

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

14148 617

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Mondolfo, Italy Command or Air Force 15th Air Force  
 Group 328th Fighter Group Squadron 318th Fighter Squadron  
 2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Mondolfo, Italy Course Out 390 - Ret. 2130  
 Target R/T South and West of Vienna. Type of mission Strafing.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CAVU

4. GIVE: [a] Date 4/2/45 Time 1630 Last known position 47°35'N - 17° 2'E  
 [b] Specify whether: [ ] Last sighted, [ ] Forced down, [ ] Seen to crash,  
 [X] Last contacted by radio. [ ] No information.

5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]  
 [ ] Enemy aircraft, [ ] Enemy anti-aircraft, [ ] Other Unknown

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series P51D 10NA AAF Serial Number 44-14467

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Mary Mac"

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series V-1650-7 AAF Serial Number [a] V-325093  
 [b] \_\_\_\_\_ [c] \_\_\_\_\_ [d] \_\_\_\_\_

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]  
 [a] Brown, Lipe, Chapin [e] 50 Cal. #1543915 [i] Brown, Lipe, Chapin - 50 Cal  
 [b] " " " [f] 50 Cal. #1545002 [j] #1543496  
 [c] " " " [g] " #1544151 [k] Brown, Lipe, Chapin - 50 Cal  
 [d] " " " [h] #1545518 [l] #1544146

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [X] Battle Casualty, [ ] Non Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1  
 [If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet]

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME [Last, first, initial] RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
1] Pilot	<u>Murphy, Paul J., 2nd Lt., 0-745473</u>	<u>Mrs Donna Gene Murphy - Wife - 436 22nd Street, Richmond, Calif.</u>
2]		
3]		
4]		
5]		
6]		
7]		
8]		



RECEIVED

RECEIVED

- 6] \_\_\_\_\_
- 7] \_\_\_\_\_
- 8] \_\_\_\_\_
- 9] \_\_\_\_\_
- 10] Classification changed  
~~RESTRICTED~~
- 11] by W. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC
- by M. MUECH, Capt., AC
- 12] Date 30 April 1945

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

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	CONTACTED LAST		
			BY RADIO	SAW	FORCED
[1] Gertin, Leo A.	1st Lt.	O-719303	X		
[2] _____					
[3] _____					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:  
 Parachutes were used.  Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.  
 Other reasons [specify] See attached statement.

- 14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.
- 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
- 16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No search was made.

Incllosures. Date 30 April 1945.

- 1. Witness Statement.
- 2. Sketch of area last sighted.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

*Georgie G. Hamilton*  
 Signature of preparing officer

GEORGIE G. HAMILTON,  
 Major, Air Corps,  
 Operations Officer.

2131

By *[Signature]* Date 4/17/73

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

12493 + 141178

1. Your name Paul J. Murphy Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 6-715472  
Norman L.
2. Organization 325th Gp Commander F.I. VIDAL Rank Col. Sqn COM MacDonald Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 17th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, escort, target, Nova Zanky, Czechoslo, target  
time, 1335 (target time) altitude, 23,000 ft. route scheduled, reverse  
side, route flown: see other side
5. Where were you when you left formation? about 20 miles NW of Gyor, Hungary
6. Did you bail out? NO!
7. Did other members of crew bail out? I was flying a fighter, my leader was shot  
down at the same time I was. We were hit by ground fire. I
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". See Story on other side.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? approx. 12 mi. West of Budapest & 5mi  
NW of Budaors.
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? None
12. What was their condition? None
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already des-  
cribed above? None
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)

(route scheduled & route flown) We met the bombers approximately half way between FLORENCE, ITALY and SAGRES, YUGOSLAVIA. We flew north, passing west of Vienna and north of Bratislava, the run on the target was made to the SSE. Shortly after we left the target area, we encountered enemy aircraft. The chase led us NW of Gyor. My leader and myself were chasing some FW 190's when we were hit by ground fire. We were at 5 - 6000 ft. After we got hit, I lost contact with my leader. What happened to him I do not know, but he has not returned from the mission. I seem to think he crashed or landed south or south west of Gyor for he turned in that direction.

I give you this information, little as it is, because it may be something to work on. If you have at the present time, or learn anything of my leader, 1st Lt. Adamson

The second time I went down we were ~~on~~ strafing the railways between Klagenfurt and Graz. We ran into enemy fighters and chased them to Weiner Neustadt, about 40 miles south of Vienna, where I got hit. I flew from here to Kaposvor, Hungary where I landed at a Russian airfield. So far as I know the plane ( a P\*51 ) is still there.

All the American crew members that I met were returned to Italy with me.

If I can be of any further assistance, you can call upon me at any time.

