

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



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

91-66

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location Gioia AAB, Italy Command or AF 15th AF  
Group 464th Bomb Gp(H) Squadron 778th Bomb Sq(H)  
Approx Co-Ordinate 43°30' min  
SPECIFY: Point of Departure Gioia AAB, Italy Course N-06°45 min  
Target Nice, France Type of Mission Bombing

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Ceiling and visibility unlimited

GIVE: (c) Date 25 May 44 Time 1345 Location Near Nice Coast  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio  
( ) Forced Down ( ) Seen to Crash; or  
( ) Information not available.

AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
(X) Enemy Aircraft (X) Enemy Anti-aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows:

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24 H AAF Serial No 41-29412

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) 42-92868  
(b) 42-92896 (c) 42-92885 (d) 42-92748

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)  
(a) Browning M2 .50 cal L Nose 040006 (b) Browning M2 .50 cal R Nose 940489  
(c) Browning M2 .50 cal L Upper 041887 (d) Browning M2 .50 cal R Upper 941635  
(e) Browning M2 .50 cal L Ball 941721 (f) Browning M2 .50 cal R Ball 940824  
(g) Browning M2 .50 cal L Waist 941413 (h) Browning M2 .50 cal R Waist 940713  
(i) Browning M2 .50 cal L Tail 941122 (j) Browning M2 .50 cal R Tail 941301  
PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 0 Total 10  
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
<b>KIA</b> ✓	HOENBAKER, ROBERT W ✓	CAPT	[REDACTED]	Mrs Valma Popkins Hornbaker, wife 1400 Ellis Ave, Wichita, Kansas
<b>RMC</b> ✓	BURKLAND, RAYMOND H ✓	2 Lt	[REDACTED]	Mrs Esther Burkland, mother 227 E Orleans, Bartles, Ill
<b>ABDN</b>	MILLES, RICHARD B ✓	1 Lt	[REDACTED]	Mrs Betty Murray Milles, wife 507 Parkland Pl, San Antonio, Tex
<b>ABD</b> ✓	GREEN, CARL A. JR ✓	1 Lt	[REDACTED]	Mr C. A. Galt, father Fairfield, California
<b>ABD</b> ✓	FERROW, ALFRED E ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	Mrs Helen Ferrow, mother 1215 Jackson Ave, Saginaw, Mich
<b>KIA</b> ✓	REITZHECKE, LAWRENCE E ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	Mrs Claire Lucille Reitzhecke, mother R/3 Monument, Colorado Springs, Col
<b>ABD</b> ✓	DRANEY, EDWIN J ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	Mrs Margie M. Draney, wife 1335 Brooklyn Ave, Brooklyn, NY
<b>ABD</b> ✓	HARCHER, WILLIAM J ✓	SSGT	[REDACTED]	Mrs Anna Harcher, mother PO Box 95, Modena, New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(See Reverse Side)

di #1  
Small

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AG BARYENBRUCH, ROLAND G

SSGT ~~2122000~~ Mr Arthur H Baryenbruch, father  
Spring Green, Wisconsin

AG HOFFMAN, BENEAL

SGT ~~2207000~~ Mrs Annette Hoffman, mother  
248 Baxter Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	Contacted Last Saw		
			by Radio	Sighted	Crash Forced Landing
COPELAND, ESLIE G	SSGT	<del>3723900</del>		X	
JAMES, FRED D	SSGT	<del>3111900</del>		X	
NOWELL, J.D.	SSGT	<del>1336300</del>		X	

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
 Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash  
( ) Any other reason (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search. When ship was last sighted it was headed for the Southern coast of France, apparently under full control with two engines feathered.

