

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

17 August 1944

49
SUBJECT: Technical Sergeant Kenneth J. McKeeman, 32424781,
451st Bomb Group,
Killed in Action 11 March 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, A.P.O. 520,
c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for de-
tails concerning the circumstances under which the subject
named was reported ~~missing~~ (in action) on the date shown.
killed

2. A search of the records of this headquarters indicates
that a Missing Air Crew Report, as required by A.G.O. letter,
23 May 1943, (AG 360.33 (5-21-43)OB-S-AF-M), has not been re-
ceived to date in this case. It is requested that this report
be forwarded with the least practicable delay.

For the Commanding General:

E. A. Bradunas

E. A. BRADUNAS,
Major, A. G. D.,
Chief, Notification Branch,
Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief Air Staff, Personnel.

AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (EM) 1st Ind. GP:B:rb
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 7 September, 1944.

5-730
TO: CO, 49th Wing, APO 520.

1. Request circumstances surrounding death of Techni-
cal Sergeant McKeeman.

By command of Major General TWINING:

Windle D. Reel
WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG

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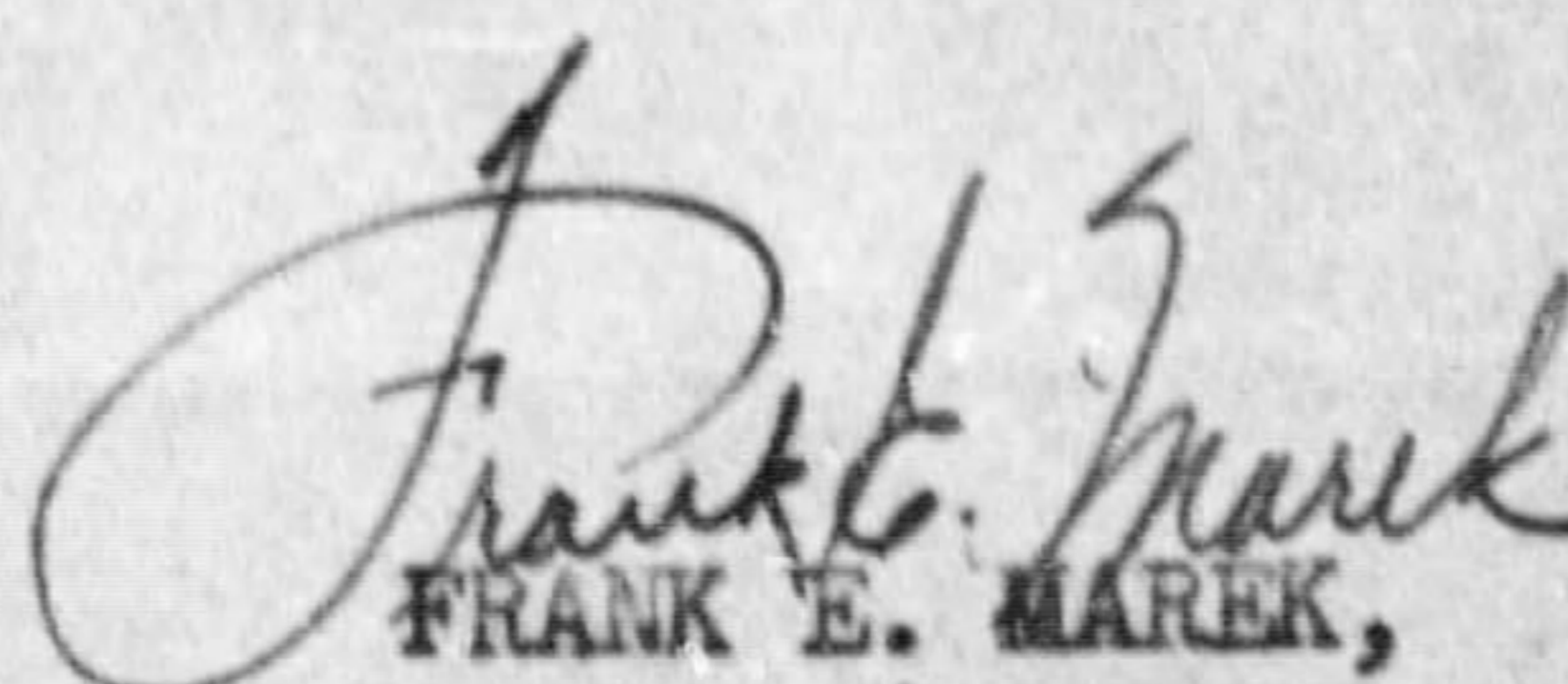
AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (EM) 2nd Ind.
HQ 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 10 Sept 44.

