

12011

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AS  
by P. W. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
Date JAN 15 1962

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified ~~Secret~~  
 to RESTRICTED  
 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
 by F. M. MUMFCH, Capt., AC  
 Date 10/15/45

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

12011

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 AAF Sta 110; Comd or Air Force Eighth Group 351st Bomb; Squadron 509th Bomb; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure AAF Sta 110 Group East
3. Target or Intended Destination Sterkrade, Germ; Type Mission Heavy Bomb
5. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED 2/10 cloud at target; visibility: good.
1. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month Jan Year 45 and Location Sterkrade, Germany of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Time: 1330 (approx).  
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); 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 (); Other Circumstances as Follows \_\_\_\_\_
3. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model, and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 44-6078
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Hard-Hearted Mama.
3. ENGINES: Type, Model, and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Numbers: (a) SW-001461 (b) SW-008782 (c) 43-62786 (d) 43-63823.
9. Installed Weapons: SEE ATTACHED SHEET.
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty () or (b) Non Battle Casualty ( )

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9 Passgrs 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	Rank	Serial No.	Current Status
1. Pilot	<u>Goldsborough, Richard H.</u>	1st Lt	<u>0-823354</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Balik, Charles F.</u>	2nd Lt	<u>0-926287</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Romanishin, John (NMI)</u>	F/O	<u>T-128475</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
4. Nose Gnr	<u>Shirts, George F.</u>	Sgt	<u>17136758</u>	<u>MIA</u>
5. Top Turret	<u>Miller, Carl F.</u>	T/Sgt	<u>37099324</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
6. Radio	<u>Kennedy, Thomas F. Jr.</u>	T/Sgt	<u>33791485</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
7. Waist	<u>Fendall, Ramsey P.</u>	S/Sgt	<u>19201880</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
8. Ball Turret	<u>Kalapp, John M.</u>	S/Sgt	<u>34795852</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
9. Tail Gunner	<u>Rushing, Jack T.</u>	Sgt	<u>39340922</u>	<u>MIA RTD</u>
10.				
11.				

2. 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	Contacted		
			by Radio	Last Sighted	'Saw' Forced Crash Ldg
1. <u>Vergen, Reinhold W.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-826035</u>		<u>X</u>	
2. _____					
3. _____					

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOTE: Position by coordinates when last sighted:  
 51 degrees 31 ' N, 06 degrees, 48 ' E.

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

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used \_\_\_\_\_; Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; Any other reason (Specify) No information available pertinent to this paragraph.
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING THE 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 January 1945

*Patrick W. Flournoy Jr.*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
PATRICK W. FLOURNOY JR., 1st Lt., AG

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:



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

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

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 351st Bomb SQ 509th Bomb A/C# 44-6078 MISSION DATE 22 Jan 45

FIRST PILOT GOLDSBOROUGH, RICHARD H. 1st Lt 0-823<sup>354</sup> DESTINATION Sterkrade,  
NAME RANK ASN Germany.

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

- (a) By coordinates 51 degrees 31' N, 06 degrees 48' E.
- (b) Approximate altitude 25000 ft
- (c) Last noted heading East
- (d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation ---straggling.

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

∅ Flak at target was severe. No enemy aircraft encountered.

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

No visible signs of damage to aircraft.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

(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 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.):

**No parachutes seen.**

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Just after target, plane dropped back, veered sharply to the left, and began to straggle.

8. Date of report 25 January 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C#</u>
1.	<u>Vergen, Reinhold W.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-826035</u>	<u>42-107124</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy)

<u>Robert P. Ramsey</u>	<u>Major, AG</u>	<u>0-912875</u>	<u>S-2.</u>
<u>ROBERT P. RAMSEY</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>	<u>DUTY:</u>

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-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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 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.):

**No parachutes seen.**

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Just after target, plane dropped back, veered sharply to the left, and began to straggle.

