

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

7957

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 officially reported missing.

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

SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAB, Pantanella, Italy Course NE
Target Pardubice Type Of Missing Bombing
O/R, Czechoslovakia.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather - 1/10 Sirrus. Visibility - 25 Miles.

GIVE: (a) Date 24 August 1944 Time 1240 Location 49° 8' N - 15° 18' 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)
(x) Enemy Aircraft () Enemy-Anti-Aircraft () Other circumstances as follows:

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24 H AAF Serial No 42-52520

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) CP-309897
(b) CP-308430 (c) 306632 (d) CP-308078

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)			
(a) Browning MG-M2-Cal .50	220281	(b) Browning MG-M2-Cal .50	220653
(c) " " " "	257527	(d) " " " "	219993
(e) " " " "	951632	(f) " " " "	308039
(g) " " " "	951124	(h) " " " "	221105
(i) " " " "	220467	(j) " " " "	220234

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)

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	SHIP AND ADDRESS	NEAT OF KIN, RELATION--
<u>Pilot - Vague, Thomas N.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>0700580</u>	<u>Mrs. Bertha C. Vague (Mother),</u>	<u>RTD</u>
<u>Co-Pilot - Meyer, James E.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>0810917</u>	<u>Mr. Carl Meyer, (Father),</u>	<u>RTD (M)</u>
<u>Navigator - Shertzer, Leavitt A. Jr.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>0722800</u>	<u>Mr. Leavitt A. Shertzer (Father)</u>	<u>RTD</u>
<u>Bombardier - Riley, Merle E.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>0716879</u>	<u>Mr. Glenn W. Riley (Father),</u>	<u>KIA</u>
<u>Waist Gun - Stiles, James H. Jr.</u>	<u>T/Sgt.</u>	<u>3449708</u>	<u>Mrs. Anna Stiles (Mother)</u>	<u>RTD</u>
<u>Rad-Oper-Gun - Renz, John R.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>3259318</u>	<u>Mrs. Helen Renz, (Mother),</u>	<u>KIA</u>
<u>Nose Gunner - Earley, Raymond M.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>32286745</u>	<u>Mrs. Elizabeth Dore (Mother)</u>	<u>RTD</u>
<u>Ball Gunner - Grzesik, Stanley</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>36593686</u>	<u>Mrs. Victoria Grzesik, (Mother)</u>	<u>KIA</u>

File
Reverse Side

453
OK

[REDACTED]

9. Tail Gun. - Gaspari, Edward F. S/Sgt. 39122206 Mrs. Mary Gaspari (Mother) ⁽¹⁾
2246 Filbe t Street, San Francisco, California.

10. Top-Tur. Gun. - Miller, Marvin J. S/Sgt. 39914649 Mrs. Abba F. Miller (Mother) ⁽¹⁾
Route #1, Tremonton, Utah.

11. _____

12. _____

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 by radio sighted crash forced landing
contacted _____ seen _____

1. NONE

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

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.

14. ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO LOSS OF AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF SEARCHER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search could be made due to group formation being directly over target.

date of this report: 25 August 1944.

signature of officer *William H. Redbell*
WILLIAM H. REDBELL,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

2 incls;

Incl 1 - Sketch of approx position ship was last sighted.

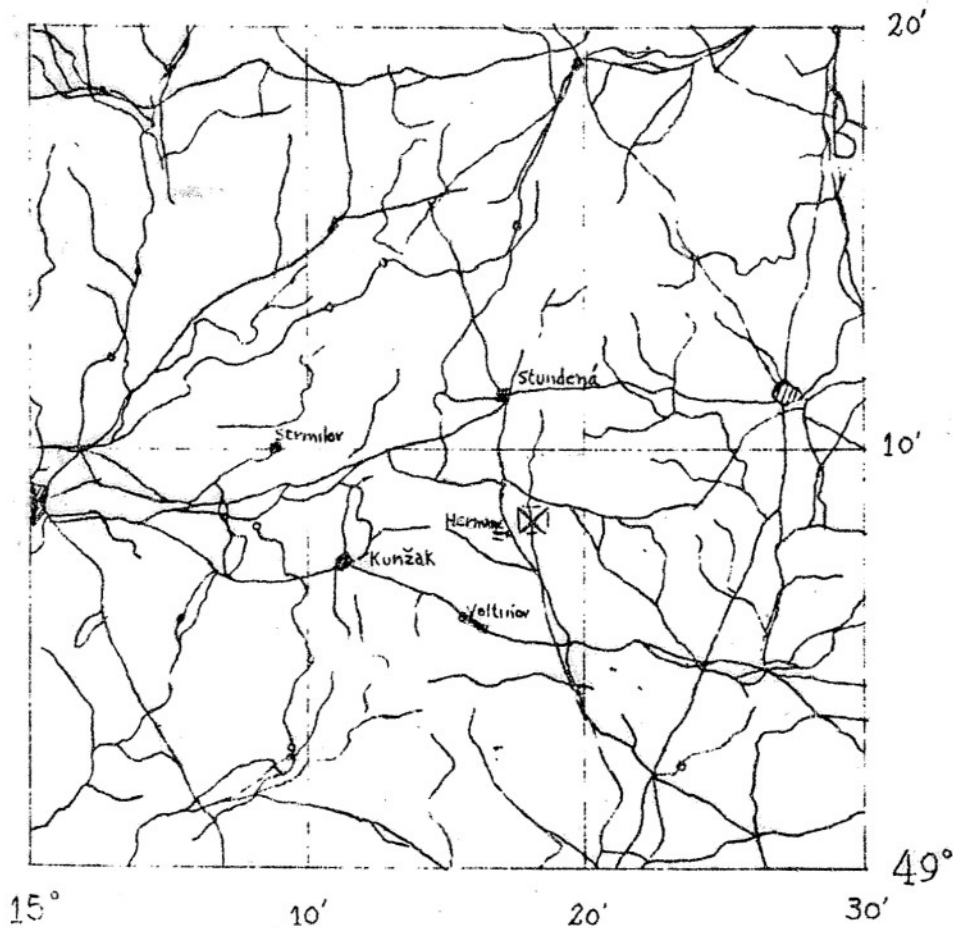
Incl 2 - Ltr, 776th Bomb Sq, Subje "Supporting Interrogation Information"

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED



SEP 23 1944



X INDICATES AREA IN WHICH LT. JAMES, ^{CAPT.} LEVERETT'S
 AND VAGUE'S RESPECTIVE CREWS LAST SIGHTED.

BEARING - 49° 8' N. 15° 18' E.

— U N E L L N T L L —

2nd Lt. Thomas H. Vague

Mrs. Bertha C. Vague, (mother)
121 Maplelawn Drive,
Dayton, Ohio.

2nd Lt. James H. Meyer

Mr. Carl Meyer, (father)
6042 Ogden Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

2nd Lt. Leavitt A. Bartzner, Jr.

Mrs. Marie S. Bartzner, (mother)
19 Barton Avenue,
Massillon, Ohio.

2nd Lt. Merle E. Riley

Mr. Glen E. Riley, (father)
Iowa Falls, Iowa.

T/Sgt. James H. Stiles, Jr.

Mrs. Anna Stiles, (mother)
1105 Grove Avenue,
Nashville, Tennessee.

T/Sgt. John E. Bann

Mrs. Helen Bann, (mother)
75 Glover Avenue,
Yonkers, New York.

S/Sgt. Raymond H. Barley

Mrs. Grace B. Barley, (wife)
5 1/2 Mygatt Street,
Binghamton, New York.

S/Sgt. Stanley Grzesik

Mrs. Victoria Grzesik, (mother)
3070 Clifton Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

S/Sgt. Edward F. Gaspari

Mrs. Mary Gaspari, (mother)
2246 Filbert Street,
San Francisco, California.

S/Sgt. Marvin J. Miller

Mrs. Abba F. Miller, (mother)
Rural Free Delivery Number One,
Trenton, Mich.

776th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 520 U.S. Army

WHR/sjh

SUBJECT: Supporting Interrogation Information.

TO : War Department, Headquarters Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.

1. In view of the fact that accurate eye witness reports cannot be obtained from individual witnesses due to distraction by overwhelming enemy fighters that attacked the box formation in which Lt. Vague's Ship was flying, the following Intelligence Consolidated Interrogation Report is herewith submitted as supporting information that may assist in determining the actual fate of Lt. Vague's Crew:

"Ship No. 520 was hit by enemy aircraft. A large hole was reported near the Camera hatch. Ship No. 520 dropped out of the formation. No chutes were seen."

