

5476

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by E. A. BRADONIS, Lt. Col., AO  
by M. MUENCH, Capt., AO  
Date MAR 15 1948

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

5116  
100-85

by F. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO  
by M. M. MOHR, Lt. Capt., A2

IMPORTANT: MAR 19 1946  
This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization  
within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported  
missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello AAB, Italy Command or AF 15th AF  
Group 464th Bombardment Group Squadron 778th Bombardment Sq

SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanello AAB, Italy Course EAST/NORTHEAST  
Target PLOESTI, Roum Type of Mission Bombing  
ania

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
1/10 cumulus, 15 miles visibility over target; Hazy scattered alto stratus and  
alto cirrus enroute

GIVE: (a) Date 6 June 1944 Time 0932 Location near Ploesti, Roumania  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether:  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)  
 Enemy Aircraft  Enemy Anti-Aircraft  Other circumstances as  
follows: \_\_\_\_\_

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B 24 G AAF Serial No 42-78223

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series B 1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) EP 432510  
(b) EP 432392 (c) EP 432225 (d) EP 436550

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)  
(a) BROWNING 50cal Mnose 978519 (b) BROWNING 50cal Mnose 978515  
(c) BROWNING 50cal Mhipper 979114 (d) BROWNING 50cal Mhipper 978863  
(e) BROWNING 50cal Mball 978713 (f) BROWNING 50cal Mball 978573  
(g) BROWNING 50cal Mwaist 979076 (h) BROWNING 50cal Mwaist 478875  
(i) BROWNING 50cal Mtail 978769 (j) BROWNING 50cal Mtail 979007

PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS:  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<br>(Last Name First)         | RANK | SERIAL NO | NEXT OF KIN, RELATION-<br>SHIP, AND ADDRESS                                    |
|---------------|---|------|-----------|--|
| P <i>M</i>    | <u>MILLS</u> THOMAS A ✓                   | 2 Lt | 0-752069  | Mrs Grace C. Mills, Mother<br>RR #1, Roanoke, Indiana                          |
| CP <i>M</i>   | <u>WHITESIDES</u> CHARLES T ✓             | 2 Lt | 0-700586  | Mrs Mary Whitesides, Wife<br>113 N Park Way, Columbia, Missouri                |
| N <i>M</i>    | <i>maer</i><br><u>MINASIAN</u> MIKE T ✓   | F/O  | T-124862  | Mr Alex Valtergian, stepfather<br>22710 John R St, Hazel Park, Mich            |
| P <i>M</i>    | <i>maer</i><br><u>FILKORN</u> HARRY ✓     | 2 Lt | 0-699050  | Mrs Ida Filkorn, Mother<br>2049 No Park Ave, Warren, Ohio                      |
| CP <i>M</i>   | <i>maer</i><br><u>HENDERSON</u> RAY G ✓   | SSgt | 15332629  | Mrs Lola Henderson, mother<br>11649 Adams Street, Gary, Indiana                |
| AB <i>M</i>   | <i>maer</i><br><u>HASKINS</u> FERD A ✓    | Sgt  | 37506265  | Mrs Aldine Haskins, wife<br>216 S Kimball St, Excelsior Springs, Mo            |
| ROG <i>M</i>  | <i>maer</i><br><u>AUSTIN</u> RALPH J W JH | SSgt | 31218942  | Mrs Grace Austin, Mother<br>178 Main Street, Gorham, Maine                     |
| AG <i>M</i>   | <i>maer</i><br><u>WILLIAMS</u> JOHN H ✓   | Sgt  | 37344497  | Mr Clarence A Williams, Father<br>4565 Woodland Ave, Western Springs, Illinois |

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

37474

|    |            |           |     |          |  |
|----|------------|-----------|-----|----------|--|
| AG | *GILBREATH | EARL A ✓  | SGT | 39567960 | Mrs Madelminon L. Gilbreath, wife<br>11701 S. Denver Ave, Los Angeles, Calif |
| AG | M GULP     | MELMETH ✓ | SGT | 34624841 | Mr Thomas G. Gulp, father<br>Tishomingo, Miss                                |

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 | b. Basis |          |                             |
|----------------------|------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
|                      |      |           | Sighted  | Last Saw | Signed Crash Forced Landing |
| HARER HAROLD W       | SSGT | 36646198  |          |          | X                           |
| HOWARD DOUGLAS       | SSGT | 15394607  |          |          | X                           |
| HUTCHINSON WILLIAM H | SSGT | 16113706  |          |          | X                           |

