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

6960

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEAD QUARTERS U. S. AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

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

ORGANIZATION. Location PANTANELLA AIR BASE Commanding AF 15TH AF  
Group 434TH BOMB GP (H) Squadron 77TH BOMB S. (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure PANTANELLA AIR BASE Source VIENNA  
Target VIENNA Type of Mission BOMBING

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CLEAR

GIVE: (a) Date 3 JULY 1944 Time 1045 Location 43°10'N 10°45'E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify Weather: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio  
( ) Force a 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 ( ) Enemy Anti-aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows:

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 H AAF Serial No 42-52549

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) CP-303320  
(b) CP-3033309 (c) CP-3033384 (d) CP-3033377

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)

(a) <u>BROWNING 50 CAL M1</u>	<u>1056642</u>	(b) <u>1054923</u>	<u>885549</u>
(c) <u>1056258</u>	(d) <u>331877</u>	<u>220144</u>	
(e) <u>220893</u>	(f) <u>1053587</u>		
(g) <u>220881</u>	(h) <u>220557</u>		

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	NEAREST OF KIN, RELATION- SHIP, AND ADDRESS
<i>Pow</i> Pilot	<u>VARNER, BENJAMIN R JR</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>0697511</u>	<u>WIFE MRS CATHERINE</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>L. VARNER, FARMER, NORTH CAROLINA.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> CO-PILOT	<u>CHIARELLO, BRUNO J.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>0704225</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS CLEMENTINE</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>CHIARELLO, 516 GREGG AVENUE, GRANT TOWN, N. J.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> BOMBARDIER	<u>SINISI, JOHN B.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>0693610</u>	<u>WIFE MRS HELEN</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>SINISI, 6725 AVENUE "O", HOUSTON, TEXAS.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> NAVIGATOR	<u>BRAVE, LLOYD L.</u>	<u>2D LT</u>	<u>0711325</u>	<u>WIFE MRS JEREMIAH</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>M. BRAVE, 1257 10TH ST., FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> ENGINEER	<u>QUESADA, ARISTO G.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>35230360</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS EMELIA</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>QUESADA, 2504 GLEASON AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> ENGINEER	<u>GIRASOLE, ALDO B.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>32304512</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS TDA</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>GIRASOLE, 7803 14TH AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW Y. PK.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> ENGINEER	<u>GREGORY, JOSEPH C JR</u>	<u>T/SGT</u>	<u>34537530</u>	<u>WIFE MRS FRANCES</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>C. GREGORY, 4344 ASTRAL ST., JACKSONVILLE, FLA.</u>			
<i>Pow</i> ENGINEER	<u>PHIFER, CHARLES K.</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>113042305</u>	<u>MOTHER MRS EULA</u> <i>RTD</i>
	<u>PHIFER, BOX 318, RUSK, GEORGIA.</u>			

*Boo* RO GUNNER ✓ SIMONELLI, CHARLES J. S/SGT 31123532 MOTHER MRS LUCIA  
 SIMONELLI, 89 VEAZIE ST., N. ADAMS, MASS.  
*Ma* ARMORER GNR ✓ FILICKY, THEODORE V. S/SGT 36442043 MOTHER MRS EVA  
 FILICKY, 917 CHANDLER ST., DANVILLE, ILL.

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-  
 CRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) COLUMN BY INDICATING BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	Basis for Knowledge		
			By Radio	Sight	Ground Personnel Landing
FRANK L. GATES	S/SGT	33215028		X	
GEORGE C. STEWARD	S/SGT	19084783		X	

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OR MORE FOLLOWING:  
 (X) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash.  
 ( ) Any other reason (specify) TWO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN TO OPEN.
- 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 WAS MADE  
AS AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN TO FALL OVER ENEMY TERRITORY.

