



The right wing enveloped in flames, aircraft 44-6831, flown by Lt. Roland Brazier, falls below the formation, a victim of Flak, over Gelsenkirchen. 16th. February 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRACHAS, Lt. Col., AO
By WM. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AO
Date MAR 15 1946

[illegible]

556528
112

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by **W. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG**
by **W. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt., AG**
Date **MAR 15 1946**

12437

CONFIDENTIAL

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.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name England; Command or Air Force 8AF
Group 457th Bomb Gp (H); Squadron 748th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Gelsenkirchen, Ger.; Type of Mission _____
Objective Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
Good - 3/10th to 7/10th
4. TIME: (a) Day 16 Month Feb Year 1945; Time 1353; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 51 40 N - 07 20 E
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (X); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to crash (); or Information Not Available ().
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (X); Other Circumstances as follows: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G; AAF Serial Number 44-6831 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any: None
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number _____
(a) SW-032137; (b) SW-G31950; (c) SW-031675; (d) SW-031303
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, type and Serial number):
(a) 1321203; (b) 1323371; (c) 1322197; (d) 1306563;
(e) 1323319; (f) 1307942; (g) 1316136; (h) 1316129;
(i) 1315572; (j) 1315515; (k) 1307212; (l) 1307319;
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
(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	Brazier, Roland H.	2nd Lt.	0774504	MIA ✓ RTD
2. CP	Hazlett, Alvin G.	2nd Lt.	0778798	MIA ✓ RTD
3. N	Biehl, William J.	2nd Lt.	02065521	MIA ✓ RTD
4. B	Freeman, William F.	2nd Lt.	0706837	MIA ✓
5. TTG	Klimoff, Walter H.	T/Sgt	19122400	MIA ✓
6. RO	Murray, Stanley L.	T/Sgt	31200036	MIA ✓ RTD
7. BTG	Conner, William J.	S/Sgt	37576438	MIA ✓
8. WG	Hochberg, Daniel S.	S/Sgt	12175927	N/A MIA ✓
9. TG	Swanson, Stanley D.	S/Sgt	36692222	MIA ✓
10. RCM OPR.	Trapp, Richard C.	Sgt	35297796	MIA ✓
11.				
12.				

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 (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check Only One Column		
			Contacted by	Last Saw	Forced Landing
			Radio	Sighted	Crash
1. Caplovitz, Alvin L.	1st Lt.	0-825107		X	
2. Blackson, Raymond C.	S/Sgt	13189804		X	
3. Westhoff, John R.	S/Sgt	17168673		X	

(over)

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Incl. - 10

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13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used X; (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 EYE WITNESS 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 23 February 1945

Gerald H. Galligan
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
GERALD H. GALLIGAN,
Captain, Air Corps
Air Statistical Officer

17. REMARKS OR EYE WITNESS STATEMENTS:



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(S-2 Summary of
Eye-Witness Accounts)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(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 ~~157th~~ 157th Sqdn. 748th A/C No. 44-6811

MISSION DATE 16 February 1945 FIRST PILOT Roland H. Brasier
(Name)

2nd Lt.

O-774504

DESTINATION Gelsenkirchen

(Rank)

(Serial No.)

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

(a) By coordinates About 5140-0720 E

(b) Approximate altitude 25,500 feet

(c) Last noted heading 40 degrees (True course)

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

3,000 to 4,000 feet below formation.

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

Moderate to intense, accurate, continuously pointed and barrage flak was encountered in target area at time missing aircraft was lost.

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

Aircraft was apparently hit by flak in the number three engine. The right wing folded up, broke off and went down. The rest of the airplane turned over on its back. It was burning.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

After the aircraft turned over on its back, it appeared to continue to roll, completing two slow rolls. It then went down in a sort of a spin. There was an explosion as the aircraft went down, but the aircraft was not seen to disintegrate. It was seen until it was 3,000 feet to 4,000 feet below the formation. It was then lost to view in contrails.

