

11/21

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADMAN, Lt. Col., AC
by P. M. WILSON, Capt., AC
Date SEP 18 1946

COMPLETED
RECORDS

Case

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Classification changed
 to ~~RESTRICTED~~
 by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
 by P. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC
 Date: 15 15 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
 "AIR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

11121

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 AAF 129; Command or Air Force VIII
 Group 450th (H); Squadron 752d (H); Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure AAF 129 Course _____
 Target or Intended Destination SCHNECKEN, Germany Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Reversed Vix on sun 5-10 miles. Dew on 20-30 miles.
- GIVE: (a) Day 04 Month 24 Year 44; Time 0436; and Location 5012-0615
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not Available ().
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF:
 (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); Other circumstances as follows: _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B 24 H; AAF Serial Number 42-109812
- NICKNAMES OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series 1890-65 & 1890-43; AAF Serial Number
 (a) 422998; (b) 42-44682; (c) 42-86253; (d) 42-1059
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
 (a) WT TAIL-728628; (b) WT TAIL-728372; (c) WT WAIST-954676; (d) WT WAIST-730536
 (e) WT UP-728144; (f) WT UP-728423; (g) WT NOSE-943379; (h) WT NOSE-730036
 (i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
 (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty YES
 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
KIA	1. Pilot	GIBSON, CHARLES A.	1 LT	0-764647	MIA
EUS	2. Co-pilot	THOMPSON, JOHN E.	2 LT	0-894060	✓
KIA	3. Navigator	Mc KERRY, DONALD J.	1 LT	0-712868	✓
KIA	4. Radio Operator	RIGNEY, EARL S.	T/Sgt	3925139	✓
KIA	5. Upper Gunner	FUNDERBURK, MARTIN E.	T/Sgt	3929689	✓
KIA	6. Nose Gunner	BURKE, JAMES H.	S/Sgt	1795386	✓
KIA	7. Waist	MOLCK, STEPHEN T.	M/Sgt	1947893	✓
EUS	8. "	MOLAK, ALPHONSE A.	S/Sgt	1705191	✓
RAC	9. Tail	FACEK, EDWARD W.	S/Sgt	1212068	✓
	10. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	11. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.
 Check only one column

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Rank	Radio	Last Sighted	How Located
1.	THOMPSON, STANLEY A.	1 LT	0-699330		X	
2.	BRADOLA, JOHN O.	1 LT	0-693350		X	
3.	PAPAK, WILLIAM	2 LT	0-771119		X	

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE 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. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 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 25 December 1944

David S. Quinn
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
 DAVID S. QUINN.
 Captain, Air Corps.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Shortly after "Bombs Away" A/C 312, was seen to receive a direct flank hit just aft of bomb bay. The A/C split in half and the tail was blown away. One crew reports that when A/C blew up they followed it visually to the ground where it blew up and that no one was seen to leave A/C. Two crews reported seeing one chute but majority claim that no chutes were observed.



1st Lt. Charles A. Glendon

Mrs. Chrystina F. Glendon (Wife)
Box 55
Ida, Louisiana

2nd Lt. John E. Thompson

Mrs. Blanche E. Thompson (Wife)
1501 Dakota Avenue
Olmsted, Michigan

1st Lt. Ronald J. Mc Neely

Mr. William G. Mc Neely (Father)
1834 Tinkers Creek Road
Bedford, Ohio

2/Sgt. Earl S. Richey

Mrs. Elizabeth G. Richey (Mother)
456 School Street
Ukiah, California

2/Sgt. Marion E. Vandarbark

Mrs. Bertha Rita Vandarbark (Mother)
Route One Chocoma, South Carolina

3/Sgt. James H. Burke

Mrs. Ethel E. Burke (Mother)
Big Stone Gap, Virginia

3/Sgt. Stephen T. Wolack

Mr. Stephen Wolack (Father)
Box 145
Keisterville, Pennsylvania

3/Sgt. Alphonse A. Wolak

Mrs. Frances Wolak (Mother)
Rural Route Number Four
Foley, Minnesota

3/Sgt. Edward W. Busck

Mrs. Anna E. Busck
2255 Ridge Boulevard
Brooklyn, New York

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Edward William Racek Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 12120765
2. Organization 458 Gp Commander Isabell Rank Col. Sqn CO Herbert Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 24 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Forgotten, target
time, _____, altitude, 23,000 Ft route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Received Direct Flak Hit While in Formation
6. Did you bail out? Ship Blew To Pieces. Bailed out of piece of Tail Sect.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Lt. Thompson Co-Pilot and Alphonse
Wolak S/Sgt Waist Gunner bailed out.
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". 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 8 above and individual questionnaires) Only other person
I know about is James H. Burke, He was lying either dead or
unconscious in the small piece of the tail section I bailed out of.
11. Where were they in aircraft? I believe that Burke was flying waist gunner
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? The last I saw Alphonse Wolak was in Stalag-Luft in
Nurnberg, Germany The last I saw Lt. Thompson was at Camp
Lucky Strike Le Harve, France. Just prior to leaving for the U.S.

