

3077

RETURNED
RESTRICTED

Date	Sp. No.	Wrote About
4/10/46	M. Fulton	Jesse
		Montgomery
		David L. ...
		Columbia
		White
		Johnson
		①

RESTRICTED

Harold G

3077

AV 149/43

5659 22 June 1943 Boeing

Smith, Harold, Earl

T/Sgt., born 16 Jan. 1920,
ASN 18046969, POW.
2nd Lt., ASN O-729848, POW

Gunn, Harold

S/Sgt., ASN 6278009, POW

Hall, Sydney, Victor

Codzifiski, Joseph, J.

Sgt., ASN 35305664, dead

Davidson, Robert P.

Lt., ASN O-731275, dead

Johnson, Biros, W.

Sgt., ASN 16022309, dead

White, Franc, M.

Sgt., ASN 34287705, dead

5659

Telegram
1284

June 22, 1943

Fortress

Hardacre, Charles Francis

Report!

S/Sgt. born June 25, 1921. Tag:
31 077 973, Prisoner, healed.
Location: Dulag - Luft. In Police
Bulletin No. 103 598/43 H. was
reported as wounded and in a
field hospital.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | Downing of a Boeing Fortress, on 22 June 1943, at Berg-Kossendorf I.W. | <u>Davidson</u>
Robert P.
O-731275
Officer | Interred MM at the Prisoner of War Memorial Cemetery in Sythen near Haltern I.W.
Grave No. 19 |
| 2. | " | <u>White</u>
Frank M. Sgt.
34287705 | " Grave No. 20 |
| 3. | " | <u>Johnson</u>
Byron W. Sgt.
16022309 | " Grave No. 21 |
| 4. | " | <u>Codninski</u>
Joseph J. Sgt.
35305664 | " Grave No. 22 |
| 5. | " | <u>Unknown</u> <i>Montgomery, James H</i>
072711 | " Grave No. 23 |
| 6. | " | <u>Unknown</u> <i>Lisa, Ray W</i>
D728876 | " Grave No. 24 |

Coral 6-7-44

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Downing of a Boeing
Fortress, on
22 June 1943, at
Berg-Bessendorf i.W. | <u>Davidson</u>
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16022309 | " Grave No. 21 |
| 4. " | <u>Codzinski</u>
Joseph J. Sgt.
35305664 | " Grave No. 22 |
| 5. " | <u>Unknown</u> | " Grave No. 23 |
| 6. " | <u>Unknown</u> | " Grave No. 24 |

First Lieutenant Ray W. Jess

Mrs. Henry G. Jess, (Mother),
Strasburg, Colorado.

First Lieutenant James H. Montgomery

Mrs. Wilma Jean Montgomery, (Wife),
320 South Broadway, Box 614,
Maud, Oklahoma.

Second Lieutenant Harold W. Gunn

Mrs. Geraldine Gunn, (Wife),
3230 South 23rd East,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Second Lieutenant Robert P. Davidson

Mr. Donald W. Davidson, (Father),
Sutter, California.

Technical Sergeant Joseph J. Godzinski

Mrs. Leona Godzinski, (Mother),
8903 Yale Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Technical Sergeant Harold E. Smith

Mrs. Olga M. Smith, (Mother),
310 North 9th,
Norfolk, Nebraska.

Staff Sergeant Frank M. White

Mrs. Ethel L. White, (Mother),
1004 E. Concord Apartment #6,
Orlando, Florida.

Staff Sergeant Charles F. Hardacre

Mr. Aaron J. Hardacre, (Father),
9 Clinton Street,
Methuen, Massachusetts.

Staff Sergeant Sidney V. Hall

Mr. Jim D. Edmondson, (Father),
2221 Simpson Drive,
Dallas, Texas.

Staff Sergeant Byron W. Johnson

Mr. Arnie B. Johnson, (Father),
704 First Avenue,
Jefferson, Wisconsin.

CONFIDENTIAL

3077

5

AG 704
Hq EPOUSA, APO 871, 27 March 1944.

6th Ind

PK/jh

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

Cart/Dep

GAR
G. A. R.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

111818

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

AAF 201 - Jess, Ray W.
0728876

10 January 1944

Subject: Missing Air Crew Personnel.

To : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, A.P.O. 633,
c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for details concerning the circumstances under which First Lieutenant Ray W. Jess, 0728876, 358th Bomb Squadron, 303rd Bomb Group, was reported missing in action on 22 June 1943.

2. Request that, if available, this headquarters be furnished information, similar to that called for in the Missing Air Crew Report, upon which to base a reply to the next of kin of the above named officer.

For the Commanding General:

T. A. FITZPATRICK,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Air Adjutant General.

AAF 201 - Jess, Ray W.
0728876 1st Ind.

4 MAR 1944

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U. S. Army.

TO: Commanding General, 1st Division, APO 634, U. S. Army.

For compliance with basic communication and return through this Headquarters.

By command of Major General DOOLITTLE:

BURNIS ARCHER,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Ltr, Hq, AAF, Washington D. C. Subj: Missing Air Crew Personnel, dtd, 10 January 1944).

AAF 201 - Jess, Ray W.
0728876

2nd Ind.

I-G-3

Hq, 1st Bomb Division, APO 634, 7 March 1944.

TO: CO, Station 107, APO 634. (Att: Statistical Officer).

For compliance with basic communication.

By command of brigadier General WILLIAMS:

Dozey J. Rodriguez
DOZEY J. RODRIGUEZ
Captain, ACD.
Asst. Adjutant General

AAF 201 - Jess, Ray W.
0728876

3rd Ind.

Hq AAF Sta 107, 303rd Bomb Gp (H), APO 634, 10 March 1944.

TO: Commanding General, 1st Bomb Div, APO 634.

1. 1st Lt. Ray W. Jess, 0728876, went down on a mission to Huls, Germany, on 22 June 1943. It is reported that the B-17 of which he was pilot was seen to go down near Krefeld, Germany. The aircraft was first hit by flak over the target, lagged behind, and was shot down by four enemy fighters. No parachutes were seen.

2. No reports, official or otherwise, have ever been received by this headquarters respecting Lt. Jess. He is still carried as missing in action. Four of the crew are officially listed as prisoners of war, and two are officially listed as killed in action. There is unofficial news that two others are killed in action, the source in the one case being an article in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Journal, and in the other, 1st Bombardment Division.

3. This is all the information presently available at this headquarters.

For the Commanding Officer:



Frank J. Boherty
FRANK J. BOHERTY,
Major, A.C.,
Adjutant.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AAF 201-Jess, Ray W.
0728876

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
4th Ind.

P-I-3

Hq, 1st Bomb Division, APO 634, 15 March 1944.

TO: CG, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634. (Att: Statistical Control Section).

No further information available at this headquarters.

For the Commanding General:



ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, Jr.
Lieut. Colonel, AGD.
Adjutant General

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRAUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by H. W. MUEHN H., Capt., AG
Date MAR 15 1948

201-Jess, Ray W. (O) 5th Ind.
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634.

G-E-12

25 MAR 1944

TO: Commanding General, ETOUSA, APO 871.

1. Attention is invited to 3rd indorsement.
2. Records this headquarters indicate present status of subject crew is as follows:

A/C No. 42-5432

DIR
808 210 00A

- 1st Lt. Ray W. Jess, O-728876, MIA 22 June 43.
- 1st Lt. James H. Montgomery, O-727111, MIA, 22 June 43.
- 2nd Lt. Harold W. Gunn, O-729848, POW, WD Bureau of Public Relations Press - **RTD**
13 Aug. 43.
- 2nd Lt. Robert P. Davidson, O-731275, KIA, MRU Report period 1 Aug. - 7 Aug. 43. **KIA**
- T/Sgt. Joseph J. Godzinski, 35305664, KIA, MRU Report period 1 Aug. - 7 Aug. 43. **KIA**
- T/Sgt. Harold E. Smith, 18046969, POW, MRU Report period 1 Aug. - 7 Aug. 43. **RTD**
- S/Sgt. Frank M. White, 34287705, KIA, MRU Report period 1 Aug. - 7 Aug. 43. **KIA**
- S/Sgt. Charles F. Hardacre, 31077973, POW, MRU Report period 8 Sept. - 15 Sept. 43. **RTD**
- S/Sgt. Sidney V. Hall, 6278009, POW, MRU Report period 8 Aug. - 15 Aug. 43. **RTD**
- S/Sgt. Byron W. Johnson, 16022309, KIA, MRU Report 449 - 23 Jan. 44. **KIA**

For the Commanding General:



BURNIS ARCHER
Captain, AGD,
Ass't Adj General.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Ray W. JESS
 Rank: 1st.Lt.
 Serial number: O-28876
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

File No: 3077

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KNOWLEDGE

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE STOOD UP, THEN SAT DOWN AGAIN - MOTIONED FOR ME TO BAIL OUT.

