. Please send other questionnaires if this is not all the necessary information.~~

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11620

Name of crew member: RAMONOWSKI, Joseph  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) on flight (Pilot): Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Rumania. Near Arad.

If not, why not? ---

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

He jumped with other crew members.

Was he injured? Yes, when he landed he got a leg or foot injury .

Where was he when last seen? Personally, I last saw him when he was in a  
 Army hospital in Bari, Italy. after his accident.

Any hearsay information: none.

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was injured  
 while landing after his parachute jump, He was later treated in  
 Rumania and in Italy for his injuries. He was to be sent to the  
 U. S. For further treatment . I had expected he was sent to the U.S.

I heard he was sent to the A.A.F. Convalescent hospital at  
 Plattsburg , N. Y.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ~~18~~ I'm uncertain but believe  
 he had 34 missions.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert Christian Gross Rank Tsgt Serial No. [REDACTED]
2. Organization 464<sup>th</sup> Gp - 776<sup>th</sup> Sqdn - APO-520 Gp Commander Unknown Rank — Sqn CO Unknown Rank —  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 31st did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Norwichham, Austria, target, Railroad, target time, 1330, altitude, 21,000 ft route scheduled, Unknown, route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? About half hour from target
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes - Every member
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 members of crew bailed out in area of Shindarf Rumania on January 31st, 1945 about 1400 o'clock.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Arad, Rumania
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 - all bailed 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? —
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 11810

Name of crew member: DANKOWSKI, Joseph  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Light (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Shoucluff, RumaniaIf not, why not? —

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Navigator reported we should be over Russian lines.

Was he injured? Yes - Broken legWhere was he when last seen? Hospital - Bucharest, RumaniaAny hearsay information: NoneSource: —Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —

Believed he was returned to States although not certain.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 31 MissionsDates and destinations if possible: Unknown

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Mack C. Peterson Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. [REDACTED]  
Mathew C. Arlington, Capt. Nance LT. Col.
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 31 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Mooseherbomb, target, Railyard, target  
 time, about 1400, altitude, 2300 route scheduled, Don't  
remember, route flown Don't remember
5. Where were you when you left formation? East of Veinia
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All crew members bailed out and  
were together an hour later.
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 members bailed out  
near Shondorff, Romania. Two were injured Navigator and radio operator  
the rest were able to walk. All 10 of us were together for two weeks
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? about 25 miles from Arad
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 des-  
 cribed above? The two members that was injured did so when they hit the  
after bailing out. Each member broke their leg. We left them at  
Bucharest in American medical hands.
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 11810

Name of crew member: DAMBKOWSKI, Joseph  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Shondorff, Romania "Near Arad"

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

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

about 10 days together after loss of plane. Dambkowski was injured so  
he and radio operator was left at Bucharest Feb. 15, 1945

Was he injured? Yes "Broken leg"

Where was he when last seen? Bucharest, Romania.

Any hearsay information: Dambkowski returned to Italy "Bari" Hospital and from  
there to the States.

Source: Radio operator returned with Dambkowski to Italy

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I had always  
under stood Dambkowski to have returned to the States long before  
"VE" day well and happy.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 31 or 32 Sorties

Dates and destinations if possible: Bailed out 31-1-45 at Shondorff, traveled to  
Arad until 8-2-45, traveled to Bucharest until about 13-2-45 .