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 1 -

Incl. # 21

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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.):

Two to four parachutes were seen to come out of the airplane at intervals as the aircraft was spinning.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

A/C 831, which was flying deputy lead of the low squadron, dropped its bombs about two minutes before the lead aircraft. This was done without any signal to take over being given by the squadron leader. A/C 831 then closed its bomb bay doors and flew in formation until it was apparently hit by flak. This was about two minutes after the lead aircraft dropped its bombs.

8. Date of report 23 February 1945

EYE-WITNESSES:	NAME	RANK	A.S.N.	A/C No.
1.	Raymond C. Blackman	S/Sgt.	13189204	44-8219
2.	John R. Westhoff	S/Sgt.	17168673	43-38537
3.	Jesse J. DeBoard	Sgt.	38566797	43-38831
4.	Alvin I. Caplovitz	1st Lt.	0-825107	43-37694

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill

HUGH M. HAMILL

(Name)

1st Lt.

(Rank)

0-571919

A.S.N.

Asst. Gd. S-2

Duty

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

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MACR
12437
B17
10 men
AAZ 44-6831

16 Febr. 1945

~~Castro~~
Type: Fortress
Markings: 46831
Target: Airbase
Dortmund

17 March

2nd Lt. BRAZIER

Roland Hoyt

KU 3718

KIA Lt. FREEMAN

William

O-774504 capt

2nd Lt. HAZLETT

Alvin Guy

O-706837 dead

2nd Lt. DIEHL

William J.

O-778798 capt

Sgt. KUNRAY

Stanley

O-2065521 capt

KIA Sgt. SWANSON

Stanley D.

31200036

KIA Sgt. OSMAN

William J.

36692722 dead

T/Sgt. KLINGOFF

W. H.

37576438 dead

S/Sgt. ROCHBERG

D.

To Computing Station West Oberursel

Subject: Downing of a Boeing-Fortress, on 16 Feb 45, at 1350 hours
in Vastrop-Rauzel, Ortsteillickern-Schloß Bladenhorst. (Crew 9 men.

Identification markings: Star. Aircraft type: Boeing Fortress, serial
No. 46831, shot down by flak. Exploded in the air, 95% destruction.

Captured:

Lt Brazier, Roland, O 774504

Murray Stanley, 31200036

DEAD:

Swanson, Stanley, 36692222

Conner, William J., 37376438

Off. Freeman, William, 0706837

2 men missing

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

16
21 February 1945

CASUALTY NO. KU 3718

PLACE OF CRASH

Casttop-Rauxel

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Fortress

REPORTING OFFICE

Air Base Dortmund

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED LEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
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HAZLETT	Alvin Guy	2nd.Lt.	O-778798	captured	Dulag Luft West
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DIEHL	William J.	2nd.Lt.	O-206552	captured	Dulag Luft West
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BRAZIER	Roland Hoyt	2nd.Lt.	O-774504	captured	Dulag Luft West
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25 January 1922 Fort Worth, Texas

FREEMAN	William	Lt.	O-706837	dead	KIA 16 Feb 45
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SWANSON	Stanley D.	Sgt.	36692222	dead	" "
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CONNER	William J.	Sgt.	37576438	dead	" "
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REMARKS:

Dulag Luft, 17 March 1945 No.

KLIMOFF, WALTER H.

Name: KLIMOFF, WALTER H.

19122400

1. Visi - Status

KIA 16 Feb 45. ETO Germany.
#6704 Dead 12 Nov 45 (318018-42)

2. Casualty File:

A. Unit:

Air Corps.

B. Date of Casualty:

12 Nov 45

C. Circumstances:

B-17 type aircraft which departed from Station 130 on a mission to Gelsenkirchen, Germany 16 Feb 45 and was last seen over the target area. Bombs had been dropped on target when plane received direct hit in right wing knocking it completely off. The plane fell immediately into a spin which pinned all the crew to their positions. After about 4 turns of the spin the left wing broke off and the fuselage broke into two just behind the upper turret. The was over Gelsenkirchen at 23000 feet.

D. List of Message & Shipment Nos:

12 Nov 45. 318018-42

E. Cross reference to 704 (only if not in Mail & Message)

3. Message & Shipment Nos:

A. Crew List:

Wm F. Freeman, 0706837
Walter H. Klimoff, 19122400
Wm J. Copner, 37576438
Stanley J. Swanson, 36692222
Richard C. Trapp, 35297796

The other members
of crew
safely.

B. Review:

Last paragraph of 318018 reads:

It is recommended that pursuant to authority contained in Section B Missing Persons Act the 5 men named in 318018 be accepted as officially dead. Evidence of death in War Dept 12 November 45

KLIMOFF, WALTER H.

NAME: *Walter H. Klimoff*

SERIAL NUMBER: *19/22400*

GRADE: *T/Sgt.*

REPORTED AS CASUALTY: *Feb. 16*

1945

INFORMATION DESIRED FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Last organization to which assigned when reported a casualty.

**RETURN TO:
NOTIFICATION BRANCH
PERSONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
AC/AS, PERSONNEL, ROOM 4310**

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HAZLETT, Alvin G.**
Rank: **Ensign**
Serial number: **O-778798**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ **Co-Pilot**

File No. 12437

Did he bail out? This officer is now stationed at Turner Field,Where? Albany, Georgia. I am sure it is a mistake if you are carryingIf not, why not? him as missing in action in your files. He is very muchLast contact or conversation ^{alive,} just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Was he injured? Where was he when last seen? Any hearsay information:

He bailed out over Gelsenkirchen; was taken ~~prisoner~~ prisoner; liberated,
and returned to the United States.

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

Name of crew member: **FREEMAN, William P.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **0-706337**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~KODIGER, William P.~~: **Bombardier**

File No. 12437

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.Where? We were hit over Gelsenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.If not, why not? Explained below in supposition.Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: The last crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about one minute before the accident. All were well at that time.Was he injured? Since he failed to parachute from the plane, I believe he was killed when the plane struck the ground.Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we tookoff at our base in England.

Any hearsay information: _____

No information

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The navigator, who was in the same compartment, reported him to be in a state of hysteria. However, upon leaving himself he expected to be followed by Lt. Freeman. Since Lt. Freeman did not bail out, I believe he was killed when the plane struck the ground.Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten.Dates and destinations if possible: 16 Feb. 45 Gelsenkirchen, Dresden, Kassal, Bengin, Kaserlatern, Calone, Berlin, Calone, Kassal, Essen.I am unable to give dates on these missions, however, all were flown between 15 Dec. 44 and 16 Feb. 45.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **KLIMOFF, Walter H.**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **19122400**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Top Turret Gunner**

File No. 12437

Did he bail out? Yes.Where? We were hit over Gelsenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: The last crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about one minute before the accident. All were well at that time.

Was he injured? I believe his chute did not open and he was killed when he hit the ground.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him just before the accident since his position was in the pilot's compartment. At that time he was OK.

Any hearsay information: _____

When I reached the ground I saw a body covered with straw about 300 feet from where I landed. The body had a parachute attached to it. This I believe was Sgt. Klimoff's body. I was unable to go closer since the Germans prevented such an act.

No hearsay information.

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: 16 Feb. 45 Gelsenkirchen, Dresden, Kassal, Bengin, Kaserlatern, Calone, Berlin, Calone, Kassal, Essen.

I am unable to give dates on these missions, however, all were flown between 15 Dec. 44 and 16 Feb. 45.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HOCHBERG, Daniel S.
Rank: S/Sgt.
Serial number: 1A175927
Position: Crew (Bomber) ENGINEER/ROCKETER Waist Gunner

File No. 12437Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.Where? We were hit over Gelsenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.If not, why not? It is possible that he was hit by flak when the right wing was blown off when we received the first direct hit.Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: The last crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about one minute before the accident. All were well at that time.Was he injured? Since he failed to parachute from the plane, I believe he was killed when the plane struck the ground.Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we tookoff at our base in England.

Any hearsay information: _____

No hearsay information.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is possible that he was hit by flak when the plane received the first direct hit. I do not know this to be so, but I can give no other explanation.Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten.Dates and destinations if possible: 16 Feb. 45 Gelsenkirchen, Dresden, Kassal, Bengin, Kaserl, tern, Calone, Berlin, Calone, Kassal, Essen.I am unable to give dates on these mission, however, all were flown between 15 Dec. 44 and 16 Feb. 45.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **COOPER, William J.** File No. **12437**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **37376438**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Ball Turret Gunner~~ **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? We were hit over Gelsenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.

If not, why not? Explained in supposition below.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: The last crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about one minute before the accident. All were well at that time.

Was he injured? Since he failed to parachute from the plane, I believe he was killed when the plane struck the ground.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we tookoff at our base in England.

Any hearsay information: _____

No information.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: This gunner was unable to carry his chute in the ball turret with him because of his size, so first of all he didn't have his chute with him. Secondly, since our electrical equipment was shot out it would be impossible for him to operate the turret electrically. I doubt that he would have been able to operate the turret manually in time to get out before the plane hit the ground. I believe he was killed when the plane hit the ground.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten.

Dates and destinations if possible: 16 Feb. 45 Gelsenkirchen; Dresden, Kassel, Bengin, Kaserlatern, Calohe, Berlin, Calone, Kassal, Essen.

I am unable to give dates on these mission, however, all were flown between 15 Dec 44 and 16 Feb. 45.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **SWANSON, Stanley D.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **34002222**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Tail Gunner**

File No. 12437

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? We were hit over Gelsenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.
The plane, when hit, plunged earthward so rapidly I believe
If not, why not? this gunners head hit the roof of the tail compartment
rendering him unconscious. He never regained consciousness before the plane
Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: hit the ground.
The last crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about
one minute before the accident. All were well at that time.

Was he injured? Since he failed to parachute from the plane, I believe he
was killed when the plane struck the ground.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we tookoff at our base in
England.

Any hearsay information: _____

No information.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe this
gunners head hit the roof of the tail compartment rendering him
unconscious. He never regained consciousness before the plane hit the
ground. Since the plane broke into four different pieces, it was
impossible for me to reach his compartment during the decent.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Ten.

Dates and destinations if possible: 16 Feb. 45 Gelsenkirchen; Dresden, Kassal,
Bengin, Kaserlatern, Calone, Berlin, Calone, Kassal, Essen.

I am unable to give dates on these missions, however, all were flown
between 15 Dec. 44 and 16 Feb 45.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRAPP, Richard C.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **35297796**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **RCM Operator**

File Nr. 12437

Did he bail out? Not to my knowledge.

Where? We were hit over Gelaenkirchen, Germany and fell near this town.
The radio operator says that he became hysterical and att-
If not, why not? to prevent his escape. I believe he never overcame his
hysteria.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: The last
crew report was taken in the form of an oxygen report about one
minute before the accident. All were well at that time.

Was he injured? Since he failed to parachute from the plane, I believe he
was killed when the plane struck the ground.

Where was he when last seen? I last saw him when we tookoff at our base in
England.

Any hearsay information: While I was in a Luftwaffe jail at Dortmund, one
of the guards showed me Sgt. Trapps bildfold in which he carried
pictures of his family and girl friend. Also were addresses and
several pound notes. At that time, pending his uncertain fate, I did
not identify the bildfold to the German guards since our instructions
were for telling only our name, rank, and serial number. Nothing else.
The bildfold was showed to the other survivors of the crash, but none
identified it to the guards. From that time on we never heard any
additional information on this Sgt.

Source: We heard no hearsay information.

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

Since the reports from my radio operator were given above as hysteria,
I believe this condition increased as the plane fell earthward. It is
my conviction he never bailed out. His chances of using his parachute
were as good as those of the radio operator since both were in the
same compartment.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown. This man was an extra
on my crew and I knew nothing about him except that he knew radar.
Dates and destinations if possible: unknown.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Brazier, Roland H. Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. O-774504
Wilber
2. Organization 457 Gp Commander Rogner Rank Col. Sqn CO Snow Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month February day 16 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Oil, target, Gelsenkirchen, Germany target
time, 1200, altitude, 22,000 feet route scheduled, over
Holland and back, route flown Direct, by way of Holland
through Belgium
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over the 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 known facts are given on individual questionnaires sent with this letter.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Gelsenkirchen by an old Castle surrounded by a moat.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt. Freeman, Sgt. Trapp, Sgt. Hochberg, Sgt. Conner, and Sgt. Swanson, and Sgt. Klimoff
11. Where were they in aircraft? Part in the nose section and part in the tail section.
12. What was their condition? Actually unknown but supposition is given in individual questionnaire.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? All of the crew not mentioned above I saw in prison camp in Germany. All surviving members are now back in the United States.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.
None available

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Please see other side.

2407 N.W. 26th Street
Fort Worth, 6 Texas
3 April 1946

John J. Smith
Lt. Col., Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personal Affairs Branch
Headquarters Army Air Forces
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

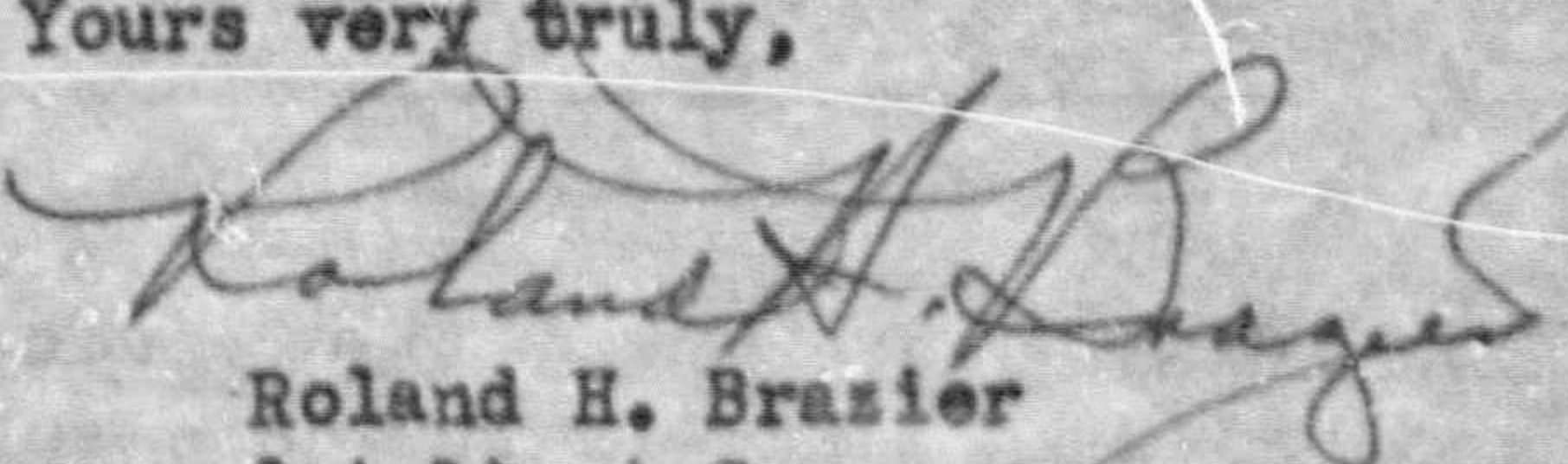
Due to the great confusion in this community at the time of our crash I do not believe it will be easy to gain too much information from the people. This confusion I spoke of was due to the front lines being near and the local population was moving further back into Germany.

The plane fell in a group of trees near an old castle looking building surrounded by a mote. The place is near several railroad tracks and also about 3 km. from a town. This town, I do not know the name, is about 12 km. from Herne, Germany.

If my assistance is needed I should be happy to make the trip to Germany on my own time and expense. I am sure I could identify the spot where the plane fell. My time would be well spent if in some way I could ease the minds of those mens families here at home.

If you have any further questions please contact me at your convenience and at the above address.

Yours very truly,


Roland H. Brazier
1st Lt. A.C.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CONNER, William J.** File No. **12437**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **37576438**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? unknown ship exploded

Where? over Gelsenkirchen

If not, why not? due to explosion

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

oxygen check a couple minutes before the hit

Was he injured? unknown

Where was he when last seen? in the turret

Any hearsay information:

no ne

Source:

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

unknown

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible:

Unknown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **KLINGOFF, Walter H.** File Nr. **12437**
Rank: **T/Sgt.**
Serial number: **19123400**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Top Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? unkown sh ip exploded

Where? over Geisinkirchen

If not, why not? due to explosion

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: oxygen check a couple minutes before hit

Was he injured? unkown

Where was he when last seen? in the turre t

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: around?

Dates and destinations if possible: unkown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOJHBERG, Daniel S.**
Rank: **S/Sgt.**
Serial number: **12175927**
Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~XXXXXX~~ **Waist Gunner**

File Nr. 12437

Did he bail out? ship exploded unkownWhere? over GelsinkirchenIf not, why not? ship explodedLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: oxygen check a couple minutes before the hitWas he injured? unkownat his position

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

none

Source: _____

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

noneTotal number of missions of above crew member: about 7

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

unkown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **FREEMAN, William F.**
Rank: **2nd/Lt.**
Serial number: **O-706837**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES~~: **Bombardier**

File Nr. 12437

Did he bail out? ship exploded unknownWhere? over GelsinkirchenIf not, why not? explosion

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: right
before hit between him and me.

Was he injured? noWhere was he when last seen? when he fell back on top of me at hiAny hearsay information: was gripping for his parachute butunable to get it due to spinship explodedand then shortly laterSource: meAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: saw his bracelet on a German and also saw one of his flyingidentification braceletTotal number of missions of above crew member: about sevenDates and destinations if possible: unknown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HAZLETT, Alvin G.**
Rank: **2nd Lt.**
Serial number: **C-778798**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~ **Co-Pilot**

File Nr. 12437

Some mistake-- he was prisoner with me and
Did he bail out? has returned to his home

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: _____

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

Name of crew member: **SWANSON, Stanley D.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **36692222**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Tail Gunner**

File Nr. 12437

Did he bail out? ship blew up unknown

Where? over Gelsinkirchen.

If not, why not? explosion

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: oxygen check a couple minutes before hit

Was he injured? unknown

Where was he when last seen? at his position

Any hearsay information: none

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: around 7

Dates and destinations if possible: unknown

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **TRAPP, Richard C.**
Rank: **Sgt.**
Serial number: **35297795**
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXX~~: **ROM Operator**

File Nr. 12437

Did he bail out? ship blew up unknown
Where? over gelsinkirchen

If not, why not? ship blew up

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: only heard on oxygen check couple minutes before hit

Was he injured? unkown

Where was he when last seen? at his radar position in center of

Any hearsay information: his billfold was shown to us by the Germans, but they would not tell us of his whereabouts

Source: Germans

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Presume to be dead----- how killed un kown

Total number of missions of above crew member: under five

Dates and destinations if possible: unk own

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William J. Diehl Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. C-2065-34
2. Organization 457 Gp Commander Rank Col. Sqn CO Snow Rank Ma
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month Feb. day 16 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Gelsinkirchen, target, Syn. oil, target
time, approx. 1:30, altitude, 26,400, route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown Flown as scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? deputy lead of low box
6. Did you bail out? Was blown up by explosion of ship
7. Did other members of crew bail out? unkown
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 pieces
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires)

unkown
11. Where were they in aircraft? presueably at positions
12. What was their condition? unkown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?

weren't seen

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

weren't seen

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

Name of Casualty

Date

Klimoff

Walter

H

T/Sgt

Last

First

Middle

Rank

A.S.N.

Engineer

748th Sq. 457th Bomb Gp.

Crew Position

Unit

16 Feb 1945

Gelsenkirchen Germany

Date Last Seen

Place Last Seen

I

Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II

Hearsay Information ☐

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft: Aircraft hit by flak went into spin. This was 7th mission of crew. First time hit. Sgt. Murray was thrown out. Sgt. Klimoff was alive when Sgt. Murray last saw him. Sgt. Murray saw pieces of the ship and believes it broke up. Sgt. Murray was taken prisoner when he landed.

Additional details: Ship was at about 26000ft when hit. Sgt. Murray was told later that right wing was torn off. Sgt. Murray later met 3 members of crew in prison camp. Lt. Roland Brazier; Lt. Alvin Hazlett (copilot) (navigator); Lt. William Diehl. Pilot & Copilot jumped, they said. Navigator did not remember how he got out. None of these survivors knew any more than Sgt. Murray concerning the rest of the crew, according to conversations with Sgt. Murray.

Stanley L. Murray

31200036

736 BAND

Name of Reporter

A.S.N.

Unit

37 JEFFERSON ST.

BARRRE, VERMONT

Home Address

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

11 Oct 45

Name of Casualty

Date

Trapp

Donald

Sgt

Last

First

Middle

Rank

A. S. N.

RA DAR

748th Sq.

457 Bomb gp.

Crew Position

Unit

16 Feb 1945

Selsenkirchen Germany

Date Last Seen

Place Last Seen

I

Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II

Hearsay Information ☐

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft:

Aircraft hit by flak, went into spin. This was 7th mission of crew, first time hit. Sgt. Murray was thrown out. He saw piece of ship falling and believe it broke up. He was taken prisoner when he landed. Ship was at about 26000 ft. when hit. Was told that it was a supply ship.

Sgt. Murray does not believe Sgt. Trapp had his parachute on when ship was hit. Wore chest type chute. And Sgt. Murray is sure it was beside Sgt. Trapp.

Sgt. Murray later met in prison camp Pilot Lt Roland Bragier, Pilot Lt Alvin Haglett, + navigator Lt Wm Diehl. Pilot + Co Pilot said they jumped. Navigator did not remember how he got out. None of these survivors knew any more than Sgt. Murray concerning rest of crew, they said.

Stanley L. Murray

31200036

736 Bomb

Name of Reporter

A. S. N.

Unit

37 Jefferson St

Barre Vt.

Home Address

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

11 Oct 45

Name of Casualty Swanson Stanley D Date 11 Oct 45
Last First Middle Rank A.S.N.
Crew Position tail gunner Unit 748th Sq. 457 Bomb Grp.
Date Last Seen 16 Feb 1945 Place Last Seen Sachsenhausen Germany

I
Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II
Hearsay Information ☐

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft:

Aircraft hit by flak. went
into spin. This was 7th mission of crew. First time
hit. Sgt. Murray was thrown out. He saw pieces
of the ship falling and believed it broke up. He
was taken prisoner when he landed.
Ship was at about 26000 ft when hit.

Additional details:

Sgt. Murray later met 3 members of crew
in prison camp; Pilot, Lt. Richard Bauer, Co Pilot Lt.
Alvin Haylett & Navigator Lt. Wm. D. L. Pilot & Co Pilot
said they jumped, Navigator did not remember how
he got out. None of these survivors knew any more
than Sgt. Murray concerning rest of the crew, they each

Stanley L. Murray 31200036 736th Bomb
Name of Reporter A.S.N. Unit
37 Jefferson St Barnes Md
Home Address

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

11 Oct 45

Name of Casualty

Date

Hoch berg Daniel S S/Sgt
Last First Middle Rank A.S.N.
Waist Gunner 748th Sq. 457th Bomb Grp.
Crew Position Unit
16 Feb 1945 Gelsenkirchen Germany
Date Last Seen Place Last Seen

I
Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II
Hearsay Information ☐

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft:

Aircraft hit by flak, went into spin. This was 2nd mission of crew. First time hit. Sgt Murray was thrown out. He saw pieces of the ship falling and believed it broke up. He was taken prisoner when he landed.

Additional details:

Ship was at about 26000ft when hit. Sgt Murray was told later that it was torn off. He met 3 members of crew in prison camp: Pilot, Lt Roland Brazier, Co Pilot, Lt Alvin Haglett + Navigator, Lt Wm Dehl. Pilot + Co Pilot jumped, they said. Navigator did not remember how he got out. None of these survivors knew any more than Sgt Murray concerning rest of crew, they said.

Stanley L. Murray 31200036 736th Band
Name of Reporter A.S.N. Unit
37 Jefferson St Barre VT
Home Address

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

11. Oct 45
Date

Name of Casualty
Freeman William F 2nd Lt
Last First Middle Rank A. S. N.

Bombardier 748th Bomb Sq. 437 Bomb Gp.
Crew Position Unit

16 Feb 1945 Gelsenkirchen Germany
Date Last Seen Place Last Seen

I
Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II
Hearsay Information ☒

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft: Aircraft hit by flak went into
spin. This was 7th mission of crew. First time hit.
Sgt. Murray was thrown out. He saw pieces of
ship falling and believed it broke up. He
was taken prisoner when he landed.

Additional details: Ship was at about 26000 ft when hit. Sgt.
Murray was told later that st. wing was torn off. Sgt Murray
later met 3 members of crew in prison camp; Pilot, Lt Roland
Prager, Co Pilot Lt Alvin Haglett + Navigator Lt. W. Diehl. Pilot
+ Co Pilot jumped, they said. Navigator did not remember how he
got out. None of these survivors knew any more than Sgt Murray
concerning rest of crew, they said.

Stanley L. Murray 31200036 736 BAJD
Name of Reporter A. S. N. Unit

37 JEFFERSON ST. BARRE, VERMONT
Home Address

ROME AIR TECHNICAL SERVICE COMMAND
ROME ARMY AIR FIELD
ROME, NEW YORK

INTERVIEW SHEET
Former Prisoners of War

Additional Information Regarding Casualties

Name of Casualty Conner William J. S/Sgt 11 Oct 45
Last First Middle Rank A.S.N. Date
Ball turret 748th Sq. 457th Bomb Gp.
Crew Position Unit
11 Feb 1945 Gelsenkirchen Germany
Date Last Seen Place Last Seen

I
Known information (Eyewitness) ☒

II
Hearsay Information ☒

Circumstances of loss of Aircraft: Aircraft hit by flak. Went
into spin. This was 7th mission of crew. First
time hit. Sgt. Murray was thrown out. He
saw pieces of the ship falling and believes it
broke up. He was taken prisoner when
he landed.

Additional details: Ship was at about 26,000 ft when hit.
Sgt. Murray was told later that right wing was torn
off. He later met 3 members of crew in prison camp: Pilot
Lt. Roland Brazier, Colonel Lt. Calvin Hazlett and Navigator
Lt. Wm. Doyle. Pilot & Co Pilot said they jumped. Navigator did
not remember how he got out. None of these survivors
know any more than Sgt. Murray concerning rest of crew, they
said.

Stanley L. Murray 31200036 736 BAND
Name of Reporter A.S.N. Unit
37 JEFFERSON ST. BARRE VERMONT
Home Address

2nd Lt. Roland H. Brazier

Mr. Grover C. Brazier (father)
2407 Northwest 28th Street
Fort Worth, Texas

2nd Lt. Alvin G. Haslett

Mrs. Lydia A. Haslett (mother)
Box 125
Clavier, Texas

2nd Lt. William J. Diehl

Mrs. Dorothy H. Diehl (father)
305 North Base Street
Morris, Illinois

2nd Lt. William F. Freeman

Mrs. Bertha F. Freeman (mother)
203 East Street, S. E.
Ardmore, Oklahoma

T/Sgt. Walter H. Klineff

Mr. Michael Klineff (father)
2244 Southeast 47th Street
Portland, Oregon

T/Sgt. Stanley L. Murray

Mrs. Virginia P. Murray (wife)
57 Jefferson Street
Barre, Vermont

S/Sgt. William J. Conner

Mrs. Pearl E. Conner (wife)
5757 - 27th Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

S/Sgt. Daniel S. Hochberg

Mrs. Elsa Hochberg (mother)
305 Crown Street
Brooklyn, New York

S/Sgt. Stanley D. Swanson

Mrs. Amanda E. Swanson (mother)
9719 Avenue M
Chicago, Illinois

Sgt. Richard G. Trapp

Mrs. Frances L. Trapp (wife)
Rural Route Two
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