

9672

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to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. A. BRADUNA, AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date OCT 15 1948

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RESTRICTED

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

3672

By Lt. Col. BRUNAS
Lt. Col. WENGER, Capt. AC

- ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello, Italy Component or Air Force 47th Bomb Group
Group 4th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Gp (H)
- SPECIFY Place of departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course 31 degrees
Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission BOMBING
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED
8/10 to 10/10 stratuscumulus tops 10,000 feet.
- GIVE: (a) Date 6 NOV 41 Time 1110 Last known position 47° 50'N-16° 30'E
(b) Specify whether: () First sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
() Last contacted by radio, () No information.
- AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
() Enemy aircraft, () Enemy anti-aircraft, (X) Other Dropped out of formation with #2 engine
smoking, due to mechanical failure.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51643
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None
- ENGINE: Type, model & series R-1820-c5 A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-325217
(b) 41-13552 (c) CP-325217 (d) CP-325214
- INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
(a) BN 1034150 (c) LW 1033733 (i) BT 1530907
(b) LN 103307 (f) 3 1033925 (j) LT 1033190
(c) HM 1033752 (g) Lb 1033304 (k)
(d) LM 1033831 (h) AT 1033928 (l)
- PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty. () Non-Battle Casualty.
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
(If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT OF KIN AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
(1) Pilot	<u>RAY, Robert S. Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-709642</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Hellie B. Ray (actress)</u>	<u>P.O. Box 47, Crow, Texas</u>
(2) CP	<u>CHLOFF, George H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-829767</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Joe Franklin Chloff (Father)</u>	<u>Route #1, Franklin, N.C.</u>
(3) N	<u>LOYD, Urin</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2061007</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>March S. Lloyd (Mother)</u>	<u>302 Street Louis Ave., Mt. Hot Springs, Ark.</u>
(4) B	<u>COOK, William</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2056692</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Susan P. Cook (Mother)</u>	<u>1 Carter Ave., Southington, Conn.</u>
(5) BOMB	<u>PHILLIPS, Rex E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>38700828</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Blanche C. Phillips (Mother)</u>	<u>W. Comanche, Norman, Oklahoma</u>
(6) BOMB	<u>GERREN, Robert A.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>1605724</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Beatrice Gerren (Mother)</u>	<u>3131 Maple Ave., Flint, Mich.</u>
(7) BOMB	<u>WHITNEY, Albert V. Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>0-3060283</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Eva Whitney (Mother)</u>	<u>5205 Walther Ave., Baltimore, Md.</u>
(8) BOMB	<u>POWELL, Jack B.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>15108777</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Alberta Powell (Mother)</u>	<u>720 Reedleton Ave., Anderson, Ind.</u>
(9) BOMB	<u>COOK, Francis V.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>1131149</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Velia Cook (Mother)</u>	<u>RTA, Box 233, Dothan, Ala.</u>
(10) BOMB	<u>LUCEC, Joseph S.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>16137822</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Pauline A. Lucec (Mother)</u>	<u>4016 Fairwood Ave., Chicago, Ind.</u>
(11)						
(12)						

- IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (see 6-b) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME: SAW
CONTACTED LAST SAW FORCED NAME IN FULL RANK SERIAL No BY RADIO SIGHTED CRASH LANDING
(1) Herbert V. ...
(2)
(3)
- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
() Parachutes were used. () Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
() Other reasons (specify) None
- ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE

Incl. sheet: _____ Date: _____
Signature of reporting officer: _____
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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.

1. **ORGANIZATION:** Location Pantanello, Italy Command or AF 15 Air Force
 Group 464th Bomb Gr (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)
 Italy
2. **SPECIFY:** Point of Departure Pantanello Air Base, Course 81 degrees
 Target Vienna, Type of Mission Bombing
3. **WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:**
8/10 to 10/10 strato cumulus tops 10,000 feet.
4. **GIVE:** (a) Date 6 Nov. 1944 Time 1110 Location (47° 56' N - 15° 26' E)
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify what: () Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
 () Forced Down () Seen to Crash; or
 () Information not available.
5. **AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF.** (Check only one)
 () Enemy Aircraft () Enemy Anti-Aircraft (x) Other circumstances as follows:
Dropped out of formation with #2 engine smoking, due to mechanical failure.
6. **AIRCRAFT:** Type, Model & Series B-24J AAF Serial NO 42-51643
7. **ENGINES:** Type, Model & Series R-1830-65 A AAF Serial NO (a) CP-325123
 (b) 41-13552 (c) CP-325217 (d) CP-325214
8. **INSTALLATION IDENTIFIERS:** (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
 (a) RN 1034150 (b) LN 103307
 (c) RM 1033752 (d) LM 1033831
 (e) LW 1033733 (f) RB 1033925
 (g) LR 1033364 (h) RT 1033928
 (i) RW 1536967 (j) LT 1033196
- PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS:** (x) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas.
9. **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 | NEXT OF KIN, RELATION
SHIP, AND ADDRESS |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---|
| 1. Pilot | RAY, Robert S. Jr. | 2nd Lt. | 0-709642 | Nellie B. Ray (Mother)
P.O. Box #7, Crow, Texas |
| 2. CP | SETSER, George H. | 2nd Lt. | 0-829767 | Joe Franklin Setser
(Father) Route #1, Franklin, N.C. |
| 3. N | LLOYD, Orin | 2nd Lt. | 0-2061007 | Sarah S. Lloyd
(Mother) 302 St Louis Ave., RT#1 Hot
Springs, Ark. |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. B | COOK, William | 2nd Lt. | 0-2056692 | Susan P. Cook (Mother)
1 Carter Ave., Southington, Conn. |
| 6. ROMG | PHILLIPS, Rex E. | Sgt | 38400828 | Blanche C. Phillips (Mother)
411 W. Comanche, Norman, Oklahoma |
| 7. AMG | GERREN, Robert | Sgt | 16057424 | Beatrice Gerren (Mother)
3131 Maple Ave., Flint, Mich. |
| 8. ARMG | WHITNEY, Albert W. | S/Sgt | Ada Whitney (Mother) | 5305 Walther Ave
Baltimore, Md. |

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9. AG POWELL, Jack E. Sgt 15108777 Alberta M. Powell (Mother)
720 Pendleton Ave. Anderson, Ind.
10. AG COOK Francis W. Sgt 14131149 Vella Cook (Mother)
RT#1, Box 233, Dothan, Ala.
11. AC SUCEC, Joseph J. Sgt 16187822 Pauline A. Sucec (Mother)
4016 Railroad Ave. E. Chicago, Ind.
12. _____

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 perched landing

1. Herbert W. Natzke 2nd Lt 0-2060339 X
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

7. 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) Plane under control when it left the formation

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 MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. 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, over enemy territory when last sighted

date of this report: 9 November 1944

signature of officer _____

Incls:

- Incl 1. Statement
Lt. Natzke
- Incl 2. Location sketch

E. M. O'REILLY
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

Witness Lt. Natzke

The plane in which I was flying was in a formation with Lt. Kay's plane. We were on a course similar to Vienna, Austria, 5 November 1944. We noticed their plane growing behind the formation. The number two (E) engine was sacking. About ten minutes before we reached Vienna we went into a cloud bank. After that I did not see the plane again. Up until that time the plane appeared under control.

HERBERT W. NATZKE
2nd Lt. AC, O-20c0339
779th Bomb Sq. (H)

Herbert W. Natzke

AUSTRIA

R.R.

•
GRAFENDORF

• FRANKFELS

• FREILAND

⊕ (47° 56' N, 15° 26' E)

•
TURNITZ

PLANE LAST SIGHTED AT 47° 56' N,
15° 26' E

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Orin Lloyd Rank 2ND Lt Serial No. 0 1061007
2. Organization 464 Cp Commander Schroeder Rank Col Sqn COW.G. Moore Rank Lt Col
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Formation Bombing, target, Vienna, Austria, target time, About 1130, altitude, 21,000 route scheduled, As briefed, route flown As briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Northern Yugoslavia
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 W. Cook left first through bomb bay, followed by Sgt. Gerren, Sgt. Sures, Lt. Ray & Lt. Peters. Lt. Lloyd & Sgt. Powell jumped thru emergency nose window doors. Escape Sgt. R.E. Phillips & Sgt. Paul Whitney left thru Camera Hatch. No knowledge of how or when Sgt. F.W. Cook left the plane ~~or where~~
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 10 Miles N.W. of Karlovac, 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 to My 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? I last saw Sgt. F.W. Cook just before our take-off. As he flew in the tail and I flew in the nose.
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)

Name of crew member: COOK Francis E
 Rank: SGT
 Serial number: 14151149
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot/Fighter~~: Aerial Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes to best of my knowledge

Where? 10 Miles North-west of Karlovac, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

Oxygen Check just prior to time of bail-out

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In the Plane

Any hearsay information: According to Yugoslavs he bailed-out

was injured in jump and taken prisoner or killed

by pre-Nazi Yugoslavs. Later Heard that he was

a Prisoner of War, through information in letters

to remaining crew members back at the base

Source: Yugoslavian Partisans and letters from home

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

to be a prisoner of war

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: Nov 6, 1944 - Vienna, Austria

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William Cook Rank 1st LT. Serial No. 0-2056692
2. Organization: 464 B.G.
777 B.S. Gp Commander Bird Rank Col. Sqn CO Wm. Moore Rank LT. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month November day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna #77, target, Vienna RR. Yards target time, Approx. 1100, altitude, Approx. 20,000' route scheduled, unknown, route flown unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? IN General Vicinity of Metlika, Yugo.
Coord: 45°-37'N (15°-19'
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes. I counted eight chutes besides my own. But other crew members claimed that all ten of us left the plane safely
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". We all left the plane within a few seconds of each other. Pilot, Co-Pilot, Eng. -> Bomb. went out Front Bomb Bay. Nav. -> Nose Gunner out Nose Wheel Doors. Waist Gunners + Tail Gunners out Camera Hatch. Ball Turret Gunner out Rear Bomb Bay
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Krpa River in General Vicinity of Metlika, Yugo.
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? Over The Adriatic. I was removing The safety pins From The Bomb Fuses, and I noticed The Tail Gunner preparing To enter his Turret. When The order was given To Bail out, I heard The Tail Gunner yell "No" over The intercom.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Yugoslav Partisans Told us That There were Two graves of American flyers in OBROVAC. They had been picked up in The Adriatic

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9672

Name of crew member: COOK Francis W
 Rank: SGT
 Serial number: 14131149
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~HOWARD (Engineer)~~: Serial Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? In General Vicinity of Metlika, Yugo. 45-37 N
15-19

If not, why not? ---

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I heard
Tail Gunner yell "No" over intercom when Bail out order
was given.

Was he injured? No! To my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Frozen over camera hatch. Crew members
said he seemed afraid to jump

Any hearsay information: ---

Partisans Told us That a woman Turned him over
To The Ustachi and That They Killed him. Later
we heard That he was a prisoner and had
been liberated in April 1945

Source: The Pilot's Mother wrote That she had heard
he was a prisoner

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

To my knowledge he is at home
in Alabama. I have never heard from
him directly and I don't believe the
other crew members have either.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ONE

Dates and destinations if possible: Nov. 6, 1944 - Vienna, Austria

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Phillips, Rex E. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 38900828
2. Organization 247th BG Op Commander Schneider Rank Col Sqn CO Wth Meade Rank Lt Col
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov day 16th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, target, Oil Ref, target
time, -, altitude, about 22,000 route scheduled, as briefed
-, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? over Yugoslavia
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? ---
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 that I know of
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. ---

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9673

Name of crew member: **COOK Francis W**
 Rank: **Sgt**
 Serial number: **14151149**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER/PILOT~~: **Aerial Gunner**

Did he bail out? I think he did.

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

as I jumped.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in the airplane

Any hearsay information: we were told by the "Partisans" that he was shot by the Germans, or Yugoslaves fighting with them. After rejoining our group we were told that he was taken prisoner.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: one

Dates and destinations if possible: Nov 6, 1944 - Vienna

MACR 172
 B-24
 AAF 42-51-12
 10

DATE: 6 Nov. 44
 PLACE: Area of Agram
 TYPE: Liberator
 TARGET: Hq of airfield Agram

U S A NE 2393 ~~XXXXXXXX~~

	9:00 10	2nd Lt.	ROY, JR., Robert	
		"	SHYLER	
		"	LLOYD	
		"	COOK, William	
		"	GREEN	
		SGT.	PHILIPS, Roy	
		"	SUCKOC, Joseph	
		"	WHITNEY	
		"	POWELL, James	
		"	COOK, Francis	

14131149

*Planned to be destroyed
 on 1000 hrs
 and to be destroyed
 later*

*16180000
 15100000
 14131149*

File with MACR 9672

MFB - 19 Oct 49

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN:

PLACE OF CRASH: 15 km from Agram

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator B-24

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A O III/XVII - Agram - 8 Nov. 44

CREW

SURNAME, AND Cook,
FIRST NAME: Francis

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Sgt.

SERIAL NUMBER: 14 181 149

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Captured - parachuted after motor damage - 6 Nov. 44 forenoon

10 Nov. 1944

Air Base Command A (O) III/XVII

Field Post L 37 523 Camp P. O. Vienna

Reference: Home

Subj.- Transfer of an American flyer - P. W.

To:

Dulag Oberursel, near Frankfurt/H.

The services station is transferring the prisoner U. S. A. flyer.

Sgt. Cook, Francis EM- 14 151 149

One packet with personal belongings and one statement on a form.

We beg the leader of the transport to turn over the prisoner and the two enclosures.