

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

Classification changed to SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

7236

by E. A. BRACUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

Date WAD 15 1944

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 Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or AF 15th AF  
Group 464th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 778th Bomb Sq (H)

SPECIFY: Point of Departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course 307°  
Target BUDAPEST Type of Mission Bombing  
TOKOL A/D, Hungary

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Clear with a few scattered Cumulus in distance; Visibility 25 Miles

GIVE: (a) Date 9 August 1944 Time 1114B Location 47°20'N; 19°03'E  
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 R 1830-65 B-24-G AAF Serial No 42-78374

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R 1830-65 AAF Serial No (a) EP 436844  
(b) EP 437114 (c) EP 436899 (d) CP 325677

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)  
(a) BROWNING 50CAL Left Nose 1248929 (b) BROWNING 50CAL Right Nose 1248990  
(c) BROWNING 50CAL Left Upper 978395 (d) BROWNING 50CAL Right Upper 978270  
(e) BROWNING 50CAL Left Lower 1249192 (f) BROWNING 50CAL Right Lower 1248963  
(g) BROWNING 50CAL Left Waist 1249435 (h) BROWNING 50CAL Right Waist 1248766  
(i) BROWNING 50CAL Left Tail 1249243 (j) BROWNING 50CAL Right Tail 1249900

PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS:  Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers none 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)

NAME IN FULL  
CREW POSITION (Last Name First) RANK SERIAL NO NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS

CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
Pilot	FLANAGAN, George O.	1st Lt	0-808811	Mrs O. J. Flanagan, wife 207 S 4th Street, Attalla, Ala
	FRANSEL, Harris K	2d Lt	0-807829	Mrs Winifred B. Fransel, mother 374 Dorchester Street, South Boston, Mass
	ANDERSON, Theodore A	2d Lt	0-697801	Mrs Frances R Anderson, wife, Graceville, Minn c/o John Reinhart
	MC COWN, Walter W., Jr.	2d Lt	0-753075	Mr Walter W. McCown, father, Newman, Ill c/o J. A. Church
	MC BETH, Wendell L	T Sgt	17127834	Mrs Clara McBeth, mother 1091 Ann St RR 5, Winfield, Kansas
	CARR, Patrick E	S Sgt	14097368	Mrs Sarah Carr, mother, Paulding, Miss
	LAPINSKI, Stanley E	T Sgt	36408520	Mrs Frances Lapinski, mother, 2801 Turner Street, Lansing, Mich

CONFIDENTIAL  
(See Reverse Side)

334

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72-96-2

C [REDACTED]

AG ~~ARD~~ **FORD, Gerald V** *MMIC* S Sgt 6954597 Lois Back, sister, 67A So. Findlay, Los Angeles, Calif. *RTD*

AG ~~ARD~~ **FLOYD, William J., Jr** *DEF* S Sgt 34631700 Mrs Maydean F. Floyd, wife 1017 44th Ave, Gulfport, Miss. *11*

AG ~~ARD~~ **BROWN, William J** *MMIC* T Sgt 2208760 Mrs May Brown, mother 700 University Ave, Rochester, N.Y. *RTD*

1. 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	Basis for knowledge		
			Contacted	Last Seen	Saw
George C. Harris	T Sgt	20276002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Hudac	T Sgt	20522608	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John F. Trawicki, Jr	S Sgt	36277116	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
- (3) 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: 11 August 1944

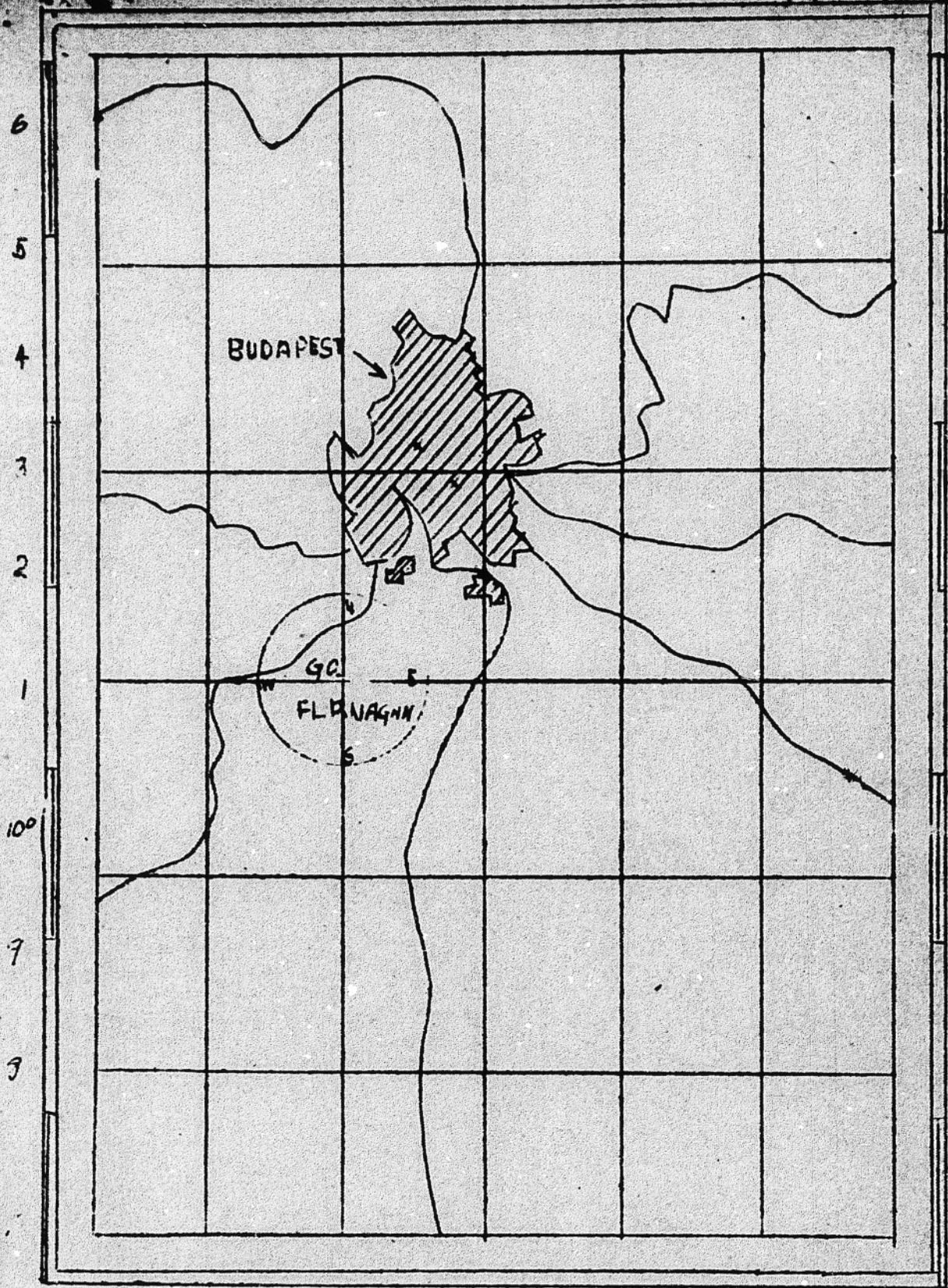
Signature of Officer: *Richard F. Brewer, Jr*  
**RICHARD F. BREWER, JR**  
 Major, Air Corps  
 Executive Officer

- Incls:
- Incl 1-Statement Harris
  - Incl 2-Statement Hudac
  - Incl 3-Statement Trawicki
  - Incl 4-Sketch



[REDACTED]

4296-88



GC FLANAGAN -  $47^{\circ}21' - N$   
 $18^{\circ}59' - E$

Ethel Doykin  
12/5/44

✓  
1st Lt. George O. Flanagan

Mrs. G. J. Flanagan, (wife)  
207 South 4th Street,  
Attalla, Alabama.

✓  
2nd Lt. Harris K. Franzel

Mrs. Winfred B. Franzel, (mother)  
374 Berchester Street,  
South Boston, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Harris K. Franzel, (wife)  
67 Dean Drive,  
Bovina Park,  
Granada, Mississippi.

✓  
2nd Lt. Theodore A. Anderson

Mrs. Frances R. Anderson, (wife)  
300 Ninth Street, N. E.,  
Washington 3, D. C.

✓  
2nd Lt. Walter W. McCown, Jr.

Mr. Walter W. McCown, Sr., (father)  
c/o J. N. Church,  
Newman, Illinois.

✓  
T/Sgt. William J. Brown

Mrs. May Brown, (mother)  
700 University Avenue,  
Rochester, New York.

✓  
T/Sgt. Wendell L. McBeth

Mr. Leslie McBeth, (father)  
1001 Ann Street,  
Winfield, Kansas.

✓  
T/Sgt. Stanley E. Lapinski,

Mrs. Frances Lapinski, (mother)  
2601 Turner Street,  
Lansing, Michigan.

✓  
S/Sgt. William J. Floyd, Jr.

Mrs. Maydean E. Floyd, (wife)  
1017 44th Avenue,  
Gulfport, Mississippi.

✓  
S/Sgt. Gerald V. Ford

Mrs. Lois Beck, (sister)  
674 South Finley Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

✓  
S/Sgt. Patrick H. Carr.

Mr. Eugene A. Carr, (father)  
Paulding, Mississippi.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name GEORGE O. FLANAGAN Rank 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. Serial No. O-PO8311
2. Organization 5<sup>TH</sup> AF Gp Commander AL SCHROEDER Rank COL. Sqn CO CLARENCE G. SOFF Rank MAJ.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUG day 9 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BUDAPEST, target, AIR FIELD, target time, 11:30, altitude, 21,000 route scheduled, USUAL DIRECT, route flown AS DIRECTED.
5. Where were you when you left formation? DIRECT HIT OVER TARGET.
6. Did you bail out? YES.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? 4 OTHERS.
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". CO-PILOT THROWN OUT THRU TOP CANOPY. TWO WAIST GUNNERS PRACTICALLY BLOWN OUT OF PLANE. TAIL GUNNER OUT THROUGH WHAT WAS LEFT OF REAR SECTION OF PLANE.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? N.W. OF TARGET - APPROX. 1 MILE.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NOSE GUNNER - BOMBARDIER - TOP GUNNER & NAVIGATOR (ON FLIGHT DECK) - GUN TURRET WENT DOWN SEPARATE.
11. Where were they in aircraft? REGULAR POSITION - EXCEPT NAVIGATOR.
12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE AFTER STRUCK BY FLAK.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? SAW NAVIGATOR ON FLIGHT DECK.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

**CASUALTY INTERROGATION FORM  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**

THE FAMILIES OF MANY OF YOUR COMRADES HAVE NOT BEEN AS FORTUNATE AS YOUSS. THEIR SONS AND HUSBANDS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION AND THEY ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO LEARN THEIR FATE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THE INFORMATION WHICH WILL HELP TO TERMINATE THE SUSPENSE AND ANXIETY THEY ARE SUFFERING.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH IN ACTION OR DURING CAPTIVESHIP OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED:

FULL NAME OF DECEASED (First name unknown) FLOYD Ball Turret Gunner B-24

HOME TOWN OR STATE Gulfport, Miss.

GRADE OR RANK S/Sgt

ORGANIZATION 464 Bomb Gp, 778 Sq, 15th AF

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH 9 August 1944, Budapest, Hungary

CAUSE OF DEATH Ship suffered a direct flak hit which blew the tail section off. It went into a violent spin, and five of us were thrown clear. We met later on the ground, but none of us saw or heard about Floyd again.

PLACE OF BURIAL Unknown

WERE YOU AN EYEWITNESS TO HIS DEATH No

NAMES OF PERSONS BELIEVED TO HAVE WITNESSED HIS DEATH Unknown

IF YOUR INFORMATION IS HEARSAY  
GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR  
INFORMANT

19 August 1945

SIGN HERE

*Harris K Frousel*

Name and Serial Number

2nd Lt. Harris K. Frousel, O-807829

374 Dorchester St., S. Boston, Mass.

Your home address

NOTE: THIS FORM IS FOR USE BY CASUALTY BRANCH, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON 25, D. C. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE FORM ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE FILL ONE OUT FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHOM YOU KNOW OR BELIEVE TO BE DEAD.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name FRAUSEL, HARRIS K. Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. O-807829
2. Organization 464th Gp Commander Rank Col. Sqn CO Poff, Clarence Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month August day 9 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, Hungary target, Air field & installation target  
time, 1110 (approx), altitude, 22,000 (approx) route scheduled, ?  
route flown ?
5. Where were you when you left formation? Left wing of group leader when hit direct
6. Did you bail out? Blown out when plane exploded parachuted safely
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes five (5)
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". Flanagan, G.O.-Climbed through one of cockpit windows. Carr, Patrick -Jumped through hole in waist where tail had broken off. BROWN,-Blown through waist when shell hit plane, parachuted unconscious to ground. FORD, - Jumped from hole in fuselage coming from tail.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Directly on 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)  
My opinion and belief--Anderson, T.A. McCown, W.W., Jr. McBeth, W.L.  
Lapinsky, S.E. Floyd, W.J., Jr.
11. Where were they in aircraft? No knowledge
12. What was their condition? No knowledge
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 FORD, GERALD V. Rank S/SGT Serial No. 6954592
2. Organization 228th Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 9 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BUDAPEST, target, AIRFIELD, target time, 12:01, altitude, 21,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? DID NOT LEAVE
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes FOUR OF THEM
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". PILOT CAME OUT THE PILOTS LEFT WINDOW - CO-PILOT CAME OUT THE WINDOW ABOVE HIM - THE TWO WING GUNNERS CAME OUT - THE WING AND I CAME OUT OF THE TAIL SECTION
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? DID NOT SEE
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 NAV, BOMB, ENG, POTS, AND ARMORER GUNNER FLOYD.
11. Where were they in aircraft? NAV (FLIGHT DECK) BOMB (B-COMP.) ENG (TOP TARGET) POTS (NOSE-TUR) GUNNER (TAIL-TUR)
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 No.: 7276