William H. Reddell
WILLIAM H. REDDELL,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

MACR 7/67

B-24

10 man crew

RAF # 42-52520

DATE: 8/24/44 - 13.45 hrs.	Rank	Name	U.S.A.	No: NE 2001
PLACE: Fiehlern, 6 km Southeast of Flagenfurt.	2nd/Lt.	Vague, Thomas, Nelson		0-700580 . g
TYPE: Liberator.	2nd/Lt.	Meyer, James, Edward		0-810917 .
776 (H.B.) Sqd.	2nd/Lt.	Shertzer, Leavitt A. Jr.		0-722800 .
464 Group - 55 Wing.	2nd/Lt.	Riley, Moris E. (missing)		0-716879 (dead)
BASE: Pantanella.	T/Sgt.	Stiles, James, Harold		34529708 .
TARGET: Airbase HQs A (a) 11/ XVII.	T/Sgt.	Ross, John R. (missing)		32539918 (dead)
REMARKS: Buried: 26.8.44 Cemetery St. Jacob, near Heertendorf.	S/Egt.	Grserik, Stanley (missing)		36593686 (dead)
5th row, grave No 10-12.	S/Egt.	Miller, Marvin, Jewell		39914649 .
	S/Egt.	Early, Raymond, Marvin		32286745 .
	S/Egt.	Gaspari, Edward, Frank		35122206 .

not on list

**Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

Abschluß-Nr. MM 2001

Abschlußtag und Zeit: 24.8.44 - 13.45
 Abschlußort: Eichlorn
 Flugzeugtyp: Liberator
 Meldende Dienststelle: Fl. H. Gdt. A (D) 11/VVII

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburts-tag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	gef.: verw.: tot:	Verbleib: welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
NARLEY 6.5.13	Raymond Merwin New York xxxx State	S/Sgt. 3286745	gef.	Dulag-Luft
STILES 19.4.23	James Harold Scottsville, Ky.	T/Sgt. 34529708	gef.	Dulag-Luft
GASPARI 6.5.23	Edward Frank San Francisco, Calif.	S/Sgt. 3912206	gef.	Dulag-Luft
SHERBER JR. 1.2.21	Leavitt Alonzo Massillon, Ohio	2.Lt. 0-722800	gef.	Dulag-Luft
MILLER 20.2.25	Marvin Jewell Tremonton, Utah.	S/Sgt. 39914649	gef.	Dulag-Luft
MEYER 26.3.21	James Edward Chicago, Ill.	2.Lt. 0-810917	gef.	Dulag-Luft
VAGUR ---	Thomas Nelson Grandfield, Okla.	2.Lt. 0-700580	gef.	Dulag-Luft

Bemerkungen: *YPLACR - 79.67*

DULAG-LUFT, den 9.9.44 No.

Fragebogen

über Angehörige der US amerikanischen Luftwaffe

1. Name:

Vorname:

Dienstgrad:

Geboren am:

Geboren in:

Erkennungsmarke Nr.:

2. Tag, Zeit und Ort der Gefangennahme (Todes-Hergang), kurz gefaßt:

3. Weitere Besatzungsmitglieder:

4. Meldende Dienststelle bzw. Meldung von:

5. Tag der Einlieferung in DULAG-LUFT:

6. a) **Verwundet:**

Art der Verwundung:

seit: im Lazarett (Krankenhaus):

Befinden:

Voraussichtliche Krankheitsdauer:

b) **Unverwundet-Verbleib:**

c) **Tot:**

Todesursache:

Beigesetzt am:

Grablage:

7. Bemerkungen:

....., den

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

24 August 1944 - 1845

MR 3001

CASUALTY NO.

PLACE OF CRASH

Flaklers

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

B-24D-10

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Base Bys A (C) 11/XVII

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
BARKLEY 8 May 18	Edward Morris New York State S/SGT	32364945	captured	Belag-Luft
STILES 17 Apr 23	James Harold Scottsville, Ky. T/SGT	34820708	captured	Belag-Luft
GARDNER 6 May 23	Edward Frank San Francisco, Calif. S/SGT	39128896	captured	Belag-Luft
SMITH, Jr. 1 Feb 21	Leavitt Alonzo Madison, Ohio 2nd Lt	O-723300	captured	Belag-Luft
HILLER 23 Feb 25	Marvin Jewell Tremonton, Utah S/SGT	29914440	captured	Belag-Luft
KELLY 26 March 21	Frank Edward Chicago, Ill. 2nd Lt	O-610917	captured	Belag-Luft
YAMAS --	Thomas Nelson Grandfield, Ohio. 2nd Lt	O-700590	captured	Belag-Luft
Casualty No. MR 3001 first supplementary report, dated 11 October 1944				

HEBE	John H	T/SGT	32364945	dead	26 August 1944 Cemetery "St. Jakob", Box 5, grave # 10 - 18
KILBY	Wesley H	2nd Lt	O-710679	dead	ditto
SHAWK	Stanley		30516386	dead	ditto

not in file

REMARKS:

Belag-Luft 9 September 1944 'o.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 1944 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern, alt. 508, 6 KM SE of Klagenfurt.