Was he injured? NoWhere was he when last seen? SITTING IN PILOT SEAT -any hearsay information: NONE

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I BELIEVE THAT HE TRIED TO BRING THE SHIP OUT THE TIGHT SPREAD THAT IT WAS IN AND COULD NOT GET TO HIS SHUTE (OR WAS OVERCOME BY LOSS OF OXYGEN.)

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13

Dates and destinations if possible; BREMEN, WILHELMHAVEN, ANTWERP, PARIS, KIEL, LORIENT, ST. NAZZAIRE, HULS
MARCH - JUNE 1943

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: James H. MONTGOMERY
 Rank: 1st.Lt.
 Serial number: O-727111
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~RAF BRIGHTON (SUSSEX)~~

3077

Did he bail out? No.

Where? _____

If not, why not? SHOCK (I BELIEVE)

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE SEEMED TO BE READY TO JUMP WHEN I CAME DOWN BUT PULLED BACK WHEN I MOTIONED FOR HIM TO GO. I THOUGHT AT THE TIME THAT HE WAS WAITING UNTIL HE REACHED A LOWER ALTITUDE.
 Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? KNEELING AT OPEN ESCAPE HATCH

Any hearsay information: No

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I BELIEVE HE WENT IN WITH THE PLANE. HE MUST HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AS HE SEEMED AFRAID TO JUMP. (I DID NOT NO THIS AT THE TIME.)

Total number of missions of above crew member: 23

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Joseph J. GODZINSKI
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 35305664
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

file No: 3077

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? NO KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? NO KNOWLEDGE

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on suppositions: WAS GUNNERSAID THAT REAR ESCAPE HATCH WAS JAMMEDTotal number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible: ~~CAMP~~ BREMEN WILHELMSHAVENANTWERP, PARIS, KIEL, LORIENT, ST. NAZSAIRE, HULLMARCH - JUNE 1943

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Frank M. WHITE
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 34287705
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

File No: 3077Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? REAR DOOR JAMMED - PLANE IN TIGHT SPIRAL

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

Was he injured? NoWhere was he when last seen? IN WAIST

Any hearsay information: HE PUSHED WAIST GUNNER OUT OF JAMMED DOOR, BUT DID NOT GET OUT HIMSELF.

Sources: SIAMER V. HALL - WAIST GUNNER

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

SPIRAL PLANE WAS IN MADE THOSE IN WAIST HELPLESS TO MOVE.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible: BREMEN, WILMESHAVEN, ANTWERPPARIS, KIEL, LORIENT, ST. NAZZAIRE, HULSMARCH - JUNE 1943

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Byron W. JOHNSON
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 16022309
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

File No: 3077Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? No KNOWLEDGE

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

Was he injured? No KNOWLEDGEWhere was he when last seen? IN BALL TURRET.Any hearsay information: NONE

Sources: _____

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

PLANE WAS IN TIGHT SPIRAL MAKING THOSE IN REAR
HELPLESS TO MOVE ABOUT. REAR DOOR WAS JAMMED

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible; BREMEN, WILMESHAVEN, ANTWERP,PARIS, KIEL, LORIENT, ST. NAZAIRE, HULSMARCH - JUNE 1943

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HAROLD W. GURIN Rank 2ND LT. Serial No. 0-729848
2. Organization 303 Gp Commander MARION Rank LT. COL. Sqn CO MITCHEL Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month JUNE day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, HULS GERMANY, target, SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANT, target time, ABOVE 9:30, altitude, 27,000 FT. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER TARGET - BOMBS JUST DROPPED
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? 2 OTHER MEMBERS
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".
HAROLD E. SMITH - BAILED OUT - FRONT HATCH, NEAR TARGET -
SIDNEY V. HALL - BAILED OUT - REAR DOOR - WAS STUCK - PUSHED OFF BY FRANK WHITE.
CHARLES HARDACRE - CRASHED WITH SHIP -
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR DORSTAND AND HULS, GERMANY
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) RAY W. JESS JAMES
MONTGOMERY ROBERT P JAYIBSON JOSEPH GOBINSKI, BYRON JOHNSON,
FRANK M. WHITE, CHARLES HARDACRE.
11. Where were they in aircraft? 2 IN NOSE - 5 IN REAR
12. What was their condition? 1 HURT (OR KILLED)
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?