2. 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) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
  
4. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
  
5. 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

Date of this Report: 8 June 1944

Signature of Officer: Carl V. Hardy  
**CARL V. HARDY**  
 Captain, Air Corps  
 Adjutant

- 4 Incls:  
 Incl 1-Statement Harer  
 Incl 2-Statement Howard  
 Incl 3-Statement Hutchinson  
 Incl 4-Sketch



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1936.  
CVH:LS  
5476

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

8 JUNE 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 6  
JUNE 1944 ON MISSION OVER PLOESTI, ROUMANIA.

| RANK | NAME                  | ASN                             |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 LT | MILLS, THOMAS A       | 0-752069 <i>RTS</i>             |
| 2 LT | WHITESIDES, CHARLES T | 0-700586 <i>MIA RTD 21-8-44</i> |
| F/O  | MINASIAN, MIKE T      | T-124862 <i>POW</i>             |
| 2 LT | FILKORN, HARRY        | 0-689050 <i>POW</i>             |
| SSGT | HENDERSON, RAY G      | 15332029 <i>MIA</i>             |
| SGT  | HASKINS, FERD A       | 37506265 <i>POW</i>             |
| SSGT | AUSTIN, RALPH W JR    | 31218942 <i>POW</i>             |
| SGT  | WILLIAMS, JOHN H      | 37344497 <i>POW</i>             |
| SGT  | GILBREATH, EARL O     | 39567960 <i>MIA</i>             |
| SGT  | CULP, MELMETH         | 34624841 <i>MIA</i>             |

2. SUBJECT PERSONNEL ARE BATTLE CASUALTIES AS DEFINED BY  
PAR 2, SECTION 11, CIRCULAR 10, NATOUA, DTD 24 JAN 44.

3. BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT, FORWARDED YOUR HEADQUARTERS,  
6 JUNE 1944.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

1 INCL:  
INCL 1-MAC RPT, LT MILLS & CREW  
8 JUN 44, W/4 INCLS(8 COPIES)

*Carl V. Hardy*  
CARL V. HARDY  
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS  
ADJUTANT

1st Ind.

Hq. 464th Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army, 9 June 1944.

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

1 Incl: Withdrawn 1 cc.

*[Signature]*  
D. D. J.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5476

1936  
5476  
C-WDC-14

360.33 2nd Ind.  
Hq 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U. S. Army, 10 June 1944.

TO: CG, 15th AF, APO 520, U. S. Army.

For the Wing Commander:

*E. M. O'Reilly*  
E. M. O'REILLY  
Capt, Air Corps,  
Asst Adj.

932  
1 Incl: (sex.)

AG 360.33 3rd Ind.  
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 13 June 1944.

GP-hm/gov

TO: CG, MATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated ECR L-102, dated 9 June 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 9 June 1944.

667  
For the Commanding General:

*Harold B. Kelly*  
HAROLD B. KELLY,  
Major, AGD,  
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:  
Incl 1 (trip).

4  
1  
2nd Lt. Thomas A. Mills

Mrs. Grace G. Mills, (Mother)  
Rural Route Number One,  
Reanoks, Indiana.

2nd Lt. Harry Filkorn

Mrs. Ida Filkorn, (Mother)  
2049 North Park Avenue,  
Warren, Ohio.

2nd Lt. Charles T. Whitesides

Mrs. Mary E. Whitesides, (Wife)  
113 West Parkway,  
Columbia, Missouri.

P/O Mike V. Missian

Mrs. Flora Valtegian, (Mother)  
22710 John E. Street,  
East Park, Michigan.

Sgt. Malveth Gulp

Mr. Thomas (Cleveland) Gulp, (Father)  
Box 77,  
Fishouings, Mississippi.

Mr. Albert Gulp, (Brother)  
1664 Warbler Blv.,  
Mobile 19, Alabama.

Sgt. John H. Williams

Mr. Clarence A. Williams, (Father)  
4545 Woodland Avenue,  
Western Springs, Illinois.

Sgt. Fred A. Mastine

Mrs. Alvena A. Mastine, (Wife)  
2118 Olive,  
Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

2/Sgt. Ralph W. Austin, Jr.

Mrs. Grace M. Austin, (Mother)  
178 Main Street,  
Gorham, Maine.

S/Sgt. Ray O. Henderson

Mrs. Lela Katherine Henderson, (Mother)  
1089 Adams Street,  
Gary, Indiana.

Sgt. Earl O. Gilbreath

Mrs. Minnie E. Gilbreath, (Mother)  
c/o Song Q. Ranch,  
Puniso, California.

Sergeant Melmet Culp *Kia*

Mr. Thomas Cleveland Culp, (father)  
Box 77,  
Tishomingo, Mississippi.

Second Lieutenant Thomas A. Mills *RTO*

Mr. Albert Culp, (brother)  
1664 Warbler Drive,  
Mobile 19, Alabama.

Sergeant John H. Williams *RMC*

Mrs. Grace C. Mills (mother)  
Rural Route Number one,  
Roanoke, Indiana.

Second Lieutenant Harry Filkorn *RMC*

Mr. Clarence A. Williams (father)  
4243 Woodland Avenue,  
Western Springs, Illinois.

Flight Officer Mike T. Minasian *Paul*

Mrs. Ida Filkorn (mother)  
2049 North Park Avenue,  
Warren, Ohio.

Sergeant Fred A. Haskins *Paul*

Mrs. Flora Valtegian (mother)  
22710 John R. Street,  
Hazel Park, Michigan.

Staff Sergeant Ralph W. Austin, Jr. *Paul*

Mrs. Aldene A. Haskins (wife)  
Cliff Drive,  
Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Second Lieutenant Charles T. Whitesides *RTO*

Mrs. Grace M. Austin (mother)  
178 Main Street,  
Gorham, Maine.

Staff Sergeant Ray G. Henderson *Kia*

Mrs. Mary E. Whitesides (wife)  
113 West Parkway,  
Columbia, Missouri.

Sergeant Earl O. Gilbreath *Kia*

Mrs. Lola Katherine Henderson (mother)  
1089 Adams Street,  
Gary, Indiana.

Mrs. Minnie M. Gilbreath (mother)  
c/o Susy Q. Hannah,  
Pueno, California.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1944

SUBJECT: Status of Missing Air Crew Men.

TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, A.P.O. 520,  
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York.

(522) 1. Reference is made to the Missing Air Crew Report dated 8 June 1944 concerning aircraft B-24G, serial number 42-78223, attached to the 778th Bombardment Squadron, 464th Bombardment Group, which participated in a bombing mission to Ploesti, Roumania on 6 June 1944.

2. Request has been received in this headquarters for further details concerning the disappearance of the following personnel who are still carried on the War Department records as missing in action.

Sergeant Melmeth Culp, 34624841  
Sergeant Earl C. Gilbreath, 39567960  
Staff Sergeant Ray G. Henderson, 15332029  
Second Lieutenant Charles T. Whitesides, 0700586

3. It is requested that an interrogation be made of Second Lieutenant Thomas A. Mills, 0752069, a member of that crew who returned to duty for all available details.

For the Commanding General:

*E. A. Bradunas*

E. A. BRADUNAS,  
Major, A. G. D.,  
Chief, Notification Branch,  
Personal Affairs Division,  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AFFPA/CJN/eas/77226  
Rm 4312, October 5, 1944

*maier*  
*5476*

October 6, 1944

**SUBJECT:** Status of Missing Air Crew Men.

**TO :** Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, A.P.O. 520,  
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York.

1. Reference is made to the Missing Air Crew Report dated 8 June 1944 concerning aircraft B-240, serial number 42-78223, attached to the 778th Bombardment Squadron, 464th Bombardment Group, which participated in a bombing mission to Floesti, Roumania on 6 June 1944.

2. Request has been received in this headquarters for further details concerning the disappearance of the following personnel who are still carried on the War Department records as missing in action.

Sergeant Melmoth Culp, 34621841 *Kia*  
Sergeant Earl C. Gilbreath, 39587960 *Kia*  
Staff Sergeant Roy E. Henderson, 15332029 *Kia*  
Second Lieutenant Charles T. Whitesides, 0700566 *RTD*

3. It is requested that an interrogation be made of Second Lieutenant Thomas A. Mills, 0752069, a member of that crew who returned to duty for all available details.

For the Commanding General:

H. A. BRADSHAW,  
Major, A. G. D.,  
Chief, Notification Branch,  
Personnel Affairs Division,  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel.

| OFFICE SYMBOL                              | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|
| GRADE AND SURNAME OF COORDINATING OFFICERS |    |    |    |    |    |

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE. \$300

**WAR DEPARTMENT**

AG. M&D AFHQ

APO 512

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*U.S. Army Air Forces*

*Wash. 25 D.C.*



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AS 704/074-B  
(6 Oct 44)

End Ind.