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-engine Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A(0)11/XVII Airfield Comd
Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND VACUE
FIRST NAME: Thomas

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 2/Lt

SERIAL NUMBER: 0 - 700580 T 43-44

CAPTURED: Transported

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

25 Aug 44 to Dulag-air Oberursel; captured Klagenfurt Airfield 1350 Hours.

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlorn, alt. 508, 6 KM SE of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd A(0)11/XVII Airfield Comd
Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND MEYER
FIRST NAME: James E

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 2/Lt

SERIAL NUMBER: 810917 T 42-43

CAPTURED: Klagenfurt Airfield
1350 Hours

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

Dulag Air-Oberursel
Transported 25 Aug 44

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 1944 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern alt. 508, 6 km SE of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd A(0)11/XVII Airfield Comd
Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: SHMITZER
(L A Jr)

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 2/Lt

SERIAL NUMBER: 0 722800

CAPTURED: Klagenfurt Airport 1350 Hours

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

Transported 25 Aug 44 to
Bulag Air-Oberursel

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: Village Pichlern, alt. 508 m., 6 km SE of Klagenfurt.

PLACE OF CRASH: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND RILEY
FIRST NAME: Merle E

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: O-716879

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: X

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

St. Jacob on street of Township Hoertendorf Dist. of Klagenfurt

REMARKS: Buried 26 Aug 44, 5th Row, Grave No: 10-12.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern, alt. 508 m., 6 km SE of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREWSURNAME, AND STILES
FIRST NAME: James H

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: 34529708

CAPTURED: Klagenfurt Airport WOUNDED:
1345 Hours

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFTWAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44, 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern, alt. 508 m., 6 km SE of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND RENEZ
FIRST NAME: John R

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: 32539318

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: x

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

St. Jacob on street of Township Hoertendorf Dist. of Klagenfurt

REMARKS:

Buried 26 Aug 1944
Grave No: 5th row, No. 10-12

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFTWAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern, alt. 508 m., 16 km SE of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd A(0)11/XVII Airport Comd
Klagenfurt 1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND BURLEY
FIRST NAME: Raymond

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Flight Engineer

SERIAL NUMBER: 32286745

CAPTURED & transported WOUNDED: DEAD:

25 Aug 44 to Dwaig air-Oberursel

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS: Captured at Klagenfurt Airport, 1350 Hours.

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFTWAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Fichlern alt. 508 m., 6 KM SW of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND GRZESIK
FIRST NAME: Stanley

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

SERIAL NUMBER: 36593686

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

St Jacob on street of Township of Hoertendorf Dist. of Klagenfurt

REMARKS:

Buried 26 Aug 44, 5th row; grave no: 10-12

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Fichlern, alt. 508 m., 6 km SE (of Klagenfurt)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREWSURNAME, AND GASPARI
FIRST NAME: Frank

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: 39122206

CAPTURED: Klagenfurt Airport WOUNDED:
1345 Hours

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 24 Aug 44 1345 Hours

PLACE OF CRASH: Village Pichlern, alt. 508 m., 6 km S^W of Klagenfurt

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4-motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Airbase Comd Klagenfurt
1345 Hours

CREW

SURNAME, AND MILLER
FIRST NAME: Marvin J

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt

SERIAL NUMBER: 39914649

CAPTURED: Klagenfurt Airport WOUNDED: DEAD:
1350 Hours

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Admin. Off. (O) 4/XVII.

(Stamp reading:
Dulag-Air, Wetzlar
Entered 17 Sep 44
Centr. File & Msg Ctr)

KSU-2001
Klagenfurt, 24 Aug 1944.

