

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

February 26, 1945

Dear sir:

In answering the Casualty Questionnaires which were sent to me, I find that I can best answer all of the questions which were on these blanks, by writing out that last mission as best as I can and with as much information that I have concerning it.

To begin with, we took off for the mission which was my 23rd bound for Bad Voslau a small town just a little south of Vienna. I'm not sure at the present time whether we were to hit marshaling yards or oil refineries but the target was in the Vienna area. I don't know what route we took over land but after taking off from Cherignola, Italy we flew north over the Adriatic and came to the target area from the east of it. We were to use a small lake just south east of Bad Voslau, which I think was Neusiedler See as our I.P. While over the I.P. and just starting the bomb run we were hit from in front and low by enemy fighters. Our ship went immediately out of control and were finished with that first pass they made at us. Our ship was lead plane of the second element of our squadron flight and we were in formation when shot down.

The pilot Lt. William R. Schulz ordered us to bail out and I went out through the forward bomb bay. After my chute opened and I was descending a small German plane called a "Stork" buzzed my chute and spilled it but it opened up again after dropping some distance. I landed in the lake which fortunately was not over four feet deep. I couldn't get out of the harness while in the air prior to hitting the water and after I hit the water I found myself secured by the canopy and tangled with the chute rigging.

In a minute or so an Austrian civilian in a sail boat picked me up and took me to the dock house of a neighboring town situated on the shore of the lake. Ten minutes later a more crew members had been rounded