

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

5471

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
 by ~~RESTRICTED~~
 by F. W. MOENCH, Capt., AC
 Date MAR 15 1968

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification ~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

95-55
5471

to ~~SECRET~~
by E. A. Bn. UNAS. Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MOENB, Capt., AG
Date MAR 15 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Gioia 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 Gioia Air Base Course then 120 degrees to target.
Target Atzgersdorf Type of Mission Bombing.
Austria.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather clear and slight haze. Visibility 10/20 miles.
Not
4. GIVE: (a) Date 29 May 1944 Time 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 H AAF Serial No 41-28748
7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) 14264163
(b) 42-85735 (c) 42-92323 (d) 42-62092
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) LM 966378 (b) RM 966062
(c) LE 966422 (d) RE 965949 RW 980451
(e) LW 979379 (f) RT 965959
(g) LT 966415 (h) LB 966557 RB 966218
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, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
RTD	1. Pilot	*Eaves, William T.	1st Lt.		Mrs. Betty Jean Eaves (W) 4402 St. Gavelston, Texas.
RTD	2. Co-Pilot	Sherman, Daniel W. Jr.	2nd Lt.		Mrs. Ethel E. Sherman (M) 35 Third Ave., Albany, N.Y.
RTD	3. Navigator	Haverkos, Robert B.	1st Lt.		Mrs. Lucille Haverkos (M) 1406 Boyd St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
RTD	4. Bombardier	Lambert, Lawrence J. J.	2nd Lt.		Mr. Wilfred J. Lambert (B) 22021 Rosedale St., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.
RTD	5. Eng. Gunner	Elder, James H.	T/Sgt.		Mr. & Mrs. Luther D. Elder (FM) Route #3, New Albany, Mississippi.
RTD	6. ROG	Christel, William C.	T/Sgt.		Mrs. Minnie Christel (M) Valders, Wisconsin.
RTD	7. Aerial Gunner	Masterson, George R.	S/Sgt.		Mrs. Gladys Polotanowitsch (S) 3741 N. Wayne Ave., Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Ruth Kalher (A) 3741 N. Wayne Ave. Chicago, Ill.
RTD	8. Aerial Gunner	Fangman, Sylvester A.	S/Sgt.		Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. Fangman (F & M) Hereford, Texas.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

incl #1

(See Reverse Side)

26

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9. Aerial Gunner Petrone, James J. S/Sgt. 1325304 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Petrone
 (F & M) 145 Brown St., Hartford, Conn.
10. Eng. Gunner ^{N/A} McMillan, Robert L. S/Sgt. 1119812 Mrs. Olive D. McMillan (W)
^{Wife} 142 31st Ave., Jackson, Miss. Mrs. Mary K. McMillan (M) Same address as (W).

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		
			by Radio	Last	Saw
<u>Perry C. Stai</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>37551680</u>			<u>X</u>
<u>James D. Waldrop</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>34721751</u>			<u>X</u>
<u>Clarence H. Deck</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>17099376</u>			<u>X</u>

12. 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) _____
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: 2 June 1944.

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

- 4 Incls:
 Incl 1- Statement of S/Sgt. Stai.
 Incl 2- Statement of S/Sgt. Waldrop.
 Incl 3- Statement of S/Sgt. Deck.
 Incl 4- Location Sketch.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

1572

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>
1st Lt.	Eaves, William T.	0-666256
2nd Lt.	Sherman, Daniel W. Jr.	0-699746
1st Lt.	Haverkos, Robert E.	0-732722
2nd Lt.	Lambert, Lawrence J.J.	0-744382
T/Sgt.	Elder, James H.	0002777
T/Sgt.	Christel, William C.	16096113
S/Sgt.	Masterson, George R.	36379395
S/Sgt.	Fangman, Sylvester A.	38109882
S/Sgt.	Petrone, James J.	31325304
S/Sgt.	McMillan, Robert L.	04154813

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., 1st Lt. William T. Eaves & Crew
2 June 1944, w/4 Incls (In 7 Copies).

1st 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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

1st Lt. William T. Hayes

Mrs. Betty Jean Hayes, (Wife)
4403 South Half Street,
Galveston, Texas.

1st Lt. Robert E. Haverkos

Mrs. Lucille A. Haverkos, (Mother)
1405 Boyd Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

2nd Lt. Daniel W. Sherman Jr.

Mrs. Ethel E. Sherman, (Mother)
35 Third Avenue,
Albany, New York.

2nd Lt. Lawrence J. J. Lambert

Mr. Wilfred J. Lambert, (Brother)
23021 Rosedale,
Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.

T/Sgt. James H. Elder

Mrs. Gera C. Elder, (Mother)
Route Three,
New Albany, Mississippi.

T/Sgt. William C. Christel

Mrs. Minnie Christel, (Mother)
Valders, Wisconsin.

