

11799

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADYAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. BEECHER, Capt., AC
Date: ~~20 2 5 66~~

4-15-46 Bayless Beatovich

REPRODUCTION
COMPLETED

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed

to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUECH, Capt., AC
Date JAN 15 1946

11799

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND Group 398TH BOMB HV
Squadron 603rd Bomb Hv Detachment None
Command or Air Force 8th Air Force
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND Course 080° Mag
Target or Intended Destination Neuss, Germany
Type of Mission Operational Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR TIME LAST OBSERVED:
Clouds nil, haze aloft & on ground with moderate to dense persistent contrails.
Vis 3 miles vertically in contrails and haze with horizontal vis 2-3 mi Temp -42°.
- GIVE: (a) Day 25 Month JAN Year 1945; Time 1117 Approximate and Location 5112N-0610E (25,000 ft Alt) of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (
Forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not available ().
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOSS, OR IS BELIEVED SO, HAVE BEEN LOSS, AS A RESULT of: (Check only one) Enemy aircraft (); enemy anti-aircraft (); Other Circumstances as follows:
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G HO AAF Serial No. 44-8224
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT: None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series 1820-97 AAF Serial No. (a) SW-021834
(b) SW-021783 (c) SW-021687 (d) SW-021708
- INSTALLED WEAPONS, SO CALLED, and other armaments as follows:

Make	Serial Number	Make	Serial Number
(a) <u>Frigidaire GMC</u>	<u>365796</u>	(b) <u>Brown Lipé Chapin</u>	<u>1543030</u>
(c) <u>"</u>	<u>364623</u>	(d) <u>"</u>	<u>1543033</u>
(e) <u>"</u>	<u>639855</u>	(f) <u>"</u>	<u>1542042</u>
(g) <u>"</u>	<u>365256</u>	(h) <u>"</u>	<u>1542105</u>
(i) <u>Brown Lipé Chapin</u>	<u>1542040</u>	(j) <u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
(k) <u>"</u>	<u>1543052</u>	(l) <u>"</u>	<u>"</u>

- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or Non Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 0 Total 10

Following information listed for personnel aboard aircraft:
Crew Position Name in Full Rank Serial Number Current Status

<u>Rtd</u>	1. Pilot, CA	<u>HUNTER, FRANK P JR</u>	<u>Colonel</u>	<u>0-19063</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>EUS</u>	2. Pilot	<u>GONZALES, FEDERICO</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-771622</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	3. Navigator	<u>BEATOVICH, WILLIAM J</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0-757416</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	4. Bombardier	<u>CAMPBELL, WILLIAM P</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0-509095</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	5. GH Navigator	<u>LETTIS, CHARLES R</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-2060321</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	6. VE	<u>LENTZ, RALPH H</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-707235</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	7. Tail Gunner	<u>BUTTERS, WILLIAM T</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0-833701</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	8. Engineer	<u>ROGERS, HOWARD E</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>19183676</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	9. Radio Operator	<u>MAYFIELD, ROBERT C</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>15813344</u>	<u>MIA</u>
<u>KIA</u>	10. Waist Gunner	<u>SHUMATE, WILLIAM A</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>18188656</u>	<u>MIA</u>

(Over)

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

<u>Name in Full</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Contacted by Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw Crash</u>	<u>Saw Force Landing</u>
1. LUCY, ROBERT S	1st Lt	O-772424		X		
SHEARER, ROBERT J	S/Sgt	36679736		X		
2. CHESSHIRE, KENNETH D	S/Sgt	37486008		X		
SMITH, JOHN E	1st Lt	O-222834		X		
3. THOMAS, ANDREW R	1st Lt	O-767686		X		
GIDCUMB, ALLEN D	1st Lt	O-711648		X		
4.						

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES OR NO ON EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) any other reason (Specify) _____

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING 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 No knowledge of any search being made.

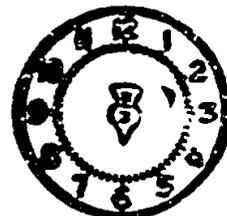
Date of Report 28 January 1945

Harris L. Campbell
HARRIS L. CAMPBELL,
Capt, Air Corps,
Statistical Officer.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

(Statements Attached)

MAR 9 1945



RECEIVED

Encs: Ltr of Inquiry fr Mrs Lula N. Campbell, 9 Feb 45, re: Capt William P. Campbell, O-509095.

2nd Lt Charles R Letts, O-2060321 (MIA)
Mrs Virginia M Letts (Mother)
517 Beach Court
Fort Pierce, Florida

1st Lt Ralph R Lents, O-707285 (MIA)
Mrs Phyllis M Lents (Wife)
127 East Locust
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

2nd Lt William F Butters, O-833701 (MIA)
Mrs Leone (Solavey) Butters (Wife)
527 Taylor Street
Ground Ledge, Michigan

T/Sgt Howard E Rogers, 19183676 (MIA)
Mrs Rinnie O Rogers (Mother)
2321 Herrod Street
Fresno, California

T/Sgt Robert C Mayfield, 15313344 (MIA)
Margaret J McEary (Sister)
414 Main Street
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

S/Sgt William A Shumate, 18198656 (MIA)
Mr William G Shumate (Father)
Box 147 General Delivery
Big Wells, Texas.

For the Commanding Officer:



MAJOR S GARLAND
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant.

312. 2nd Ind. (G/D/19)
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AIR DIVISION, APO 557, 2 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.

Attention is invited to 1st Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

CHARLES E. GARVIN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

1st Lt

HEADQUARTERS 398TH BOMB GROUP AV, APO SF, c/o Postmaster, Box 1007, N. Y.,
24 February 1945.

To: Mrs Lula N Campbell, Box 550, Campum, Pa., PHA:
Commanding General, 8q 8th USA, 1st AF, (Thru Channels)
Attn: Adjutant General, Casualty Division.

1. In compliance with paragraph 12c, Circular 25, 8q 8th USA, dated 31 August 1944, the following information is submitted on the crew of B17G 44-5224. Captain William J Campbell, O-509895 the bombardier of this crew was reported as missing in action on 28 January 1945.

2. While on the bomb run, about one minute before bombs away, on the combat mission to Rouss, Germany 28 January 1945, this aircraft received a direct flak hit in the right wing. The ship lurched to the left, and about fifteen feet of the right wing broke off. The ship then went into a dive with a slow, but apparently tightening spin to the right. There was no evidence of smoke or flame. Members of the group formation saw it spin about one and one half times before it disappeared in the clouds about 2,000 feet below the formation which was flying at 25,000 feet. They saw no one leave the ship.

3. Captain Campbell was credited with ten Combat Missions while with this Group.

4. In compliance with Letter, 8q 8th Air Force, subject: "Release of Casualty Information", dated 27 July 1944, file number 312.1, paragraph 2 (4), the following information is submitted: All letters and packages received for Captain Campbell have been returned to sender by authority of Third Assistant Post Master General. The personal effects, including medals mentioned in basic communication, were forwarded to Mrs Lula N. Campbell, Campum, Pennsylvania Thru Effects Quartermaster on 28 February 1945. It is believed that Captain Campbell carried the letters with him on the mission the day he was reported "Missing".

5. Following are the emergency addresses and addresses of the members of the crew:

Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr, O-10083
Mrs Maria L Hunter (Wife)
321 Hamilton Street
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

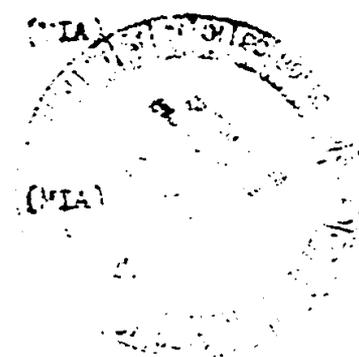
(MIA)

1st Lt Federico Gonzales, O-771622
Mrs Rosa (Bernandez) Gonzales (Mother)
244 Perez Street
San Antonio, Texas

(MIA)

Captain William J Beatovich, O-757416
Mrs Angela Krezovich (Mother)
Box 112
Kiener, Minnesota

(MIA)



11799

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

5. If identified aircraft were in observation, was it lost or down with escort? No If so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Army number, color and/or aircraft aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). Not observed

6. Mark a or give date and description of jumps (a, no. - date, altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

No parachutes observed coming from A/C.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Nil.

8. Date of report 26 January 1945

<u>NAME - GRADE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>A/C</u>
1. <u>Johnson, Warren L.</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-823874</u>	<u>970-A</u>
2. <u>Stockman, Albert J.</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-767680</u>	<u>552-V</u>
3. <u>Thomas, Andrew R.</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-767686</u>	<u>317-P</u>
4. <u>Hyndman, Stayer J.</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-768107</u>	<u>190-L</u>
5. <u>Matthews, Thomas M.</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0-755590</u>	<u>487-B</u>

REPRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL (one original and one copy):

Charles H. Krok
Charles H. Krok

Captain

0-568990

Asst. Intel. O.

NAME

SERIAL

DUTY

NOTE: All unclassified information developed subsequent to this account
is to be handled in accordance with paragraph 2, letter c, AG, 704
15 July 1944, AF-100-10, subject American War Reports,
7 July 1944.

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

Statement concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 44-8224, Pilot, C.A., Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr., O-19083, Headquarters 328th Bomb Group Hq on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany 23 January 1945.

We were flying number two in the low low element of the lead Sq. As the togglier couldn't see the lead ship very well because of contrails, I was watching for bombs away as a double check. When Colonel Hunter's ship was hit I would say about where the star is on the under side of the right wing, the wing broke off and the piece came back past us. (This measures about fifteen feet from the end of the wing). When it was hit, the ship fell off to the right crossing in front of us. I followed it down about two thousand feet and it had made about three-fourths of the first spin. I didn't see anyone get out and am doubtful if they could, because the ship seemed to be totally out of control.

Allen D Gidcumb.

1st Lt a/c
ALLEN D GIDCUMB, O-711643
1st Lt, Air Corps
Co-Pilot, B17G ~~44-8157~~
42-107190

Final

Statement concerning missing Aircraft Bl7G 44-8224, Pilot, C.A., Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr, O-19083, Headquarters 398th Bomb Group Hq on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany 23 January 1945.

On the bomb run there were dense persistent contrails from our own group and just before the lead ship was hit we crossed behind another group cutting down visibility that much more. The flak was very accurate and it was apparent the flak batteries were tracking the lead element. I saw two bursts explode about fifty feet below the lead ship and at the same time one exploded in or on the right wing tip of the lead ship. About four to six feet of the right wing disappeared entirely, the ship started a slow roll to the right and when completely upside down headed straight down. Because of poor visibility it was difficult to follow and although I called my ball gunner to watch it, he could not pick it up. I saw no chutes and there was no evidence of fire.

Andrew R. Thomas

ANDREW R THOMAS, O-767686
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, 42-97317

Final

Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 44-8224, Pilot, C.A., Colonel Frank P. Hunter, Jr., O-19083, Headquarters 398th Bomb Group Ev on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany, 23 January 1945.

I was flying on Col Hunter's right wing when it was struck by a burst of flak. The shell seemed to enter the wing and explode inside without showing any smoke or flames. I would say that the right wing was knocked off near or very near the right landing light. Apparently Col Hunter had drained his tanks for there didn't seem to be any gas in the air nor any trace of flame. His ship rolled into a bank to the right and passed under the nose of my ship. From here on I was busy on the bomb run and saw nothing further in regards to Col Hunter's aircraft.

John E. Smith

JOHN E SMITH, O-822834
1st Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, - 8475

Smith

Statement concerning missing Aircraft B17G 44-8224, Pilot, C.A., Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr., O-19063, Headquarters 398th Bomb Group Ev on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany 23 January 1945.

About one minute before bombs away I heard our pilot over interphone state that the lead ship had been hit. My turret was facing 12 o'clock. The ship appeared to be about fifty feet below at ten-thirty when I first saw it. At that time its right wing was straight up. Then the ship seemed to level off a second or two and then started in what appeared to be a controlled banking dive to the left. My turret was at 8 o'clock when I lost sight of the ship, about one thousand feet below, in the contrails.

Kenneth D. Chesshir

KENNETH D CHESSHIR, 37486008
S/Sgt, 603rd Bomb Sq
Ball Turret Gunner, 43-38631

Final

Statement concerning missing aircraft B17G 44-6224, Pilot, J.A., Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr., O-19083, Headquarters 398th Bomb Group Hq on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany, 23 January 1945.

About one minute before bombs away on the mission to Neuss, Germany 23 January 1945, I saw the lead ship receive a direct hit in the right wing, about half way between the number four engine and the end of the wing. The ship lurched to the left upon impact, the end of the right wing broke off, and the ship started in about a fifty degree dive to the right gradually turning over on its back. It glided down this way for about a thousand feet and then appeared to go into a slow barrel rolling spin. I saw it spin around about twice and then I had to watch for bombs away. He was about two thousand feet below and to the left of us when I last saw him. I saw no one leave the ship and there appeared to be no fires. The ship had not salvoed the bombs when I last saw it.

Robert J. Shearer

ROBERT J. SHERKER, 36679736
S/Sgt, 603rd Bomb Sq
Togglier, B17G 43-38562

Full

Statement concerning Missing Aircraft B17G 44-8224, Pilot, C.A., Colonel Frank P Hunter Jr., O-19085, Headquarters 398th Bomb Group Ev on Combat Mission to Neuss, Germany 25 January 1945.

Just prior to bombs away I observed a direct flak hit on the right wing tip of the lead ship (224-A). It immediately turned on its back, nosed down and started into a spin. When last observed it had completed one and one-half turns and was still in the spin. In my opinion the spin was tightening when last seen. The damage to the right wing was quite extensive. The right wing tip was completely gone, right aileron destroyed, and most of trailing section of panel gone. Bombs were not released and when I last saw the ship no bodies or chutes had appeared. It was down about a thousand or fifteen hundred feet when our wing obstructed my vision.

Robert S. Lucy
ROBERT S LUCY, O-772424
1st Lt, Air Corps
Co-Pilot, B17 43-38970

11/17
 10/20/45
 AMT 44-4114

23 Jan. 1945 1120
 Heerd, Duesseldorf
 Type: Fortress
 Markings: 4224-A
 Target: E. of airbase
 area Duesseldorf

1382	Lt.	DA FRIEL	William J.	0-509095	dead
1381	Lt.	HUTNER	Frank E. Jr.	0-19083	dead
1379	Lt.	BUTTERS	William J.	0-835701	
1377		LUTZ	Edith Henry	0-707285	dead
1385	Sgt.	ROGERS	Howard G.	1P103676	dead
1383	Sgt.	WATFIELD	Robert C.	1F31344	dead
1380		LETTIS	Charles R.	0-703827	dead

9 dead; unknown 1384, 1378; Duesseldorf
 Northern Cemetery.
 Gonzales Frederico 0-771622

11791
To Computing Station West, Oberursel

On 23 Jan 45, at 11:20 hours, Boline 17 G was shot down by flak in
Duesseldorf-Heerdt, Heerter-Land Street MC 2. Explosion in the air.
90% destruction. Engine No. 48204 A. 9 men dead. 7 of them iden-
tified. 1 man captured, name unknown as yet.

Deceased: Rogers, Howard, 19183576

Hayfield, Robert C., 1561244

Gambell, William O 509095

Unter, Frank P., 019088

Peter Charles

Buttore W. M., 0 835710

Linor Paul Henry, 0202325

Identification Tags

Charles R. Eodd, O 771838

George W. Holdefer, O 826965

Fasan, Santo, E 129333

Wayne E. Larson, O 577639

Frohop, Rudolph, O 558154

Frank P. Hunter Jr., O 19083

Butters, Wm. E., O 833701

Howard E. Rogers, 19183676

William P. Campbell, O 809085

Harold W. Erickson, 17124502

Robert C. Mayfield, 15515344

Air Base HQ A (c) 13/VI Duesseeldorf
 AAF Replacement Stl. V MISSOURIAKE Detmold

AV 1997/46

CASUALTY REPORT ON ALLIED AVIATORS NO. 88
 Time covered by report 9 Jan 45 - 4 Feb. 45

Distributed by Army Information Center .Halle./ Saale

SERIAL	SURNAME	FLIGHT	A.C.No.	DATE OF BURIAL	ORIGIN	LOCATION OF GRAVE	REMARKS
1	ROOLERS	Nov. B.	19183676	26 Jan 45	OSCOB	Duesseeldorf, Westh- Cemetery of Honor, Section 111c No.1385	Crash of Boeing For- tress 179, Duessele- dorf-Leerd, Noerdter Landstr., Griedsquare MO 2-2, 23 Jan 45, 11.20 h
2	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified	see above	see above	No.11284	see above
3	Off. MAYFIELD	Rob. C.	15312544	see above	see above	No.1 1353	see above
4	Off. CAMPBELL	Wm. P.	509095	see above	see above	No.11382	see above
5	Off. HUYER	Frank	Unidentified	see above	see above	No.11381	see above
6	Off. LEVTS	Charl.	Unidentified	see above	see above	No.11380	see above
7	Off. MYERS	Wm. S.	825701	see above	see above	No.11379	see above
8	Unidentified	Unidentified	Unidentified	see above	see above	No.1 1378	see above
9	Off. LENTZ	R. H.	Unidentified	see above	see above	No.11377	see above