Date of this Report: 13 JULY 1944

Signature of Officer

*Aldepson Timmons*  
 ALDEPSON TIMMONS,  
 CAPT., AIR CORPS,  
 ADJUTANT

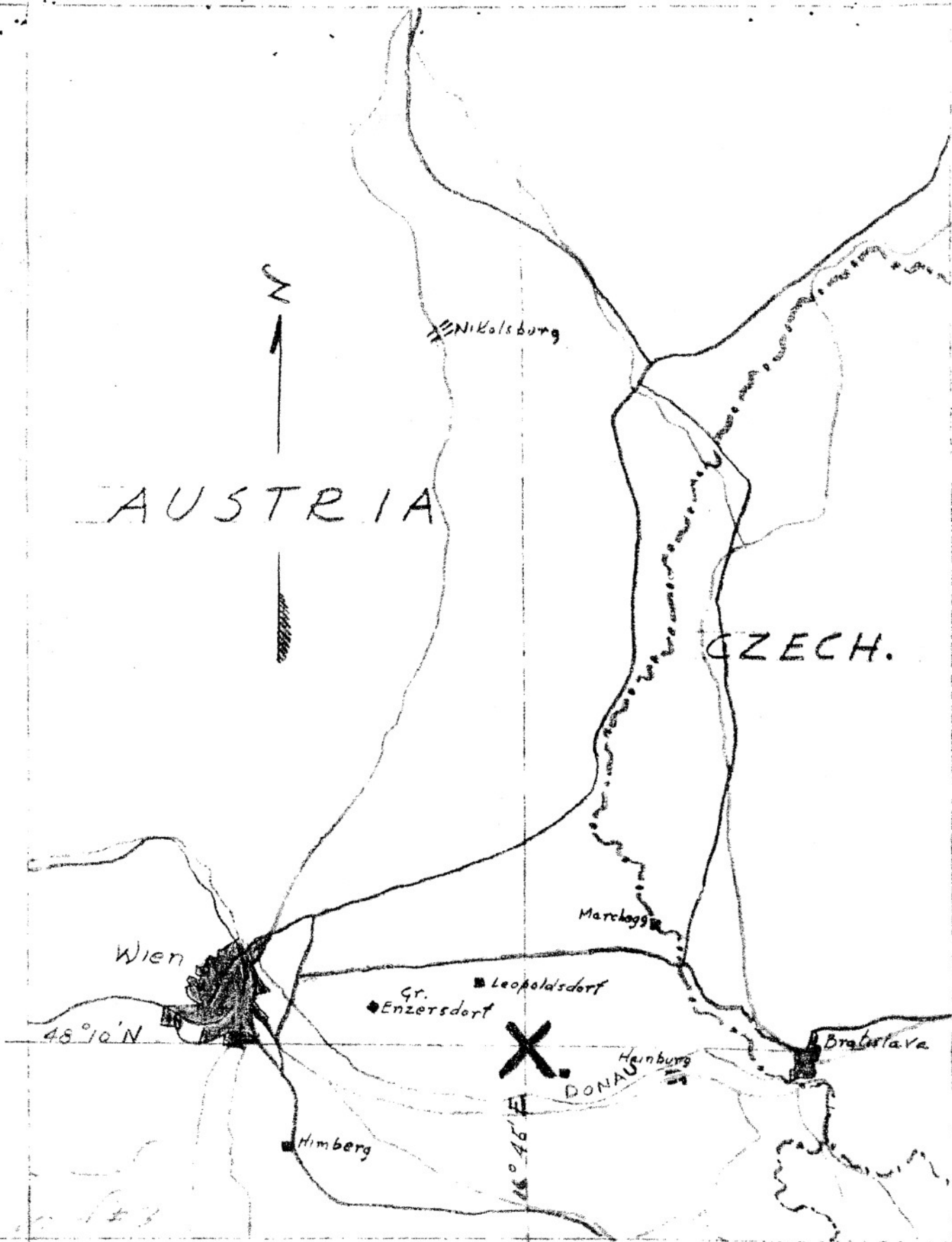
3 Incls:

- INCL 1- STATEMENT OF S/SGT.  
 FRANK L. GATES (CCTU)  
 INCL 2- STATEMENT OF S/SGT.  
 GEORGE C. STEWARD (CCTU)  
 INCL 3- MAP OF AREA WHERE PLANE  
 WAS LAST SEEN (CCTU)

RECEIVED



AUG 23 1944



A U S T R I A

C Z E C H .