3/Sgt. George E. Masterson

Mrs. Gladys H. Poltanwitsch, (Sister)
3761 North Wayne Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

3/Sgt. Sylvester A. Fangan

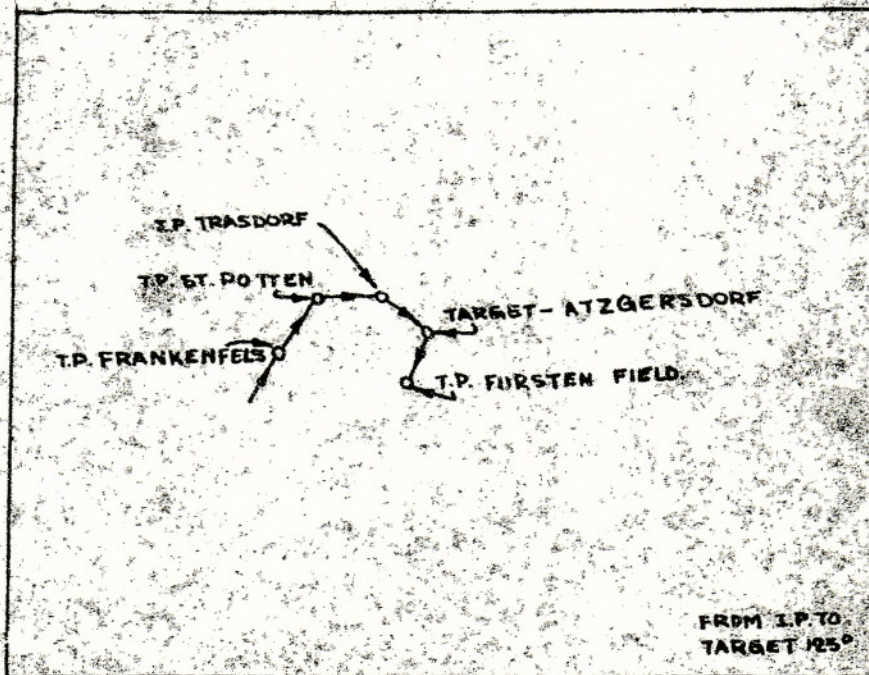
Mr. Henry F. Fangan, (Father)
Route Number One,
Hersford, Texas.

3/Sgt. James J. Petrone

Mrs. Marye Petrone, (Mother)
148 Brown Street,
Hartford, Connecticut.

3/Sgt. Robert L. McMillan

Mrs. Olive D. McMillan, (Wife)
1423 First Avenue,
Jackson, Mississippi.



Smithy 07/1

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name DANIEL W. SHERMAN JR. Rank CAPT. Serial No. 697746
2. Organization 14th Bomb Group Gp Commander COL MARSHALL K. BONNER Rank Col. SqN CO MAJOR F. CARTER Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 29 did you go down? YES
4. What was the mission, ATGERDORF, AUSTRIA, target, AIRCRAFT INSTALLATION, target
time, _____, altitude, 18,000 FT. route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? AT ONE TIME OVER ZAGREB
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 ELSE RETURNED TO THE STATES EXCEPT THE ATTACHED MENTIONED TWO MEN PLUS RADIO OPERATOR + NAVIGATOR WHO WERE CAPTURED AND MADE PRISONERS OF WAR!
I ASSUME
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? SOMEWHERE NORTH OF PETRIJKA, YUGOSLAVIA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) THE INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE WILL ANSWER THIS
11. Where were they in aircraft? WAIST + BALL TURRET POSITIONS
12. What was their condition? PRESUMED TO BE DEAD
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? IN YUGOSLAVIA - ONE MY TAIL TURRET OPERATOR WHOM 'BADLY INJURED' RETURNED OR ESCAPED WITH ME
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE OF ACCURATE INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE OF VALUE.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 5471

Name of crew member: McMILLAN, Robert L.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 3154813
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ Engineer - Gunner

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN BUT NOT LIKELY

Where? NORTH OF PETRINJA, YUGOSLAVIA
 IF
 If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: DURING ENEMY FIGHTER OPPOSITION

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: MY COMPLETE INFORMATION
AS TO HIS WELFARE WAS NOTIFICATION OF HIS BEING
KILLED BY DIRECT HIT IN THE CHEST WITH 20 MM. SHELL.
ALSO HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS AT TIME OF MY BAIL OUT.