Date of this Report: 28 May 1944

Signature of Officer Richard F. Brewer, Jr

**RICHARD F. BREWER, JR**  
Major, Air Corps  
Executive Officer

Incls:

- Incl 1-Statement Copeland
- Incl 2-Statement James
- Incl 3-Statement Nowell
- Incl 4-Sketch



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 28 1944

HEADQUARTERS  
778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

RFB:ls

28 May 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report  
TO: Commanding Officer, 464th Bombardment Group(H),  
Base

1. Transmitted herewith is the missing air crew report assigned to this Squadron reported missing in action as of 25 May 44 on mission over Nice, France.

Rank	Name	ASN
Capt	Robert W. Hornbaker	0662788
2 Lt	Raymond H. Burklund	0807680
1 Lt	Richard B. Nilles	0794730
1 Lt	Carl A. Gein, Jr	0733553
TSgt	Alfred R. Karow	96166520
SSgt	Lawrence E. Reinecke	97240176
SSgt	Edwin J. Draney	32439303
SSgt	William J. Harcher	02740979
SSgt	Roland G. Baryenbruch	16133952
Sgt	Deneal Hoffman	95672439

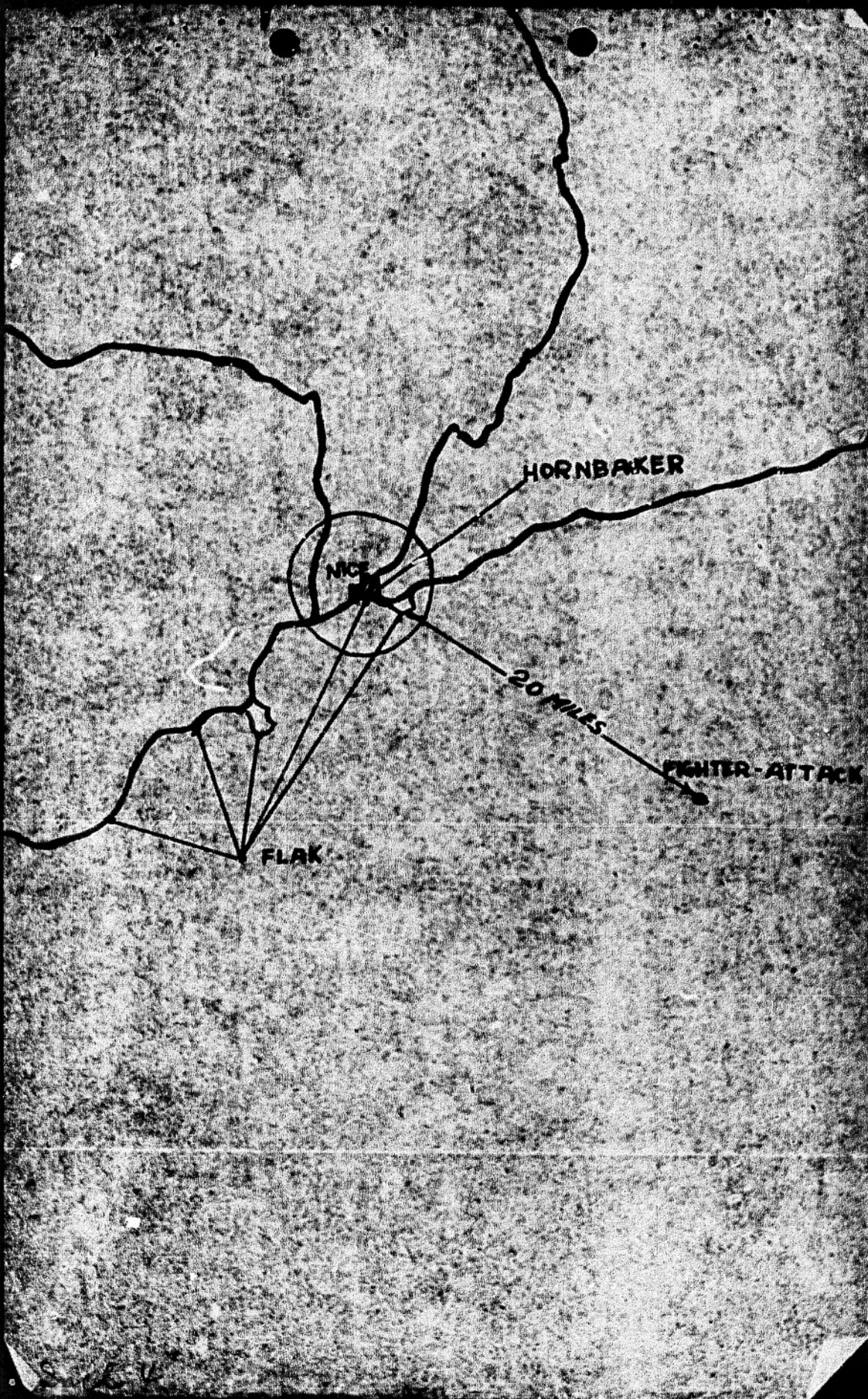
2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, section II, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dtd 24 Jan 44.