8. Date of report 25 January 1945.

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C#</u>
1.	<u>Vergen, Reinhold W.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-826035</u>	<u>42-107124</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy)

<u>Robert P. Ramsey</u>	<u>Major, AG</u>	<u>0-912875</u>	<u>S-2.</u>
<u>ROBERT P. RAMSEY</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>	<u>DUTY:</u>

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-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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

# CONFIDENTIAL

## EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

I, Reinhold W. Vergen, O-826035, was flying as pilot of Aircraft No. 42-107124 on a mission to Sterkrade, Germany on 22 January 1945. Just after the target, Lt Goldsborough, who was flying on my left, suddenly veered to the left, flew level for a few minutes, and then went into a steep climb. Then he leveled out and went off on a west heading which should have brought him to Belgium. His plane was under control after he leveled off from the climb. I saw no parachutes and heard nothing over VHF. It is impossible to say what the reason for his leaving the formation was, since there were no visible signs of damage to his ship. Flak was heavy in the area, however, and damage may have been done internally somewhere.

*Reinhold W. Vergen*

REINHOLD W. VERGEN,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps.

*Incl 1*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MACR 12011  
B-17  
AAF 44-6078  
9 men

22 Jan. 1945 1400

ARGEN

Type: Fortress

509 HBo Sqd.

351 Group

Target: Airbase Unna

10 Febr.

KU 3613

1st Lt. GOLDSBOROUGH	Richard Henon ?	0-823354	capt
2nd Lt. BALIK	Charles Frederik ( Hosp. )	0-926287	capt
F/O. ROMANISHIN	John	T-2128475	capt
S/Sgt. SHIRTS	George <i>not a 490/10</i>		
T/Sgt. MILLER	Carl F.	37099324	capt
T/Sgt. KENNEDY	Thomas Francis	33791485	capt
S/Sgt. KAIAPP	John Melton	34795852	capt
S/Sgt. FENDALL	Ramsey P.	19201880	capt
S/Sgt. RUSHING	Jack Thomas	39340922	capt



KU 3613

Report about Shot down of one American Plane:

Date and time of shot down: 22. Jan. 1945 1400.  
Place: Aachen  
Type of plane: Fortress  
Reporting Unit: Scanninghardt - Xanten

\*\*\*\*\*

Romanischin	John	Born: 12. March. 1918.	P/O.	T-128425	capt. Dulag Luft "ant.
Goldsborough	Richard				
	Marron Wilkinsburgh	24. March 1923.	1st. Lt.	O-823354	" "
Fendall	Ransoy P/		Sgt.	19201880	" "
Rushing	Jack Thomas	16. May. 1922.	S/Sgt.	39343922	" "
	Omaha / Nebr.				
Kalapp	John Melton	8. April. 1921.	S/Sgt.	34795852	" "
	Callahan Fla.				
Kennedy	Thomas Francis		T/Egt.	33791485	" "
Bell	Charles		2nd. Lt.		wounded Hospital 3. Feb. 1945. Dulag.
Shot down No.	KU 3613				1. Later Report on 22. Feb. 1945
Miller	Carl F.	10. June. 1916.	T/Sgt.	37099324	" Dulag Luft West. U S A

22. Feb. 1945. No.

Dulag Luft on 10. Jan. 1945. No.

KU 3613

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Registration Form:  
\*\*\*\*\*

Date of arrival 3.Feb.1945.

Miller Carl F.

T/Sgt. Ser. No. 37099324

Position : AE AG USAAF

When and where born: 10 June 1916 USA.

Married No children Protestant

Forced down: 22,Jan,1945,Afternoon near River Maas. by Flak

Captured : " " "

By: German Soldiers.

Type of aircraft: B 17.

CREW Crewmembers:

Co.Pilot: 2nd.Lt. Balik Charles F. POW.

Engineer: T/Sgt. Miller Carl F. POW.

Date: 3.Feb.1945

No Signature.

Transport Wasec 3.Feb.1945.

has RM

Written by receiver.

Smiling but stubborn American, is trained in counter intelligence and gave no further informations. Crew 9 man . He told the name of 2nd.Lt. Balik only, because both leg injured lived at this time together.

Greiler T/Sgt.

Local Quarters 23 Jan 45

Airbase Command E (v) 229/XI

Field Postal No. L 22 333 L G. F. A. Unna/W

Subject: Captured of enemy Air Force Personnel

To: Distributor

Name: Kennedy, Thomas F., 53791485

Place and Time of Capture: Near Sonsbeck, on 22 Jan 45

Captured by: Art. Group. Eutenauer

Nationality: North American

Name: Ramsey P. Fendall, 19201880

Place and Time of Capture: Near Sonsbeck, on 22 Jan 45

Captured by: 1. 1. Flak 881

Nationality: North American

Name: Goldsborough, Richard H., O 823354

Place and Time of Capture: Near Sonsbeck on 22 Jan 45

Nationality: North American

Captured by: Art. Group Eutenauer

KU 3613

Name Kalapp, John Melton, 34795852

Place and Time of Capture: 200 m south of Broederbosch

22 Jan 45, at 1420 hours

Captured by: Objg. Quantius, Nachr. Platoon/Fsch. Jg. Reg. 2

Nationality: American

KU 3613

Identification Tags

E. H. Goldsborough, O 823354

Malik, Charles J., O 926387

Carl F. Miller, 37099734

John Romanishin, T 129476

John W. Kallapp, 24795853

Ramsay F. Fendall, 19201880

Jack C. Rushing, 39840922

Local Quarters 23 Jan 45

Airbase Command B (v) 239 XI

Field Postal No. L 23 333 Lg Pa Unna/W

Subject: Capture of an enemy Air Force Personnel

To: Distributor

Name: Eusling, Jack Thomas . 39340977

Place of Capture: 300 m west of Broedersbosch

Time of Capture: 22 Jan 45, at 1415 hours

Captured by: Ogefr. Stubnev/I/ Pasch. Jg. Bgt. 2

Nationality: North American

Name: John Romanishin, F/O T 128475

Place of Capture: Near Honsbeck

Time of Capture: 22 Jan 45

Captured by: s M.G. Bedienung 8 Comp. Obfhr. Willems

Nationality: North American

1st Lt Richard H. Goldsborough <i>POW</i>	Mr. Stuart W. Goldsborough, (Father) 1217 So Negley Ave Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2nd Lt Charles F. Balik <i>POW</i> <i>w</i>	Mr. Paul Balik, (Father) Mercer Road New Brighton, Pennsylvania
F/O John Romanishin <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Dorothy M. Romanishin, (Wife) 220 Fulton Street Millville, New Jersey
Sgt George F. Shirts	Mr. Harry V. Shirts, (Father) 422 West Third Street Cameron, Missouri
T/Sgt Carl F. Miller <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Annie Miller, (Mother) 1103 1/2 W 10th Street Little Rock, Arkansas
	Mrs. Carl F. Miller, (Wife) 1620 A Street Lincoln, Nebraska
T/Sgt Thomas F. Kennedy, Jr. <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Anna Kennedy, (Mother) 1304 W Clementine Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
S/Sgt Ramsey P. Fendall <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Gladys R. Fendall, (Mother) 711 S E 11th Street Portland, Oregon
S/Sgt John M. Kalapp <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Peggy E. Kalapp, (Wife) 2131 Thacker Avenue Jacksonville, Florida
Sgt Jack T. Rushing <i>POW</i>	Mrs. Leola N. Rushing, (Mother) General Delivery Gresham, Oregon

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 12011

Name of crew member: Shirts, George F.  
 Rank: Sgt  
 Serial number: 17136750  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator: None

Did he bail out? I Am not sure.

Where? Same spot as rest of crew Canadian fighting front  
over lower Maas River on

If not, why not? There would be no reason why not except  
sight.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: "Bail out  
shirts and Romanishin (Johnny) "Roger"

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? squatting in nose with parachute on

Any hearsay information: Germans had his name at Interrogation  
center. I believe evidence is lacking, because we should be

able to ascertain whether or not he remained in airplane.

The airplane crashed behind Canadian lines. A Canadian

soldier found an address for my Radio operator's girl. He  
wrote her explaining the scene. 15 the airplane was under inspection

Source: a body or evidence as one could have been found.

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

the ground the crew was subjected to enemy fire. My

navigator was shot through leg. My Elbow was kicked. My

ball turret gunner was blown about by ~~blast~~ flak. I think

George F. Shirts was killed by enemy fire from front line troops

Total number of missions of above crew member: I think 17.

Dates and destinations if possible: (Goldborough)



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Goldsborough, Richard H. Rank 1st. Lt. Serial No. O-823354
2. Organization B.G. 8th AF. 351 Gp Commander Burns Rank Lt. Col. Sqn COL Lt. Col. Richardson Rank Rank  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month Jan day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Hght Alt. Bombing, target, sterKrade, target time, 2:00 PM, altitude, 20000 route scheduled, South  
from // to Rhine, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? leaving 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 of us bailed out just over the lines (over friendly territory) we were blown back into Enemy lines by wind across Maas river line about 2:30. we were crippled and making for friendly terr. when grant line glak hit us and set us agire
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? West of Maas river behind Canadian lines
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) all crew except perhaps G. Shirts. Nose Gunner.
11. Where were they in aircraft? in their positions.
12. What was their condition? uninjured and well
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? In U.S.A. in good condition
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

Name of crew member: Shirts, George F. File 12011  
 Rank: Sgt  
 Serial number: 17136758  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) XXXXXXXXXXXX: Nose Gunner

Did he bail out? Unknown; may have bailed out and shot by German troops; or injured by flak; may have suffered lack of oxygen and crashed with plane  
 Where? Holland, near MussRiver; at that time this river was part of the German front lines.

If not, why not? May have been too frightened to jump. The engineer was last one to see Shirts. Plane was on fire, we were at 20,000 feet.  
 Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_

Cannot remember any particular conversation other than procedure oxygen check.

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? Last seen by Carl Miller, engineer of the crew, in the nose section of the plane

Any hearsay information: To my knowledge there was no additional information

Source: None

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: My opinion on Shirts fate is based wholly on supposition.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Between 14 to 16 missions

Dates and destinations if possible: Shot down on 22 January, 1945; we were on a heading to Brussels.

*Charles F. Balik*

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

A  
PPA-5  
②

1. Your name Charles F. Balik Rank 2nd Lt Serial No. 0-926287
2. Organization 351BG Gp Commander Ball Rank LC Sqn CO Korge? Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Stertgrate, G, target, Oil refinereis, target  
time, unknown, altitude, 25,000 feet route scheduled, unknown  
unknown, route flown unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? (same position, copilot) When we  
turned of the target we left the formation, two engines were hit.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes Shirts????????????
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". Tail, waist, and radio  
gunners went out the waist excape hatch. Pilot, copilot and  
engineer went out after the navigator through the navigators  
excape hatch. Course taken by nose gunner unknown.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? West of the Muss River in Holland
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) The only person likely to be in the plane when it struck the ground  
would be Shirts. I seen the remainder of the crew in PW Camp.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Shirts was in nose section of aircraft, if  
he stayed with aircraft when it hit the ground
12. What was their condition? Condition of Shirts unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Seen Carl Miller (engineer) last before I bailed out of  
navigators escape hatch. He was in good condition because he followed  
after I jumped
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Now Knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Charles F. Balik

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

BPA-8  
②

Name of crew member: Shirts, George F. File 12011  
 Rank: Sgt  
 Serial number: 17136753  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Nose Gunner 0

Did he bail out? To my knowledge, yes

Where? He was the last one to leave; actually in friendly territory near Arnhem, Netherlands  
 If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

No personal conversation prior to.

Was he injured? According to crewmen in nose, No.

Where was he when last seen? Near the nose hatch, ready to leave.

Any hearsay information: The next to the last man from the nose to leave stated that Sgt. Shirts was conscious and apparently uninjured. Received letters from Canadians who witnessed our trouble found our plane and said that no bodies were found. Also said that nine chutes were seen in the air.

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

(RAMSEY)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Since the Germans were shooting at us with small arms while we were descending in our chutes (probably thinking we were going to land in friendly territory) and also since one man was hit by that firing, I believe that it was highly possible that could have been the fate of Shirts.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 17

Dates and destinations if possible: Started flying combat missions on October 14, 1944 and his missions were all in Germany. Shot down Jan. 22 - 1945

a-1  
6-3861, AF

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Ramsey Paul Fendall Rank 5/sgt. Serial No. 19201880  
351st Bomb
2. Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Gp Commander Ball Rank Col. Sqn CO Korges Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month Jan. day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 25<sup>th</sup>, target, Sterkrade (oil), target time, 1:00 P.M., altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, east to Ruhr Valley, west, route flown as indicated.  
over Holland
5. Where were you when you left formation? over the target
6. Did you bail out? yes, but not over the target.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes, but not over the target.
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".  
on other side.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Inside Canadian lines near Hruken, Netherlands
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 that I know  
None to my knowledge
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? \_\_\_\_\_  
Last saw crew members at Le Havre, France ready to embark for U.S. All were in good health. It was on or about May 25, 1945.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. \_\_\_\_\_  
No knowledge  
(over)