Wien

Nikolsburg

Marchegg

Leopoldsdorf

Gr. Enzersdorf

Himberg

Heinburg  
DONAU

Bratislava

48°10'N

16°45'E

8, JULY 1944  
BOMBING OF VIENNA

COORDINATES  
48°10'N - 16°45'E

2nd Lt. Benjamin R. Varner Jr.

Mrs. Catherine L. Varner, (Wife)  
Farmer, North Carolina.

2nd Lt. Bruno J. Chiarello

Mrs. Clementine Chiarello, (Mother)  
516 Oregon Avenue,  
Grantwood, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. John B. Sisisi

Mrs. Lena Sisisi, (Mother)  
2142 Hudson Street,  
Fort Lee, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. Lloyd L. Brave

Mrs. Jardenia E. Brave, (Wife)  
1257 10th Street North,  
Fargo, North Dakota.

S/Sgt. Aristo G. Quesada

Mrs. Emelia Quesada, (Mother)  
2504 Gleason Avenue,  
Los Angeles, California.

S/Sgt. Aldo B. Girasole

Mrs. Helen Carelli, (Aunt)  
1951 80th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

T/Sgt. Joseph C. Gregory

Mrs. Frances C. Gregory, (Wife)  
4844 Astral Street,  
Jacksonville, Florida.

S/Sgt. Charles K. Phifer

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Phifer, (Parents)  
Box 318,  
Rusk, Texas.

S/Sgt. Charles J. Simonelli

Mrs. Lucia Simonelli, (Mother)  
99 Vansie Street,  
North Adams, Massachusetts.

S/Sgt. Theodore V. Filicaky

Mrs. Eva V. Filicaky, (Mother)  
917 North Chandler,  
Danville, Illinois.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name VARNER, BENJAMIN R. JR. Rank 1ST LT Serial no. 1-647511
2. Organization 444 BG 779BS Sp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ tank M.A.I.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JULY day 8<sup>TH</sup> did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, MY, target time, 10.30, altitude, 2,000, route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? APX. 20 MILES SE OF VIENNA  
ARST
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? AT LEAST 8 OTHERS DID.
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? 20 MILES SE OF VIENNA NEAR A  
SMALL VILLAGE
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 9 above and individual questionnaires) \_\_\_\_\_  
UNKNOWNS
11. Where were they in aircraft? UNKNOWN
12. What was their condition? UNKNOWN
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
ALL CREW MEMBERS EXCEPT FILICSKY  
WERE RETURNED TO STATES IN MAY OR JUNE OF 1947
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. \_\_\_\_\_  
UNKN.

Any additional information may be written on the back.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CHIARELLO BRUNO JOHN Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-764225
2. Organization 164 Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Col Sqn CO GOODYEAR Rank MAJ.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JULY day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, FLORISDORF-REF.<sup>OK</sup>, target, VIENNA, AUST., target time, 10:25, altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, Y  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown AS DIRECTED
5. Where were you when you left formation? PEELING OFF OF TARGET ON WAY HOME
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". SIMONELLI - WAIST GUNNER BAILED OUT WAIST WINDOW - GREGORY - SINISI - GIRDLE - OUT NOSE WHEEL HATCH - VARNER - BRAVE - BOMBAY
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) NO KNOWLEDGE
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? QUESADA - TAIL GUNNER - AT LUFTWAFFE FIELD 20 MM SHRAPNEL IN ONE EYE & RIGHT ARM KNIFE - LEG
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 BRAVE LLOYD L. Rank 1<sup>ST</sup> LT Serial No. 074325
2. Organization 464TH GR. / 777TH SQD / Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JULY day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, \_\_\_\_\_, target, VIENNA AUSTRIA, target time, 10:30, altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 10 MILES NORTH OF VIENNA
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". LT. VARNER, LT. MARCELLO, LT. SINISI AND I WERE ALL AT STALAG LUFT I. I LAST SAW SGT'S GREGORY GIRASOLE QUESADA AND PHOEFER AT VIENNA. LATER SIMONELLI CAME TO STALAG LUFT I
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES NORTH OF VIENNA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) \_\_\_\_\_  
I DON'T KNOW WHERE SGT. FILICSKY WAS.
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)