(Stamp reading:
Evaluation Station West
Entered 2 Sep 1944)

Information on (Prize) Capture of Enemy Aircraft

- 1) Time shot down: 24 Aug 1944, 1315 Hours.
- 2) Place of crash: Township Hoertendorf, on both sides of street, Blasendorf-Gottesbichl, about 1 KM from junction Fischeldorferstreet, 4 KM northeast of Klagenfurt.
- 3) Manner of capture: Shot down by AA fire after being separated from formation and damaged by fire from pursuit craft.
- 4) Crew: No: 10: Dead: 3, Captured: 7, Escaped: /
Were dead recovered, where & by whom buried: Cemetery of St. Jacob, Township Hoertendorf.
- 5) Aircraft Construction Model:
From landing gear remains, presumably "Liberator"
(6 & 7: Identification)
Markings: on fuselage an "O" in red paint and white border. On rudder assembly in yellow script: "62520"
between two yellow bands.
- 8) Condition of wreck:
Aircraft, by crash and subsequent burning for some hours, completely destroyed (95%). 2 trucks (for?) scrap loading.
- 9) Photo. Equipment: None found.
- 10) Engine Model and Factory No.:
Motors are lying several meters below surface of the earth. Gas. and oil floating on surface of water, still burning.
- 11) Radio Equipment: several remnants found. Model plates were taken off by Techn. Insp. (N) and sent to Radio Section III.
- 12) Propeller Model: Only 1 blade found. This has no inscription. Blade tip is as broad as a hand; painted red.
- 13) Armament: Remains of craft weapons and ammunition secured by Weapons Repair Unit.
- 14) Other Equipment:
Part of normal emergency sea equipment secured, in burned condition.

(continued)

Declaration on Status of Enemy Aircraft (continued)

- 15) How much aviation gas still at hand: 1 RSU-2001
- 16) Indication & whereabouts of salvaged loose parts:
Remains of craft weapons, 2 armored plates with weapons repair unit. Remains of radio equipment with Signal Equipment Unit.
- 17) Description of terrain:
Parts of wreck lie on both sides of the street Klaseendorf/Gottesbichl & can be approached by trucks. Landing possibility for Storch (obs. plans) at Rollfeld Airbase Klagenfurt.
- 18) How wreck is guarded:
Until arrival of Commission for Taking Over, by Natl Labor Service, 1/361, jointly with personnel of Airbase Command.
- 19) In charge of salvage:
Salvage Unit of Admin. Off. (O) 4/XVII.
- 20) Salvage by township: /
- 21) Loading station:
Annabichl near Klagenfurt.
- 22) Probable start of salvage: 28 Aug 1944.
- 23) Probable end of salvage: 30 Aug 1944.

(signed - illegible)
1st Lt., Admin. Off. &
Comdr of Reg. Sta.

Distr:

1 x Evaluation Station West-Oberursel

Crew Members for Downing List

<u>Downing No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Service No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Proof</u>
KSU 2001	STILES, James H Jr	34529708	-	E.M.
" "	GRZESIK, Stanley	36593686	-	E.M.
" "	RILEY, Merle E	0-716879	-	E.M.
" "	RENE, John R	32539318	-	E.M.

(/ indicates death)

Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII
Airfield Command Klagenfurt

Klagenfurt, 25 Aug 1944

Ref: D (Air) 2706/07

Concerning: Form sheet 1, Capture of enemy air force personnel.

To
 Evaluation Station West
 (berursel)

(Stamp reading:
 Dulag-Air, Wetzlar
 Entered 28 Aug 44
 Centr. File & Msg Ctr)

Ref. to above, 7 American PW's were delivered under direction of
 Lieutenant Schick.

Form Sheet 1 in single copy, Transportation List in three copies and
 list of articles taken away are (herewith) submitted.
 in 3 copies

Liebenauer
 (signed) - ~~Illegible~~
 Capt. and Post Comdr

Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII
Airfield Command Klagenfurt

(Stamp reading:
 Dulag-Air, Wetzlar Klagenfurt, 25 Aug 44
 Entered 28(?) Aug 44
 Centr. File & Msg Ctr)

Transportation List

	<u>Ident. No.</u>	
2/Lt STILES, James H	34529708	
Sgt MILLER, Marvin J	39914649	T 43-44 A
2/Lt MEYER, James E	0 810917	T 42-43
2/Lt SMERTZER (L.A. Jr)	0 722800	T 43-44
2/Lt VAGNA, Thomas	0 700580	T 43-44
Fl. Eng. EARLEY, Raymond	32286745	T 43-44
GASPARI, Frank (Tag reads: GASPARI, "Edward F")	39122206	.

