

Basic ltr: Request for Casualty Information - Fortunato Gelfo;
HQ, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C; dtd 5 Feb 46.

210.45

1st Ind.

D-A-5

HQ, GIEBELSTADT ARMY AIR BASE, APO 227, U S Army. 16 February 1946.

TO: Commanding Officer, 40th Bomb Wing, APO 66, U S Army.

1. S/Sgt Fortunato Gelfo, 32241391 was acting in the capacity of Gunner on a B-17 aircraft on 21 May 1943 in a mission to Wilhelmshaven, Germany. At the target intense flak and heavy fighter opposition caused considerable damage to many aircraft in the formation and Sgt.Gelfo's aircraft was last seen on the return trip over the North Sea, in trouble but under control, losing altitude and straggling behind the formation.

2. Information received later disclosed that Sgt.Gelfo was one of five members of the crew who were picked up by a German seaplane and made prisoners of war. Later unofficial information from Stalagluft No. III - 42793 stated that Sgt.Gelfo had had a broken leg and arm, but was otherwise in good condition and was hospitalized in Germany.

3. The casualty status of Sgt.Gelfo was officially changed from Prisoner of War to RMB in Machine Records Unit report of 10 May 1945, and from RMB to Returned to Duty in a report of 31 July 1945. No further information has been received relative to subject enlisted man at this headquarters.

4. The complete crew of Sgt. Gelfo's aircraft was as follows:

371

Floyd J. Fields,	1st Lt.	O-433367	Pilot	KIA
Irvin R. Eford	2nd Lt.	O-735370	Co-Pilot	RMC
Robert L. Clausen	2nd Lt.	O-729606	Navigator	KIA
Harry L. Young	1st Lt.	O-661687	Bombardier	RMC
Roy T. Goodwin	T/Sgt	34059032	Engineer	RMC
Philip J. Zimmerman	S/Sgt	16045271	Radio Operator	KIA
Maurice G. Moody	S/Sgt	18039729	Gunner	KIA
Harry D. Cromer	S/Sgt	37181531	Gunner	RMC
August Retcofsky	S/Sgt	13011220	Gunner	KIA
Fortunato Gelfo	S/Sgt	32241391	Gunner	RTD

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:



Richard L. Finley
RICHARD L. FINLEY
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant