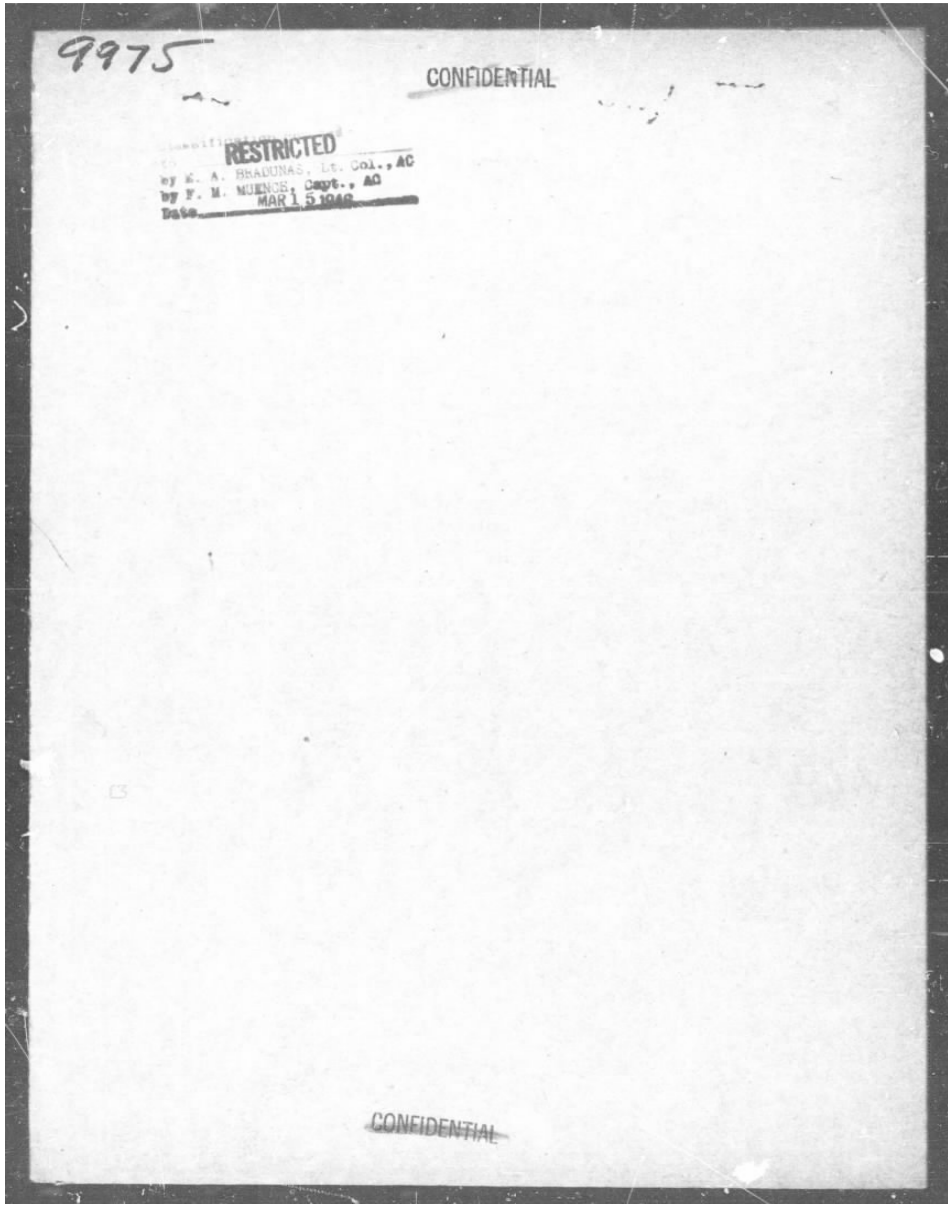
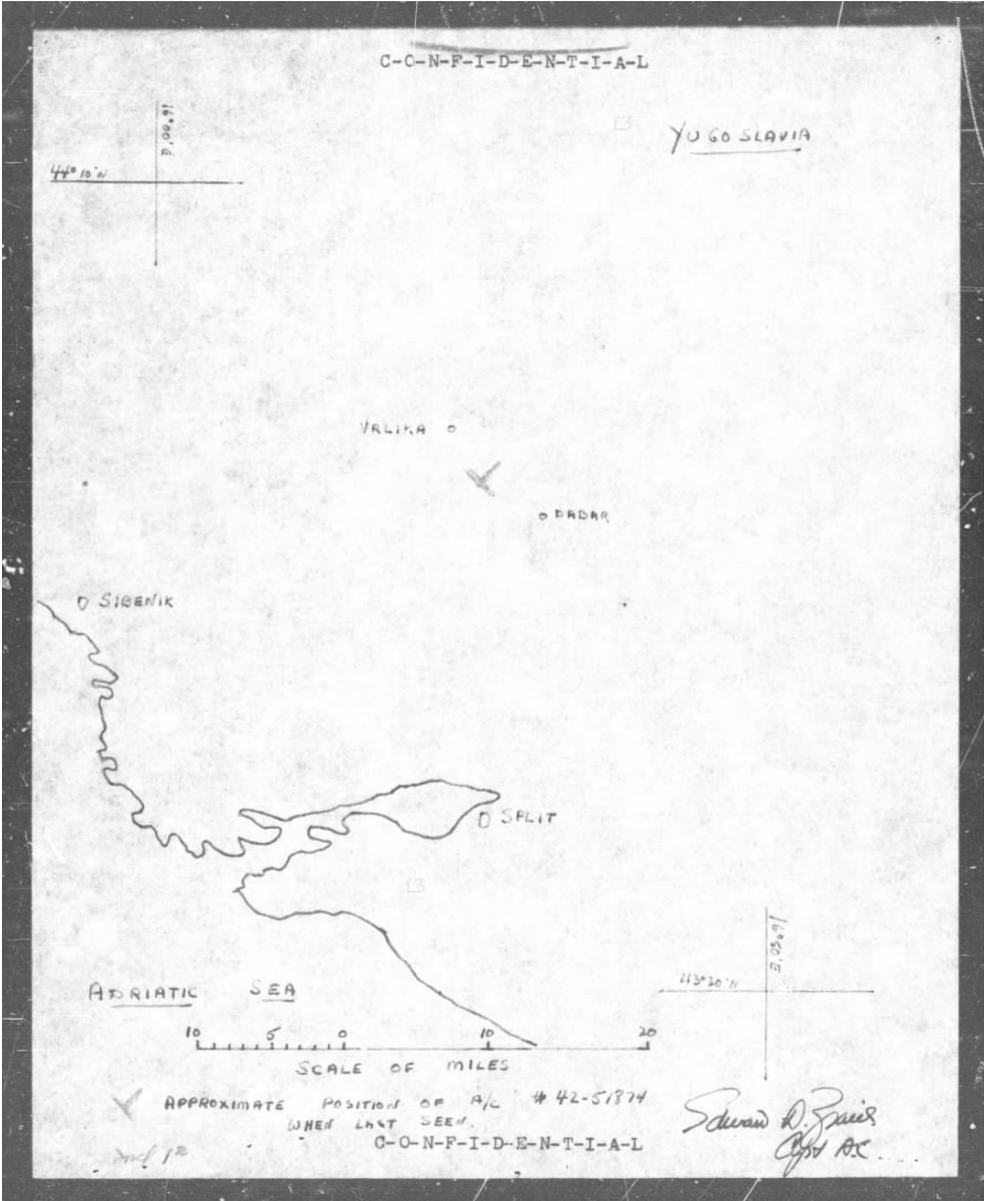