Handed in:
 (signed) - ~~Illegible~~ Liebenauer
 Capt. & Post Comdr

Received:

Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII
Airfield Command Klagenfurt

Klagenfurt, 29 Aug 1944.

KSU 2001

Ref: D (Air) 2706/07

Concerning: Suppl. Report to Correspondence Airfield Comd Klagenfurt of 25 Aug 44.

Enclosures: 6

To
Evaluation Station "West"
Oberursel/Taunus.

Enclosed are submitted 3 Form Sheets incl. 3 ident. tags of recovered dead crew members of 4-motored Liberator shot down on 24 Aug 1944, according to above reference.

The 2d ident. tag was sealed in a bottle and placed in the grave.

(signed) Liebsauer
Capt. and Post Comdr

Airfield Command Klagenfurt

Klagenfurt, 29 Aug 1944.

To
Evaluation Station West
Oberursel

KSU 2001

Enclosed Ident. Tag No. 34529708 T 43-44 for James G STILES Jr and the Stop Watch* were erroneously taken away during transportation of the American PW on 25 Aug 1944 from Klagenfurt to Oberursel.

* Compass

(Stamp reading:
Evaluation Station West
Entered 1 Sep 1944)

(Stamp reading:
Dulag-Air, Metzlar
Entered 17 Sep 44
Centr. File & Msg Ctr)

Markersdorf, 29 Aug 44.
Air Base.

1350-2001

Information on (Prize) Capture of Enemy Aircraft
or Taking Over of Own Damaged Plane

1. Time shot down: 24 Aug 44, 1300 Hours
2. Place of crash: Township Heinrichs near Gr(oss) Gerungs
3. Manner of capture:
4. Crew, No.: 8 Dead: 1 Captured: 7 Escaped: ...
Were dead recovered, buried where and by whom: Cemetery Gr. Gerungs
5. Aircraft model: Liberator
6. Ident. Markings: H 7. Factory No.: -
8. Condition of wreck: 88% individual parts in good condition
9. Photo. Equipment: Camera Aircraft
K 22 AP 42
10. Engine Model: " Aviation Engine Plant, Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Co.
Manufactured under license of United Aircraft Corporation"
11. Radio equipment:
12. Propeller Model: Hamilton
13. Armament: 6 machine guns. 14. Other equipments: -
15. How much aviation gas. still at hand: none
16. Indication & whereabouts of salvaged loose parts -
17. Description of terrain: part meadow, field & woods.
18. How wreck is guarded: Garrison Post Doellersheim
19. In charge of salvage: Admin. Off. (Werft) Marketersdorf
20. Salvage by township... Name of mayor... Phone...
21. Loading Station Groes Gerungs
22. Probable start of salvage... 23. Probable end of salvage...
23. Apparent difficulties and hindrances:

Distr:

1 x Evaluation Station West-Oberursel

(Signed - illegible)
Sign. of Comdr of Rcvg Sta.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name EARLEY, RAYMOND M. Rank 1/Sgt Serial No. 32286745
2. Organization 464th Sq Commander 15th MAE Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Aug day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 20th, target, PARDUBICE CZECH, target time, 12:40, altitude, 24000, route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? JUST OFF TARGET
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES - SEVEN
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? KLAGENFURT AUSTRIA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) 2ND LT. MERLE E. RILEY
1SGT JOHN R. RENZ 1SGT STANLEY GRZESIK
11. Where were they in aircraft? WALST
12. What was their condition? GRZESIK SEVERELY WOUNDED, RENZ SHOT IN LEG
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? OTHER MEMBERS BAILED OUT AND TAKEN PRISONER
SUBSEQUENTLY LIBERATED
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)

(over)

Hit and severely damaged by enemy fighters coming off target. Two men wounded, and controls shot away, several bad gas leaks, turrets out of commission. Trying to reach Yugoslavia in order to bail out in Partisan Territory. Over Klagenfurt Austria at 11,000 feet we were hit and set afire by "flak". Lt. Riley was on flight deck talking to pilot. Inter phone was not working. When ordered to bail out immediately he returned to waist and ordered tail gunner to jump. Lt. Riley at this time had no "chute" on as he had placed his chest pack on ball gunner. It is my opinion that he had insufficient time in which to put on another "chute". He gave his life for his friends. Of the seven men who jumped to safety the pilot was the last to leave.

Raymond M. Carley

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

REHZ John R.

File No. 7967

Rank:

T/Sgt.

Serial number:

32539218

Position: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Rad. Oper. Gun.Did he bail out? NOWhere? CRASHED AT KLAGENFURT AUSTRIAIf not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? YES - SHOT IN LEGWhere was he when last seen? IN WAIST OF SHIP

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

WENT DOWN WITH PLANE KLAGENFURT AUSTRIATotal number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: GRZESIK Stanley File No. 7967
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 36593686
 Position: ~~CREW CHIEF~~ Ball Gunner

Did he bail out? NO

Where? CRASHED AT KLAGENFURT AUSTRIA

If not, why not? UNCONCIOUS OR DEAD

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HIT BY
THREE WAVES OF M.E. 109'S HE SAID "HERE THEY COME"

Was he injured? SHOT IN HEAD AND LEG - UNCONCIOUS

Where was he when last seen? LYING IN WAIST OF PLANE

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

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

WENT DOWN WITH PLANE KLAGENFURT AUSTRIA
EITHER DEAD OR UNCONCIOUS WHEN ORDERED TO BAIL OUT

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name LEAVITT A. SHERTZER JR. Rank 1st LT. Serial No. 0-722800
2. Organization 464th Gp Commander SCHROEDER Rank COL Sqn CO RADELL Rank LT COL.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 24th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 15TH target, PARDUBICE CZECH. target
time, 1228 hrs. , altitude, 122, 500 ft. route scheduled, Yugoslavia
AUSTRIA, Czech. , route flown Same
5. Where were you when you left formation? 10 min. southwest of target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, seven members not listed on individual casualty questionnaires.
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". THOMAS N. VAGUE, JAMES E. MEYER, LEAVITT A. SHERTZER JR., JAMES H. STILES, JR. RAYMOND M. EARLEY, EDWARD. F. GASPARI, AND MARVIN J. MILLER bailed out when the order was given by the first pilot at 1342 hrs over the outskirts of Klagenfurth, Austria.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Approximately one mile south of the Klagenfurth airport.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) MERLE E. RILEY JOHN R. RENZ STANLEY GRZESIK
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the waist section of the aircraft.
To the best of my knowledge Renz and Grzesik were badly
12. What was their condition? wounded and Riley was in a normal state.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Seven members who bailed out, aside from minor injuries, were all taken to prisoner of War Camps. They were later returned to Army Control during April 1945 and returned to the United States.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No positive information known.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RILEY Merle E. File No. 7967
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O 716879
 Position: ~~XXXXXX Bomber XXXXX~~ ~~Flight XXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No, to the best of my knowledge.

Where? _____

If not, why not? Reason unknown

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Talked to RILEY
15 min. prior to abandoning aircraft.

Was he injured? When I talked to him he was uninjured.

Where was he when last seen? On flight deck of aircraft.

Any hearsay information: After capture Germans guards told us he was dead.

Source: German Luftwaffe Soldiers. (Unofficial)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: We were not permitted
to view the wreckage of our airplane but from all we could learn he had been killed
in the crash.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 15 missions.

Dates and destinations if possible: Flew from 25 JUL 44, to 24 AUG 44.

Some of the targets were: Vienna Austria, Geona Italy, Southern France, Polesti Rumania,
Budapest, Hungary, Blachammer Czech. and Markersdorf Austria.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: GRZESIK Stanley File No. 7967
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 36593686
 Position: ~~Crew Chief~~ Ball Gunner

Did he bail out? No, to the best of my knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? Reason unknown

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Did not see
GRZESIK during entire mission.

Was he injured? He was wounded by 20mm. gunfire.

Where was he when last seen? Did not actually see GRZESIK since leaving base.

Any hearsay information: After capture Germans guards told us he was dead.

Source: German Luftwaffe Soldiers. (Unofficial)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: We were not permitted
to view the wreckage of our airplane but from all we could learn he had been killed
in the crash.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 14.

Dates and destinations if possible: Flew roughly from the 27 JUL 44, to 24 AUG 44.

