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H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

5430

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~~RESTRICTED~~

Classified ~~RESTRICTED~~ and
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MOENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1948

**GERMAN RECORDS
COMPLETED**

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed

to SECRET
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Gloia Air Base Command or AF 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)
Due N. Trasdorf, the I.P.
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Gloia Air Base Course then 120 degrees to target.
Target Austria Type of Mission Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather Clear and slight haze, Visibility 10/20 miles.
4. GIVE: (ε) Date 29 May 1944 Time Not Available Location Near Sopron
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.
5. AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
(X) Enemy Aircraft () Enemy Anti-Aircraft () Other circumstances as follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 G AAF Serial No. 42-78257
7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) RP-132036
(b) RP-125785 (c) RP-132186 (d) RP-132320
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) HW 366695 (b) HW 366097
(c) HW 977702 (d) HW 978015 IR 978189
(e) HW 977842 (f) HW 978100
(g) HW 977982 (h) HW 977832 HW 991397
9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas.
10. 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, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
RTD	1. Pilot	Elrod, Edwin B.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Alice Nickson Elrod (W) 1278 Sledge St., Memphis, Tenn.
RTD	2. CO-Pilot	Hultquist, Glenn F.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. Fred L. Hultquist (F) RR #5, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
RTD	3. Navigator	Baker, John C.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. John F. Baker (F) RRD #1, Carey, Ohio.
RTD	4. Bombardier	Valente, Louis V.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. Louis J. Valente (F) 1116 Cortland St., Peekskill, N.Y.
RTD	5. Eng. Gunner	Mezzatesta, Frank	(NMI) S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Mezzatesta (F & M) 1766 39th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
RTD	6. ROG	Close, James F.	T/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mr. Levy Beams (Step F), General Bellamy, Magnolia, Kentucky.
RTD	7. Eng. Gunner	Freeman, Edwin B.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Anna E. Freeman (M), Rollins Ave., Seat Pleasant, Maryland.
RTD	8. Aerial Gunner	Styer, Martin E.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	Mrs. Doris E. Styer (W), Silver Springs, Maryland, Mrs. Henrietta Styer, (M), 5429 Conn. Ave., Washington, D.C.

(See Reverse Side)

[REDACTED]

REPORT NO. _____

RTD

Aerial Gunner Rakoczy, Thomas M. Sgt. [REDACTED] Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Rakoczy
(F & M) 207 Woodline St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

10. Aerial Gunner Rodgers, John E. Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. Anne Rodgers (W),
Leola, Penn. Mrs. Ruth E. Sheaffer (M), 347 W. Lemon St., Lancaster, Penn.

11. 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
Ira C. Casey, Jr.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]			X
William E. Becker	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]			X

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
(4) Parachutes were used () Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
() Any other reason (specify) _____

13. ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. (X)

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. (X)

15. 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) None, over enemy territory.

Date of this Report: 10 Jan 44
Clyde Crabtree
CLYDE CRABTREE,
Capt., Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

Signature of Officer _____

- 3 Incls:
 Incl 1- Statement of Lt. Casey.
 Incl 2- Statement of Lt. Becker.
 Incl 3- Location Sketch.



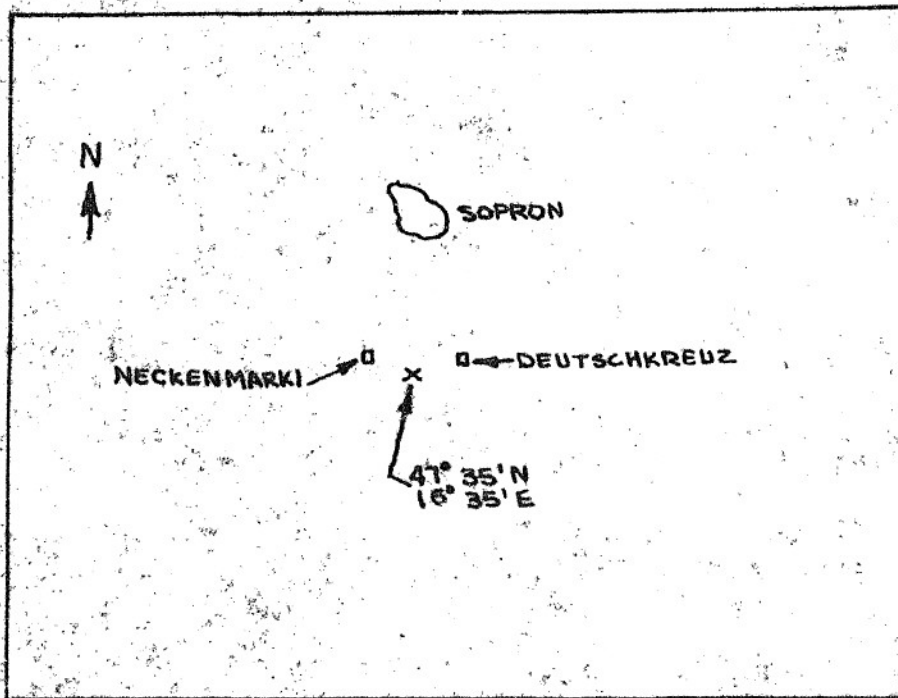
[REDACTED]