*Paul J. Murphy*  
Paul J. Murphy  
1st Lt., AC

2 April 1945.

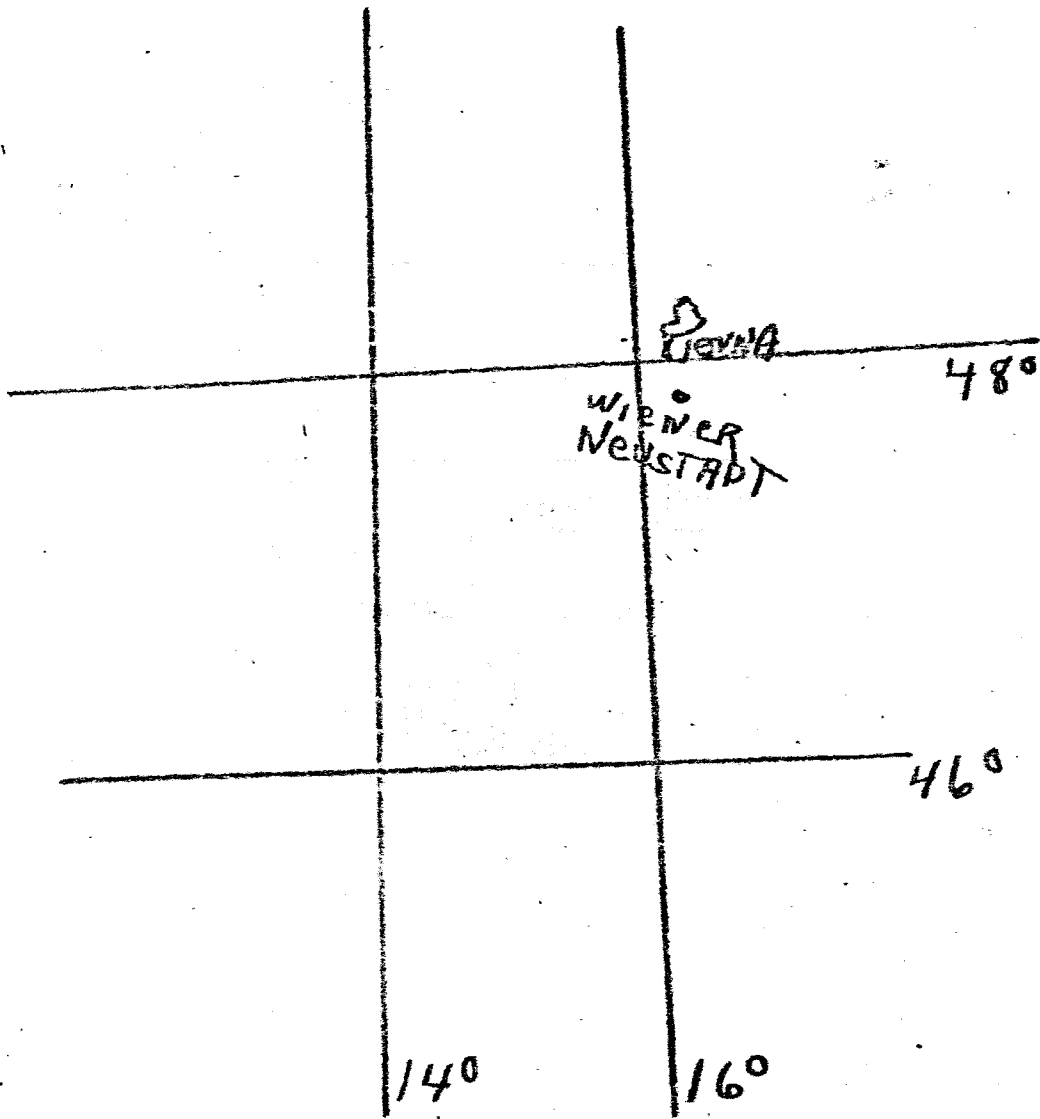
WITNESS STATEMENT

While on a strafing mission April 2, 1945, I heard 2nd Lt. Paul J. Murphy, O-745473 radio that he was in trouble and desired escort. I immediately answered his call and escorted 2nd Lt. Paul J. Murphy, O-745473 to a Russian airfield, East of Kaposvar, Hungary. Evidently the Russians did not recognize the P-51 as a friendly airplane for 2nd Lt. Paul J. Murphy, O-745473 plane was fired on, but not hit, as he made his landing pattern over the field. I circled the field at an altitude to two thousand (2,000) feet and saw 2nd Lt. Paul J. Murphy land safely, wheels down and taxi to the line. After landing 2nd Lt. Paul J. Murphy contacted me by radio and said that he landed safely and was uninjured. I then returned to his home base.

*Leo A. Gertin*

LEO A. GERTIN,  
1st Lt., Air Corps.

No. — (2131)



KAPOSVAR  
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2131

**COPY**

FROM

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Record Group No. 92  
Additional Information Washington  
Serial # 14148  
Lt. Paul J. Murphy.