Name of crew member: ANDERSON, Theodore A.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-627801  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Navigator~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? DO NOT KNOW

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

10 MIN. BEFORE TARGET

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? ROLLING AROUND ON FLIGHT DECK

Any hearsay information: THE ABOVE WAS HEARSAY

Source: OUR CO-PILOT

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

GERMANS TOLD US THAT HE WAS DEAD  
& ONE OF US SEEN THE BLOODY  
MAE-WEST OF HIS.

Total number of missions of above crew member: AROUND 43

Dates and destinations if possible: —

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 7296

Name of crew member: **MC COHN, Walter W. Jr.**  
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**  
 Serial number: **G-733075**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Light (Fighter)~~ **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? NO

Where? —

If not, why not? DO NOT KNOW

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

HEARD SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT OUR TARGET

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

THE NAV.

Total number of missions of above crew member: GROUND 41

Dates and destinations if possible: ✓

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 7296

Name of crew member: MC BETH, Wendell L.  
 Rank: T/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 17127034  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter/Navigator~~ Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? —

If not, why not? HE WAS IN UPPER TURRET

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

NOT REMEM.

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

THE NAV. AND BOMB.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 41 ABOUT

Dates and destinations if possible: —

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 7296

Name of crew member: CARR, Patrick E.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 11097368  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter):~~ Acct. Engineer Officer

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? HE BAILED-OUT THE WAIST OVER TARGET

If not, why not? —

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

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? —

Any hearsay information: LAST HEARD FROM WAS WHEN  
HE LEFT THE BUDAPEST PRISON. I HAVE  
NEVER HEARD OF OR FROM HIM SINCE.

Source: SOME BOY WHO WAS WITH HIM FOR A WHILE

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 41 ABOUT

Dates and destinations if possible: —

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 7296

Name of crew member: LAPINSKI, Stanley E.  
 Rank: T/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 34408530  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Bomber)~~ RCG

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? — HE WAS IN NOSE TURRET

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: —

Source: —

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: GERMANS  
TOLD US HE WAS DEAD AND SHOWED US  
HIS MIA-WEIST.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 40 ABOUT

Dates and destinations if possible: —

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File No.: 7296

Name of crew member: **FLOYD, William J. Jr.**  
Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **34631700**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer/Navigator~~ **AG**

Did he bail out? NO

Where? —

If not, why not? NIS BALL TURRET WAS HIT BY A BURST OF FLAK

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: —

Source: —

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: AROUND 26

Dates and destinations if possible: —

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BROWN, William J. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 13208760
2. Organization 464<sup>th</sup> Gp, Commander <sup>See Reverse</sup> side, Rank COL. Sqn CO CLARENCE <sup>C. POFF</sup> Rank MAJ.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 9<sup>th</sup> did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Budapest, target, Air Field, target time, 10:35 - ?, altitude, 24,800 Ft. route scheduled, UNKNOWN, route flown AS BRIEFED
5. Where were you when you left formation? Hit directly while in formation <sup>flew off left wing of lead.</sup>
6. Did you bail out? Blown out.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes - (some.)
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". 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George O. FLANAGAN - Pilot. Bailed out side window of cockpit. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harris K. FRAUSEK - Thrown through glass top in cockpit. S/Sgt. Gerald V. Ford. Bailed out rear escape hatch. S/Sgt. Patrick E. Carr. - No knowledge.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge. (Not too far from target I believe.)
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) To the best of my knowledge - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Theodore A. Anderson. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter W. McCown Jr. - 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Wendell L. McBeth. - 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Stanley E. Lapinski - 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. William J. Floyd Jr.
11. Where were they in aircraft? (Sgt. Lapinski) Nose (Sgt. McBeth) Lt. Anderson) Sgt. Floyd (Lt. McCown) Top Turret (Lt. Anderson) Sgt. Floyd) Ball Turret.
12. What was their condition? Believed to be killed
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Sgt. Patrick Carr - About 10 minutes after reaching the ground. Had flak wounds in neck, but not serious. Believe he was taken right to P.W. Camp. - Lt. S. FLANAGAN & FRAUSEK in P.W. Camp April - 1945 - Good Condition. Did not see Sgt. Gerald V. Ford since just before plane was hit. At that time he was in tail turret & alright.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. was in P.W. Camp with original pilot - Lt. Raymond H. Burkhard - Good Condition. Also a few others from group, but have forgotten full names.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)