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)

I was flying spare on the mission, as the regular tail gunner was in the hospital. I was not too well acquainted with the crew, therefore cannot give any specific information.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

GIESEN, Charles A.

Rank:

1/Lt.

Serial number:

O-764 647

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

Pilot

Did he bail out? No KnowledgeWhere? No Knowledge

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Called for
check to see if all on board were all right.Was he injured? No KnowledgeWhere was he when last seen? No KnowledgeAny hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: NoneTotal number of missions of above crew member: No KnowledgeDates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MC NEELY, Donald J.
 Rank: 1/Lt.
 Serial number: C-712 868
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or~~ Flight (Fighter): Navigator

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? No Knowledge

Any hearsay information: No Knowledge

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: RICHEY, Earl S.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 39 125 139
 Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~FFA/FFA/FFA/FFA/FFA/FFA~~: Radio Operator

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? No knowledge

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: MOLECK, Stephen T.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 13 172 193
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Waist Gunner

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? No knowledge

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

WOLAK, Alphonse A.

Rank:

S/Sgt.

Serial number:

17 051 961

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Over Germany

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NoneWas he injured? I believe that he was.Where was he when last seen? In Stalag -Luft at Nurnberg, GermanyAny hearsay information: He is now at home, in Foley Minn.Source: Recieved a letter from him.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledgeDates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

21
 TB 24
 9 men
 AAF 42-109812

		Rank:	Name:	KU 1204 A	
Date:	24 Dec 44, at 1600	1st Lt.	GIBSON, G.	♂	dead
Place:	St. Vith	1st Lt.	ANNAN,		dead
	Bastogne	1st Lt.	ROCHELLEY, Don J.		dead
Type of craft:	Liberator	T/Sgt.	VANNEVINKER, H. E.		dead
Markings:	--	Sgt.	RICHNY, Errol S.		dead
	751 (HCo) Sqd.	A/Sgt.	WURKE, James E.		dead
	456 Group	S/Sgt.	SCHLADDA, Edward		dead
		S/Sgt.	HOLLICK, Steven		dead
		A/Sgt.	WOLAK, Alphonse Alexander		dead
			ASN: 17051961		not in Det

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

24 Dec. 1944, 1600 hrs CASUALTY NO. KE 1204 A

PLACE OF CRASH

St. Vith

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Liberator

REFERRING OFFICER

Duisdorf

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERMENT
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WOLK, Alphonse Alwynus	S/Sgt	17021961	captured	Duisdorf West
19 June 1923				

REMARKS:

Duisdorf, 31 Jan. 1945 v.S.

KU 1804

To-Receiving Station
FLANKENHEIM

FLANKENHEIM, 29 Dec 1944

Reference: FLANKENHEIM 306

Subject: Br B, No 270/44 Master K from 18 Oct 1944

To
Evaluation Center West
GENEVA

On 28 Dec 1944, the American Sgt. of the Air Force:
W O L A S K ALPHONSE A.
17081861

was delivered by the A.M.L. HERMINE.
The escort had nothing with it, that could give any information.
The Prisoner was questioned and made the following statement:

Date of Downing: 24 Dec 1944 14.00
Place of Downing: Unknown; shortly behind the Front-Line Receiver.
Time of Capture: Immediately after crash.
Place of Capture: Unknown.
Type of Craft: Liberator - Bomber.
Markings: S; Number unknown.
Kind of Capture: Flew.
Disposition of Crew: Unknown.

The prisoner was brought to PI-Camp HANSTROUW for further contact to GENEVA.

HERMINE

Captain and First-Commander.

77 - Receiving Post
 Flammstein
 Telephone: Flammstein 306

Flammstein, 31 December 1944

Subject: Letter-Book No: 276/44 List H dated 18 October 1944

To
 Evaluation Center West
Cherwell

On 31 December 1944 the American flier

S/Sgt. Frank Edward, W. Ser.No: 12120765 AC

was handed over by A.H.L. Herwins

MIA 24 Dec 44
 EUS

The guarding detachment had not brought any records or papers which could give information.

The Prisoner was interrogated here and gives the following information:

Crash:	on 24 December 1944 at about 1500 hours
Place of crash:	unknown
Capture:	immediately
Place of capture:	unknown
Type of plane:	4 engine Liberator
Identifications:	unknown
Admittance No:	unknown
Service/branch:	Flak

The Prisoner of War tells that he is gunner. Number of crew: 10 men
 The Prisoner of War is sent to Camp Hardthofe for further transfer to
 Cherwell.

signed:
 Capt. and Post-Commander.

MIA R No 11121