JER/ek

HC, WFOUBA; APO-512, U. S. Army, 21 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

1. Attention invited to preceding indorsement.
2. Casualty records of this headquarters indicate the correct name of Sgt. Glibreath to be EARL G. and not EARL C. as shown in this communication.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

JACK E. ROBERTS,  
1st Lt., AGC,  
Asst. Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

704 1st Ind. GP/B/eh  
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 52, 6 November 1944.

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

5798

1. Lt. Whitesides ETD 31 August 1944, others are KIA. Sgt Culp's chute opened but hooked on the plane. S/Sgt Anderson and Sgt Gilbreath were apparently wounded or killed by enemy fire and were found in the burned plane. Official Rumanian death certificates for these three men are on file in this headquarters, with place of burial about 15 miles west of Targovisti, Rumania.

For the Commanding General:

WENDLE D. REEL,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Assistant AG.

AG 704/074-C 2nd Ind. JKR/ak  
(6 Oct 44)  
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 11 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C. ✓

PPA-6  
mm

1. Attention invited to preceding indorsement.
2. Casualty records of this headquarters indicate the correct name of Sgt. Gilbreath to be EARL G. and not EARL C. as shown in basic communication.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

5476

  
JACK E. ROBERTS,  
1st Lt., ASD,  
Asst. Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE-10/6



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Justin was one of a group of men who were known to be in a small village (name unknown) approximately 25 kilometers from Bucharest, at which time or night were observed leaving four or five behind. Justin was held by source to be one of the men who was left behind.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

All information above concerning the possible location of Justin after 2 August 1944, was heard by source from a Sergeant (name unknown) who was returned to the United States at the same time as source. Source believes that this Sergeant is an intimate acquaintance of Sgt F.H. Robinson, who also has information in regard to Justin.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5476  
6 JUNE 1944

S T A T E M E N T

ON 6 JUN 44 I WAS THE NOSE GUNNER ON LT GILLEN'S SHIP. AT THE INITIAL POINT ABOUT 10 MINUTES FROM THE TARGET, PLOESTI, ROUMANIA, WE WERE ATTACKED BY ABOUT TEN ME 109'S IN LINE, ASTERN. THEY RAN RIGHT THROUGH OUR FORMATION. SOON AFTER I SAW A SHIP (LT MILLS') PEEL OFF TO THE LEFT, BEFORE PEELING OFF, THE SHIP RAISED ITS NOSE AND DROPPED ITS BOMBS, SEEMINGLY TO LIGHTEN THE SHIP, THEN IT STARTED DOWN AND I SAW ONE CHUTE BAIL OUT AND OPEN AND AFTER THAT I SAW AT LEAST THREE MORE BAIL OUT. I SAW #3 ENGINE ON FIRE AND FLAME ENVELOPED THE WING. THE PLANE SEEMED TO DISINTEGRATE THEN ON THE WAY DOWN.

*S/Sgt. Harold W. Hareg*

HAROLD W. HAREG  
S/SGT 36646198  
778TH BOMB SQ(H)

*Serial 1*

547A  
6 JUNE 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

I WAS IN THE TOP TURRET ON LT DRAKE'S SHIP THE MORNING OF 6 JUN 44. WE WERE GOING TOWARD OUR TARGET, PLOESTI, ROUMANIA WHEN WE HAD AN HEAD ON ATTACK FROM ABOUT 15 ME 109'S. I NOTICED A SHIP (LT MILLS) ON MY LEFT, NOSE UP AND DROP ITS BOMBS. IT THEN PEELED OFF TO THE LEFT OF THE FORMATION. THE ME'S CAME STRAIGHT IN ON THE SHIP, MISSING US. THE SHIP THEN DISAPPEARED FROM MY SIGHT.

*Sgt Douglas Howard*  
DOUGLAS HOWARD  
S/SGT 15394607  
778TH BOMB SQ

Incl 2'

