

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

6810

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification of this
to
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date ~~1957 5 1968~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6810

to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. W. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MURCH, Capt., AO
Date 15 FEB 44

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.

ORGANIZATION: Location APG 520, U.S. Army Command or AF 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Squadron (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAW, Pananella, Italy Course E.N.E.
Target Ploesti, Rumania Oil Fields. Type of Mission Bombing

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Heavy overcast - Visibility limited.

GIVE: (a) Date 15 July 1944 Time 1315 Location 42° 31' N - 18° 23' E.
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)
() Enemy Aircraft (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft () Other circumstances as follows: Probable flak damage to plane.

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 H AAF Serial No 42-50408

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) BP-435685
(b) BP-435492 (c) BP-435655 (d) BP-435727

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #1249586 (b) Browning MG-M2-cal .50 - #1249616
(c) " " " 1249935 (d) " " " 1250113
(e) " " " 255259 (f) " " " 1250043
(g) " " " 254981 (h) " " " 256818
(i) " " " 256436 (j) " " " 254981

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 (Last Name First)	NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEAREST OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
Pilot	Gator, Bruce C. ✓	Capt.	024100	Mrs. Agnes G. Gator (Wife) RTD 1434 E. Garfield St., Phoenix, Arizona.
Co-Pilot	Ferris, Richard B. ✓	2d Lt.	0696348	Mrs. Richard Ferris (Mother) RTD 118 Sunrise Hwy, Valley Stream, Long Island, NY.
Navigator	Rector, Robert B. ✓	2d Lt.	0699305	Mrs. Mabel L. Rector (Mother) RTD 409 Center St., Shinnston, West Virginia.
Bombardier	Hartter, William J. ✓	F/O	T-122995	Mrs. Anna Hartter (Mother) 6090 70th Ave., Brooklyn (4), New York.
Radio-Op-Gun	Kynoch, Russell R. ✓	T/Sgt.	19084382	Mrs. Mary Ann Kynoch (Wife) RTD 500 Alexander Ave., Monroe, La.
Top Turret-Gun	Peterson, Alvin E. ✓	T/Sgt.	17154777	Mrs. Nina Peterson (Mother) RTD Route #1, Box 111, A, Edinburg, North Dakota.
Waist Gunner	Ramsey, Francis C. ✓	S/Sgt.	14105135	Mrs. Mary E. Ramsey (Mother) RTD 201 First St., Gaffney, South Carolina.
Tail Gunner	Blackburn, Glenn F. ✓	S/Sgt.	19151218	Mrs. Martha K. Blackburn (Mother) RTD 717 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego, California.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FORM NO. 1 (REV. 1-15-44)

Nose Gunner Hlasek, Robert F. S/Sgt. 39287555 Mrs. Caroline Hlasek (Mother)
317 Scott Street, San Francisco, California.

Ball Gunner Wolfe, Richard F. S/Sgt. 17111486 Mrs. Florence M. Wolfe (Wife)
1613 North 3rd St., Minneapolis, Minn.

1. _____

2. _____

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

	Contacted	Last	Saw
<u>NAME IN FULL</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NO</u>	<u>by Radio Sighted Crash Forced Landing</u>

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 () Parachutes were used () Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
XX) Any other reason (specify) Plane, when last sighted, was apparently under control as no chutes were seen to blossom from the plane.

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 could be made for missing aircraft due to group being in enemy territory and forced to keep in group formation.**

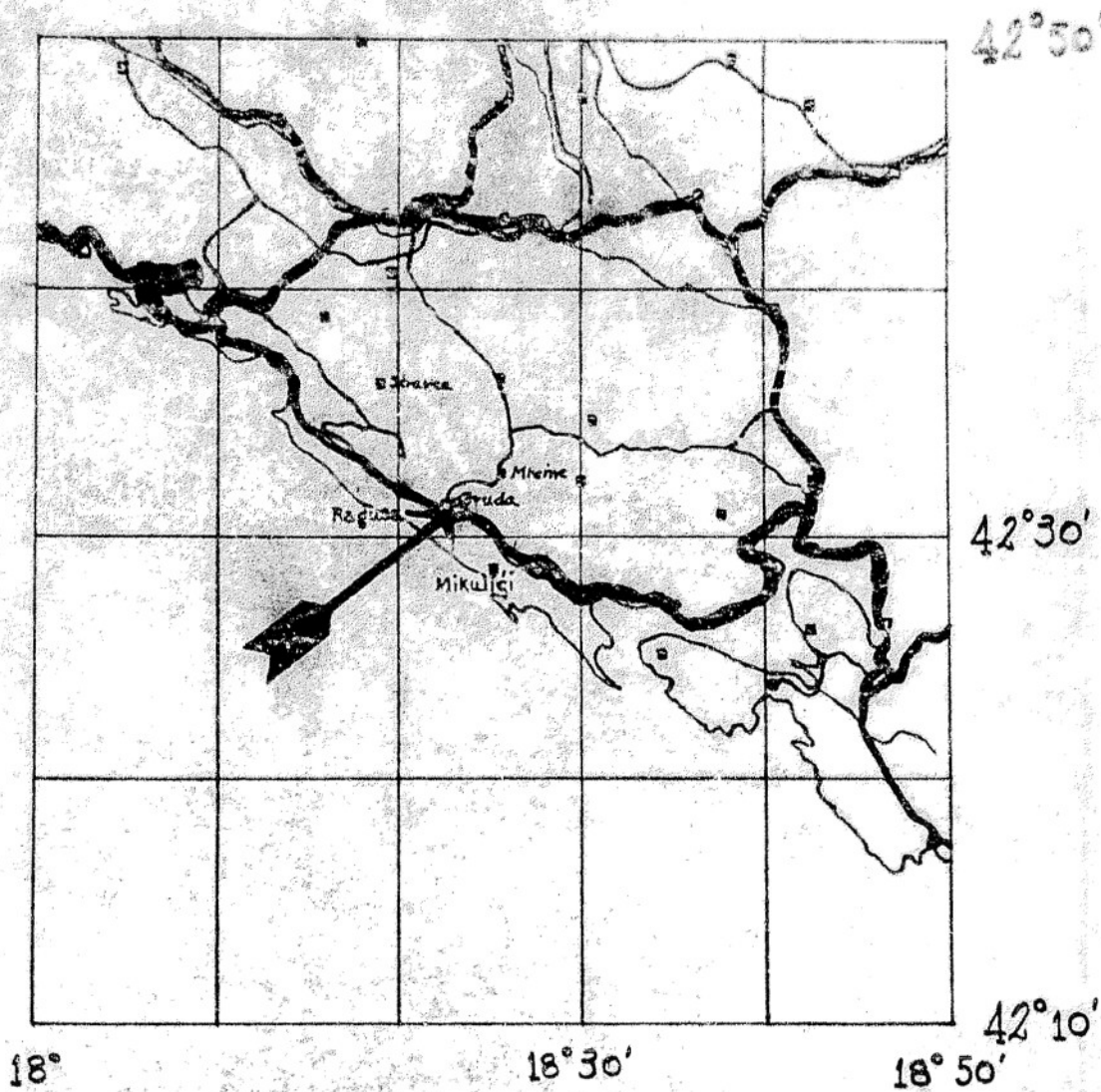
Date of this Report: 17 July 1944.

Signature of Officer: *Harold E. Blum*
HAROLD E. BLUM,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

- 2** Incls:
 Incl 1- Sketch of approx location of aircraft last seen
 Incl 2- Eye Witness Report of 2d Lt. WEINBERG.



7761 81 904



ARROW INDICATES POINT WHERE CAPT.
CATOR'S CREW WAS LAST SIGHTED.

BEARING = 42°31' N. 18°23' E.

Capt. Bruce G. Cater

Mrs. Agnes G. Cater (Wife)
1454 East Garfield Street,
Phoenix, Arizona.

2nd Lt. Richard B. Ferris

Mrs. Richard B. Ferris (Mother)
148 Sunrise Highway,
Valley Stream, Long Island, New York.

2nd Lt. Robert E. Rector

Mrs. Mable L. Rector (Mother)
409 Center Street,
Edinburg, Virginia.

P/O William J. Hartter

Mrs. Anna Hartter (Mother)
6030 70th Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

T/Sgt. Russell H. Kynoch

Mrs. Mary Ann Kynoch (Wife)
500 Alexander Avenue,
Monroe, Louisiana.

T/Sgt. Alvin E. Peterson

Mr. Jacob T. Peterson (Father)
Route Number 1, Box 1141,
Edinburg, North Dakota.

S/Sgt. Francis, G. Ransay

Mrs. Mason E. Ransay (Mother)
301 First Street,
Gaffney, South Carolina.

S/Sgt. Richard F. Wolfe

Mrs. Florence M. Wolfe (Wife)
1513 North Third Street,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

S/Sgt. Robert F. Blazak

Mrs. Caroline G. Blazak (Mother)
217 Scott Street,
San Francisco, California.