Some of the targets were: Vienna Austria, Geona Italy, Southern France, Polesti Rumania
Budapest, Hungary, Blachammer Czech. and Markersdorf Austria.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Edward Frank Gaspari Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 39122206
2. Organization 464th Gp Commander Schroeder Rank Col. Sqn COMO known Rank
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month August day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Oil Fields, target
time, 11:15 A.M., altitude, 24000 route scheduled, No knowledge
No Knowledge, route flown No Knowledge
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Czechoslovakia
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Seven members bailed out (including self)
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 of any members
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Klagenfort, Austria (Airfield)
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/Sgt Stanley Grzesik, T/Sgt. John R. Renz, and 2nd Lt. Merle E. Riley
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the waist
12. What was their condition? Grzesik and Renz wounded, Riley uninjured
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Two hours after bailing out, seven members were reunited in the German airfield (Klagenfort). Lt. Vague, sprained ankle; S/Sgt. Miller, sprained ankle; other five uninjured.
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RENZ John R. File No. 7967
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 32539318
 Position: ~~Crew (Bomber) or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Rad. Oper. Gun.

Did he bail out? No

Where? XXX

If not, why not? Hit in leg (right) and right arm and insufficient time to bail out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: "Ed, please help me put my G.I. shoes on."

Was he injured? Yes - In right leg and right arm

Where was he when last seen? Sitting upright by the waist window

Any hearsay information: None

Source: XXX

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Evidently he did not have time to bail out and was killed when plane hit the ground.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RILEY Merle E. File No. 7967
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O 716879
 Position: ~~Crew (Bombardier) or Flight (Fighter)~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? No

Where? XXXX

If not, why not? Trying to get the ^{injured} man out of the waist.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: "Get out, Ed" (Due to Lt. Riley's warning my life was saved.)

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Back of the ball turrett in waist.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: XXX

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He gave injured man parachute and, therefore, had none himself and was unable to bail out. Evidently he did not have time to bail out and was killed when plane hit the ground.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 23

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name MARVIN J. MILLER Rank S/sgt Serial No. 39 914 46 49
RIDDELL
2. Organization 464 BG Gp Commander Rank Col. Sqn CO JAMES E. RIDDELL Maj.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUGUST day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing oil instal. target, PARDUBICE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, target
time, 1200, altitude, 20,000 ft. route scheduled, no knowlege
route flown No knowlege
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near the Vienna Area
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes all but three
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". EARLY THE NOSE G. WENT FIRST OUT THE F.B.B. I followed then STILES, SHERTZER, MEYER, VAGUE, out the F.B.B. GASPARI Went out the R.B.B. as plane went into dive. We all landed near an airfield at Klagenfurt Austria
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Klagenfurt Austria
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 knowlege RILEY, RENZ AND GRZESIK were in aircraft when it struck the ground
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the Waist
12. What was their condition? GRZESIK Might have been dead. RENZ was wounded in leg. RILEY was uninjured.
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. No knowlege

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RILEY Merle E. File No. 7967
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0 716879
 Position: ~~Crew (Gunner) or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Not to my knowlege

Where? _____

If not, why not? Force of plane being in dive and his trying to bail the Ball Gunner out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He said to bail out that he would get men in the waist out

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Going into the waist door

Any hearsay information: He told the Tail Gunner to get out and then he started in the waist door,

Source: Tail Gunner Caspari

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Force of plane being in dive prevented him from leaving aircraft.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 16 or 18

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowlege

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RENZ John R. File No. 7967
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 32539318
 Position: ~~Crew~~ ~~Bombardier~~ ~~Observer~~ ~~Navigator~~ ~~Radio Operator~~ ~~Engineer~~ ~~Armorer~~ ~~Flight Engineer~~ ~~Flight Instructor~~ ~~Flight Attendant~~ ~~Flight Attendant~~ Rad. Oper. Gunn.

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was wounded in leg but was prepared to bail out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He said he had been hit in the leg but no bones seemed to be broken

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Sitting in waist with parachute on

Any hearsay information: The above information came from Gaspari the Tail Gunner

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Force of the plane being in dive prevented him from leaving aircraft

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: Same as my own exact information unknown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: GRZESIK Stanley File No. 7967
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 36593686
 Position: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ball Gunner

Did he bail out? Not to my knowlege

Where? _____

If not, why not? I believe he was killed by enemy fighter attack

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He called out enemy fighters coming in .

Was he injured? He was injured seriously.

Where was he when last seen? In waist lying down with bandage on his head and parachute fastened on.

Any hearsay information: The above information came from Gaspari the tail gunner

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I was 2d man out and I counted only 7 parachutes Aircraft went into dive shortly after I pulled ripcord

Total number of missions of above crew member: 24 or 25

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowlege