

21 pgs

339

RESTRICTED

Classified ~~RESTRICTED~~
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AO
Date: MAR 7 1944

339

7/27/1943

42-3170

353rd

RESTRICTED

Ø

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

339

1. Your name Hoyes William E. Rank S/Sgt Serial No. 39310712
2. Organization 321st Gp Commander Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1943 month July day 27 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Air drama, target, in Italy, target time, 12:00 Hrs., altitude, 28,000 ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Naples
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". None
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Struck Water in Meds
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
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? _____
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)

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HURLETT, Charles A.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 6915827
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Flight (Fighter)~~: Aero. Photo.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Appx 10 miles west of island Kentotaba

~~in Med.~~ in Med.

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

To abandon plane

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? at camera

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

he was drowned in Med.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

AFPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: LUKE, Fred S.
Rank: T/Sgt
Serial number: 19011348
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxx~~ ~~Eight~~ ~~(Fighter)~~: Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approx. 10 miles west of Island Ven To Tanne

If not, why not? in Med.

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

To Abandon plane

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in waist of plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

he was drowned - in Med.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: FLEMING, Eugene B.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 19016715
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxx/xxxxxxx~~: Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approx 10 miles west of Island VENTANNE in Med.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: SW26 To

gether for approx 8 hours in Med.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in water

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Because of
no knowledge of swimming we decided it best for him to
float in preserver and save his strength. Thinking
I could bring rescue.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

AFIPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PEARSON, Jasper G.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 39022887
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on engine (engineer)~~: Lower Turret

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Approx 10 mi west of Island Ven Te Tanne in Med.

If not, why not? _____

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

To bail out

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? 10 mi west of plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

he was drowned in the Med.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ROSENBERG, Nathan V.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 7010065
Position: Crew (Bombardier/Navigator/Rightbank Radio Operator)

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Approx 100 miles west of island Venetian in Med

If not, why not? _____

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

To abandon plane _____

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in west of the plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

AFPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: TURANSKI, Bernard
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-729518
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator/Pilot~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approx 10 mi west of island Ventolanne in Meda

If not, why not? _____

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

To abandon plane

Was he injured? Yes - flat wounds face and back

Where was he when last seen? Nose of plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

he was drowned in Meda

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No knowledge

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HARRINGTON, Harvey (NMI)
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-728205
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxx~~ ~~Flight~~ ~~xxxxx~~ Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Approx. 10 mi west of island Ventotenne in

~~Italy, why not?~~ Med.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Swam To-
gether for approx 8 hours in Med.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? in water

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Because of
no knowledge of swimming we decided it best
for him to float in preserver & save his
strength thinking I could bring rescue

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: DIX, Robert T.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: 0-675577
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Navigator~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Appx 10 mi west of island Ventotanne in
Italy? Med

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Decided
To abandon plane

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? position

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I presume
he was down in Med

Total number of missions of above crew member: ~~At least 1~~ (One)

Dates and destinations if possible: ~~At~~ said mission

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BOOKER, Denis G.
Rank: 1st Lt.
Serial number: O-725124
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Appx 10 mi. west of island VENTOTANNE in Med.

If not, why not? _____

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

To Tell men in person to abandon plane.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? in position

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

he was down in Med.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 49

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

1st Lt. Denis G. Backer

Mr. Henry G. Backer, (father)
1708 - 10th Avenue, Southport,
St. Cloud, Minnesota.

2nd Lt. Robert T. Din

Mr. David T. Din, (father)
Rural Route 1, Box 139,
Honey, Michigan.

2nd Lt. Harvey F. Harrington

Mr. Harvey F. Harrington, (father)
The Hub Building,
Seaside State Hotel, Michigan.

2nd Lt. Edward Terenty

Mr. William Terenty, (father)
Klovenak and Kalkstein,
307 - 7th Avenue,
New York 1, New York.

1/2 Lt. Fred E. Lutz

Mrs. Lella E. Lutz, (sister)
308 North Main Avenue,
Gepton, California.

2/2 Lt. William L. Ragan

Mr. Carl E. Ragan, (father)
Box 107,
Franklin, Illinois.

2/2 Lt. Barbara V. Backeger

Mr. Louis Backeger, (father)
180 North Main Street,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

2/2 Lt. Jasper G. Pearson

Mr. Alfred Pearson, (father)
Route 3, Box 4,
Turlock, California.

2/2 Lt. August E. Fleming

Mr. Glenn E. Fleming, (father)
5033 Madison Avenue,
Seattle 1, Washington.

2/2 Lt. Charles A. Harbott

Mrs. Annalia B. Harbott, (mother)
2234 South Lafayette Street,
Denver, Colorado.

CONFIDENTIAL
(Equals British ~~Secret~~)

Change to **CONFIDENTIAL** per
Ltr TAGO, AG 360.33 (9 Jun 43)
OB-S-AP-11, dtd 5 Aug 43.

Q-1

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
NATOUSA APO 520

O.E.
339
EFS/elt

28 July, 1943.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters Fifth Wing (US), APO 520.

1. In accordance with Letter, Subject: Missing Air Crew Report, North African Air Force, dated 8 July, 1943, transmitted herewith, in quintuplicate, is Missing Air Crew Report.

2. Personnel concerned were battle casualties, as defined in Circular 118, NATOUSA, cs. Battle Casualty Report was submitted 27 July, 1943.

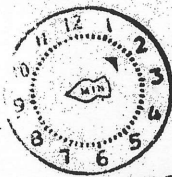
For the Commanding Officer:

Edward F. Stoddard

EDWARD F. STODDARD,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

- 3 Incls:
- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report (in quin)
- Incl 2 - Witnesses' Statements
- Incl 3 - Map

OCT 26 1943



RECEIVED
Air A. G.,



Incl # 4

- 1 -
CONFIDENTIAL
(Equals British ~~Secret~~)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

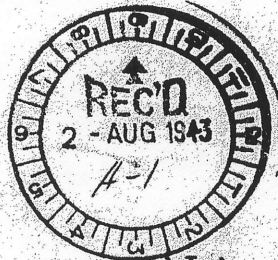
(Equals British ~~Most Secret~~)

2769
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH WING (US), APO 520, 31 July, 1943. TO: Commanding General,
Northwest African Strategic Air Force, Nutmeg, APO 520.

1. Attention invited to Paragraph 2, basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded to your Headquarters, 29 July, 1943. The correction set forth in Paragraph 3, this indorsement, is reflected upon corrected Battle Casualty Report which Headquarters, 301st Bombardment Group, advises is being submitted this date.
3. Line 3 of Item 10, Missing Air Crew Report, should be corrected to read:
" 3. Navigator HARRINGTON, HARVEY P. 2nd Lieutenant O-728205.
4. This Headquarters is informed that a discrepancy exists in the Group and Squadron records as to the correct Army Serial Number of 2nd Lt. ROBERT T. DIX, Co-Pilot. This officer's Form 66-1 shows his ASN to be O-675577, which is believed to be correct. However, records of 353rd Bombardment Squadron carry his ASN as O-675566.

For the Commanding General:

3 Incls:
n/c (quad)



M. L. Sechrest
M. L. SECREST,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

6680
AG 319.1

2nd Ind.

(C-9)

HQ, NASAF, APO 520, 4 August 1943.
TO: CG, NAAF, APO 650.

1. Battle Casualty Report on subject personnel forwarded your headquarters, 3 August 1943.

For the Commanding General:

J. M. Ivins
J. M. IVINS,
Lt Col, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

3 Incls: n/c.

2
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equals British ~~Most Secret~~)
Equals British SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

AG 360.33
HQ, NAAF, APO 650, US Army, 10 Aug/43.

G-JMS-4

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534, US Army. Central Records Section.

1. Attention is invited to inclosed Missing Air Crew Reports.
2. Casualty status of personnel listed thereon was reported on B CR Control B29, dated 7 Aug/43.

For the Commanding General:

3 Incls: n/c

C. C. Parks
C. C. PARKS
Captain, AGC,
Asst Adj General.
11

S-325
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

SECRET
(Equals British Most Secret)

Classification changed to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. BUNNICH, Capt., AC

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location AF 520 (ORANGE); Command or Air Force MAAF; Group 301st; Squadron 353rd; Detachment _____
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure (ORANGE); Intended Destination Base (ORANGE); Course CAPUA / D ITALY; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Hazy
- Give: (a) Date 27 July/43; Time 1325 E; and Location 40°50'N 13°21'E of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last Contacted by Radio; () Forced Down; (X) 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; (X) Enemy Ant-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as Follows _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 42-3170
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series 41-56883; AAF Serial Number (a) 41-56883 (b) 41-56887; (c) 41-56890 (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) Mach Gun 50 cal; 4/6 Unknown; (c) Unknown (d) Unknown
(e) Unknown; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 1 (aero, Photo.)
Total 10

(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 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
<i>Red 1.</i>	Pilot	BOOKER, DENIS G.	1st Lt	0-725124
<i>Red 2.</i>	Co-Pilot	WILL, ROBERT T.	2nd Lt	0-675577
<i>Red 3.</i>	Navigator	BARRINGTON, HARVEY (Jr)	2nd Lt	0-728205
<i>Red 4.</i>	Bombardier	NURINSKY, BERNARD	2nd Lt	0-729518
<i>Red 5.</i>	Engineer	HAYS, WILLIAM L.	S/Sgt	39380719 RTD
<i>Red 6.</i>	Radio Operator	WAGNER, SEEBURN	S/Sgt	7010065
<i>Red 7.</i>	Lower Turret Op	FRANSON, JASPER C.	S/Sgt	39022887
<i>Red 8.</i>	Waist Gunner	FRANK, EUGENE B.	S/Sgt	19016775
<i>Red 9.</i>	Tail Gunner	LUKE, FRED S.	S/Sgt	19011348
<i>Red 10.</i>	Aero. Photo.	HUMPHREYS, CHARLES	S/Sgt	6915827

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

1.	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial number	Contacted			
				By radio	Last sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Landing
1.	See enclosed witnesses' statements						
2.							
3.							