S/Sgt. Glenn F. Blackburn

Mr. Lloyd W. Blackburn (Father)
717 Sunset Cliff Boulevard,
San Diego, California.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard B. Ferris Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. 0696348
2. Organization 464 B Gp. Commander Col. Nance Rank 1st. Lt. Sqdn. CO Col. Nance Rank 1st. Lt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 4 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Floesti target, Oil Refinery target
time, 11:00, altitude, 27,000, route scheduled, Budapest
Budapest to Poggia, route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? West of Budapest
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 within a period of ten minutes in a location between
Marljevo and Krucevac, Jugoslavia.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Krucevac, Jugoslavia
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 members of this aircraft were returned safely to
Italy in July of the same year, 1944.
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)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name RECTOR, Robert B. Rank Capt. Serial No. O-699305
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander Bonner Rank Col. Sqn CO Belhm Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 34, target, Polesti, target
time, 1105, altitude, 22500 route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown As briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Bucharest, Rumania
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". At 1235 five members including myself bailed out at Krusevac, Yugo. The Ball Gunner S/Sgt. R. F. Wolfe, Ass't. Eng. S/Sgt. Ramsey, Radio Op. T/Sgt R. R. Kynoch, bailed out the Camera Hatch. Nose Gunner S/Sgt Blazek bailed out the bombay. I Bailed out the nose wheel Doors. No Knowledge of the others.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. How many members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
11. Where were they in aircraft? None
12. What was their condition? *****
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Pilot Capt. Cator, Co-Pilot Unknown, Bombardier F/o Hartter, was in their assigned positions in the aircraft. Engineer Peterson was dropping the ball turret from the plane. Tail Gunner Blackburn was stripping his turret of guns and ammunition.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. none

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HARTER, William J.
 Rank: F/O
 Serial number: T-122995
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Pilot (Bomber)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? Prokopolie, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? -----

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: At 1235, I gave our position and time to the Bombardier prior to bailing out.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? Standing in the bombay of our plane.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He returned to his base in Italy about three weeks later.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 42

Dates and destinations if possible: The dates was between 1 May 44 and 15 July 44. Targets such as; Polesti (three trips), Vienna (four Trips), Weiner Neustadt (Three Trips), Lyon, France; Toulon, France; Nimes, France; Bologna, Ferrara, Milan, Turin, Leghorn, Parma, Genoa, La Spezia, Italy; Munich and Breslau, Germany. Other missions unable to account. fore.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Kynoch, Russ E L R. Rank Tsgt Serial No. 19084382
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander ^{A.A.} Schneider Rank Col. Sqn CO ^{W.R.} Reddell Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Rumania, target, Ploest Oil Fields, target.
time, 1150, altitude, 19000 route scheduled, Direct
route flown Direct
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Target
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". No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Kussow, 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) None.
11. Where were they in aircraft? ---
12. What was their condition? Good
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Back at 464th Bomb Group, after we were flown out by Russians back to Italy.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. While trying to contact counter-intelligence officers we passed grave of P-38 pilot. Head stone gone his name, & home and it. This information turned into 15th AFHQ headquarters upon our return. Grave situated about 5 miles south of Kussow in a little forested valley.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Glenn F. Blackburn Rank TSGT Serial No. 19151218
2. Organization 464 B.G.P. Marshall Gp Commander Bonner Rank Col. Sqn CO Blehm Rank MAJ
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 41st., target, Polesti, target
time, App. 12:30PM, altitude, 24000 route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? I.P.
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". They All returned to Italy
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Mts. App. 30 miles South of ^{Belgrade} 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) 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 O.K.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Richard F. Wolfe Rank s/sgt. Serial No 7114486
2. Organization 464 thGp Commander J. McKenna Rank Lt. Coln CO H. Blehm Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Ploesti Oil, target, America-Romana Field target
time, 11:45, altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, as briefed
as briefed, route flown as briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? About fifty miles west of Bucharest
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 members bailed out safely and all members returned to Allied control 100%
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About 10 miles west of Krusevac
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) 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 saw all members of the crew at the Pantanella Air Base of the 464th B.Grp. after their return from M. I. A. all were in excellent health and all Accounted for.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Over

Crew List

Pilot Capt	Cator
C o.Pilot	Lt. Richard B. Ferris
Navigator	Lt. Robert Rector
Bomb.	F/O Wm. J. Hartter
Eng.	T/Sgt Peterson
R.O.	T.Sgt Russek R. Kynock
Nose Gunner	s/Sgt. Blazek
W. Gunner	s/Sgt Francis Ramsey
W. Gunner	s/Sgt - Do not remember name
B. Gunner	s/Sgt Richard F. Wolfe.

All above members returned safely