3. Battle casualty report, forwarded your Headquarters, 26 May 44.

For the Squadron Commander:

*Richard F. Brewer, Jr.*  
RICHARD F. BREWER, JR  
Major, Air Corps  
Executive Officer

1 Incl:  
Incl 1-MAC Rpt, Capt Hornbaker & Crew,  
7 copies



5415

Captain Robert W. Hornbaker

Mrs. Velma M. Hornbaker, (Wife)  
1109 Hill Avenue,  
Wichita, Kansas.

KIA

First Lieutenant Carl A. Gein, Jr. DED

Mr. Carl A. Gein, (Father)  
Fairfield, California.

PDD

First Lieutenant Richard B. Nilles DED

Mrs. Betty M. Nilles, (Wife)  
507 Farland Place,  
San Antonio, Texas.

PDD

Second Lieutenant Raymond H. Burkland RTD

Mrs. Esther A. Burkland, (Mother)  
227 East Plains Street,  
Fenton, Illinois.

Technical Sergeant Alfred R. Karow RTD

Mrs. Helen Karow, (Mother)  
1315 Jackson,  
Saginaw, Michigan.

Staff Sergeant Roland G. Baryenbruch RTD

Mr. Arthur H. Baryenbruch, (Father)  
Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Staff Sergeant Lawrence E. Heinecke KIA

Mrs. Helen E. Heinecke, (Wife)  
Route Harbor One,  
Richards, Missouri.

KIA

Staff Sergeant Edwin J. Draney DED

Mrs. Margie M. Draney, (Wife)  
1335 Brooklyn Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York.

PDD

Staff Sergeant William J. Harcher DED

Mrs. Ann Harcher, (Mother)  
Madison, New York.

PDD

Sergeant Donald Hoffman DED

Mr. Theodore L. Hoffman, (Father)  
218 Barber Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

PDD

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

40

1. Your name Karow, Alfred R. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 2016000
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander Boner Rank Col. Sqn CO Poff. Rank Maj.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month May day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 12 th. \*\*, target, Area of Lyon, France target time, 11:15, altitude, 19,000 route scheduled, So. Italy, Nice, Lyon & return, route flown Same as scheduled.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Returning over the coast near Nice.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All except the Pilot.
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? Somewhere near Nice or Grasse, Fr.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) As far as I know Capt Robert W. Hornbaker was the only one in the aircraft when it went down.
11. Where were they in aircraft? In his position--the pilot's seat.
12. What was their condition? To the best of my knowledge he was dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? No questionnaire on 2nd. Lt Raymond H. Burklund included. Last seen at Prison Camp, Nurnburg, Germany in good health.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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)

\*\* After being shot down, my records were sent back and since that time I have not had an opportunity to see the Service Record. To the best of my knowledge it was our 12th mission, but I was not familiar with the Group plan of giving double credit for some missions, as a result this figure may be wrong.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 5415

Name of crew member: HORNBAKER, Robert W.  
 Rank: Capt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or (Fighter): Pilot.

Did he bail out? No.

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

If not, why not? To the best of my knowledge the Capt. was dead.