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes (10); (b) persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE No search.

SECRET
(Equals British Most Secret)
Date of report 28 July, 1943.
CONFIDENTIAL J. Shillard

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equal British Secret)
EQUAL BRITISH SECRET

953RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), AAF
Office of the Operations Officer
NAFOUSA APO 520

28 July 1943

SUBJECT: Witnesses' Statements—Loss of A/C No. 42-3170 and Crew

TO: Operations Officer, 901st Bombardment Group (H), AAF, NAFOUSA,
APO 520

1. In accordance with telephone instructions, your Headquarters, 28 July 1943, subject information is herewith presented:—Statements of combat men, this Organization, who saw A/C No. 42-3170, assigned to this Organization, go down shortly after leaving NICOLA L/G, ITALY, which was the target for 27 July 1943.

a. Crew of A/C No. 42-3170 (Position No. 21)

Pilot	1 1st Lt. DENIS G. BOOKER ✓	(0-723124)
Co-Pilot	2 2nd Lt. ROBERT T. DIX ✓	(0-675566)
Navigator	4 2nd Lt. HARVEY P. HARRINGTON ✓	(0-728205)
Bombardier	10 2nd Lt. BERNARD (MMI) TURANSKY ✓	(0-729518)
Engineer Gunner	5 S/Sgt. WILLIAM L. HAYES ✓	(39380719)
Radio Operator	7 S/Sgt. SHELBURN V. ROSENGER ✓	(7010065)
Lower Turret Gun.	8 S/Sgt. JASPER C. PEARSON ✓	(39022887)
Waist Gunner	3 S/Sgt. EUGENE B. FLEMING ✓	(19016775)
Tail Gunner	7 T/Sgt. FRED S. LUKE ✓	(19011348)
Photographer	6 S/Sgt. CHARLES A. HURLBUTT ✓	(6915827)

b. Witnesses' Statements:

- (1) I was watching the A/C and nothing seemed to be wrong, when suddenly two chutes came out of the A/C. The bomb-bay doors opened and I saw eight more chutes come out in succession. After the first two chutes came out the A/C went into a slow left spiral till it hit the water. It sank immediately.

Lawrence G. McManus
S/Sgt. LAWRENCE G. MC MANUS
32278301, Waist Gunner on
A/C No. 42-30136, piloted by
1st Lt. William J. Cunningham,
flying position 22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Equal British Secret)
EQUAL BRITISH SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
British SECRET

Witnesses' Statements—Loss of A/C No. 42-3170 and Crew, 28 July 1943, Cont'd.

- (2) I noticed that the top turret of the A/C was not in operation for forty-five minutes previous to bail-out. The pilot of the A/C was leading the second element, flying good formation when suddenly he pulled up toward the lead A/C of the first element, and apparently realizing his error, brought his A/C into a dive to avoid a crash, went into a spiral and presently hit the water. I had no idea what might be wrong. I saw three men in the cockpit and everything seemed normal—no evidence of damage to the A/C from flak.

William J. Cunningham

WILLIAM J. CUNNINGHAM,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot, flying position 22.

- (3) The A/C's bomb-bay doors opened as usual on the bomb run. The bombs left the A/C automatically in train. The bomb-bay doors never closed but I thought nothing of it. After having turned away from the secondary target, I failed to see either bombardier or navigator in the nose of the A/C. I looked three times but still did not see anyone. Fifteen minutes after leaving target, flying approximately 2500 feet over water, the A/C's co-pilot motioned to his right wing A/C to throttle back. He did not have his hands on the controls; apparently the pilot was flying the A/C. A few minutes after the co-pilot motioned to his right wing A/C to throttle back, his pilot (Lt. Becker) pulled the A/C up into a slow stall and realizing his predicament, he dumped the nose. At the same time the navigator's dome hatch flew off, clearing the A/C, and fifteen seconds later both front and waist doors flew off, two men came out of the nose. Almost immediately afterward two more men came out of the tail. By this time the A/C seemed to be levelled off. Seven more chutes came out, one after another at close interval—the last chute leaving the A/C at approximately 1500 feet.

Wilton W. Miller

WILTON W. MILLER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Bombardier, flying
position 22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
British SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Equals British SECRET

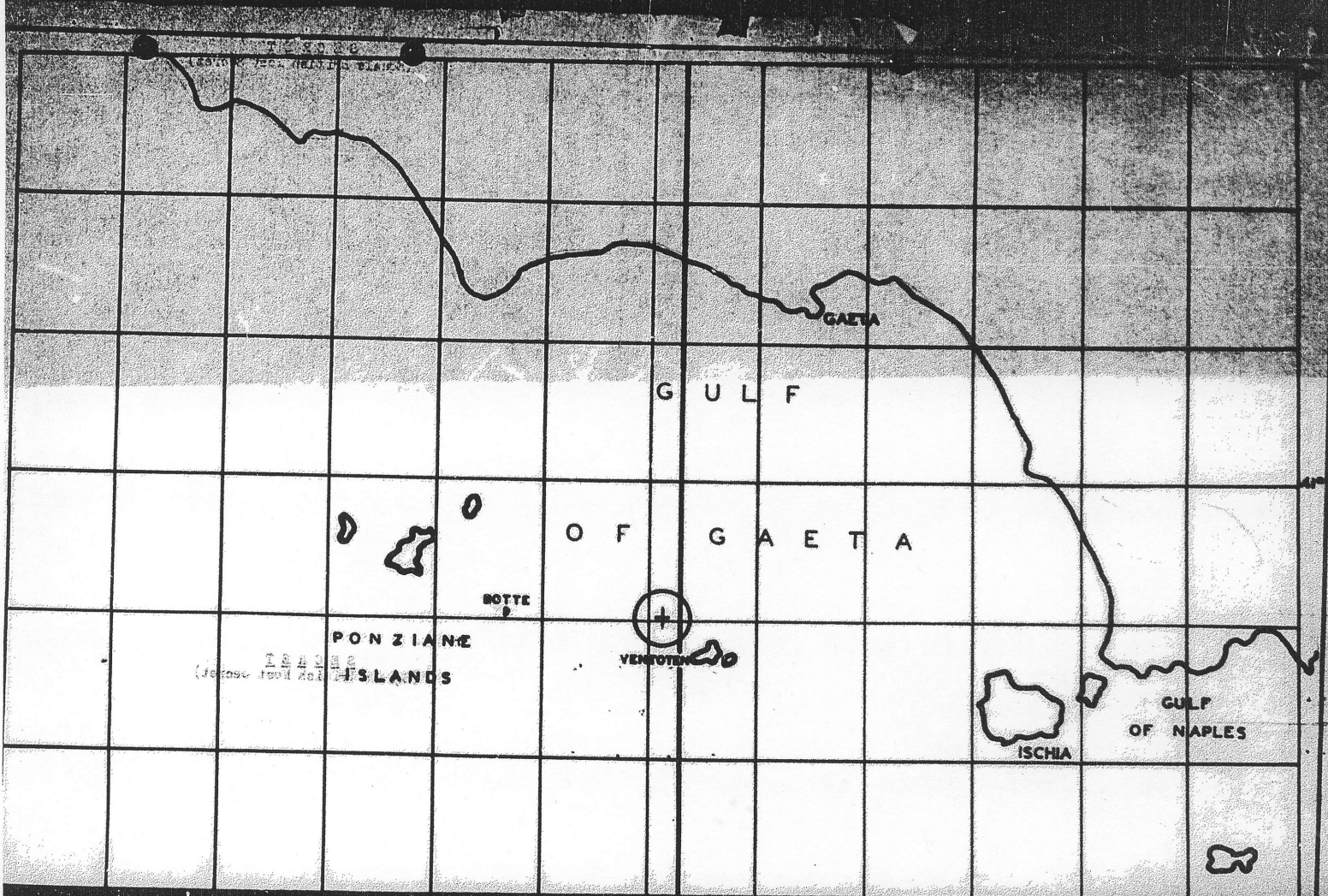
Witness' Statements—Loss of A/C No. 42-3170 and Crew, 28 July 1943, Cont'd.

- (A) I saw a hole in the nose of the A/C, just to the right of the bombardier. I saw the bombardier stuff rags into the hole, about three minutes before bail-out started, and bombardier and navigator were no longer seen in the nose. A/C did not seem to be in distress. I know of no reason why the crew should have bailed out.

Alvin W. Roberts
S/Sgt. ALVIN W. ROBERTS
18046120, Tail gunner on
A/C No. 42-90314, piloted
by 1st Lt. Lewis E. Howard,
flying position 11.

Lewis E. Howard
LEWIS E. HOWARD,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~Equals British SECRET~~



Handwritten scribble

6-3861, AF

Dates and destinations if possible:

PHOENIX ISLANDS
(Islands from Phoenix)

PONZIANE

VENTOTEN

ISCHIA

GULF OF NAPLES

4° W. (19 41)

30°

13°

30°

14°

1:500,000

EUROPE

ROMA

NE. 40/10