

Classification changed

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10314

E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by name England; Command or Air Force 8 A.F.
(Group 457th Bomb. Gp. (H); Squadron 748th; Detachment _____)
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Bernberg, Germany; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
10/10ths cloud cover
- TIME: (a) Day 2 Month Nov. Year 1944; Time 1255; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Approximately 51-35N 11-25E to 51-10N 11-10E
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); 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 (X); Enemy anti-Aircraft (); Other Circumstances as follows: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 44-6155
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any No name
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number
(a) 43-62134; (b) 43-019650; (c) 43-145715; (d) 43-019378
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, type and serial number):
(a) 1191464; (b) 603445; (c) 1191859; (d) 1191572
(e) 594585; (f) 1180950; (g) 603694; (h) 601303
(i) 1191438; (j) 1181027; (k) 1191885; (l) 1191857
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	<u>Schimel, Samuel H.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-824249</u>	<u>MIA Pow RTD</u>
2. CP	<u>Grudzien, Edward F.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-557631</u>	<u>MIA Pow RTD</u>
3. N	<u>Scheuch, Donald E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-2064337</u>	<u>MIA Pow RTD</u>
4. B	<u>Coffman, Dick E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-717750</u>	<u>MIA Pow RTD</u>
5. TAG	<u>Short, Henry W. D.</u>	<u>1st Sgt.</u>	<u>34601379</u>	<u>MIA Pow RTD</u>
6. ROG	<u>McFarlane, Bob B.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>39208796</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
7. WG	<u>Kaer, Robert L.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>19151162</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
8. BTG	<u>Schnitz, Albert F.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>16050264</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
9. TG	<u>Staszewski, Dominic (NIC)</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>38365519</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u>
10.				
11.				

- 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 (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check Only One Column		
			Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash or Landing
1.					
2.					
3.					

(over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Jan 12'

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13. IF PERSONNEL WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE 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. See para. 6 and 7 of S-2 Summary of Eye-Witness' Account.
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 _____
-
-

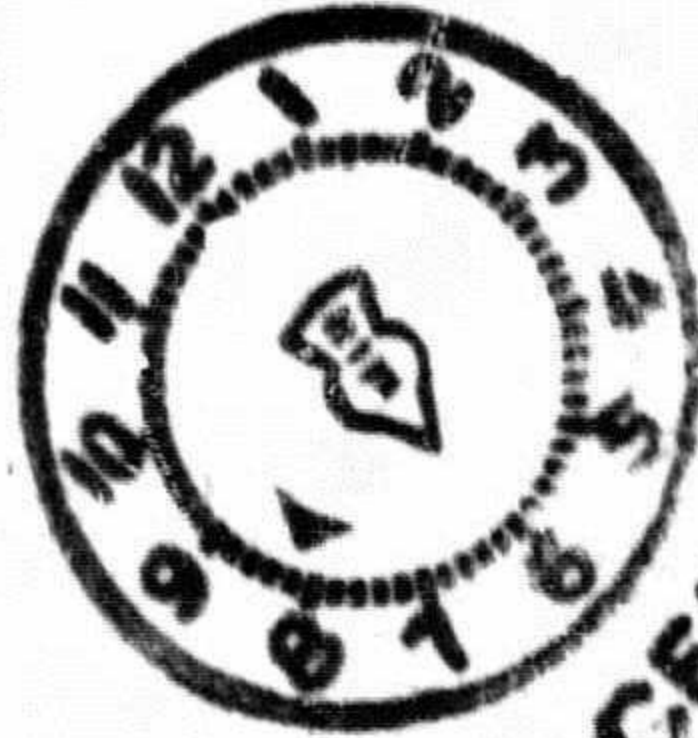
Date of Report 12 November 1944.

Gerald H. Calligan
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

GERALD H. CALLIGAN,
Capt., A. C.,
Air Statistical Officer.

17. DETAILS OF EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

JAN 3 1945



RECEIVED

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(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

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(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

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

GROUP 457th Sqdn. 751st A/C No. 44-6155

MISSION DATE 2 November 1944 FIRST PILOT Samuel H. Schimel
(Name)

1st Lt. O-824249 DESTINATION Merseburg
(Rank) (Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates Approximately 5135-1125 to 5110-1110

(b) Approximate altitude 26,400 feet

(c) Last noted heading Unknown

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Unknown

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing A/C):

Approximately 40 enemy aircraft bounced group at about 1248 to 1258, 17 to 27 minutes after bombs away, in area between above coordinates. They attacked from the tail between 5 and 8 o'clock. They came in in waves, but each of them appeared to single out an individual B-17 to attack.

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

Aircraft was hit by enemy aircraft and pulled off to the left. There is no more specific report.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft pulled off to left and was flying straight and level when last noticed.

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl. #181

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

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation, was it last seen with escort? No If so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.): _____

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

Five chutes believed to have been seen coming out from this aircraft.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Aircraft was flying number 3, low section, low squadron. This was one of seven aircraft shot down from this squadron. There was also one aircraft shot down from each of the lead and high squadrons. The squadrons were flying in group formation. The confusion caused by the attack makes the accuracy of the reports doubtful.

8. Date of report 12 November 1944

EYE-WITNESSES:	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>Ernest T. Salzer</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-814980</u>	<u>42-38021</u>
2.	<u>Jacob Landsman</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-718187</u>	<u>42-38021</u>
3.	<u>Benjamin W. Hamrick</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>19103341</u>	<u>42-38021</u>
4.	<u>Elbert D. Gonger</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>33608172</u>	<u>42-38021</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill

HUGH M. HAMILL

(Name)

1st Lt.

(Rank)

0-571919

A.S.N.

Asst. Gp. S-2.

Duty

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-4AF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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

MACB

10314

17

9 men
AAF 44-6155

Date: 2 November 1944 at 1230

11 November

KU 3257

Place: Ziegelrode near Eisleben

Type: Fortress
46155/751 H.Bo.
457th

Target: Flying Field
Halle/Saale.

RTD	2nd/Ltn.	COFFMAN, Dick Earl
RTD	2nd/Ltn.	GRUDZIEN, Edward F.
RTD	2nd/Ltn.	SCHIMEL, Samuel H.
Not on record	2nd/Ltn.	STOCK, Harold
RTD	S/Sgt.	SHORT, Henry W. D.
RTD	S/Sgt.	Mc FARLAND, Bob B.
	Sgt.	SCHMITZ, Albert P.
	Sgt.	STATZENSKI, Dominic
	Sgt.	KAER, Robert L.
		Scheuch, Donald E.

0-717750
0-557631
0-824249

34601379
39208796

16050264 KIA
3836519 KIA
1915716 KIA
02064337 KIA

RTD
3 "DEAD"

MACB 10314
with
plan

MAR 10314 ✓

REPORT OF CRASH

CASUALTY NR. KU 3257

DATE OF CRASH

2 November 1944, 1230

PLACE OF CRASH

Ziegelrode near Niesleben

TYPE OF CRAFT

Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Base Halle/Saale

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH.**RANK****SER. NR.****RESULT**

COFFMAN, Dick Earl

2nd/Lt.

O-717790

captured Dalg Luft West

GRUDZIN, Edward F.

2nd/Lt.

O-557631

"

"

SCHIMMEL, Samuel H.

2nd/Lt.

O-824249

"

"

SHORT, Henry W.D.

S/Sgt.

34601379

"

"

MC FARLANE, Bob B.

S/Sgt/

39205796

"

"

all EUS

Dalg Luft, 17 November 1944 No.

*MACR 10314**6 RTD
3 KIA*

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: **Receiving Unit**
 LOCATION: **Halle/Saale**
 DATE: **8/11/44** 1000 hrs
 DATE AND TIME: **2/11/44** 1230 hrs.
 AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN
 PLACE OF CRASH: **Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben**
 (NEAREST TOWN)
 KIND OF CAPTURE: **fighter**
 (FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
 EMERGENCY LANDING)
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Boeing B 17 G**
 MARKINGS OF CRAFT: **only blue stripes on tail unit.**
 (LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)
 ADMITTANCE NO: **461556**
 EQUIPMENT: **/.**
 F.T. FREQUENCIES: **see spec. report**
 CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: **90 % destr.**
 DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
 (DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)
Nrs. of motors: 4 Studebaker
Weapons: normal
Armor: normal
Guard: Home Guard Ziegelrode
Fate of Crew: 3 dead, 2 captured, rest unaccounted for.
Arrival of Rec. Unit: 3/11/44 1700 hrs.
Rec. Unit: 1 officer AC., 1 officer Sig. C., 1 techn. Insp.
Remarks: The prisoners were at Military District HQ Eisleben and
have been trfd to Oberursel.

MACK 10314
 s/ KIERSCH
 Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Rec. Unit

PLACE: Halle/Saale

DATE: 8/11/44 1000 hrs.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter
XXXXXXXXXX AT: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Zieleben, 2/11/44 1230

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Unknown

FIRST NAME: //.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) ./.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Report later

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Rec. Unit

PLACE: Halle/Saale

DATE: 8/11/44 1000

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 3 by fighter
EM. LANDING: AT: Ziegeirode, 5km N.W. Bielefeld

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Unknown

FIRST NAME: /o

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) /o

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Report later

s/ MIERBCH
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: **Rec. Unit**

PLACE: **Halle/Saale**

DATE: **8/11/44 1000 hrs.**

REGARDING: **CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter**
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AT: Eichelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **Unknown**

FIRST NAME: **./.**

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **./.**

RESULT (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **captured**

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: **at place of crash**

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Remarks: The prisoner was at HQ Military District Eisleben and has been reported from that place and been trfd. to Oberursel. His name could not be found out.

**s/ MIERSCH
Lt.**

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: **Rec. Unit**
 PLACE: **Halle/ Saale**
 DATE: **8/11/44 1000 hrs.**
 REGARDING: **CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter**
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ **AT: Ziegelrode, 5 km N. W. Eisleben 2/11/44 1230**
ENT. CAPTURED:
 NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **Unknown**
 FIRST NAME: **./.**
 SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **./.**
 RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **captured**
 PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: **at place of crash**
 NAME OF HOSPITAL:
 PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Remarks: the prisoner was at HQ Military District Eisleben and has been reported from that place and been trfd to Oberursel. His name could not be found out.

**/ MIRSCH
Lt.**

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: HQ Airbase Halle/Saale HQ Airbase District 7/III

LOCATION: Grossenhain

DATE: 8/11/44

DATE AND TIME: 2/11/44 1230
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben
(NEAREST TOWN)

KIND OF CAPTURE: fighter
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing B 17 G

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: n/c to be found out, only blue diagonal stripe
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA) at tail unit.

ADMITTANCE NO: 46155

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: 90% destr.

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
(DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)
Guard at plane: Home Guard Ziegelrode

Result of Crew

Dead: 3 men 1) unknown
2) unknown
3) unknown (Report on burial later)

Captured: 2 men 1) unknown Transferred from Eisleben to Oberursel
2) unknown " " " " "

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

Technical Data

Nacelle: Fuselage: 90% destr. Landing Gear: 90% destr.
 Wings: 90% destr. Tail Unit: 95% destr.

Model of Engines: Studebaker with Exhaust turbine.
 Engine Nr. and %age of Destr.: Cannot be found out before salvage.

- 1) 85% destr. 2) 90% destr. 3) 99% destr. 4) 90% destr.

Metal Propeller: 3 blades, Model: Hamilton-Standard
 DRG Nr. ~~6477~~ A-0
 Radius of props: 1750 mm
 0.7 radius: 1225 ; at this spot the depth of the blade is 320 mm

Weapons: 8 12.7 mm machineguns, Type and Manufacturer cannot be found out prior to salvage of plane. Installed in fuselage, and scattered around at the place of crash. Mounted movable.

Used Sights: Circular sights.

Ammunition: 12.7 belt

Ratio of components: 1 x RA 4, 4 x SL and TW 4

Bombs: None found.

Bomb-racks: not to be found out

Bomb-sight: none found.

Armor: Armor-plates found in strength of 5 mm and 6.2 mm.

(Radio- and Pilotcompartment)

- Radio Sets: 1) Dynamotor Type D Frame 48
 2) Receiver type unrecognizable, at the end WF-43
 3) Transmitter BC - 457 - A
 4) Ultra-short-wave liaison set TR 5043 with case CS -80-A
 Receiver-quartz-~~xxxx~~ tube A 8200, tube 8261.25. Rest of quartzes with their tubes no longer to be found out.
 5) Navigation Set Receiver Type R 1355, Ref. Nr. 102/13032
 Tuning Units and setting of knobs nto be found out any more.
 6) Indicator set with Braun's Tube Indicator Type 62 with Panel Control Type III.
 7) Transmitter BC - 778-D
 8) Interphone Amplifier BC - 347 - C

Cameras: None found

Fuel: None could be removed because tanks completely destroyed.

Nr. of tanks: not to be found out.

s/ KRAUSE
 Inspector

2/11/44

1230

Fortress 17

Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben

46155

J. (a)

Airbase Halle/S.

3 dead ?

Identification: BOB B. McFARLAND
39208796 T 43-44 0

0

Identification: GRUDZIEK, EDWARD F.
0557631 T 43-44 0

0

MACR 10314

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER: **LLBL 93**

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE:

5/11/44

THROUGH:

TIME:

1430

ROLL:

FROM:

LLBF

THROUGH:

Fass

REMARKS:

GEM

SSD LBNA 121 5/11 0110.

To Ev. Pt. West Oberursel

Subj.: Downing of Boeing B 17 G, 2/11/44 1230 hrs.

Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben ~~by~~ ^{by} fighter.

Markings: not to be found out, only blue diagonal stripe on tail unit.

FT-Frequencies: see spec. report.

Condition of craft: 90 % destr.

Fate of Crew: 3 dead, 2 captured; Prisoners are at Hq Military District

Eisleben. Rest of crew; unaccounted for.

Addition to Hq Airbase Distr. 7/III, Grossenhain, to Ev. Pt. West, Oberursel

and Hq A/R Distr. III, Ia, Berlin have been notified.

Receiv. Unit Halle/Saale, 2nd. Company. Receiving Officer ^{is}/ MIERSCH, Lt.

MA CR 10314

2nd Lt. Samuel H. Schimmel

Mr. David N. Schimmel (father)
108 Atlantic Avenue,
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

2nd Lt. Donald K. Scheuch

Mr. Julius Edward Scheuch (father)
78 Averill Avenue,
Rochester, New York.

2nd Lt. Edward V. Grudzien

Mrs. Mary B. Grudzien (mother)
448 Eddy Clover Boulevard,
New Britain, Connecticut.

2nd Lt. Dick E. Coffman

Mrs. Mary R. Coffman (wife)
928 West 32nd Street, Terrace,
Kansas City, Missouri.

S/Sgt. Henry W. D. Short

Mrs. Nabel D. Short (mother)
Box 11,
Mocksville, North Carolina.

S/Sgt. Bob B. McFarlane

Mr. Boyd E. McFarlane (father)
Box 1412 Station A,
Bremerton, Washington.

S/Sgt. Albert P. Schmitz

Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitz (mother)
Route Number Two,
Hillpoint, Wisconsin.

Sgt. Dominic Staszewski

Mrs. Tekla Staszewski (mother)
1816 Montana Street,
San Antonio, Texas.

Sgt. Robert L. Kaer

Mrs. Margaret L. Kaer (wife)
4807 Seirra Street,
Riverside, California.

Name of crew member: STASZEWSKI, Dominik
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 38365519
 Position: ~~Crew member~~ TO

Did he bail out? I Do Not Know

Where? ~~~~~

If not, why not? Do Not Know

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About
or Just before enemy Fighters Attacked.

Was he injured? Do Not Know

Where was he when last seen? Last saw him when we took off from base.

Any hearsay information: No. The radio man, Bob McFarlane
said the waist was so full of smoke that it was
impossible to see.

Source: McFarlane, Bob B.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is very
likely and my opinion that he was killed by
enemy gunfire.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Not certain but I think six

Dates and destinations if possible: As he did not fly all
Missions with us it is impossible to tell which
ones he did go on.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Shert, Henry W.D. Rank T/5pt. Serial No. 34601379
2. Organization 427 Gp Commander Not sure Rank COL. Sqn CO Don't know Rank capt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month November day 2 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, art supp, target, Bersberg, target time, about 18:00 altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, Don't know
route flown Don't know
5. Where were you when you left formation? returning to base from target
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? I did not see them bail out but they told me they did.
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". See back
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Don't know
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Don't know
11. Where were they in aircraft? Don't know
12. What was their condition? Don't know
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Did not see any crew member after arriving at interrogation center.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Do not know of any.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Answer to question #8..
NAVIGATOR.

2nd Lt. Donald E. Schenck

According to what he told me the ship exploded and he was blown through the nose of ship. His eye was injured but I don't think it was serious.

Bombardier:

2nd Lt. Dick E. Coffman

The same as happened to Lt. Schenck. He had cuts and bruises about the head.

Pilot

2nd Lt. Samuel H. Schimel

Not sure but he was burned about face.

Co Pilot

2nd Lt. Edward F. Gaudzien

BLOWN through NAVIGATOR'S escape hatch. HAD BURNS ON FACE AND HANDS. HAND WAS ALSO FROZEN.

S/Sgt. Bob B. McFarlane

Ship broke into AT WAIST. AND HE FELL OUT. CUTS ON HEAD AND TWISTED HIS BACK WHEN HE HIT GROUND.

Note:

ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS TOLD ME BY THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED.

Name of crew member: KANE, Robert L.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 19151162
 Position: Crew (Bomber) (Fighter) (Fighter): WO

Did he bail out: DON'T KNOW

Where? —

If not, why not? DON'T KNOW

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ON REGULAR
CREW CHECK JUST BEFORE ATTACK

Was he injured? DON'T KNOW

Where was he when last seen? IN HIS POSITION AS TAIL GUNNER.

Any hearsay information: KILLED IN THE FIGHTER
ATTACK

Source: INTERROGATED AT INTERROGATION CENTER,
FRANKFORT.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:
I BELIEVE HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED OR
KILLED IN THE FIGHTER ATTACK WHICH
CAME IN TOWARD THE TAIL AND FROM
BELOW.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 11 or 12

Dates and destinations if possible: SEPT TO NOV, 1944
OSNABRUCK, COLOGNE (4 TIMES), KASSEL,
POLITZ, MANNHEIM, BIELEFELD, MUNSTER,
MERSEBURG.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name SAMUEL H. SCHIMMEL Rank 1st LT Serial No. 0-824249
2. Organization 457 Gp Commander RODNER, COL Rank 1st Lt Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month NOV. day 2 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, MERSEBURG, G. target time, 12 NOON, altitude, 29000 route scheduled, S-E
ACROSS GERMANY, route flown SAME
5. Where were you when you left formation? DID NOT LEAVE FORMATION
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". WHEN? DURING ATTACK BY FIGHTERS - SHIP WAS ON FIRE WITH ENGINES OUT. WHERE? - ABOUT 30 MILES FROM MERSEBURG - HOW? - I BELIEVE WERE BLOWN OUT; THE REST IN THE USUAL MANNER.
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 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? I LAST SAW THE MEN JUST BEFORE WE TOOK OFF FOR THE MISSION. THEY WERE OK. AT THAT TIME
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(over)

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I BELIEVE THE CLEAREST WAY TO GIVE YOU THE STORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

WE HAD JUST LEFT THE MERSEBURG AREA. OUR ENTIRE GROUP WAS APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES FROM THE OTHER GROUPS AND WHERE WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN. IN OTHER WORDS - OUT OF DIVISION LINE. OUR IV SHIPS WERE THE LOW SQUADRON. WE WERE HIT FROM THE REAR BY A VICIOUS FIGHTER ATTACK THAT KNOCKED DOWN ABOUT EIGHT OF OUR IV SHIPS.

IN OUR OWN PARTICULAR SHIP: 2 OF OUR ENGINES WERE KNOCKED OUT - THE SHIP WAS CUT TO RIBBONS - THE BOMB BAYS WERE ON FIRE AS WELL AS OTHER PARTS OF THE SHIP. ^{SHIP WENT OUT OF CONTROL.} THE ENGINEER POKED ME, POINTED TO THE BOMB BAYS AND LEFT. BOTH CO-PILOT AND I GAVE ORDERS OVER INTERPHONE TO LEAVE, I FLIPPED ON THE EMERGENCY ALARM AND THE AUTOMATIC PILOT. THE COPILOT AND I BAILED OUT. BOTH HE AND I WERE SEVERELY BURNED BY THE INTENSE HEAT IN THE PLANE AT THAT TIME. THE NAVIGATOR - A NEW MAN IN OUR CREW - HAD HIS PARACHUTE IN HIS PARACHUTE BAG. BY THE TIME HE FOUND IT AND STARTED TO ATTACH

SAMUEL H SCHIMMEL
257 HUDSON BLVD.
C/O GUNSBURG
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
MARCH 1, 1946

DEAR SIR:

IF THERE IS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT I CAN GIVE YOU THAT WILL ASSIST YOU IN YOUR TASK, FEEL FREE TO CALL UPON ME TO DO SO.

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU MAY UNCOVER IN YOUR INVESTIGATION AS TO THE FATE OF THESE THREE MEN.

SINCERELY YOURS,
Samuel H Schimmel

IT, HE WAS BLOWN OUT AS WAS
THE BOMBARDIER WHOSE WAY HE
BLOCKED. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ^{CREW} EXCEPT
THE THREE LISTED MET THAT
EVENING IN A TEMPORARY PRISON
WHERE WE WERE HELD. EXTENSIVE
QUESTIONING ABOUT THE FATE OF
THE OTHER THREE REVEALED
VERY LITTLE. NONE OF THE MEN
HAD HEARD FROM THEM FROM THE
TIME THE ATTACK STARTED TO
THE END, THE THREE WERE FLY-
ING TAIL GUN, WAIST GUN, AND
BALL GUN POSITIONS, THE INTER-
ROGATER AT THE INTERROGATION
CENTER NEAR FRANKFORT TOLD
ME THAT THE THREE HAD BEEN
KILLED IN THE ATTACK. THE LAST
STATEMENT IS HEARSAY.

Name of crew member: STASZEWSKI, Dominik
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 38365519
 Position: ~~Bombardier~~ ~~Crew Chief~~ ~~Flight Engineer~~: ~~WG~~ WG

Did he bail out? —

Where? —

If not, why not? —

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

AT TIME OF FIGHTER ATTACK.

Was he injured? —

Where was he when last seen? AT POSITION

Any hearsay information: —

Source: —

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

ATTACK WAS FROM TAIL. ASSUME WAS

SEVERELY INJURED OR KILLED DURING ATTACK

Total number of missions of above crew member: 6 OR 7

Dates and destinations if possible: COLOGNE, MUNSTER,

BIELFELD, KASSEL, POLITZ, MERSEBERG.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name EDWARD F. GRUDZIEN Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-557631
2. Organization AC Gp Commander ROGNER Rank Col Sqn Cdr SYPTAK Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year Nov. 1944 month NOV. day 2 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, MERSERBERG, target, _____, target time, 12:00 ?, altitude, 27,700 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? #3 Low SQD
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". PILOT NAV. BOMB., ENG. RADIO OP. & MYSELF BAILED OUT ABOUT 5 MIN. AFTER LEAVING TARGET. ABOUT 12:15 PM. ALL OUT THE NOSE HATCH EXCEPT R.O. WHO WENT OUT WAIST DOOR
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? T.G. B.G. W.G. AT START OF MISSION OUT OF ENGLAND. ALL WELL.
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)

of.
KH 3257 } K2 3268
- 3269

10314

Identification: HENRY W.D. SHORT
34601279 T 43-44 O

P

Identification: Dick E. COFFMAN
0-717750 T 43-44 A

P

Identification: SAMUEL H. SCHIMEL
0-824249 T 43-44 A

H

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Receiving Unit

LOCATION: Halle/Saale

DATE: 8/11/44 1000 hrs

DATE AND TIME: 2/11/44 1230 hrs.
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben
(NEAREST TOWN)

KIND OF CAPTURE:
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER, fighter
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing B 10 G

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: only blue stripe on tail unit.
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: 461556

EQUIPMENT: ./.

F.T. FREQUENCIES: see spec. report

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: 90 % destr.

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
(DULOG -LUFT, ETC.)

Nrs. of motors: 4 Studebaker

Weapons: normal

Armor: normal

Guard: Home Guard Ziegelrode

Fate of Crew: 3 dead, 2 captured, rest unaccounted for.

Arrival of Rec. Unit: 3/11/44 1700 hrs.

Rec. Unit: 1 officer AC., 1 officer Sig. C., 1 techn. Insp.

Remarks: The prisoners were at Military District HQ Eisleben and
have been trfd to Oberursel.

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Rec. Unit

PLACE: Halle/Saale

DATE: 8/11/44 1000 hrs.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter

BE A-1000156: AT: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben, 2/11/44 1230

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Unknown

FIRST NAME: //.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) ./.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Report later

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: **Rec. Unit**
 PLACE: **Halle/Saale**
 DATE: **8/11/44** 1000 hrs.
 REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, **Boeing B 17 G** by fighter
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AT: **Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben** 2/11/44 1230
 NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **Unknown**
 FIRST NAME: **./.**
 SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **./.**
 RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **dead**
 PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:
 NAME OF HOSPITAL:
 PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: **Report later**

s/ **MIERSCH**
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Rec. Unit

PLACE: Halle/Saale

DATE: 8/11/44 1000 hrs.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AT: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) Unknown

FIRST NAME: ./.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) ./.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) captured

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: at place of crash

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Remarks: The prisoner was at HQ Military District Eisleben and has been reported from that place and been trfd. to Oberursel. His name could not be found out.

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: **Rec. Unit**
 PLACE: **Halle/ Saale**
 DATE: **8/11/44 1000 hrs.**
 REGARDING: **CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 G by fighter**
~~SECRET~~ AT: Ziegelrode, 5 km N. W. Eisleben 2/11/44 1230
 NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME) **Unknown**
 FIRST NAME: **./.**
 SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) **./.**
 RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) **captured**
 PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE: **at place of crash**
 NAME OF HOSPITAL:
 PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Remarks: the prisoner was at HQ Military District Eisleben and has been reported from that place and been trfd to Oberursel. His name could not be found out.

s/ **MIERSCH**
Lt.

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: HQ Airbase Halle/Saale HQ Airbase District 7/III

LOCATION: Grossenhain

DATE: 8/11/44

DATE AND TIME: 2/11/44 1230
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH: Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben
(NEAREST TOWN)

KIND OF CAPTURE: fighter
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing B 17 G

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: nfo to be found out, only blue diagonal stripe
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA) at tail unit.

ADMITTANCE NO: 46155

EQUIPMENT:
F.T. FREQUENCIES:
CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: 90% destr.

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
(DULOG -LUFT, ETC.)
Guard at plane: Home Guard Ziegelrode

Result of Crew

Dead: 3 men	1) unknown	
	2) unknown	
	3) unknown	(Report on burial later)
Captured: 2 men	1) unknown	Transferred from Eisleben to Oberursel
	2) unknown	" " " " " "

s/ MIERSCH
Lt.

Technical Data

Nacelle:	Fuselage:	90 % destr.	Landing Gear:	90% destr.
	Wings:	90% destr.	Tail Unit:	95% destr.

Model of Engines: Studebaker with Exhaust turbine.
 Engine Nr. and %age of Destr.: Cannot be found out before salvage.

1) 85% destr. 2) 90% destr. 3) 95% destr. 4) 90% destr.

Metal Propeller: 3 blades, Model: Hamilton-Standard
 DRG Nr. 6477 A-0
 Radius of props: 1750 mm
 0.7 radius: 1225 ; at this spot the depth of the blade is 320 mm

Weapons: 8 12.7 mm machineguns, Type and Manufacturer cannot be found out prior to salvage of plane. Installed in fuselage, and scattered around at the place of crash. Mounted movable.

Used Sights: Circular sights.

Ammunition: 12.7 belt

Ratio of component: 1 x RA 4, 4 x SL and TW 4

Bombs: None found.

Bomb-racks: not to be found out

Bomb-sight: none found.

Armor: Armor-plates found in strength of 5 mm and 6.3 mm.

(Radio- and Pilotcompartment)

- Radio Sets: 1) Dynamotor Type D Frame 48
 2) Receiver type unrecognizable, at the end WF-43
 3) Transmitter BC - 457 - A
 4) Ultra-short-wave liaison set TR 5043 with case C8 -80-A
 Receiver-quartz-tube A 8200, tube 8261.25. Rest of quartzes with their tubes no longer to be found out.
 5) Navigation Set Receiver Type R 1355, Ref. Nr. 10D/13032
 Tuning Units and setting of knobs not to be found out any more.
 6) Indicator set with Braun's Tube Indicator Type 62 with Panel Control Type III.
 7) Transmitter BC - 778-D
 8) Interphone Amplifier BC - 347 - C

Cameras: None found

Fuel: None could be removed because tanks completely destroyed.

Nr. of tanks: not to be found out.

s/ KRAUSE
 Inspector

2/11/44

1230

Fortress 17

Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben

46155

J. (a)

Airbase Halle/S.

3 dead ?

Identification: BOB B. McFARLAND
39203796 T 43-44 0

C

Identification: GUDZIEN, EDWARD F.
0557631 T 43-44 0

C

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER: **LLBL 93**

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE:

5/11/44

THROUGH:

TIME:

1430

ROLL:

FROM:

LLBN

THROUGH:

Fass

REMARKS: **Q E M**

SSD LBNA 121 5/11 0110.

To Ev. Pt. West Oberursel

Subj.: Downing of Boeing B 17 G, 2/11/44 1230 hrs.

Ziegelrode, 5 km N.W. Eisleben by fighter.

Markings: not to be found out, only blue diagonal stripe on tail unit.

FT-Frequencies: see spec. report.

Condition of craft: 90 % destr.

Fate of Crew: 3 dead, 2 captured; Prisoners are at Hq Military District Eisleben. Rest of crew; unaccounted for.

Addition to Hq Airbase Distr. 7/III, Grossenhain, to Ev. Pt. West, Oberursel and Hq Air Distr. III, Ic, Berlin have been notified.

Receiv. Unit Halle/Saale, 2nd. Company. Receiving Officer s/ MIERSCH, Lt.

10314

ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, BOEING FIELD
SEATTLE 4, WASHINGTON

1. NAME AND ASN OF CASUALTY: Albert P. Smitz, S/Sgt
ASN - unknown

Robert L. Kaer, Sgt
ASN - unknown

Dominic Staszewski, Sgt
ASN - unknown
2. CREW POSITIONS : Smitz - Ball Turret Gunner
Kaer - Tail Gunner
Staszewski - Waist Gunner
3. UNIT : 457th Bomb Group
Squadron No. 751st
94th Combat Wing - 8th Air Force
4. DATE LAST SEEN : 2 November 1944
5. PLACE : Near Mersburg, Germany
6. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS OF AIRCRAFT : At 1255, 2 November 1944, engines 1,2, and 3 caught on fire from fighter attack and feathered - bombay caught on fire - plane went into a spin for about 4,000 feet - blew up at 22,000 feet while S/Sgt Smitz, Sgt Kaer, Sgt Staszewski and T/Sgt McFarlane were still aboard - other 5 members of the crew had bailed out.
7. KNOWN INFORMATION : None.
8. HEARSAY INFORMATION : It is believed that S/Sgt Smitz, Sgt Kaer and Sgt Staszewski went down with ship, since they were never seen or heard of again. T/Sgt McFarlane was blown clear of the plane and parachuted to ground where he and other members of crew were captured by Germans. The pilot, Lt. Samuel H. Schimmel, gave the order for crew to bail out as soon as engines failed but as interphone connection was broken, none of crew heard him.

Bob B. McFarlane
BOB B. MCFARLANE
T/Sgt, 4169th AAF Base Unit
ASN 39208796

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

Abschuß-Nr. 50 2427

Abschußtag und Zeit: 2.11.44 - 12.30
 Abschlußort: Kriegalrode b. Bieleben
 Flugzeugtyp: Fortress
 Meldende Dienststelle: Fl. H. Halle/S.

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
COFFMAN Dick Carl	.Lt.	0-717750	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
GRUDZIAN Edward P.	2.Lt.	0-557631	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
SCHIMMEL Samuel H.	2.Lt.	0-625749	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
SHORE Henry W. B.	S/Sgt.	34601379	gef.	Dulag-Luft West

Bemerkungen: 10214

DULAG-MFT, den

17.11.44 Vo.