C-WRT-57

TO: CO, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

By order of Colonel LEE:


FRANK E. MAREK,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst Adj.

AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (EM) 3rd Ind.
Hqs, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, 11 Sept 44.

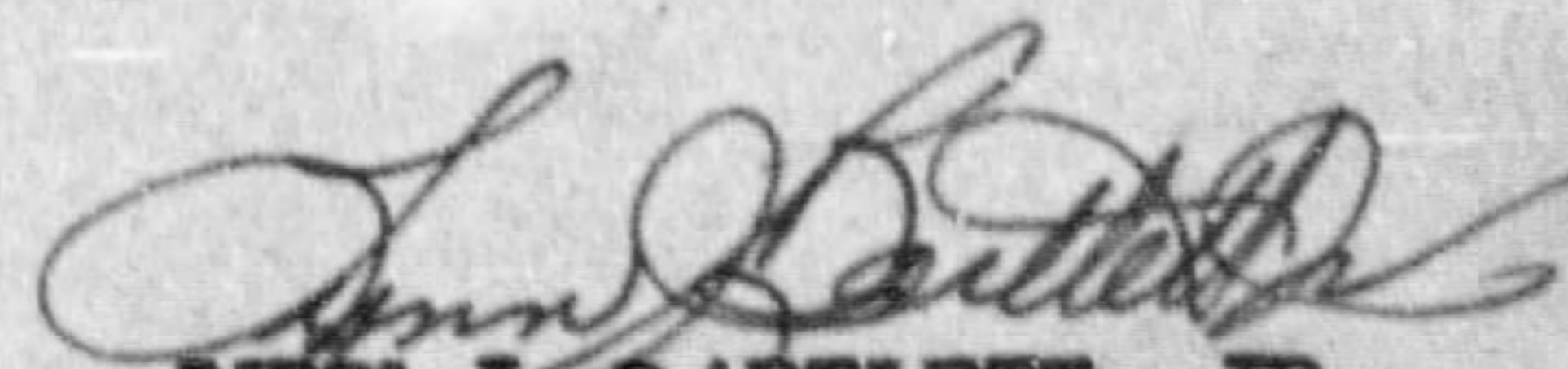
S: 12 Sept 44

C-ru

To: C. O., 724th Bomb Sq (H), APO 520.

For compliance with par. 1 1st Ind, and return to this headquarters
not later than 12 Sept 44.

By order of Colonel EATON:


LYNN J. BARTLETT, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

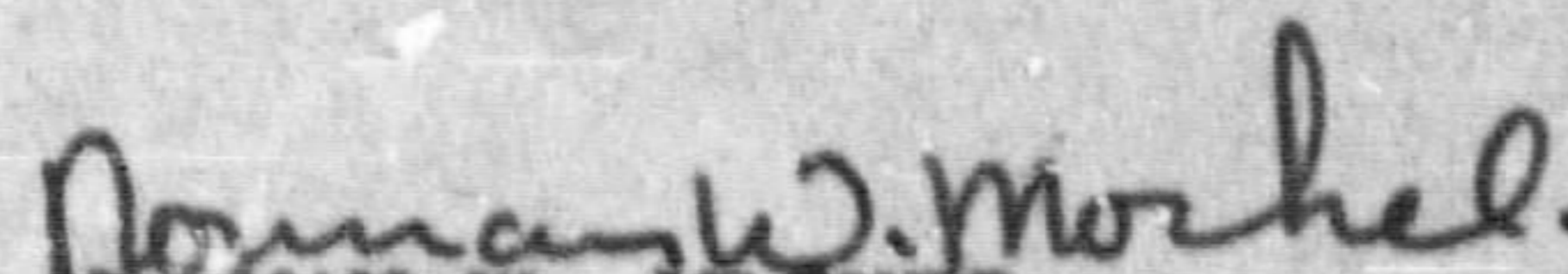
AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (EM) 4th Ind.
724 Bomb Sq (H), 451 Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army.

NWM/dpo

TO: CO, 451 Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, US Army.

A true copy of an eyewitness report of the crash in which T/Sgt.
McKeeman lost his life is attached.

For the Squadron Commander:


NORMAN W. MOCHEL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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R-268

AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (E) 5th Ind.
HQS, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, 13 Sept 44.

C-ru

TO: C. G., 49th Bomb Wg (H), APO 520.

Attention invited to attached statement.

For the Commanding Officer:

Lynn J. Bartlett, Jr.
LYNN J. BARTLETT, JR,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl added.
Incl 1 - Statement.

(101)

201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (E) 6th Ind.
HQ, 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 15 Sept 44.

C-WRT-63

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

F. E. M.
F. E. M.

(6248)

201 - McKeeman, Kenneth J. (EM) 7th Ind. GP/B/eh
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 17 September 1944.

TO: CG, NATCUSA, APO 534. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Letter referred to in basic communication does not require a
Missing Air Crew Report in this case.

For the Commanding General:

Windle D. Reel
WINDLE D. REEL,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG. *BPA-8*
mm

AG 201-McKeeman, Kenneth J. (Enl)-C 8th Ind. OE/hk
(17 Aug 44)
HQ., NATCUSA, APO 534, U. S. Army, 19 September 1944.

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

2 Incl: n/c *mm*

O. E.
4

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PC-13598

ACT F-1957

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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724TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
451ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
A.P.O. #520, U.S. Army.

15 May 1944.

Technical Sergeant Kenneth J. McKeeman, was flying as Radio Operator on aircraft No. 41-2725 piloted by 1st Lieutenant Claude U. Vail, on 11 March 1944. This aircraft was in Number two (2) position of the lead flight in the first attack unit. While coming in over the target, Toulon Harbor, on a heading of one hundred and ten (110) degrees true, I saw Sergeant McKeeman's ship receive a direct hit by flak in the Right Waist, just behind the rear bomb bay. A large burst of flame was seen shooting through the waist windows. I was riding in the lead ship of the high flight and had a good view of the damaged ship. The airplane then lurched on its side and upward, still burning. It then started to fall out of control and dropped approximately three thousand (3,000) feet when it broke in half, the break coming at the rear bomb bay. The two portions of the plane then were seen to hit the water. No parachutes were seen.

The above statement was verified by all returning crew members during interrogation. Out of approximately fifteen (15) to twenty (20) questioned, no one saw any parachutes. Most of the witnesses saw the plane hit the water.

MORRIS A. MANCOGIAN,
1st Lieut. Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Norman W. Mochel
NORMAN W. MOCHEL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Incl #1

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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AG 704 5th Ind. C: NWM/hf
724th Bomb Sq (H), 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, 22 Feb 45.

To: CO, 451st Bomb Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

Information requested is shown below.

POSITION	NAME	RANK	ASN
Pilot	VAIL Claude U.	1st Lt	0735125 Ident
Copilot	Willhite, Theodore E.	Major	0406074 N/R
Navigator	Schneck, Seymour B.	1st Lt	0798895 Ident
Bombardier	Antonik, Edward J.	2nd Lt	0749953 Ident
R. Waist	Beatty, Jack L.	S/Sgt	13059235 Ident
U. Turret	Otstot, Paul T.	T/Sgt	33237953 N/R
L. Waist	New, Almous C.	S/Sgt	18118183 Ident
Radio	McKeeman, Kenneth J.	T/Sgt	32424781 N/R
Ball	Macsuga, Joseph J.	S/Sgt	31007495 Ident
Tail Turret	Kaudelky, Raymond A.	S/Sgt	32390848 N/R
Nose Turret	Alaimo, Salvatore D.	S/Sgt	32421216 Ident

For the Squadron Commander:

Norman W. Mochel
NORMAN W. MOCHEL,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

AG 704 6th Ind. C-LJB-ru
Hq, 451st Bomb Gp (H), APO 520, 23 Feb 1945.

To: C. G., 49th Bomb Wg (H), APO 520.

Attention invited to preceding 5th Indorsement.

For the Commanding Officer:

Lynn J. Bartlett, Jr.
LYNN J. BARTLETT, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

25/ AG 704 7th Ind. C-WRT-9
HQ 49TH BOMB WING (H), APO 520, 25 February 45.

TO: CG, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

F. E. M.
F. E. M.

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Casualty No:

ME 892

Date and Time Aircraft
was shot down:

11 March 44, Time 1207

Place of crash:

35 km south of Toulon, into Sea

Type of Craft:

Liberator

Reporting Office:

Air Base Hdq.(Sea) E 123/XI

10 dead, unidentified

buried in western cemetery Toulon,
Carrée 10, Allée 1; South-France

S. H. 1508

Dulag Luft, 6 July 44, No.