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~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~727TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
A.P.O. 520, U. S. ArmyS T A T E M E N T

On 20 November 1944, I was flying in the same formation with Lt. Poherty, who was pilot on A/C # 42-51874. After having hit our target, and while on the route back to the base, his aircraft fell behind the formation, and followed it. When we were over Yugoslavia, I sat in the upper turret, and I last saw his plane at about 43°56'N-16°30'E, about fifteen minutes before we hit the Adriatic Sea. He was about our level, which was 15,000', and seemed to be under good control, although he was possibly one-half mile behind the formation. This was at 1440. I understand that he has not been seen since.

*Earl N. Boutell Jr.*  
EARL N. BOUTELL JR.,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
O-780366.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~*med 2'*

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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9915

Name of crew member: GALDWELL, Robert L.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 34129736  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Upper Tur.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over the island of Hvar, off the coast of Yugoslavia

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

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: subject ordered to bail from the ship

Was he injured? Yes, Fractured Knee cap.

Where was he when last seen? Last seen at hospital in Bari, Italy

Any hearsay information: Subject last heard from at AAF RCH, Coral Gables, Fla. Subject was transferred to Det. of Separates Pat. 38 S.O. 359 Hq. above hospital EDCMR 7 Dec. 1945 assume subject discharged and living at Box 228 Oakland Dr. Lowell, N.C.

Source: I am now Assistant C.O. Det. of Patients of above hospital. Records available

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Four

Dates and destinations if possible: ?

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AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Eddie Doherty Rank Lt. Lt. Serial No. O-709528
2. Organization 451 BQ Commander? \_\_\_\_\_ Rank Col. Sqn CO L.S. Hopple Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month November day 20th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Blechinger, Germany target, Oil Refineries , target  
 time, Approximately 1450 , altitude, about 25,000 ft. route scheduled, ?  
 , route flown Glor
5. Where were you when you left formation? In vicinity of Zagreb,
6. Did you bail out? No
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 members bailed out over the island of Hvar, all members returned to allied control with the exception Sgt. Raymond E. Hughes and myself. All members returned to allied control.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Aircraft was ditched off the coast of Hvar. water
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ~~ground~~? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Sgt. Raymond E. Hughes (engineer) and myself (pilot)
11. Where were they in aircraft? Seated in pilot & co-pilot seats
12. What was their condition? No injuries
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)

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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member: GASPEROW, James T.  
 Rank: 2nd Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-77296  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Over the island of Hvar, off the coast of Yugoslavia

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

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

Wishing each other good luck

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Subject was returned to base on the 25 Nov. 1944  
From hospital at Bari, Italy. After which subject  
~~was returned to base on the 25 Nov. 1944~~ completed his tour and returned to the U.S. on 6 June  
1945. Last information regarding subject, attending University of S.D.

Source: \*\*\*\*\*

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

No Explanation necessary

Total number of missions of above crew member: Approximately 28 at end of war.

Dates and destinations if possible: ?

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APPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member: CASPERSON, James Y.   
 Rank: 2nd Lt.  
 Serial number: 0-771296  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

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

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Came back with all the rest of us crew members

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

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: was his fourth mission when we had to bail out. After returning to the Sqd. he flew about 20 more missions.   
 Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member:

GALDWELL, Robert L.

Rank:

S/Sgt.

Serial number:

3029736

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Upper Tur.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

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

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

Was he injured? Yes He injured his leg in bailing out.

Where was he when last seen? Was brought back with the rest of us crew members and was taken to the hospital at Bari.

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

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: Was his fourth mission. He

didn't fly any more  
 Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

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**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Charles F. Shuster Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 35609708
2. Organization 451 BGP Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov. day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Blackhammer, target, Blackhammer oil Ref., target time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, \_\_\_\_\_, route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Yugoslavia
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". We all bailed out except the Pilot (Lt. E. Doherty) and the Engineer (T/Sgt R. Hughey) who ditched the plane due to the fact that the engineer had opened his chute in the plane so the Pilot ditched the plane with him, and we all got back to our Bomb Group safe.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Was ditched some where off the coast of Yugoslavia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Pilot and Engineer was the only ones in the plane when it was ditched.
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the Pilot and Co-Pilot's seats
12. What was their condition? Got out O.K.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? We all got back to our Bomb Group O.K. and flew more missions except for S/Sgt. Robert L. Caldwell whom in bailing out injured his leg and was taken to the hospital at Bari.
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)

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**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member: CALDWELL, Robert L.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 34129736  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Upper Tur.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? HVAR, YUGOSLAVIA