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

I was flying waist gunner on this day. When the pilot gave the order to bail out we were directly above the Canadian - German front, and I immediately went to the waist door and pulled the emergency release and kicked the door out. I looked back and saw the radio-operator behind me and the ball-turret gunner was leaving his turret and securing his parachute. Everyone in the rear of the aircraft were uninjured and bailed out. After we all assembled ~~to~~ as German prisoners that night, we knew nothing of Sgt. Shirts excepting that he was the last one to leave the aircraft (if he did leave) and that the next to last one to leave said that Shirts was conscious and also nodded approval to bail out after he saw the others leave. According to a letter received by the Canadians, they stated that nine parachutes were seen in the air, and that no bodies were found in the wreckage of the aircraft. Therefore, it is quite probable that Shirts did bail out.

Canadian letter was written by  
L-54901 Cpl. Alex R. Schmitz  
R. H. & B. Canad. Recce. Reg't. (44th)  
Canadian Army

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Shirte, George F.** File **12011**  
 Rank: **Sgt**  
 Serial number: **17136758**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~AF/TH/SM/N/TH/SM/TH~~: **Nose Gunner**

Did he bail out? He was still in the plane when I left and I was the last of the survivors to bail out.

Where? Near Arnheim, Germany.

If not, why not? He indicated that he was going to bail out when I last saw him.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: When I was ready to bail out, I motioned for him to jump out and he nodded his head indicating he would follow me.

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? At the navigator's position, standing up, facing the left side of the plane,

Any hearsay information: Yes. Canadian soldiers that were captured trying to rescue me and my co-pilot said that they saw nine chutes come out of the plane. There were two Canadian soldiers. Also German soldiers said that they saw nine chutes open.

Source: Stated above.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I don't believe he bailed out because I watched the plane from the time my chute opened until the plane crashed into the ground and I saw no chutes above me nor did I see any after I ~~hit~~ hit the ground. I landed in a trench in no-man's land between the German army and the Canadian army and was injured. At approximately fifteen or twenty minutes later I was captured and at no time did I see any more parachutes coming down.

Total number of missions of above crew member: I think about fifteen or sixteen.

Dates and destinations if possible: January 20, 1945, Sterkrade, and January 22, 1945,  
were the last two missions I made and he was on these, but I don't remember the other exact missions he made with me.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Carl F. Miller Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 37000324  
351st Bomb, 509th Sq. Col. ?
2. Organization XXXXX Gp Commander Rank XXXXX Sqn CO XXXXXXXXXX Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month January day 22nd did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Sterkrade, Germany, target, chemical plant, target  
time, after 12 noon, altitude, 27,000 feet route scheduled, over the North  
Sea, across the Zyden Sea, route flown as scheduled until we were hit by flak.
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 2 or 3 minutes away from the target  
over the same route we came in.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, seven others to my knowledge as I have  
seen them all and we were all liberated at the same time.
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". Within sixty seconds after  
given orders to bail out, in the vicinity of Arnheim, Germany, in the following  
order -- navigator, waist gunner, radio operator, ball turret gunner, tail gunner,  
pilot, co-pilot and myself as engineer.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About three kilometers northeast of  
Arnheim, in friendly territory.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should  
cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) It is not known since I  
am not positive that Sgt. George F. Shirts did not bail out.
11. Where were they in aircraft? George F. Shirts was in the nose of the ship when  
I last saw him, and I was the last man to see him.
12. What was their condition? Good physical condition, but excited.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already des-  
cribed above? After we were liberated in April Charles F. Salik recovering from a  
broken leg and myself some injuries, all members of the crew suffering from malnu-  
trition and hunger.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you  
have knowledge. Indicate source of information. I have knowledge of a number of crews as I kept records for the compound where  
I was a prisoner and at the different hospitals I was in, but the records were  
turned over to the government after my liberation.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

Carl F. Miller, 1103 1/2 W. 10th St., Little Rock, Arkansas



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Shirts, George F. File 12011  
 Rank: Sgt  
 Serial number: 17136758  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of Flight / (Flight)~~: Nose Gunner

Did he bail out? Unknown - Canadian Troops said 9 crew members parachuted out. We had only 9 aboard.  
 Where? Near Arnhem, Holland?