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

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Joseph J. GODZINSKI
Rank: T/Sgt.
Serial number: 35305664
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

file No: 3077

Did he bail out? No

Where? -----

If not, why not? Dead

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

None

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? Lying on floor of plane near waist gun windows

any hearsay information: Skull was crushed by hydraulic tail strut

when plane crashed.

Source: German Intelligence

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

Could not get out of plane because rear escape door would not open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13

Dates and destinations if possible; No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Robert P DAVIDSON
 Rank: 2nd.Lt.
 Serial number: O-731275
 Position: Crew (Scorer) or Flight (Fighter):

file No: 3077

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? Dead

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

_____ NoneWas he injured? YesWhere was he when last seen? Take offAny hearsay information: He was killed by flak burstSources: T/Sgt. H.E. Smith

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

He was probably killed immediately and body was identifiedby Germans.Total number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CANNIBALITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: James H. MONTGOMERY
Rank: 1st.Lt.
Serial number: 0-727111
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

3077

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? -----

If not, why not? -----

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

None

Was he injured? No knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Take off

Any hearsay information: Bombardier was badly shot and would not
leave plane.

Sources: T/Sgt. H.E. Smith- Engineer

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

Believed to have bailed out too late.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Ray W. JESS
Rank: 1st.Lt.
Serial number: 0-728876
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

File No: 3077

Did he bail out? No knowledge.

Where? -----

If not, why not? -----

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

No contact with rest of crew due to fact my inter-phones was not
(working.)

Was he injured? No knowledge

Where was he when last seen? Take off

Any hearsay information: None

Sources: -----

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

believe he went down with plane trying to force bombardier to ba-
bail out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Frank M. WHITE
 Rank: E/Sgt.
 Serial number: 34287705
 Position: Crew (Engineer) or Flight (Fighter):

File No: 3077Did he bail out? No knowledgeWhere? -----If not, why not? No knowledgeLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: -----NoneWas he injured? No knowledgeWhere was he when last seen? Take offAny hearsay information: Believed to have bailed out without
parachute.Source: German IntelligenceAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: -----Parachute was found in plane but not his body. (this information
came from German soldiers who searched plane.)Total number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Rank:

Byron W. JOHNSON

File No: 3077

Serial number:

S/Sgt.

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~6082309~~ Light (Fighter):Did he bail out? NoWhere? -----If not, why not? DeadLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: -----NoneWas he injured? YesWhere was he when last seen? Lying on floor of plane close to waist gun
(windowsAny hearsay information: -----Skull was crushed by hydraulic tail strut same as T/Sgt.J. J. GodzinskiSource: German IntelligenceAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: -----Could not get out of plane because rear escape door wouldnot open.Total number of missions of above crew member: 13Dates and destinations if possible; No knowledge

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Sidney V. Hall Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 6278009
2. Organization AAF Gp Commander Charles E. Kirk R. Rank Col Sqn CO Mitchell Rank Cap't.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month June day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Huls, target, synthetic rubber plant target
time, 9:30 A:M, altitude, 27,000 ft. route scheduled, over
north sea to Ger., route flown Same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Right wing to sqdn. leader-Huls Ger.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? T/Sgt. H.E. Smith-Engineer
Lt. Harold Gunn-Co-Pilot
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". LT. Gunn was the first of the three men who bailed out to leave the ship. I was the last. T/Sgt H.E. Smith bailed out sometime between the departure of Lt. Gunn and myself from the plane. S/Sgt. Hardacre crashed in the plane and was thrown clear of the wreckage, receiving only a broken leg.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Aprox. 12 miles s.w. of Huls Ger.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Hardacre, Godzinski, Davidson, Johnson and one unidentified body, this body could have been White, Jess, or Montgomery. See other side of paper.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Godzinski and Johnson were on floor by waist gunners windows.
12. What was their condition? Dead
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. No knowledge

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

When German soldier gave me information about unidentified body found in plane, at first he said there were four bodies in the plane. He said one of them was still alive. I later found out that this was S/Sgt. Hardacre. I have never been able to determine if he meant there were four bodies besides Hardacre or only three.