

11797

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUKNCH, Capt., AC
Date OCT 25 1945

4/30-25-5
1459-235
15472

GERMAN RECORDS COMPLETED

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 by E. A. BRABUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. MUXNCH, Capt., AC
 Date OCT 15 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name NUTHAMPTREAD, ENGLAND Group 398th Bomb Bv
 Squadron Group Headquarters _____ Date of Report _____
 Command or Air Force 8th Air Force _____ 170 degrees Mag. going _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure AAF Station 131 _____ Bank to right _____
 Target or Intended Location Vannheln, Germany _____
 Type of Mission Operational Bombing _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY: (SEE LIST OF SYMBOLS ON LAST PAGE);
 Clouds 10/10 swelling cumulus with breaks, tops 20-22000 estimated with 10/10 thin cirrus clouds base 23-24000. Tops 25-26000. Visibility poor in dense persistent
4. GIVE: (A) Day 20 Month JAN Year 1945; Time 1114 Approx and location contrails
4927N-0827E Approx _____
 (B) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X): Last contact by radio ()
 Forward view (): Ground search () or information not available ().
5. AIRCRAFT MAKE, MODEL AND SERIAL NO. OF THE AIRCRAFT, and make full use of: (Check only one) Army aircraft (): Army and - Aircraft (X) Other Circumstances as follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial No. B17G Serial No. 43-37889
7. MAKE FULL USE OF: _____
8. ENGINE: Type, Model and Serial No. R-1820-97 Serial No. (a) SW-014165
 (b) SW-017651 (c) SW-020159 (d) 41-54959
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS, SERIAL NO. AND MAKE OF WEAPONS:
- | Weapon | Serial Number | Serial Number |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| () Savage Arms | 1217398 | () Savage Arms 1217255 |
| () Savage Arms | 1217161 | () Savage Arms 1217554 |
| () Savage Arms | 1215660 | () Savage Arms 1213113 |
| () Savage Arms | 1214973 | () Savage Arms 1212995 |
| () Savage Arms | 1214792 | () Savage Arms 1217474 |
| () Savage Arms | 1217621 | () Savage Arms 1215105 |
10. THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS WERE USED: (Check one) _____ X
11. NUMBER OF WEAPONS USED: _____

Personnel	Serial Number	Status
1. Pilot	MITCHELL, JAMES R	2nd Lt 0-777761 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
2. Co-Pilot	SKUPIK, HENRY A	2nd Lt 0-824954 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
3. Navigator	HUGHES, BYRON R JR	2nd Lt 0-2069325 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
4. Bombardier	VEBCH, EVART M	2nd Lt 0-206672 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
5. Engineer	BEYER, NELSON R	Sgt 0 13054451 MIA
6. Radio Operator	SPEAR, CHARLES F JR	Sgt 20102045 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
7. Waist Gunner	DICK, RUSSELL O	Sgt 38563133 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
8. Ball Turret Gunner	BROWN, ISLAND B	Sgt 34837456 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>
9. Tail Gunner	MILLS, LEONARD P	Sgt 37730655 MIA <i>1st Lt</i>

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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:

<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Contacted by Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw Crash</u>	<u>Saw Forced Landing</u>
---------------------	-------------	-------------------	---------------------------	---------------------	------------------	---------------------------

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|--|---|--|--|
| 1. MARABRAS, NICK | 2nd Lt | 0-2068037 | | X | | |
| 2. | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | |

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES OR NO TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (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 ENTIRENESS 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 27 January 1945

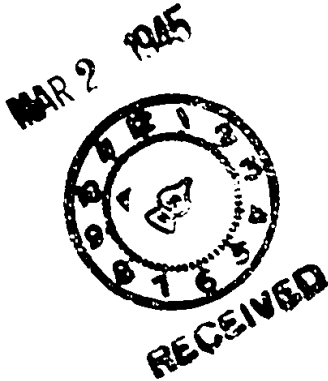
Wallis L. Campbell
WALLIS L. CAMPBELL

Capt, Air Corps
Statistical Officer

17. REMARKS OR ENTIRENESS STATEMENTS:

This aircraft was last seen in the vicinity of the target area, apparently under control.

(Statement Attached)



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

FORM OF AIR-RESCUE ACCOUNT

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary report prepared in five copies, four of which will be retained. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

FROM 398 B.G. OF 601 B.S./C : 43-37889-B THE 10th BATT 20 Jan 45

NAME OF PILOT Mitchell, James R. 2nd Lt C-777761 UNIT/STATION Mannheim, Germany

1. Location of missing aircraft when last sighted or last seen:

- (a) By coordinates Approx. 4927N-0827E
- (b) Approximate altitude 30,000 feet
- (c) Last noted heading 15° bank to right
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Just banked out of formation.

2. Describe every observable (intensity of flame, intensity and method of engine if used, attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft). Not observed for this A/C, but was described generally as meager and fairly accurate. No E/A opposition.

3. General type of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc.):

Nothing unusual was observed concerning A/C.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

A/C appeared to be under control.

(Over)

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

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

5. If dispersed aircraft was out of formation at it last seen with escort? Yes, give distinguishing markings of flight group if noted (e.g. number, color and/or flight aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.) _____

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.): _____

No parachutes were observed.

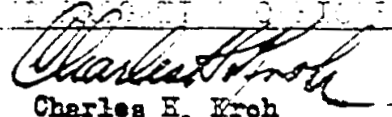
7. Any other reports not covered by above: _____

Have only one report on this missing A/C as follows: "While on second bomb run, missing A/C dropped out of formation in 15° bank to the right. A/C appeared to be under control - disappeared into clouds. Contrails were described as dense and persistent - which restricted visibility.

8. Date of report 26 January 1945

NAME:	GRADE:	UNIT:	REPORT NO.:	A/C
1. <u>Marabeas, Nick</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>O-2068037</u>	<u>190-1</u>
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

REPORTING OFFICER (sign Original and one copy):



Charles E. Kroh

Captain

O-568990

Asst. Intel. C.

NOTE: All original and copy reports sent to this account will be forwarded to the appropriate office per G, letter L, 23, 704 (6 Jun 44) and 705 (10 Jul 44), unless advised in other reports, 7 July 1944.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 43-37889, Pilot, 2nd Lt James R Mitchell, O-777761, 601st Bomb Sq, 398th Bomb Group Ev on combat mission to Mannheim, Germany 20 January 1945.

On the second approach to the target at Mannheim, Germany on 20 January 1945 our plane was trailing the squadron by approximately one-fourth mile. I was keeping a sharp watch out of the nose, trying to see the bombs go away when I saw a ship, presumably Lt Mitchell, peel off from the formation and head to the right. I thought it strange, at the moment, because the flak had been light and inaccurate. The ship seemed to be under control, and I could see no signs of fire. I could have been wrong on the latter though because contrails were very dense and heavy. The last I saw of the ship, it was going into the clouds at a normal rate of descent.

Nick Marabeas

NICK MARABEAS, O-2068037
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Bombardier, B17G 42-107190

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Lead Sq

Flimsey Sheet

20 January 1945

Markley
Johnson TM
M-8483-T

Grinter
M-8993-V

McLaughlin
Johnston
M-8373-K

Riley
M-2487-B

Kenyon
M-8305-Z

Dean
M-6157-W

Hicks
M-2592-G

Beatty
E-8500-F

Hahn
A-7982-E

Sistek
E-7387-E

Shinek
M-7249-P

Shaffer
M-2519-A

Sponholtz
M-8564-X

Low Sq

Gonzales
Steele
8155-Z

Pinner
A-8669-G

Smith
A-8697-M

Beckstrox
A-8864-F

Johnson, W
A-8970-A

Hanauer
A-8088-C

Byndman
A-8630-U

Thomas
A-8562-V

Stevens
A-8631-T

Aniello
A-7625-J

Tarr
A-8951-B

Overton
A-7317-P

High Sq

Scotfield
Palant
8036-Y

Costanzo
N-7190-L

Taylor
E-8274-B

Landrum
N-8620-F

Watkins
N-8730-R

Schoen
N-8658-A

Bernstedt
N-8708-T

Mills
N-8064-H

Merritt
E-7150-K

Zinter
N-8661-P

Magness
N-7509-J

Mitchell
N-7889-E

MIACR
 11797
 B 17
 9 men
 AAF 43-37884

20 Jan. 1945 1120
 Rechtersheim b/w Pezer
 Tyen: Fortress
 Markings: 337-19
 601 HB. Sqd.
 298 Group
 Target: W. of airbase area-
 Neustadt a.d.R.

27 Jan.

AC 3592

2nd Lt. CHUBIK	Henry Andrew	0-724954	capt
2nd Lt. MITCHELL	James S.	0-777761	dead
2nd Lt. HIGGINS	Byron Reginald	0-2069825	capt
2nd Lt. WENCH	Evart Mitchell	0-204172	capt
Sgt. DICK	Russell Owen	3 563183	capt
Sgt. DEETS	Island Bennet	34857456	capt
Sgt. DUBA	Charles Frederic	20108045	capt
Sgt. WILLS	Leonard Paul	37730653	capt
Sgt. BRYAN	Nelson H.	13054451	

Downing No: KU 3592

Report on Downing of an American Aircraft:

Date of Downing...: 20 January 1945 - 1120
Place of Downing...: Bechtersheim near Speyer
Type of Plane.....: Fortress
Reporting Office...: Air Base Headquarters
Neustadt/Weser

C R E W

HUGHES 10 October 1919	Byron Reginald Texas	2nd.Lt.	0-2069325	captured	Dulag Luft West
SKUBIK	Henry Andrew	2nd.Lt.	0-824954	captured	Dulag Luft West
VEECH XXXX 1919	Ewart Mitchell	2nd.Lt.	0-2066172	captured	Dulag Luft West
SPEAR 11 October 1919	Charles Frederic Mass.	Sgt.	20102045	captured	Dulag Luft West
BROWS 21 September 1922	Island Bennett Wilmington, North C.	Sgt.	34857456	captured	Dulag Luft West
DICK 6 November 1924	Russell Owen Okla.	Sgt.	22563183	captured	Dulag Luft West
MILLS	LEONARD Leonard Paul	Sgt.	37730653	captured	Dulag Luft West

MARK 11797
Dulag Luft, 31 January 1945 v.S.

KU 3592

Additional Reports Concerning Enemy Aircraft

Date and Time of Crash: 20 Jan 1945, at 1130 hours, near Speyer

Aircraft type: Boeing B 17, on its flight back

Serial No. 337989

W B

Kind of Crash: Crashed on fire 96% destruction

Kind of Captured: By Flak

Disposition of the Crew

2nd Lt Henry A. Skubiko, O-824954. Time of Capture: 20 Jan 1945

2nd Lt Byron E. Huches, O-2069323 20 Jan 1945

Veech, Ewart, O-2066172

Spear, Friederig, no serial No. sent to Computing Station

2 POW were sent to Oberursel

Dog Tags

Leonard P. Mills, 37730653 T44 O

Huches, Byron E., Jr. O-2069325 T 45 43 O

KU 3592

Subject: Capture of American airman P Sgt Charles, Frederic Spear, 20102045
Born 11 Oct 19.

To: Airbase Command Germersheim.

On 20 Jan 45, at 1100 hours, airman Charles, Frederic Spear, bailed out from a four engine bomber, over Germany Rheinsheim and was captured near Rheinsheim. The a/c crashed between Heiligenstein and Meckersheim. 3 more crewmembers were captured near place of crash.

Spear was sent to Germersheim airbase.

Dog Tags

Beyer, Nelson R. 13054451 E 42 43 A (2)

KU 3592

On 20 Jan 45, at 1130 hours, a Boeing B 17 was shot down, 400 m. north-east of Mechtersheim, 6 km south southwest of Speyer (80°R 9). 96% destruction. Serial No. 337889. On the fin W, and S.
2 men captured near place of crash.
2 men captured in a further distance of the crash.

1. Russel, C. Dick, 38563183
2. Istand Brown, 34857456

Military Police Weingarten
 Community Gernersheim
 District Palatinate

Weingarten/Pf., 21 January 1945

To
 Air District XIV W i s s b a d e n .

Regarding: Parachuting of an American flier.
Place: Community Oberlustadt, Freisbach.
Time: 20 January 1945, 1100

On 20 January 1945, 1100 1 American 4 engined bomber flew over the communities Oberlustadt, Gernersheim, Freisbach, Weingarten, Schwegenheim. (Post of the military police Weingarten). 2 parachutings were observed. 1 parachuting near the forest "Lehwald" community forest Weingarten could be captured at 1200 hrs by ~~XXXXXXXX~~soldiers billeted in Weingarten. He was delivered over to place command Freisbach. From there the American flier was transferred to airbase command Lachen/Speyerdorf. The 2nd parachuting was in community Oberlustadt, section "Lower Mals". The parachuter was dead. One soldier of the reserve unit found the American and took the items of the attached contents. The items are preserved at this post. It may be that the fliers are from the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ aircraft, downed in district Speyer/Rhein (Heiligenstein).

Signed: MUELLER, Master of mil.po.

Communicated to:
 Research Center Wert, Oberursel.

Civil Command
Oberlustadt

Regarding: Found enemy flier.

On 20 January 1945 one enemy flier parachuted. He was found dead near community Oberlustadt by the soldier Erwin KIRSCHBAUM of the 1st Reserve Unit Comp. Edenkoben, detail 520. At 1300 hrs the following items were delivered over to Command Oberlustadt by soldier KIRSCHBAUM:

1. 5 English bank-notes (pounds)

D 35 E 287752	E 32 E 262177
D 37 E 728576	D 58 E 775689
E 33 E 175790	
2. 1 Ladies Auxiliary of the Red Hill Fire Company No.: 416 (probably a cheque)
3. 2 identification tags
4. 1 paper (copy) of 17 January 1945.
5. 1 parachute (damaged)
6. 1 bracelet (damaged) with chain and name: H.R. BRYER
- 7.) 1 parachute bag with cords (empty)
8. 1 bill-fold with contents (See: No.: 1 and 2)
9. 1 ~~XXXX~~ small tool for unknown purposes.
10. Weapons were not found.

Received by Command Oberlustadt,
20 January 1945, 1300 hrs.
The finder: signed: KIRSCHBAUM, Erwin
Received: signed: KNITTEL

JEP/3/27/45

2nd Lt. James R. Mitchell

Mr. John P. Mitchell Sr., (father)
3702 North Saxet Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas

2nd Lt. Henry A. Skubik

Mrs. Pauline M. Fusco (mother)
318 Grant Avenue
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

2nd Lt. Byron E. Hughes, Jr.,

Mr. Byron E. Hughes, Sr., (father)
Roxton, Texas

2nd Lt. Evert M. Veech

Mrs. Anna Ruth J. Veech (wife)
3728 North Market Street
Saint Louis, Missouri

Sgt. Nelson R. Beyer

Mrs. Kate Beyer (mother)
Main Street
Rod Hill, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Charles F. Spear, Jr.,

Mrs. Priscilla F. Spear (wife)
Box 83
New Durham, New Hampshire

Sgt. Russell O. Dick

Mrs. Louis M. Dick (wife)
C/O Frank Snow
Waukemia, Oklahoma

Sgt. Island B. Brown

Mrs. Elisabeth B. Brown (mother)
Rural Free Delivery #1
Chinquapin, North Carolina

Sgt. Leonard P. Mills

Mr. Raymond G. Mills (father)
MC Crcaken, Kansas

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11797

Name of crew member: **MITCHELL, James R.**
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-777761**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Pilot)~~: **Pilot**

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: ASKED HIM TO LEAVE SHIP. HE REFUSED. I THEN SAID I AM LEAVING. HE STILL REFUSED. I BAILED OUT.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? IN CONTROL

Any hearsay information: AT TIME OF LEAVING SHIP I TOLD HIM TO LEAVE, THAT I WOULD STAY. HE REFUSED. I TOOK THIS COURSE SINCE I HAD TWENTY-SEVEN MISSIONS. HE HAD ONE CERTAIN HE HAD FULL CONTROL OF HIMSELF I LOCKED IN AFCE. AND BAILED OUT EXPECTING HIM TO FOLLOW.

Source: OF FOLLOWING: GERMAN SOLDIERS

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: INFORMED BY CURFMAN THAT TWO BODIES FOUND IN WRECKAGE OF PLANE. SAID TO HAVE BEEN BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ONE

Dates and destinations if possible: JANUARY 23, 1945
LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY

Name of crew member: **E E Y K R, Nelson R.,**
 Rank: **Sgt.**
 Serial number: **13054451**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: **Engineer**

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: _____

CANNOT RECALL

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? IN UPPER TURRET

Any hearsay information: INFORMED BY LUFTWAFFE

THAT TWO MEMBERS FOUND IN WRECKAGE
OF SHIP. IF TRUE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN
THE PILOT AND ENGINEER.

Source: GERMAN SOLDIERS

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: CANNOT

UNDERSTAND HIS WHEREABOUTS IN SHIP. PRIOR
TO MY LEAVING I HAD UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW
OF ENTIRE SHIP, BUT DID NOT SEE THIS
MAN. OTHER MEMBERS OF CREW HAD ALREADY LEFT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ONE

Dates and destinations if possible: JANUARY 20, 1945

LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name SKUBIK, HENRY A. Rank 1ST LT Serial No. 0-874954
2. Organization 398 Gp Commander PETERSON Rank MAJ Sqn CO HUNTER Rank Colonel
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JAN day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, LUDWIG, GERMANY, target, BRIDGE, target time, 12:30 (APPX), altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, LONDON, PARIS, METZ, LUDWIGSHAFEN, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? APPR. 30 MINUTES FROM TARGET
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". ALL MEMBERS BUT TWO ATTACHED, BAILED OUT APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MILES SOUTHWEST OF TARGET.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? GERMERSHEIM, GERMANY
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. GERMANS INFORMED ME THAT THE PILOT AND ENGINEER WERE KILLED IN SHIP.
11. Where were they in aircraft? PILOT (COCKPIT); ENGINEER (NO KNOWLEDGE)
12. What was their condition? SATISFACTORY WHEN LAST SEEN IN AIR.
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 11797

Name of crew member: MITCHELL, James R.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: C-777761
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Pilot.

Did he bail out? No

Where?

If not, why not? No KNOWLEDGE

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

ORDER To bail Out

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Bail Out ORDER

Any hearsay information:

GERMAN SOLDIER SAID THERE WERE TWO BODIES IN PLANE.

Source: GERMAN SOLDIER

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

No KNOWLEDGE

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: Jan - 20, 1945 -
MANNHEIM, GERMANY

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11797

Name of crew member: **B E Y E R, Nelson R.**
 Rank: **Sgt.**
 Serial number: **13054451**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: **Engineer**

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No Knowledge

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

None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? AT BAIL OUT ORDER

Any hearsay information: _____

GERMAN SOLDIER SAID THERE WERE
TWO IN THE PLANE WHEN IT
CRASHED

Source: GERMAN SOLDIER

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

No Knowledge

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: JAN 20, 1945

MANHIERM, GERMANY

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ISLAND B. BROWN Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 3485745L
2. Organization 398 Gp Commander FRANK P. HUNTER, JR. Rank Col. Sqn PETERSON Rank Maj
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JAN day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, MANNHEIM, target, RR BRIDGE, target
time, 11:30 pm, altitude, 27,500 route scheduled, _____
route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just before MANNHEIM
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? IN VICINITY of MANNHEIM
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)
By HERRSAY INFORMATION FROM GERMANS
NELSON BAYER AND J.R. MITCHELL
11. Where were they in aircraft? No Knowledge
12. What was their condition? No Knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?
After liberation I saw all the
other members - they were all able to
be on their feet -
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

File # 11797

Name of crew member: M I T C H E L L, James E.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-777761
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~as Pilot (Pilot)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? I do not know.

Where? Mannheim, Germany.

If not, why not? I do not know.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Ship was on fire, there was no time for conversation. Pilot ordered crew to bail out.

Was he injured? Not prior to the time that I bailed out.

Where was he when last seen? At the controls of the plane.

Any hearsay information: Approximately six hours after I was captured by the Germans, one of their enlisted men told the Co-Pilot and I that two of the men in the plane were killed in the crash. Again at Dulag Luft the interrogator said that two men were killed in a plane crash on the day that we were shot down.

Source: Germans.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is my supposition that Lt. Mitchell tried to extinguish the fire in an effort to regain control of the plane, and waited too long before endeavoring to bail out. I believe that both Lt. Mitchell and Sgt. Beyer were in the aircraft when it exploded.

Total number of missions of above crew member: One.

Dates and destinations if possible: 20 January 1945, Mannheim, Germany.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE File # 11797

Name of crew member: B E Y E R, Nelson R.,
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 13054451
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Right Seat)~~: Enginner

Did he bail out? I do not know.

Where? Mannheim, Germany

If not, why not? I do not know.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: After we were

hit by flak Lt. Mitchell kept the ship on the bomb run. Sgt. Beyer checked the bomb bay doors for me after bombs were away, and told me that they were closed.

Was he injured? Not prior to the time that I bailed out.

Where was he when last seen? I believe he was in the upper turret.

Any hearsay information: Approximately six hours after I was captured by the Germans,

one of their enlisted men told the Co-Pilot and I that two of the men in the plane

were killed in the crash. Again at Dulag Luft the interrogator said that two men

were killed in a plane crash on the day that we were shot down.

Source: Germans.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I do not know

what happened to Sgt. Beyer.

Total number of missions of above crew member: One.

Dates and destinations if possible: 20 January 1945. Mannheim, Germany.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Yeech, Evert Mitchell Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-2066172
2. Organization AAF Gp Commander Hunter Rank Colonel Sqn CO Petersen Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Mannheim, Germany target, Railroad Bridge, target
time, Midday, altitude, 25000' route scheduled, do not
know, route flown Do not remember
5. Where were you when you left formation? In the Bombardier's compartment.
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". Co-Pilot, Navigator, and myself went out the nose hatch. The radio operator, waist gunner, ball turret gunner, and tail gunner went out the rear escape hatch.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? West of Mannheim, Germany.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) I do not know.
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? They were in the aircraft at their respective positions. Pilot at the controls and the Engineer in the upper turret.
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) 0-1

Name of crew member: MITCHELL, James R.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-777761
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~as a flight instructor~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Not definitely known

Where? Supposedly over MANNHEIM, GERMANY 20 JAN 45

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

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

"Bail out" command. was alright at this time

Was he injured? Supposedly not at the time

Where was he when last seen? In pilot compartment

Any hearsay information: was told later while at a

GERMAN INTERROGATION CENTER AT FRANKFURT, GER
that he was killed in plane explosion

Source: GERMAN military Authorities

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

Possibility of being killed in plane - As it
exploded a few seconds after being hit.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: Target - BRIDGE ACROSS Rhine

BETWEEN MANNHEIM and Ludwigshafen

20 JANUARY 1945 -

Name of crew member: **B E Y E R, Nelson R.,**
 Rank: **Sgt.**
 Serial number: **13054451**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Engineer (Fighter)~~: **Engineer**

Did he bail out? Not definitely known
 Where? Supposedly over Mannheim, Germany 20 Jan 45
 If not, why not? unknown
 Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: was
alright at oxygen check a few minutes before
 Was he injured? unknown
 Where was he when last seen? on flight deck when I bailed out
 Any hearsay information: was told later at a German
Interrogation center that he was killed in
plane explosion

Source: German Military Authorities

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

Could have possibly been killed in plane
as it exploded in midair a few seconds
after being hit.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: Target - Bridge across
Rhine River between Mannheim and Ludwigshafen
30 January 1945

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BYRON K Hughes JR Rank 2nd Lt Serial No. 2066125
2. Organization 398th Bomb Gp Gp Commander Petersen Rank Maj Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JANUARY day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission Bombing, target BRIDGE - Mannheim GER, target time, _____, altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just post target
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Saw other members of CREW - EXCEPT Lt Mitchell and Sgt Beyer, in German PRISON CAMPS. All bailed out safely!
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 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) NO KNOWLEDGE
11. Where were they in aircraft? NO KNOWLEDGE
12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? MEN SEEN IN PRISON CAMPS had ESCAPED SERIOUS INJURY - These included
Lt. H. Skubik - Lt E. Veech - Sgt Brown, Sgt Dick and Sgt Duhis
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)

Name of crew member: MITCHELL, James R.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-777761
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Bomber)~~: Pilot.

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No Knowledge

If not, why not? " " "

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Last Conversation or order was "Hit The S.I.K Men"

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? last seen by me before mission

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Pilot might have been hit and engineer tried to help him get out or the engineer might have been hit and the Pilot tried to help him out and the plane went into such a steep dive, neither could get out

Total number of missions of above crew member: First Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: JANUARY 20, 1945

Target: River Bridge on Rhine near Mannheim, Germany

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11797

Name of crew member: B E Y E R, Nelson R.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 13054451
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Flight (Fighter)~~: Engineer

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? No Knowledge

If not, why not? No Knowledge

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

Was he injured? No Knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Last seen by me before mission

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: ENGINEER MAY
have been hit by Flak and Pilot may have tried helping
him get out or Pilot may have been hit and engineer
tried helping him get out but plane went into
a steep dive before they could get out

Total number of missions of above crew member: FIRST MISSION

Dates and destinations if possible: JANUARY 20, 1945

Target: Phine River bridge near Mennchen
Germany

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Mills, Leonard P Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 37730653
2. Organization 378⁴⁸⁶ Gp Commander Hunter Rank Col Sqn CO _____ Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JANUARY day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, FIRST, target, Rhine River Bridge, target
time, 12:00 Noon, altitude, 29,000 FT route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Leaving the target
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Seven Six others besides
Myself; I have no knowledge whether Pilot & Engineer
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". No Knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 9 above and individual questionnaires) No Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? No Knowledge
12. What was their condition? No Knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I was the tail gunner on our plane and I bailed out the escape hatch in the tail. When I bailed out I passed out and did not regain consciousness till I was close to the ground. I do not know the condition of the Pilot and Engineer at the time we were ordered to bail out.

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

Abschub-Nr. III 3592

Abschubtag und Zeit: 20.1.45. 11.20.
Abschubort: Reichtersheim b/Sreyer
Flugzeugtyp: Mustang
Meldende Dienststelle: Koflin Neustadt a.D.R.

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
HUGH 10.10.19.	2/Lt.	O-2069325	gef.	Bul -Luft West
MURK Henry Andrew	2/Lt.	O-824054	gef.	dito
WELCH 1919	2/Lt.	O-2066172	gef.	dito
PEAR 11.10.19.	Sgt.	2102045	gef.	dito
BROWN 21.1.22.	Sgt.	34857456	gef.	dito
DICK 6.11.24.	Sgt.	38563183	gef.	dito
WILL 1925	Sgt.	37730653	gef.	dito

Bemerkungen:

DULAG-LUFT, den

30.1.45. v. l.