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: No personal contact - Some other crew members did see him prior to bail-out.

Was he injured? Don't think he was

Where was he when last seen? Standing near navigator's table

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

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Believe he was shot while coming down in parachute or during capture. They shot at us while we were in our parachutes.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 25

Dates and destinations if possible: Last mission - January 22, 1945  
Storkrade, Germany

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John M. Kalapp Rank 5/57 Serial No. 34795852
2. Organization 509th Gp <sup>Bomb Group</sup> Commander 35137 Rank ? Sqn CO ? Rank ?  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month JANUARY day 22 did you go down? yes
4. What was the mission, Steakade, target, oil refinery, target time, noon ?, altitude, 28000 route scheduled, ?  
route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? over target
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? yes - one unknown
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". Richard F. Goldborough, Charles F. Bialak, John Kovanighian, Carl F. Miller, Thomas F. Kennedy, Jack Bushing, Ramsey Fendell - all taken prisoner and returned to U.S.A.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Small village near Carham, Scotland
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) George F. Shirts ?  
fate unknown
11. Where were they in aircraft? none
12. What was their condition? good as far as is known
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)

AIR BASE HEADQUARTERS  
McChord Field, Washington

MCDE

383.6

15 November 1945.

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former POW's.

THRU : Commanding General, Fourth Air Force, San Francisco 6, California.  
Attn: AC of S, A-2  
Commanding General, Continental Air Forces, Bolling Field,  
Washington 20, D. C.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.  
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315, Munitions Building.

1. The information below is submitted in compliance with the provisions of Letter from CG CAF to CG 4AF file 383.6 (2 Oct 45) dated 2 Oct 45 and 1st Indorsement thereto.

2. This report is exempt from reporting procedures per Par. 4a WD Cir 168, 1945.

- a. Name, Rank, and ASN of Casualty:  
George F. Shirts, Sgt., (ASN unknown)
- b. Crew Position: Nose Gunner
- c. Unit: 509 Sq, 351st Bomb Gp.
- d. Date last seen: 22 Jan 1945
- e. Place last seen: heard over inter-com just before bailout near Frankfurt above front line.
- f. Circumstance of loss of aircraft: Hit by flak
- g. Known information (eyewitness): None
- h. Hearsay information: Two Canadian infantrymen who attempted to rescue the co-pilot told the co-pilot they saw nine (9) chutes come down, which was the total number of the crew. However, when the crew members were immediately assembled--they were captured by the enemy as soon as they landed--only eight (8) were accounted for, and Sgt. Shirts was missing. He did not show up at any of the interrogation camps or POW camps. Crew concluded he either rode the ship down or was shot down as he parachuted. The family of Sgt Shirts was advised that he was officially listed as dead.
- i. All other information with estimate of reliability: None

UC

12011

BASIC LTR fr CO McChord Field, Wash. to CG AAF, thru CG 4AF and CG CAF,  
subject: Interrogation of Former POW's, file 383.6, dated 15 November 1945.

j. Name, ASN, and unit of reporter:

*S/Sgt Jack T. Rushing*  
S/Sgt JACK T. RUSHING

39340922, Sq "A" 464th AAFBU McChord Fld, Wash.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

*George M. Sander*

GEORGE M. SANDER,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Base Intelligence Officer.

AIR BASE HEADQUARTERS  
McGuord Field, Washington

MODE

15 November 1945.

303.6

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former POW's.

THRU : Commanding General, Fourth Air Force, San Francisco 8, California.  
Attn: AG of S, A-2  
Commanding General, Continental Air Forces, Bolling Field,  
Washington 20, D. C.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.  
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315, Munitions Building.

1. The information below is submitted in compliance with the provisions of Letter from CG CAF to CG AAF file 303.6 (2 Oct 45) dated 2 Oct 45 and 1st Indorsement thereto.