Source: FROM WAIST GUNNERS ON MY CREW

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

FROM ALL PROBABILITY, MY ESTIMATION OF HIS
FATE IS CERTAIN DEATH.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: MAY 29th 1944
ATGERSDORF, AUSTRIA ENEMY AIRCRAFT
INSTALLATIONS

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ROBERT E. HAVERKOS Rank CAPT. Serial No. 6-132701
2. Organization 464TH Gp. 777TH Gp Commander MARSHALL BONNER Rank COL. Sqn CO T.J. CARTER Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 29TH did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 4th FACTORY, target, VIENNA, target time, 1030 (APPROX.), altitude, 20,000 FT. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? GRAZ, AUSTRIA.
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES, ALL EXCEPT LEFT WAIST AND BALL TURRET GUNNER.
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". ZOMBARDIER, NOSE GUNNER AND NAVIGATOR BAILED OUT 20 MILES S. OF ZAGREB, YUGO. AT 1135. TAIL GUNNER, + RT. WAIST GUNNER 25 MILES S OF ZAGREB, AND PILOT, CO-PILOT AND TOP TURRET 30 MILES S OF ZAGREB.
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) S/SQTS JAMES PETRONE AND M^CMILLAN.
11. Where were they in aircraft? M^CMILLAN AT LEFT WAIST WINDOW, PETRONE IN ^{CALL} TURRET.
12. What was their condition? DEAD (M^CMILLAN)
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ALL INCLUDED
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 5471

Name of crew member: McMILLAN, Robert L.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ Engineer - Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? KILLED BY 70 MM SHELL

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

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? LYING ON FLOOR NEAR WAIST WINDOW

Any hearsay information: RIGHT WAIST GUNNER STATED THAT
 McMILLAN HAD BEEN HIT IN CHEST BY 70 MM SHELL,
 KILLING HIM INSTANTLY. McMILLAN WAS AT THE LEFT
 WAIST GUN.

Source: S/SGT SYLVESTER FANGMAN

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: ? NOT REGULAR MEMBER OF CREW.

Dates and destinations if possible: —

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 5471

Name of crew member: PETRONE, James J.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew (Bomber) [REDACTED] Aerial Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? UNABLE TO GET HIM OUT OF TURRET.

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

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? IN BALL-TURRET

Any hearsay information: GUNNERS IN REAR CLAIMED THAT A SHELL HAD EXPLODED IN BALL TURRET. GUNNERS WERE ALL SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND UNABLE TO EXTRICATE PETRONE. HE WAS STILL IN BALL-TURRET WHEN THEY BAILED OUT.

Source: S/SGTS S. FANGMAN AND GEO. MASTERSON

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

ABOVE.

(I BELIEVE THAT HE WAS WOUNDED, AND PERISHED WITH THE PLANE WHEN IT CRASHED

Total number of missions of above crew member: 14.

Dates and destinations if possible: (MAY 2, PARMA, ITALY)
(MAY 10 - WIENER NEUSTADT) (MAY 22, GIVORS, FRANCE) (MAY 23, LYON, FRANCE)
(MAY 29, VIENNA) - PARTIAL-

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CHRISTEL, WILLIAM C Rank T/SGT. Serial No. ~~NO 206~~
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander DONNER Rank Col. Sqn CO SARTER Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 29 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, IS, target, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, target time, ---, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, ---, route flown ---
5. Where were you when you left formation? JUST AFTER LEAVING TARGET.
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? EIGHT MEMBERS, TWO WENT DOWN IN PLANE
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". NAVIGATOR HANBRACKS MET ME IN TRANSIENT CAMP. HE IS BACK HERE OK. OTHER KNOWLEDGE IS HEARSAY. THEY ARE SUPPOSEDLY OK.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? CROATIA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ~~IT IS HEARSAY~~
NO OTHERS
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 5471

Name of crew member: MILLAN, Robert L.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew (Bomber) [REDACTED] Engineer - Gunner

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: I WAS IN NOSE TURRET, Mc MILLAN
THREW WAIST, THEREFORE, ALL I KNOW IS HEARSAY.
FELLOWS IN PRISON CAMP TOLD ME HE WENT DOWN
IN PLANE

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Don't know

Dates and destinations if possible: HE WAS FLYING
SUPERNUMEROUS.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 5471

Name of crew member: PETRONE, James J.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew (Bomber) [REDACTED] Aerial Gunner

Did he bail out? _____

Where? _____

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: I FLEW NOSE TURRET, PETRONE
FLEW BALL, THEREFORE ALL I KNOW IS HEARSAY.
FELLOWS IN PRISON CAMP, FROM GROUP, TOLD ME
HE NEVER CAME OUT OF THE BALL TURRET.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: FIFTEEN

Dates and destinations if possible: DONT REMEMBER

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 5/29/44 - 11:45 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: near Petrinja - parachuted

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)111/XVII
Agram-Stadt 5/30/44 - 18:15 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND HAVESKOS
FIRST NAME: Robert E.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~0-732723~~

CAPTURED: near Petrinja WOUNDED: DEAD:

5/29/44 - 11:45 o'clock

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMPS

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

MARK 5471

REPORT OF SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 5/29/44 - 11:45 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: near Petrinja - parachuted

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 motor Bomber

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)111/XVII
Agram-Stock 5/30/44 - 18:45 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND
FIRST NAME: CHRISTEL
William C.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: T/Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: ~~3400110~~

CAPTURED: 5/29/44-11:45 hrs WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

MACR 5471