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

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

JUST BEFORE ME

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? BARI, ITALY

Any hearsay information: SENT BACK TO U.S. IN JAN. 1945 DUE TO  
INJURIES

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Authority: NND 735001**  
**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name ARTHUR H. SERCOMBE Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-2061062
2. Organization 451st Op Commander L. Stefanowicz Rank Col. Sqn CO S. J. Hoppick Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Nov. day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 7th, target, BLECHAMMER Oil Ref., target  
 time, Approx. 12:30, altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
 route flown SAME AS SCHEDULED
5. Where were you when you left formation? CENTRAL YUGOSLAVIA
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". From waist S. Plummer (T.O.),  
Wright (Bell G.) and J. MURRAY (Bomber) jumped. From flightdeck, C. SCHUSTER  
(Pilot), A. FAZID (N.O.) and myself jumped. (4 2 on questionnaires)  
All landed fairly close together on HVAR ISLAND, YUGOSLAVIA
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? PLANE WAS DITCHED IN ADRIATIC CLOSE TO HVAR
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) PILOT, E. DONAHY  
AND ENGINEER, R. HUGHES
11. Where were they in aircraft? PILOT IN CO-PILOT SEAT
12. What was their condition? THEY GOT OUT WITHOUT BEING INJURED
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
All ten of the crew was brought together by the partisans  
at the town of HVAR, taken to island via motor steamer and  
taken to BARI ITALIA. THE CREW THEN CONTINUED TO FLY  
combat missions except for R. O'DONNELL who was injured. THE  
REMAINING NINE OF US CAME TO THE U.S. AT CLOSE OF WAR.
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)

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**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member: CASPERSON, James T.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: O-771296  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~ Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Hvar, Yugoslavia

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

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

Was he injured? Not Noticed at Time

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 27 Missions

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Our Crew Was shot down on our 4<sup>th</sup> Mission.  
All bailed out except the pilot and engineer  
who ditched the plane, in the sea near the  
same island (HVAR, yugo.) That we bailed out over.  
Casperson may have been injured but I did  
not notice it.

The entire crew was evacuated to 15<sup>th</sup> AAFH.Q. in  
BARI, Italy.

All Members of the crew except Caldwell, who  
was admitted to the General Hospital at BARI, return-  
ed to our home base, and continued to fly missions  
until the war's end.

Casperson flew back to the U.S. with us. I  
last saw him at Camp Miles Standish, MASS.

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**Authority: NND 735001**  
**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 9975

Name of crew member: CALDWELL, Robert L.  
 Rank: S/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 34129736  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~ Upper Tur.

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Hvar, Yugoslavia

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

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

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? General Hospital, Bari, Italy.

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

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: About 10

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Sgt. Robert L. Caldwell was shot down on his 4<sup>th</sup> Mission. When he struck the ground, after bail-  
ing out over Hvar, Yugoslavia, he injured his knees,  
and when evacuated to 15<sup>th</sup> AAF H.Q. in Bari, Italy  
he was admitted to the U.S. Army hospital there.

A letter from him stated he was sent back to the  
U.S., and another letter said that he was in the  
Station Hospital at Camp Pickett, Va. I last saw  
him in Bari Italy.



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 Authority: NND 735001  
 By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFFPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Willard C. Gill Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 35706724
2. Organization 451 BG Gp Commander Stefanowicz Rank Col. Sqn CO Word Rank Capt.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month NOV day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Not Known, target, Blechhammer, Germany target E3  
 time, App. 12:30 PM, altitude, About 25,000 ft. route scheduled, Not Known  
 route flown: Not Known
5. Where were you when you left formation? No Knowledge
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 Bailed out over the island of HVAR YUGOSLAVIA. Lt. J.T. Cassperson, Lt. Murray, Lt. A.H. Sercombe, Sgt Robert Caldwell, S/Sgt C.F. Shuster, Sgt S.P. Plummer, Sgt AA. Fazio AND Myself
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Ditched in sea near Isle of Hvar, Yugoslavia
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Pilot: Lt Eddie Deherty and Engineer Raymond E. Hughes S/Sgt were in plane at time of ditching in sea
11. Where were they in aircraft? In pilots Copilot's seats.
12. What was their condition? No Knowledge
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. E3  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Any additional information may be written on the back)