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

Was he injured? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was he when last seen? In his position--the pilot's seat.

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

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The explosion must have hit the Capt. When I looked at him his head was gone from the ears forward.. He had evidently taken a direct hit in the face. I let him fall forward as he was, then tried to help the Co-Pilot with the controls until I was ordered to bail out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: HILLES, Richard D.  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~ Navigator.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Off the coast of France. Near Nice.

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

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

Over \*\*

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him jump from the ship.

Any hearsay information: None.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

\*\* Lt. Nilles came on the flight deck; after we were hit and dropped out of formation. The ship was out of control, but it was still flying. The pilot was dead and we were doing the best we could to maintain flight. Lt. Nilles said that if we could hold our heading for 40 minutes we would make Corsica. This proved impossible when the ship caught fire and headed for the coast of France. Shortly after this Lt. Nilles jumped following Lt. Gein out.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: G E I N, Carl A jr.  
 Rank: 1st Lt.  
 Serial number: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Off the coast of France. Near Nice.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He helped me out of my turret after we were hit. He had his parachute on and jumped after he saw there was nothing to be done under the circumstances.  
 Was he injured? No knowledge.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him jump from the ship.

Any hearsay information: None.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: REINECKE, Lawrence E.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ABB.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Just off the coast of France.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He came from the waist of the ship forward to the front bomb bay and stood with me just before jumping. I told him the ship had swung around and was heading for the coast.  
 Was he injured? No. Not at the time he jumped.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him just before he jumped.

Any hearsay information: German interrogator said one parachute did not open. but did not state who it was. I jumped after Sgt. Reinecke, all other factors being equal we should have landed in the same general area, but I have not seen or heard anything further of him since I saw him leave the ship.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: B R A N E Y , Edwin J.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: ~~2240000~~  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~gunner (Fighter)~~ noc.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Over the Gulf off the coast of Nice, France.

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

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

None.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? At Base before take-off was the last I saw him.

Any hearsay information: Sgt. Baryenbruch stated that he left the ship very soon after we were hit.

Source: S/Sgt. Baryenbruch, Roland G. ASN. 16133958

Any explanation of his fate based ~~in part~~ wholly on supposition: Since he went down over water with surface craft firing at us---I guess that he was shot on the way down; or misjudged the delayed jump and was not picked up.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: H A R C H E R, William J.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: [REDACTED]  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) [REDACTED]: AG

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Over the Gulf off the coast of Nice, France.

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

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

None.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? At Base before take-off was the last I saw him.

Any hearsay information: Sgt. Baryenbruch stated that he left the ship very soon after we were hit.

Source: S/Sgt. Baryenbruch, Roland G. ASN. 16133958

Any explanation of his fate based ~~is based on~~ wholly on supposition: Since he went down over water with surface craft firing at us---I guess that he was shot on the way down; or misjudged the delay and was not picked up. A War Dept. letter to next of kin stated that two parachutes were seen after we left formation. I think these two were: S/Sgt. Draney, Edwin J. ASN. 32439303 S/Sgt. Harcher, William J. ASN. 32740979

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No. 5415

Name of crew member: BARRY BRUCE, Roland G.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number:  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Pilot (Fighter): AB.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Over the coast of France or just off Nice over the Gulf.

If not, why not?

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

Waved to him just before I left.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? Separation Center--San Antonio, Texas.

Any hearsay information:

Source:

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge.

Dates and destinations if possible:

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File No. 5415

Name of crew member: H O P P M A N , Donald  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter):~~ AG

Did he bail out? To the best of my knowledge yes.

Where? Off the coast of France when the ship was headed in the direction of Corsica.

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

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? The last I saw him was at Base before take-off.

Any hearsay information: None.

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

Any explanation of his fate based ~~in part or~~ wholly on supposition: The Navigator and Bombardier left their compartment and came on the flight deck so I assumed they released him from his turret to bail out the nose wheel door.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge.

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