5476

6 JUNE 1944

C E R I F I C A T E

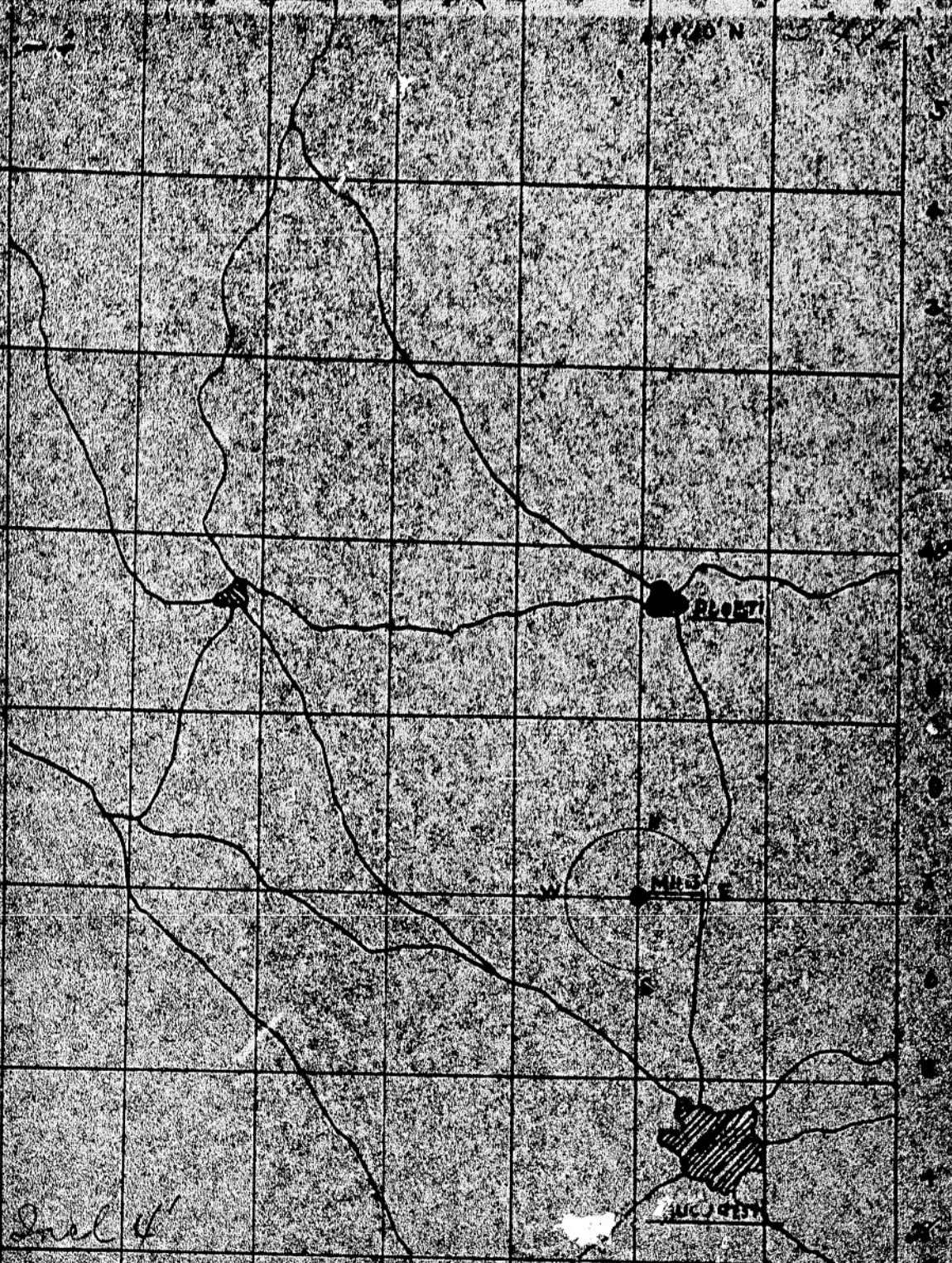
I WAS TAIL GUNNER ON LT DRAKE'S CREW ON 6 JUN 44,  
DURING A MISSION TO THE TARGET AT PLOESTI, ROUMANIA. AT  
ABOUT 0915 HOURS, NEARING THE TARGET, WE HAD A HEAD ON  
ATTACK FROM ABOUT 12 TO 15 ME 109'S. SAW A SHIP (LT MILLS)  
STAGGERING AND DIVING. SAW TWO CHUTES BAIL OUT AND OPEN,  
THEN I SAW THREE MEN BAIL OUT, ONE OF THE CHUTES OPENING.  
AFTER THE PASS BY THE FIGHTERS, I SAW THE SHIP BELOW ME  
TRYING TO KEEP ON THE LEVEL.

*S/sgt William H. Hutchinson*

WILLIAM H. HUTCHINSON  
S/SGT 16113706  
778TH BOMB SQ

*Incl 3'*

44° 20' N



Incl 4'

LUCOBTI

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Thomas Arthur Mills Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-752069
2. Organization 464th Gp Commander Bonner Rank Col. Sqn CO Poff Rank Maj.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Ploesti, target, Dacia Romana O/R, target  
time, 09:00, altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, Direct to  
IP, 260 Degrees to t, route flown as scheduled.
5. Where were you when you left formation? 50 km. west of target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, all but two.
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? Near Village of More ni, Romania.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Sgt. Ray Henderson and Sgt. Earl Gilbreath.
11. Where were they in aircraft? In wait.
12. What was their condition? Gilbreath was wounded. No knowledge of Henderson.
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

5496

Name of crew member: HENDERSON, Ray G.  
 Rank: S. Sgt.  
 Serial number: 15383029  
 Position: Crew (Bombardier) (Medium): NO

Did he bail out? No.