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Joseph C. Gregory, Jr. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 34537560
2. Organization 464 BQCG, Commander Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month July day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, Austria, target, Oil Refinery, target time, 10:30 A.M., altitude, 31,500 Feet route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? One minute after 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". \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approx. 25 Kilos East Of Target
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) \_\_\_\_\_  
Right Waist Gunner
11. Where were they in aircraft? Waist Position
12. What was their condition? Dead
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Alive. In Hands Of Germans  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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 CHARLES J. SIMONELLI Rank 1st Sgt. Serial No 31128532
2. Organization 464 B.G. (Op) Commander UNKNOWN Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO GOOD YEAR Rank MAJOR  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month JULY day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 23, target, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, target time, ?, altitude, ? route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? AT WAIST GUN
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? 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) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Where were they in aircraft? AT THEIR POSITIONS.
12. What was their condition? LAST I SAW THEM - ALL O.K.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? PILOT - CO-PILOT - BOMBARDIER - NAVIGATOR AT STALAG LUFT I, BARTH, GERMANY - MAY, 1945 - ALL O.K. NOSE GUNNER, TOP TURRET GUNNER, BALL GUNNER AND TAIL GUNNER (QUEVEDO), AT STALAG LUFT 4 - JAN. 1945 - ALL O.K. - QUEVEDO - HAD EYE INJURY - BUT WAS COMING ALONG 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)

The crew I went down with was not  
my own crew - I was filling in as was  
2 or 3 of the other enlisted men. And as  
there is no crew list attached in letter  
I received - I don't remember all names  
of crew - so I used their positions in answering  
questions. Fikiesky I knew as he was my left  
waist gunner on the plane, and Quesada the  
tail gunner.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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Name of crew member: QUESADA, Aristo G.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 39280360  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot/Navigator~~ engineer

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER AREA OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: QUESADA  
AT TAIL TURRETT, CALLED OVER INTER COM-FIGHTERS ATTACK

Was he injured? YES - HIT IN EYE

Where was he when last seen? I SAW HIM LAST AT STALAG Luft 4

Any hearsay information: IN JAN. 1945 - BEFORE I WAS EVACUATED  
FROM CAMP. HE WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AT TIME.

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I'VE REASON  
TO BELIEVE S/SGT. QUESADA IS ALIVE, FOR I  
RECEIVED A CHRISTMAS CARD - AND AT THE TIME  
I BELIEVE IT WAS SIGNED BY HIS NAME.  
SENT FROM CALIFORNIA.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: WE WERE OVER, VIENNA,  
AUSTRIA, 8 July, 1944 ON MISSION WE WENT DOWN.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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Name of crew member: FILICSKY, Theodore V.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 36442043  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Bomber)~~ ~~or Navigator (Bomber)~~ ~~or Bombardier (Bomber)~~ ~~or Tail Gunner (Bomber)~~ ~~or Armorer (Bomber)~~ ~~or Gunner (Bomber)~~

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER AREA OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA

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

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

BOTH AT WAIST GUNS, FIRING AT ENEMY FIGHTERS

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? I SAW HIM LAST AT GUN POSITION.

Any hearsay information: FROM GERMAN SOLDIER, I WAS TOLD ONE OF MY CREW WAS DEAD. IN THE NEXT 10 MONTHS, I MET ALL MY CREW, BUT S/SGT FILICSKY

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: DUE TO FIRE IN

PLANE, I WAS ON FIRE WHEN I BAILED OUT. BELIEVE FILICSKY WAS ALSO, I DELAYED MY PULLING CHUTE OPEN - HEARD FROM GERMAN SOLDIER - MY DEAD CREWMAN'S CHUTE WAS BURNED. THIS IS HEARSAY.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: LAST MISSION WE WERE ON - VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 8 JULY, 1944.