Statement concerning Yello Charlie, ship piloted by Lt. Elrod on 29 May 1944.

Approximately ten (10) minutes after we left the target, Lt. Elrod's ship was seen to our left about ten (10) o'clock and about two (2) miles distant. At one time we expected him to rejoin our three (3) ship box of three (3) cripples, as he veered towards us and came under us and slipped off to our right. We were still unable to contact him. We were growing uneasy as we had seen an enemy fighter who seemed to be covering us as a "spotter". I was unable to see Lt. Elrod because vision to my right was blocked out by the Co-Pilot. A few minutes later I saw him off to my left once more. A few seconds later five (5) Me-109's were observed attacking him. After they made their attack, gas was seen streaming from Lt. Elrod's ship. At this time my attention was diverted by attacks on my ship and I saw no more of Lt. Elrod.

Ira C. Casey Jr.
IRA C. CASEY, ~~2nd Lt.~~
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

Incl #1 copy



Sheet # 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS
777TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO #520 U.S. ARMY.

1571

2 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 464th Bomb Gp (H), APO #520, U.S. Army.

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report on crew assigned to this Squadron reported missing on 29 May 1944 on mission over Atzgersdorf, Austria.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>
2nd Lt.	Elrod, Erwin B.	[REDACTED]
2nd Lt.	Hultquist, Glenn F.	[REDACTED]
2nd Lt.	Baker, John C.	[REDACTED]
2nd Lt.	Valente, Louis V.	[REDACTED]
S/Sgt.	Mezzatesta, Frank (NMI)	[REDACTED]
T/Sgt.	Close, James F.	[REDACTED]
S/Sgt.	Freeman, Edwin B.	[REDACTED]
S/Sgt.	Styer, Martin R., Jr.	[REDACTED]
Sgt.	Rakoczy, Thomas M.	[REDACTED]
Sgt.	Rodgers, John E.	[REDACTED]

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. Battle Casualty Report, forwarded your Headquarters, 30 May 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

Clyde Crabtree
CLYDE CRABTREE,
Capt., Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

1 Incl:

Incl 1- MAC Rpt., 2nd Lt. Erwin B. Elrod & Crew
2 June 1944, W/3 Incls (In 7 Copies).

1 st Ind.

Hq, 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 3 June 1944

TO: CG, 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

Noted and forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 cc.

Daryl D. Johns
DARYL D. JOHNS
Maj, AC
Adj.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2nd Lt. Erwin B. Elrod

Mr. Erwin W. Elrod, (Father)
1278 Sledge Street,
Memphis, Tennessee.

2nd Lt. Glenn F. Multiquist

Mr. Frederick L. Multiquist, (Father)
Rural Route Number Six,
Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

2nd Lt. John C. Baker

Mr. John F. Baker, (Father)
Rural Free Delivery Number One,
Carey, Ohio.

2nd Lt. Louis V. Valente

Mr. Louis J. Valente, (Father)
115 Cortland,
Peekskill, New York.

S/Sgt. Frank Messatesta

Mr. Samuel Messatesta, (Father)
1166 Thirty-Ninth Street,
New York, New York.

T/Sgt. James F. Close

Mr. Levy Beams, (Father)
Magnolia, Kentucky.

S/Sgt. Edwin B. Freeman

Mrs. Anna E. Freeman, (Mother)
Rollins Avenue,
Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

S/Sgt. Martin R. Styer, Jr.

Mrs. Doris E. Styer, (Wife)
1525 East Falkland Lane Apt. 47,
Silver Springs, Maryland.

Sgt. Thomas H. Rakocsy

Mrs. Julia Rakocsy, (Mother)
207 Woodbine Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Sgt. John E. Rodgers

Mrs. Anna H. Rodgers, (Wife)
Leola, Pennsylvania.

~~██████████~~
CASUALTY INFORMATION
 (Supplemental to Missing Air Crew Report)

07/15

NAME	BAKER	JOHN	CLARK	2ND LT	██████████
	(Last Name)	(First Name)	(Middle Name)	(Rank)	(A.S.N.)
	29 May 1944	13 June 1944		777 Bomb	464 Bomb
	(Date of casualty)	(Date reported to Allied Lines)		(Former Squadron)	(Former Group)

(Information is requested concerning the status of any U. S. personnel of whom you may know. The information will be used to establish their casualty status, for the information of their relatives, to the extent consistent with security, and their former units as well as for evidence to assist in determination of the proper safeguarding of their personal interests. Even fragmentary information is desirable, since it may be supplemented by information someone else can give. Information which you personally know to be reliable is most valuable, and should be indicated as so known. But hearsay and rumor may also be valuable, because, first, it furnishes a basis for further inquiry, and second, it may be confirmed by others. The following form is intended merely as an aid, and information which does not fit into it, should be given in statement form.)

<u>Crew Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>YOUR CREW</u> <u>ASN</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Remarks</u> (Incl. basis of knowledge)
Pilot	✓ Elrod, Erwin B.	2nd Lt	██████████	POW	
Co-Pilot	✓ Hultquist, Glenn F.	2nd Lt	██████████		Unknown
Navigator	✓ Baker, John C.	2nd Lt	██████████	RTD	
Bombardier	✓ Valente, Louis V. ✓	2nd Lt	██████████	RTD	
Radio Operator	✓ Close, James F.	T/Sgt	██████████		Unknown
Aerial Engineer	✓ Mezatesta, Frank (MMI) S/Sgt		██████████		Unknown
Right Waist Gr	✓ Jtyer, Martin R., Jr. ✓	S/Sgt	██████████	RTD	
Left Waist Gr	✓ Freeman, Edwin B.	S/Sgt	██████████	POW	
Ball Turret Gr	✓ Rodgers, John E.	Sgt	██████████		Unknown
Tail Gunner	✓ Rakoczy, Thomas M.	Sgt	██████████		Unknown

Handwritten notes:
 4 Aug 44
 JEB
 Check 14

O. U. 5/29/44

Troop Secret Field Police 9
 Outer Post IV
 Day Book # I/244/44

Ref to: Capture 5 American Fliers

To Air Force Area Command in Agram

On 5/29/44 at 1145 hrs a 4 motor bomber crashed 500 meters East Petrijá. The crew parachuted. The outer Post transferred the following prisoners of war to the Air Force Area Command Agram.

1. 1st Lt Robert Haverkos 792721
2. 2nd Lt Erwin Elrod (lost)
3. S/Sgt Frank Mazzatesta
4. T/Sgt William Christel
5. T/Sgt James Close

Another flier, who was S/Sgt Edwin Freeman, was severely wounded through shots received while in the plane and was taken to the hospital at Sionk.

In the enclosure is a secret order which was found on one of the captured officers, the original of the same, this transit camp is handing over, with the request that on delivery of these same papers, a receipt be given for same.

Command Officer

Remarks: Further reference to the prisoners, their plane was a 4 motor bomber, which was shot down by a German Messerschmidt Airplane, which quickly burned and crashed in about 3 minutes.

ME 1271

Post: Navy Administration Office

Place: Graz

Time: 5/30/44 8 O'clock

Time plane was shot down: 5/29/44 1000hrs

Place shot down: (Note: Hill-551) St. Rita (Convent Rain) Community of Ristwah.

How shot down: Antiaircraft

Type of plane: Boeing B-17-G Fortress II

Identif on plane: not identified

Admission of plane: not identified-burned.

Photo apparatus: Destroyed

Frequencies: not identified-burned

Condition of plane: 100% through crash and burning

MACR 5430