

1348

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Lt. Col., AC

BY E. M. MOENCH, Capt., AC

Date ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ 1945

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

Classification changed

to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
by E. A. SHALUNAS, Lt. Col., AS  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

FORM: This Report will be compiled in triplicate by appropriate organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name NOTHAMPTON, ENGLAND Group 398TH BOMB HV  
Squadron 602nd Bom b Hv Detachment None  
Command or Air Force 8TH AIR FORCE
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure NOTHAMPTON, ENGLAND Course 275° Approx  
Target or Intended Destination Bingen, Germany  
Type of Mission Operational Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Height of A/C 26000, Temp 39°, Clouds 6/19 thin L5 Tops 3-4000. Visibility 5  
miles, Vertically and unrestricted aloft.
- GIVE: (a) Day 29 Month DEC Year 1944; Time Approx 1400 and Location  
5000N-0555E (DR Position) of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (  
Forced down (); Seen to crash (); or information not available ().
- AIRCRAFT WAS 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 and Series B17G A/C Serial No. 42-107188 ✓
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: "Ramproster"
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97 A/C Serial No. (a) SW-012643  
(b) 43-64849 (c) 43-65513 (d) SW-021450
- INSTALLED WEAPONS, SO Caliber, Machine Guns as follows:

Make	Serial Number	Make	Serial Number
(a) Savage Arms Corp.	1191886	(g) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1295455
(c) Savage Arms Corp.	1192141	(h) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1295454
(e) Savage Arms Corp.	1191779	(i) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1296111
(g) Savage Arms Corp.	1192085	(j) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1295395
(i) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1294933	(k) Savage Arms Corp.	1192623
(k) Buffalo Arms Corp.	1295127	(l) Savage Arms Corp.	1191962

- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW ARE REPORTED AS: (a) Status: Casualty MIA & RET  
or Non-Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passengers 0 Total 9  
Following information listed for personnel aboard aircraft:

Crew Position	Name in Full	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	ERICKSON, MAELON R	2nd Lt	0-770985	MIA ✓ RTD
2. Co-Pilot	HUESGEN, ADOLPH H JR	2ND Lt	0-2000301	RET RTD
3. Navigator	NACHTWEY, PAUL A	2nd Lt	0-2065600	MIA ✓
4. Bombardier	LEYTNER, LIONEL J	2nd Lt	0-2000320	RET S/A - Hosp, Liege Belgium
5. Engineer Gunner	PETERSON, EMIL O	S/Sgt	39602415	RET S/A - Hosp, Liege Belgium
6. Radio Operator	GRAVES, CLAIBORNE T	T/Sgt	13063040	MIA RTD
7. Waist Gunner	SEWELL, JAMES T	Sgt	35874627	MIA RTD
8. Ball Turret Gnr	THOMPSON, LOWELL E	Sgt	35772546	MIA RTD
9. Tail Gunner	MORDEN, ROBERT G	Sgt	39575605	MIA RTD
10.				
11.				

(over)

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full	Rank	Serial No.	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. ADOLPH HUESGEN JR	2nd Lt	0-2000301		X		
2. THOMAS L TYNES	S/Sgt	17039030		X		
3. WARREN G NELSON	S/Sgt	38469741		X	Statement not available.	

- 4.
13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) any other Reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE, NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT No knowledge of any search being made.

Date of Report 5 January ~~1944~~ 1945.

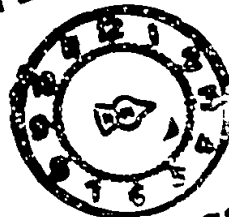
*Wallis L Campbell*

WALLIS L CAMPBELL,  
Capt, Air Corps  
Statistical Officer.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

{Statements Attached}

FEB 15 1945



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398TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP BV  
 Bingen, Germany Mission 29 December 1944

LEAD Squadron "A" Group Formation Over Target

C-5  
PETERSON  
Arlin  
 M-7975-U PFF

	D-1 <u>Marchbanks</u> 8661-P	D-10 <u>Scotfield</u> <u>Hosman</u> N-8476-X PFF	
D-1 <u>Palant</u> N-8121-Q	D-3 <u>Zinter</u> N-8658-A	D-7 <u>Hunt</u> N-8620-F	D-2 <u>Curtis</u> N-7889-B
<u>Magness</u> N-8730-R			D-5 <u>Taylor</u> N-8064
	D-7 <u>Sitler</u> N-7874-W	F-6 <u>Landrum</u> E-8627-Z	
	D-8 <u>Watkins</u> N-7538-C		

LOW Squadron "A" Group Formation Over Target

C-9  
McLaughlin  
Armor  
 M-8483-T PFF

	C-2 <u>Matthews</u> M-2592-G	D-8 <u>Mann</u> N-8563-V PFF	
F-2 <u>Keryon</u> E-8754-A			C-6 <u>Cummings</u> M-7249-P
C-6 <u>Runion</u> M-2418-M	F-10 <u>Hicks</u> E-8836-T	C-5 <u>Riley</u> N-8164-H	C-4 <u>Pettus</u> M-2507-F
		C-1 <u>Sponholtz</u> M-8564-X	C-9 <u>Dean</u> M-6357-W
		C-7 <u>Beatty</u> M-8853-L	

HIGH Squadron "A" Group Formation Over Target

F-10  
Hershberger  
Erler  
 E-8593-Q PFF

	F-6 <u>McCormick</u> E-7387-H	D-10 <u>Van Opdorp</u> N-8031-K PFF	
F-9 <u>Doerr</u> E-2610-Y	F-8 <u>Andrako</u> E-7810-S	F-7 <u>Comstock</u> E-8652-V	F-5 <u>Petaka</u> E-2506-L
F-8 <u>Shaffer</u> E-8811-R		F-9 <u>Krickson</u> E-7188-G	
	F-5 <u>Zimmerman</u> E-2593-C	F-5 <u>Peters</u> E-8794-J	F-8 <u>Stockman</u> A-8086-C
	F-3 <u>Beam</u> E-7150-X		

Statement concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 42-107188, Pilot, 2nd Lt  
Mahlon R Erickson, O-770985, 602nd Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group Hq on  
Combat Mission to Bingen, Germany 29 December 1944.

On our return from a mission on Bingen, Germany on the 29th of December 1944 we had a direct hit by flak on number two engine as we were passing over the lines. The engine caught on fire and the hydraulic system was hit and the hydraulic fluid sprayed all over the cockpit. The electrical system was also hit and went out. We also had a fire in the bomb bay. We tried to put the fire out but we couldn't. We then abandoned ship. The engineer got his foot caught in the forward escape hatch. I pushed him out and then went out after him. I must have passed out after I left the ship. The next thing I remember was falling through the air. I then opened my chute. I could see one chute below me which I believe was the engineer. I also saw two chutes above me. When I was pretty close to the ground the enemy opened fire on me. As I drifted closer to the ground I could see the men who had been firing at me. They started to run in the direction that I was falling. When I finally reached the ground I grabbed up my chute and ran in the opposite direction from the troops. As I started running the enemy troops who had been running to the spot where I landed came out of the woods and started firing at me. I then ran into the woods near where I landed. I must have run about a mile and then laid down in a small stream for about two hours. I then made my way in a northeast direction. I was finally picked up by our own troops in no man's land about five hundred feet from the German lines. I was then taken to the 89th Infantry Division Hq. I was taken to the Air Officer and he later received reports that about four chutes landed behind enemy lines. There were eight chutes seen by front line troops. I talked with our engineer later. He had seen our bombardier. The bombardier was the last man out of the nose and he had told T/Sgt Peterson that all of the men in the nose of the ship got out. The engineer broke his leg and the bombardier had minor lacerations of the face and forehead.

*Adolph H. Huesgen Jr.*

ADOLPH H HUESGEN JR, O-2000301  
2nd Lt, Air Corps  
Co-Pilot, B17G 42-107188

Statement concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 42-107188, Pilot, 2nd Lt  
Mañlon R Erickson, O-770985, 602nd Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group Ev on  
Combat Mission to Bingen, Germany 29 December 1944.

A few minutes after the target flak started coming up again, The  
engineer reported gas coming out of number two engine. Shortly after  
fire was seen under number two engine the pilot peeled off to the right  
and left the formation. Shortly after the men started to leave the ship.  
The first one I saw leave was probably the tail gunner. He must have  
made a delayed jump or else his chute didn't open. The next seven men  
to jump opened their chutes soon after leaving the ship. The plane was  
flying in a wide circle and burning violently when the last man left the  
ship--presumably the pilot. I didn't see his chute open. A Few seconds  
after the last man left the ship it went into a spiral and exploded.

*Thomas L Tyees*

THOMAS L TYEES, 17039030  
S/Sgt, 602nd Bomb Sq  
Ball Turret Gunner, B17G 43-38794

C O N F I D E N T I A L

3-R SUMMARY OF MISSING AIRCRAFT ACCOUNT

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 2. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 398th BC 602 A/C 42-107188 G MISSION DATE 29 Dec. 44

PILOT NAME Erickson, Nahlon R, 2nd Lt. C-770985 DESTINATION Bingen, Germany

ENGINE NAME AIRCRAFT

3. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

(a) By coordinates Approx. 5000N-0555E (D.R. Position)

(b) Approximate altitude \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Last noted heading \_\_\_\_\_

(d) If part of formation, approximate distance from formation \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft): 1 direct burst of flak in No. 2 engine. A/C caught fire.

5. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc.): The A/C was on fire, but did not explode until it reached the ground.

6. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

A/C was under control until all men got out, it is believed.

(over)

C O N F I D E N T I A L





HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

S: 25 Feb. 1945.

CMR/CPB

APC 887

4 February 1945.

AG 319.1 Cas.

SUBJECT: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APC 684, U.S. Army.  
Attention: Battle Casualty Section.

1. The following discrepancy was noted between Missing Air Crew Report and Battle Casualty Report concerning aircraft number 42-107188, piloted by 2nd Lt. Mahlon R. Erickson, O-770986:

Missing Air Crew Report.

Battle Casualty Report.

2nd Lt. Lionel J. Leitner, O-2900320

FL/O Lionel J. Leitner, O-005873

2. Request clarification of the above discrepancy, and if necessary request initiation of appropriate correction of your Battle Casualty Report.

3. Further request clarification be forwarded to this headquarters in duplicate as a supplement to the Missing Air Crew Report.

By command of General EISENHOWER:



*Robert L. Woodward*  
ROBERT L. WOODWARD,  
Captain, AGD.  
Assistant Adjutant General.

CONFIDENTIAL

319.1

1st Ind.

G-6-4

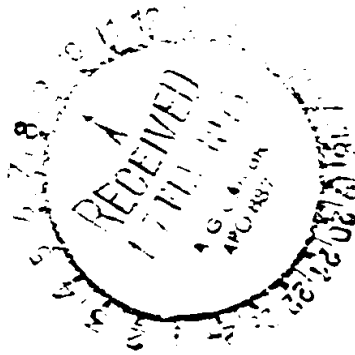
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634.

8 FEB 1945

TO: Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, U. S. Army.  
(Attn: AG Casualty Section).

1. Missing air crew report correct.
2. Correction will be forwarded on DCR C-241.

For the Commanding General:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. S. Wilson, Jr.".

H. S. WILSON, JR.,  
Major, AGD,  
Asst. Adj. General.



CONFIDENTIAL  
11348

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

JWP/JFR  
APO 887  
4 February 1945. 72

AG 360.33 Cas

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.  
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded herewith Missing Air Crew Report of the Eighth Air Force.
2. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of all crew members of subject aircraft to be missing in action, 29 December 1944, with the exceptions as shown below:

2nd Lt. Adolph E. Huesgen, Jr.,	O-2000301	Not reported casualty
2nd Lt. Lionel J. Leitner,	O-2000320	SIA 29 December 1944.
S/Sgt. Emil O. Peterson.	39602415	SIA 29 December 1944.

For the Theater Commander:

*H. K. Rund*  
H. K. RUND, *w*  
Colonel, AGD,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

1 Incl: Missing Air Crew Report, 602nd Bomb Gp,  
B-176, 42-107188, 29 December 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
PA 12-950 2

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN

29 Dec. 1944, 1200 hrs

CASUALTY NO. KJ 1241 A

PLACE OF DOWNING

Luxemburg

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Fortress

DEPARTMENT

Linburg

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
ERICKSON, Mahlen R. Wisc. USA	2nd Lt.	G-770985	captured	Dulag Luft West
SMELL, James T. 21 Aug. 1922	S/Sgt.	35874627	captured	Dulag Luft West
THOMPSON, Lowell Edwin 25 May 1924 Fallerton, Ky.	S/Sgt.	35772546	captured	Dulag Luft West
G RAVES, Claiborne Thomas 23 July 1922	T/Sgt.	13063040	captured	Dulag Luft West
MORSE, George Robert 21 Feb. 1925	S/Sgt.		captured	Dulag Luft West

REMARKS:

D ulag Luft, 19 Feb. 1945 No.

MP 11348  
 13-17  
 HAF 112-11712  
 97

Date: 29 Dec 44, at 1200  
 Place: Luxemburg  
 Type of craft: Fortress  
 Markings: --  
 602 (HCo)  
 398 Group

Rank: Name: KU 1241 a

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2nd Lt. BRICKSON, Mahlon Roland § .  
 ASN: 0-770985  
 2nd Lt. NACHTWAX, Paul  
 2nd Lt. LEITNER, Michael  
 2nd Lt. HUEBNER, Adolph  
 S/Sgt. SEWELL, James T.  
 ASN: 35874627  
 S/Sgt. THOMPSON, Lowell, Edwin  
 ASN: 35772546  
 T/Sgt. GRAVES, Claiborne Thomas  
 ASN: 13063040  
 S/Sgt. PATTERSON, Edile,  
 S/Sgt. MORDON, George Robert

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eb/3/17/45

2nd Lt. Paul A. Nechtow

Mrs. Thais E. Nechtow (wife)  
Box 1326  
West Monroe, Louisiana

2nd Lt. Nathan R. Erickson

Mr. Harold W. Erickson (father)  
6639 Jackson Park Boulevard  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

2nd Lt. Donald J. Leitch

Mr. Hyman Leitch (father)  
2301 Morris Avenue  
New York City, New York

1/Sgt. Claiborne T. Graves

Mr. James B. Graves (father)  
1127 West Washington Street  
Petersburg, Virginia

2/Sgt. Emil C. Peterson

Mrs. Rena Peterson (wife)  
605 Locust Street  
Annandale, Montana

Sgt. Robert G. Marden

Mrs. Klanch V. Marden (mother)  
419 Bessiebeth Street  
Needles, California

Sgt. Lowell E. Thompson

Mrs. Mary V. Elliott (mother)  
Fulton, Kentucky

Sgt. James T. Sewell

Mrs. Lelia Sewell (mother)  
Route Number One  
Winchester, Kentucky

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: NACHTWEY, Paul A.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: O-2065600  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Station)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? I do not know

Where? If he did it was just south of Bastogne in Belgium.

If not, why not? He may have passed out if he didn't bail out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: A few minutes before we were fatally hit, he gave us the wind velocity

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? He helped the bombardier to get out

Any hearsay information: The pilot said that the nose of the ship was clear when he bailed out

The crews on the other ships in the formation reported that they saw only eight chutes open, but he could have delayed his jump.

Source: The pilot was the sole source of this information.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He had a head wound which he acquired a hour before but as to his condition at the time we were hit I do not know

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten

Dates and destinations if possible: 11/21/44 Merseburg, 11/25/44 Merseburg, 11/29/44 Misburg, 11/30/44 Merseburg, 12/9/44 Stuttgart, 12/11/44 Frankfurt, 12/15/44 Kassel, 12/21/44 Coblenz, Birzen 12/29/44.  
 one mission date unknown, to Cologne.



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: **LEITNER, Lionel J.**  
 Rank: **2nd/Lt.**  
 Serial number: **0-2000320**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Bombardier**

Did he bail out? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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: This man is now home  
and discharged.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: **PETERSON, Emil O.**  
Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **39602485**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Engineer Gunner**

Did he bail out? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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:~~ This man is now home and dis charged.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Thompson Lowell E Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 35772546
2. Organization A.C. Gp Commander <sup>Co</sup> Hunter Rank Col Sqn COPJ Rooney Rank Maj  
(full name) (full name)  
(Not known)
3. What year \_\_\_\_\_ month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Marshalling yard target, Bingen, Germany target  
 time, 13:30, altitude, 26,400 route scheduled, not  
known, route flown not known
5. Where were you when you left formation? in the ball turret
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". The tail gunner, waist gunner, radio operator and I all bailed out the waist door. No knowledge of men forward of Bombay.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? It exploded in mid air.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) If any were aboard when it blew up it was the navigator.
11. Where were they in aircraft? in the nose.
12. What was their condition? He was wounded in the head
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Just how bad I don't know.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. No information

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: MACHTNEY, Paul A.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-2065600  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flightcrew~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? "

If not, why not? "

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Conversed  
with navigator on bomb run over inter phone

Was he injured? Yes, in the head

Where was he when last seen? At home base before mission

Any hearsay information: No

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: ten

Dates and destinations if possible: from Oct. 30th, 1944 to Dec. 29th, 1944

over Germany.

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: LEITNER, Lionel J.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: O-2000320  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Single (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over Luxembourg

If not, why not? -

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Said "bombs away" over target.

Was he injured? Yes--bad burns

Where was he when last seen? At home base before takeoff.

Any hearsay information: Landed in allied territory after bailing out.

Source: Was informed by a Lt. (Do not recall name) on forced march from Nurenburg POW camp to Moosburg POW camp.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Do not recall

Dates and destinations if possible: From Oct. 30th, 1944 to Dec. 25th, 1944  
Over Germany

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: PETERSON, Emil G.  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 39602425  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Engineer Gunner**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? over land in Germany

If not, why not? -

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: did not recall

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in Germany

Any hearsay information: landed in allied territory after bailing out

Source: Yes informed by a Lt. (do not recall name) on forced march from  
Munenburg PO camp to Osborn PO camp.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten missions

Dates and destinations if possible: From Oct. 30th, 1944 to Dec. 8th, 1944

Over Germany

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert S. ... Rank E-5 Serial No. ...
2. Organization 3d Comdant Co. ... Rank Col. Sgt. CO (full name) ... Rank ... (full name) ...
3. What year ... month ... day ... did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ..., target, ..., target time, ..., altitude, ..., route scheduled, ..., route flown ...
5. Where were you when you left formation? ...
6. Did you bail out? ...
7. Did other members of crew bail out? ...
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? ...
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? ...
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 11348

Name of crew member: **KACHTWEY, Paul A.**  
 Rank: **2nd/Lt.**  
 Serial number: **0-2065600**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Radio Operator~~: **Navigator**

Did he bail out? Yes (Hearsay)

Where? Beigum, (Kastagne Area)

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

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

Was he injured? Yes, slight scratch on head

Where was he when last seen? Leaving the plane (to his best knowledge)

Any hearsay information: I know absolutely nothing concerning his death, in fact I had no previous knowledge of his death until I returned to my home following liberation.

Source: Pilot - conversed with him several times while a PRISONER OF WAR.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten

Dates and destinations if possible: 6/19/44 - December 29, 1944 (inclusive)

Merseburg, Merseburg, Pilsen, Merseburg, Glogau, -Jutzger, Cornetert, Ros. CI, Spleitz, & Binger (Shot down)



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: LESTER, Lionel J.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: O-2000320  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Belgium (Bastogne Area)

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

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

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? No Knowledge

Any hearsay information: None

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten

Dates and destinations if possible: November - December 29, 1944 (inclusive)

Merseburg, Merseburg, Merseburg, Merseburg, Saaz, Stuttgart, Frankfurt,  
Wiesbaden, Gosen, & Linen (Shutdown)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: FETTER, Paul C.  
 Rank: S/Oct.  
 Serial Number: 3560215  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Belgium (Dastogne Area)

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

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

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? I have corresponded with him since returning to the states.

Any hearsay information: I have no knowledge of the extent of his injuries.

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten

Dates and destinations if possible: November - December 29, 1944 inclusive  
Merseburg, Merseburg, Miisburg, Merseburg, Cologne, Stuttgart, Frankfurt,  
Liege, Bonn, & Wingen (not down)

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Claiborne T. GRAVES Rank T. S. J. Serial No. 13063040
2. Organization 398<sup>th</sup> B. Gp Commander FRANK HUNTER Rank Col. Sqn CO Peter J. Reed Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 29<sup>th</sup> did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bingen, Germany, target, Marshalling Yard, target time, 11-12 (A.M.), altitude, 26,500 ft. route scheduled, I do not remember, route flown I do not remember
5. Where were you when you left formation? Belgium (General Area of Bastogne)
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, to best of my knowledge all of the crew members bailed out.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". All members forward of the bomb bay bailed out of navigator's escape hatch (to best of my knowledge). All members aft of bomb bay bailed out of waist door position. I have since been in the company of the Pilot, Ball Gunner, Waist Gunner, Tail Gunner, and I, myself, was the Radio Operator.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Exploded in mid-air after bail out.
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 everyone had cleared the ship when it exploded. Explosion occurred almost immediately after the tail gunner and I had cleared the ship.
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? The last I saw any members of the <sup>crew</sup> members not described above, was before formation assembly, all were in good health at this time. I did not see any of these members not specifically mentioned after we reached altitude and the formation had assembled.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: NACHTWEY, Paul A.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: O-2065600  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Out of the forward escape hatch of the B-17 near Marche Belgium

If not, why not? -----

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: none

Was he injured? I do not believe so.

Where was he when last seen? He was in the nose of the ship assisting the bombardier.

Any hearsay information: I heard that he assisted the bombardier out of the aircraft  
wounded  
because he was and that he was last seen leaving the ship.

Source: The pilot of the airplane Lt. M. R. Erickson

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe that  
Lt. Nachtwey passed out from lack of oxygen because of the high altitude and failed  
to regain consciousness in time to open his parachute. Lt. Nachtwey was without oxygen  
longer than I was and I passed out from lack of oxygen.

Total number of missions of above crew member: nine (9)

Dates and destinations if possible: November 1944: Merseburg, 2. Merseburg, 3. Misburg,  
4. Merseburg. December 1944: Kassel, 6. Frankfurt, 7. Cologne, 8. Colblenre,  
9. Decemter 29, 1944: Bingen

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: LERTNER, Lionel J.  
Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
Serial number: O-2000320  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Forward escape hatch of the B-17 near Marche Belgium.

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Lt. Leitner is  
~~is~~ still alive and ~~the~~ the last I heard from him ~~he~~ was at home in Bronx New York.

Total number of missions of above crew member: nine(9)

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: PETERSON, Emil O.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 39602415  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Forward escape hatch of the B-17, near Marche Belgium

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I told him to  
bail out.

Was he injured? He was not injured at the time he bailed out of the airplane.

Where was he when last seen? At the 398th Bomb Group in England.

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Sgt. Peterson is  
still alive and I believe he is now discharged from the army.

Total number of missions of above crew member: nine (9)

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: NACHTWEY, Paul A.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: O-2065600  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Pilot (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER LINES NEAR MARCH (TOWN), BELGIUM

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

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

INTERPHONE JUST BEFORE TARGET

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? BAILING OUT.

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

HE DIED OF WOUNDS ~~BE~~ BEFORE HE COULD GET  
 ATTENTION

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

1- MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	6- COBLENZ - DEC 31, 1944
2- MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	7- COLOGNE - DEC. 1944
3- MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	8- COBLENZ - DEC. 1944
4- HANOVER - NOV. 1944	9- FRANKFORT - DEC. 1944
5- STUTTGART - DEC. 1944	10- BINGEN - DEC. 1944

6-3861, AF

(THE ABOVE ARE NOT IN ORDER)

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: LEITER, Lional J.  
 Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-2000320  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER LINES NEAR TOWN OF MARCH, BELGIUM

If not, why not? —

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

TARGET HE TOLD ME NAVIGATOR HAD BEEN HIT

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? BAILING OUT.

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE EVADED  
AND WAS PUT IN A HOSPITAL

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible:

<u>1 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944</u>	<u>6 - COBLENZ - DEC. 1944</u>
<u>2 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944</u>	<u>7 - COLOGNE - DEC. 1944</u>
<u>3 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944</u>	<u>8 - COBLENZ - DEC. 1944</u>
<u>4 - HANNOVER - NOV. 1944</u>	<u>9 - FRANKFURT - DEC. 1944</u>
<u>5 - STUTTGART - DEC. 1944</u>	<u>10 - BINGEN - DEC 29, 1944</u>

(THE ABOVE ARE NOT IN ORDER)



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11348

Name of crew member: PETERSON, Emil C.  
 Rank: S/sgt.  
 Serial number: 39602415  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? OVER LINES NEAR TOWN OF MARCH, BELGIUM

If not, why not? -

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE WAS HELPING TO TRY AND CONTROL FIRE IN LEFT WING.

Was he injured? YES - BROKE HIS LEG WHEN HE LANDED IN CHUTE.

Where was he when last seen? BAILING OUT.

Any hearsay information: ---

Source: ---

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: ---

1 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	6 - COBLENZ - DEC. 1944
2 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	7 - COLOGNE - DEC. 1944
3 - MERSEBERG - NOV. 1944	8 - COBLENZ - DEC. 1944
4 - HANOVER - NOV. 1944	9 - FRANKFORT - DEC. 1944
5 - STUTTGART - NOV. 1944	10 - BINGEN - DEC. 29, 1944

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1025  
 (10)

1. Your name ERICKSON, MAHLON R. Rank 2<sup>ND</sup> LT. Serial No. 0-770985  
398 IGP 7 - HUNTER COL.
2. Organization AFB Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 29 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, RR YARDS, target, BINGEN, target  
 time, ABOUT 13:50, altitude, 24,500 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
13:50, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER LINES ON WAY BACK
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". ALL BAILED OUT OVER LINES NEAR TOWN OF MARCH, BELGIUM. AT THE SAME TIME - 14:20
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? EXPLODED IN AIR.
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? GUNNERS - BEFORE TAKEOFF - I SAW THE REST BAIL OUT.
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) 1-1

Remarks :

\*\*\*\*\*

IDENTIFICATION TAGS : \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) James T. Sewell 35874627 T43 44 O P
- 2) Claiborne T. Graves 13063040 T43 44 O P
- 3) Lowell E. Thompson 35772546 T43 44 B P

One Officers Identification Card

Mahlon Roland Ericksen 0-770985

Back side of the card:

Type of plane: Halifax  
 Squadron Nr. 578 Bo . Sq.  
 Date of shot down 23. April 1944  
 Place : near Liessel  
 Crew members: s.F/Sgt. Faley L/  
 KE 8832

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

Abschluß-Nr. 1000000000

**Abschlußtag und Zeit:** 25.12.44 - 1.00

**Abschlußort:** Frankfurt

**Flugzeugtyp:** ON 2000

**Meldende Dienststelle:** Frankfurt

**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburts- und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
WILSON 11.10.1914	1. Lt.	3-7709 5	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
WILSON 11.10.1914	1. Lt.	350746 27	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
WILSON 25.5.	1. Lt.	3577-546	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
WILSON 23.7.	1. Lt.	13065040	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
WILSON 11.10.1914	1. Lt.		gef.	Dulag-Luft West

**Bemerkungen:** Frankfurt

**DULAG-LUFT, den** 11.12.44

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