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

If not, why not? According to the interphone conversation and what I found out later he did receive the order to bail out but elected to stay in ship to aid last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane; Gilbreath who had been badly hit.

Last interphone conversation was my order to abandon ship after I saw the left wing was afire and that there was no chance of saving it  
Was he injured? It isn't definitely known that he was but I believe he was hit on a later fighter attack on our ship.

Where was he when last seen? He was last seen going to the tail to aid Gilbreath who had been wounded.  
Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I am certain that sgt. Hender son was killed in the ship and his body was burned because his identification tags were brought to me after I was captured and they were badly burned and had burned flesh on them.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible; 22 May, 1944-Valmontone M/Y, 23 May, 1944-Town of Valmontone. 24 May 1944- Wiener Neustadt. 26 May 1944- Lyon, France M/Y. 27 May 1944 Nimes, France M/Y. Ploesti Dacia Romana O/R on 6 June 1944

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HASKINS, Fred A.**  
 Rank: **Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **37806245**  
 Position: ~~Crew (Bombardier) (Navigator)~~ **ABG**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 60 km. west of Ploesti, Romania.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: My order to abandon ship.

Was he injured? Slightly

Where was he when last seen? On ship returning to states.

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

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible: 22 May 1944- Valmontone M/Y. 23 May 1944 Town of Valmontone. 24 May 1944- Wiener-Neustadt. 26 May 1944- Lyon, France M/Y. 27 May 1944 Nimes; France M/Y. 6 June 1944- Ploesti Dacia Romana O/R.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5476

Name of crew member: AUSTIN, Ralph V. Jr.  
Rank: S. Sgt.  
Serial number: 31218948  
Position: ENGINEER, BOMBARDIER, B-24 200

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? 60 km. west of Ploesti, Romania.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: My order to crew to abandon ship.

Was he injured? Slightly .

Where was he when last seen? In prison in Bucharest, Romania.

Any necessary information: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible: 22 May 1944-Valmontone M/Y. 23 May 1944-Town Of Valmontone. 24 May 1944-Wiener-Neustadt. 26 May 1944-Lyon, France M/Y. 27 May 1945-Nimes, France M/Y. 6 June 1944 Ploesti Dacia Romana O/R.

AFHQ-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

6476

Name of crew member: WILLIAMS, John H.  
Rank: Sgt.  
Serial number: 37544487  
Position: Observer/Navigator/Navigator; AS

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? 60 km. west of Blacsi, Romania.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: By order to crew to abandon ship.

Was he injured? Slightly.

Where was he when last seen? In prison in Bucharest, Romania

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

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: 22 May 1944-Valmontone M/X, 23 May 1944-Town Of Valmontone, 24 May 1944-Viener-Neustadt, 26 May 1944-Lyon, France M/X, 27 May 1944-Nimes, France M/X, 6 June 1944-Blacsi Delta Romana O/N.

## INDIVIDUAL OR UNIT QUESTIONNAIRE

8476

Name of crew member: GILBREATH, Earl  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 39847900  
 Position: Observer/Navigator AS

Did he bail out? No.

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

If not, why not? He was badly wounded by enemy fighter action.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He reported Enemy fighter attack from rear.

Was he injured? Yes.

Where was he when last seen? In tail turret.

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

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

Any explanation or his fate based in part or wholly on suppositions: I am certain that Sgt. Gilbreath was killed and his body burned because his identification tags were brought to me after I was captured and they were burned and had burned flesh on them.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible: 22 May 1944-Valmontone M/Y. 23 May 1944 #Town of Valmontone. 24 May 1944- Wiener-Neustadt. 26 May 1944 Lyon, France M/Y. 27 May 1944 Nimes, France M/Y. 6 June 1944 Ploesti Dacia Romana O/R.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5476

Name of crew member: SULP, Melmoth, MGS  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 3482441  
 Position: AS

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 60 km west of Ploesti Romania

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: My order to abandon ship.

Was he injured? He was Killed.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him bail out of ship but too late for parachute to open.  
 Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Any explanation or his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe he had difficulty getting out of ship and did get out too late for chute to open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: 6 June 1944 Ploesti Romania

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HARRY F. FALKORN Rank 2<sup>ND</sup> LT Serial No. 0-699050  
464<sup>TH</sup> GP
2. Organization 464<sup>TH</sup> GP Gp Commander POFF Rank MAJ Sqn CO UNKNOWN Rank SEE OTHER SIDE  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JUNE day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, OIL REFINERIES, target.  
 time, 0940, altitude, 24,500 FT. route scheduled, DIRECT  
FROM SPINAZOLA ITALY, route flown TO A TOWN 15 MILES NORTH OF PLOESTI, WHICH  
WAS THE I.P. THEN TO THE TARGET.
5. Where were you when you left formation? BETWEEN PLOESTI AND BUCHAREST  
MAKING A RIGHT TURN, LOST THE REST OF THE GROUP. SEE OTHER SIDE.
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". J. MILLS + WATKINSON + SGT HASKINS AND MYSELF THROUGH RE FORWARD BOMB BAY DOOR. FLD MINISIAN THROUGH NOSE WHEEL DOOR. AT OR ABOVE 29,000' SGT (NAME) THROUGH REAR BOMB BAY DOOR AT OR ABOVE 28,000' SGT (NAME) THROUGH REAR (NAME) DOOR. BELLY 5,000' BOMB BAY
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? SEE OTHER SIDE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)  
SGT. HENDERSON, GILBREATH, CULP
11. Where were they in aircraft? CULP. PROBABLY STILL IN NOSE TURRET, LOCKED IN. HENDERSON + GILBREATH IN WING
12. What was their condition? CULP + HENDERSON ALIVE GILBREATH BADLY WOUNDED POSSIBLY DEAD
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)

2. I WAS ONLY IN THE SPAN 5 DAYS AND DIDNT HAVE TIME TO MEET THE C.O. HE BEING AWAY ON A MISSION MOST OF THE TIME. 5 DAYS AFTER I ARRIVED I WENT TO PROESTI.

5. IT WAS A WILD STUPID FAST RIGHT HAND TURN BY THOSE IN THE LEAD THAT CAUSED US TO LOSE THE FORMATION AFTER BOMBS AWAY AND BE PICKED OFF LIKE STRAY DUCKS BY FIGHTERS. OUR SHIP WAS TO THE REAR AND LEFT OF THE GROUP AND DURING THAT TURN IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP.

9. SOUTHWEST OF PROESTI NEAR A SMALL TOWN UP AGAINST A SMALL HILL.

ACCORDING TO ONE GROUP OF PEASANTS THE SMALL TOWN WAS PTIESTI; AND ANOTHER GROUP SAID THE SMALL TOWN WAS TARGOVISTA. IT STRUCK THE GROUND SOUTH EAST OF THE TOWN.

8. ALL BAILED OUT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ORDER WAS GIVEN EXCEPT SGT AUSTIN WHO TRIED TO WORK HIS WAY FORWARD AND FREE THE NOSE GUNNER, BUT THE SHIP WAS IN A DIVING RT. TURN, AND HE BAILED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

6476

Name of crew member: KENDERSON, Ray G.  
 Rank: S. Sgt.  
 Serial number: 15882000  
 Position: Crew / Bombardier / Navigator / Steward: 20

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? STOOD BY SGT GILBREATH GIVING HIM FIRST AID UNTIL PLANE CRASHED

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

WARNING TO CREW + SGT GILBREATH OF FIGHTERS ATTACHING FROM ALL SIDES

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE, PROBABLY NOT

Where was he when last seen? IN WAIST WORKING ON GILBREATH

any hearsay information: (1) BURNT REMAINS OF BODY FOUND IN SHIP AND BURIED NEARBY BY PEASANTS WITH DOGTAC OVER GRAVE!

(2) REMAINED IN SHIP AND GAVE FIRST AID TO GILBREATH UNTIL PLANE CRASHED AFTER RECEIVING BAIL OUT ORDER OVER INTERPHONE AND WARNINGS FROM SGT'S AUSTIN + WILLIAMS

Source: 1. ROMANIAN PEASANTS 2. SGT'S AUSTIN + WILLIAMS

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

RATHER THAN SAVE HIMSELF HE STAYED BY HIS FRIEND GIVING FIRST AID UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE TO BAIL OUT

Total number of missions of above crew members: NO KNOWLEDGE

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

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

6478

Name of crew member: WILKINSON, Earl  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 30567000  
 Position: Crew Chief AS

Did he bail out? NO

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

If not, why not? WOUNDED SERIOUSLY; PROBABLY FATALY

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: REPORT OF FLIGHTERS CONTINUALLY BORING IN FROM THE TAIL AND LEFT WAIST POSITIONS

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? ON FLOOR OF WAIST

Any hearsay information: ① WAS WOUNDED IN TAIL TURRET BY 20mm AND  
SGT HENDERSON WAS GIVING HIM FIRST AID ON FLOOR OF PLANE

② HIS REMAINS OF BODY FOUND IN BURNED PLANE WERE  
BURIED NEARBY BY PEASANTS WITH DOGTAG ABOVE  
GRAVE.

Sources: 1. SGT AUSTIN + WILLIAMS 2. RUMANIAN PEASANTS

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

RECEIVED DIRECT HIT BY 20mm, PROBABLY DEAD  
WHEN SHIP HIT GROUND

Total number of missions of above crew member: NO KNOWLEDGE

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

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

5475

Name of crew members: GUP, Melmoth, ~~NAME~~  
 Rank: Sgt.  
 Serial number: 4424841  
 Position: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ AS

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? FIRST MISSION WITH STRANGE CREW, UNFAMILIAR WITH TURRET. REMAINED LOCKED IN TURRET UNTIL PLANE STRUCK GROUND. NAV. IN NOSE AT TIME OF BAIL OUT ORDER FAILED TO UNLOCK DOORS FOR CONNR.  
 Last contact, or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTING ON HEAVY ENEMY FLAK + ATTACKING GERMAN FIGHTERS

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE; PROBABLY NOT

Where was he when last seen? NEAR BURNED PLANE; CHUTE SPILLED. INFORMATION FROM RUMANIAN PEASANTS

any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

① FOUND NEAR BURNED PLANE BY PEASANTS + WAS BURIED NEARBY BY PEASANTS. DOCTAG PUT ABOVE GRAVE

② FRANTIC CRIES OVER INTERPHONE FOR HELP TO BE UNLOCKED FROM TURRET

Sources: 1. RUMANIAN PEASANTS. 2. SGT. AUSTIN, LAST MAN OUT

any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on suppositions: \_\_\_\_\_

NAV. F/O MINISIAN, MIKE, LAST MAN TO SEE HIM ALIVE. SAID HE WAS IN NOSE TURRET WITH BOTH SETS OF DOORS LOCKED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO OPEN THESE DOORS FROM THE INSIDE UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS. IMPOSSIBLE UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS. FAILURE TO OPEN THESE DOORS FROM THE OUTSIDE WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

Total number of missions of above crew members: 1<sup>ST</sup> MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible: 6 JUNE 1944 PLOESTI



5476

INTERROGATION OF FORMER POW's

- CASUALTY -

NAME: GILBRETH, CARL O. RANK Sgt. ASN           

GIVE POSITION Tail Gunner UNIT 778th Bomb Sq., 464th Hq Bomb Gp.

DATE LAST SEEN 6 June 1944

PLACE LAST SEEN 15 min flying from Ploesti

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT Hit by flak and enemy fighter action

KNOWN INFORMATION (Eyewitness only)

HEARSAY INFORMATION (All other information with estimate of reliability)

1st Pilot notified by left waist gunner and radio man S/Sgt Austin, Ralph that Gilbreth had been killed by enemy fighter fire. Reliable.

REMARKS Saw grave of subject and Christian burial at Moreni, Roumania.

*Thomas A. Mills*

THOMAS A. MILLS, 1st Lt., AG.

(Reporter)

Army Serial No. 0-752069

UNIT Sqdn A-1, 806th AAF Base Unit, Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

INTERROGATION OF FORMER POWs

- CASUALTY -

NAME: CULP, KENNETH RANK Sgt. ASN                     

CREW POSITION Nose Gunner UNIT 778th Bomb Sq., 464th Hq Bomb Gp.

DATE LAST SEEN 6 June 1944

PLACE LAST SEEN 15 min flying from Ploesti.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT Hit by flak and enemy fighter action

KNOWN INFORMATION (Eyewitness only) Culp bailed out but his chute failed to open; was witnessed by reporter.

HEARSAY INFORMATION (All other information with estimate of reliability)

REMARKS Saw grave and Christian burial at Moreni, Roumania.

*Thomas A. Mills*

THOMAS A. MILLS, 1st Lt., AC.,

(Reporter)

Army Serial No. O-752069

UNIT Squad A-1, 806th AAF Base Unit, Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Indiana.