2. This report is exempt from reporting procedures per Par. 4a WD Cir 100, 1945.

a. Name, Rank, and ASN of Casualty:

George F. Shirts, Sgt., (ASN unknown)

b. Crew Position: Nose Gunner

c. Unit: 509 Sq, 351st Bomb Gp.

d. Date last seen: 22 Jan 1945

e. Place last seen: heard over inter-com just before bailout near Frankfurt above front line.

f. Circumstance of loss of aircraft: Hit by flak

g. Known information (eyewitness): None

h. Hearsay information: Two Canadian infantrymen who attempted to rescue the co-pilot told the co-pilot they saw nine (9) chutes come down, which was the total number of the crew. However, when the crew members were immediately assembled--they were captured by the enemy as soon as they landed--only eight (8) were accounted for, and Sgt. Shirts was missing. He did not show up at any of the interrogation camps or POW camps. Crew concluded he either rode the ship down or was shot down as he parachuted. The family of Sgt Shirts was advised that he was officially listed as dead.

i. All other information with estimate of reliability: None

BASIC LTR fr CO McChord Field, Wash. to CG AAF, thru CG 4AF and CG CAF,  
subject: Interrogation of Former POW's, file 383.8, dated 15 November 1945.

j. Name, ASN, and unit of reporter:

W/Sgt JACK T. RUSHING 39540922, Sq "A" 464th AAFBU McChord Fld, Wash.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

GEORGE M. SANDER,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Base Intelligence Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CASUALTY INTERROGATION FORM  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

THE FAMILIES OF MANY OF YOUR COMRADES HAVE NOT BEEN AS FORTUNATE AS YOURS. THEIR SONS AND HUSBANDS HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION AND THEY ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO LEARN THEIR FATE. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY THE INFORMATION WHICH WILL HELP TO TERMINATE THE SUSPENSE AND ANXIETY THEY ARE SUFFERING.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH IN ACTION OR DURING IMPRISONMENT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED:

Full NAME OF DECEASED **George Shirts**

HOME TOWN OR STATE **Cameron, Mo.**

RATE OR RANK **Sgt.** **B-17 Nose Gunner**

ORGANIZATION **8th AAF, 351 BG, 509 Sq.**

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH **22 Jan 45; Arnheim, Germany**

CAUSE OF DEATH **Shot while descending. Our B-17 (10 man crew) was knocked out by enemy flak. I believe that nine of us bailed out safely. As Navigator I bailed out of the nose with Shirts. Being over combat lines we were shot at while descending in our chutes. I believe Shirts was killed in this manner. I pretended to be dead on the first shot and got alive. BURIAL PLACE UNKNOWN.**

PLACE OF BURIAL **BURIAL PLACE UNKNOWN.**

WERE YOU AN EYEWITNESS TO HIS DEATH **No**

NAMES OF PERSONS BELIEVED TO HAVE WITNESSED HIS DEATH **None**

IF YOUR INFORMATION IS HEARSAY **None**

GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR INFORMANT

12011

**6 August 1945**

**P/O** SIGN HERE John Romanush T-128475  
Name and Serial Number  
220 Fulton St. Millville, N.J.  
Your home address

NOTE: THIS FORM IS FOR USE BY CASUALTY BRANCH, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON 25, D. C. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE FORM ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE FILL ONE OUT FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHOM YOU KNOW OR BELIEVE TO BE DEAD.

Meldung über den Abschluß eines  
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges

Abschluß-Nr. KU 3613

Abschlußtag und Zeit: 22.1.45 - 14.00  
 Abschlußort: Raum Aachen  
 Flugzeugtyp: Fortress  
 Meldende Dienststelle: Böninghardt-Lanten

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grabiage
✓ ROMANISCHIN John 12.3.18	F/O	T-128425	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
GOLDSBOROUGH Richard Herron 24.3.23 Wilkinsburgh	1.Lt.	0-823354	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
PENDALL Ramsay P.	Sgt.	19201880	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
RUSHING Jack Thomas 16.5.22 Omaha, Nebr.	S/Sgt.	39340922	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
KALAPP John Melton 8.4.21 Callahan, Fla.	S/Sgt.	34795852	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
KENNEDY Thomas Francis	T/Sgt.	33791485	gef.	Dulag-Luft West
BALIK Charles	2.Lt.		verw.	Laz.

Bemerkungen: maer-12011

DULAG-LUFT, den 19.1.45 Wo.