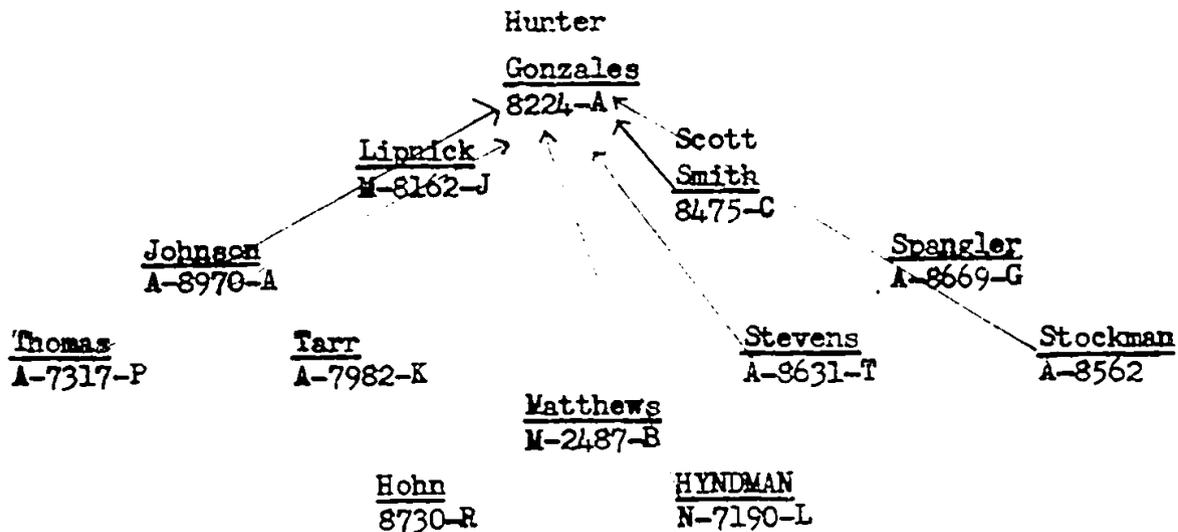
Duesseeldorf 4 Feb 1945

Signature illegible

Cpt., Officer for Special Duties

398TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP HV
Neuss, Germany 23 January 1945

Lead Squadron at Initial Point



Low Squadron at Initial Point

Hancock
Hall
A-8697

Shappell
E-8627-Z

Kunkel
Brown, AW
A-8086-C

McCormick
F-8652-V

Andrako
E-8836-T

Beatty
M-2507-F

Saferite
E-8500-F

Gray
E-8664-P

Jacobs
E-2506

Kenyon
M-7249-F

Schipull
E-8274-B

Shimek
M-2519-A

Grinter
M-8993-V

Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr.

Mrs. Frank P. Hunter, Jr. (wife)
221 Hamilton Street
Kannapolis, North Carolina

Capt. William P. Campbell

Mrs. Anna T. Koenig (sister)
512 Howard Street
Galveston, Texas

Capt. William J. Bosterick

Mrs. Angela Kuznetsov (mother)
Box 122
Kinross, Minnesota

1st Lt. Federico Gonzalez

Mrs. Anna E. Gonzalez (mother)
244 Fern Street
San Antonio, Texas

1st Lt. Ralph H. Lantz, Jr.

Mrs. Phyllis Lantz (wife)
127 East Locust Street
Lahaska, Pennsylvania

2nd Lt. William T. Hesters

Mrs. Leona A. Hesters (wife)
277 Taylor Street
Grand Lodge, Michigan

2nd Lt. Charles R. Letts

Mrs. Virginia M. Letts (mother)
517 Beach Court
Fort Pierce, Florida

T/Sgt. Edward E. Rogers

Mrs. Minnie G. Rogers (mother)
2321 Harvard Street
Fresno, California

T/Sgt. Robert C. Hayfield

Mrs. Margaret J. McFary (sister)
Main Street
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

S/Sgt. William A. Shamba

Mr. William G. Shamba (father)
Box 167
Big Wells, Texas

Col. Frank P. Hunter, Jr.

Mrs. Frank P. Hunter, Jr. (wife)
711 Hamilton Street
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

Capt. William F. Campbell

Mrs. Jean B. Koenig (friend)
5412 Howard Street
Galveston, Texas

Capt. William J. Kestovich

Mrs. Angela Kestovich (mother)
Box 128
Kinsey, Missouri

1st. Lt. Federico Gonzalez

Mrs. ~~W~~ H. Gonzalez (mother)
2116 Faxon Street
San Antonio, Texas

1st. Lt. Ralph E. Latta, Jr.

Mrs. Phyllis Latta (wife)
127 East Leont Street
Lahaska, Pennsylvania

2nd. Lt. William T. Butters

Mrs. Leona A. Butters (wife)
357 Taylor Street
Grand Lodge, Michigan

2nd. Lt. Charles H. Latta

Mrs. Virginia H. Latta (mother)
517 Beach Court
Fort Pierce, Florida

1/2gt. Edward L. Rogers

Mrs. Minnie G. Rogers (mother)
2721 Herrod Street
Fresno, California

1/2gt. Robert C. Hayfield

Mrs. Margaret J. Haffey (sister)
Main Street
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

2/2gt. William A. Shamba

Mrs. Gillian G. Shamba (mother)
Box 167
Elgin, Texas