

Editors Note; Member Frank W Carr 824 Squadron recently sent in some memorabilia regarding the loss of his crew and the aircraft on December 17, 1944.

The ship was 42-50934 "Little Joe" 824 Squadron flown by 2/Lt Charles A. Himmler was shot down by fighters on December 17, 1944 near Wenzeldorf, Czechoslovakia. The target was Odertal, Germany. Enemy fighters fired rockets damaging aircraft and killing and injuring some of the crew. The ship was burning from the waist windows aft. Crew members Kargel, Carr and perhaps Kendall bailed out. Eight men perished in this action. Carr was interned at Stalag Luft I at Barth, Germany.

Exhibit 1)

A letter written to Frank Carr from Doyle L Kargel
July 13, 1945
Dear Frank:

Just a few lines to ask you one question. Got your letter today. First of all I'm glad you made it. I'm just sorry the rest didn't.

Now you said you saw Daly on the ground dead. Were there any other bodies around, or were they all blown up? I am almost sure that Vezio Egizi, David Uber, and Alton E Douglas were dead. I could not tell for sure as I couldn't get at them, but believe so.

Now for my story. I heard you call the Bombardier (Daly) and say something, then the shells hit the back part. Kendall, myself, and Uber were all hit at once. When I got up, I looked around and the ship was on fire by the waist windows. I tried to call the crew on the interphone but could get no reply. Then I got hit again breaking both legs. I tried to get to the others but could not. Kendall hit the silk, then I tried to get back to my gun but couldn't stand up. The ship was still flying straight and level. Then just as I was crawling out it started to bounce around. When I hit the silk, I looked around could see no other chutes or the ship either. I was taken to a hospital in Czechoslovakia where I stayed for fifty days, then was sent to POW camp in Germany. I got out April 14, 1945

The mothers of the missing boys are very glad to hear anything, so let them know the truth as you know it. Mrs. Daly, the bombardier's mother called me last week. She is in pretty bad shape. It will do her good to know.

Write soon.
Sincerely,
Doyle Kargel

Exhibit 2)

On September 4, 1945 the War Department sent a casualty form to Frank Carr asking for information on John Ehnot, Charles A Himmler, Morris A Daly, and Howard C Long. Carr did not reply, as presumably he had no further information.

Exhibit 3)

Included in Carr's package was a newspaper clipping telling of the mothers of the missing boys getting together to share their grief. Following the end of hostilities German records show that the dead members of the crew were buried in Wenzeldorf, Czechoslovakia.

Although nothing was agreed on at the meeting of the mothers, Mrs. Himmler was trying to get the consent of all of the parents to bring the boys back to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (the article ends without further information).

Exhibit 4)

Letter from Mrs. Himmler to Mrs. Carr August 26, 1945. It expresses a mothers' anguish over the loss of a son.

Dear Folks:

You must be the happiest mother in New York and I was truly happy for you. Guess Frank is happy too. I hope everything turns out all right for him and he will get what he wants out of his September 4th return to the AAF in Atlantic City. It was a grand day for all our boys.

I had a nice note for Doyle Kargel and another from Buddy's (Charles Himmler) roommate at school. Well you know what I did, "Cried all day!"

Mrs. Carr, the folks in this town that made the most noise and had their houses decorated the most had none in it. We moms with the heartaches went to church and three of us who had real trouble met at the church door. It seemed odd too. My Sparky said they were happy and surprised too. Is your Bill still in England? Don't bother about the Kendall boy, guess he has good reasons for not contacting any of us. I know some of his records must be N.G. Must be plural women in his life. If so, he is in Denver and getting along, let's wish him well and close the book on him.

My Bill celebrated the end of the war by handing in his resignation at The Ordnance Section. Their department was finished when Japan quit, and he wants to go back to school and finish his course. He made out all right on it too.

My Dad is not so well, blood pressure is 85 and age 65. Buddy's loss hasn't helped him at all. I catch him each day looking at something Buddy had made. We have a little machine shop in the cellar and it is full of odds and ends. He won't destroy a thing. I finally packed his barracks bag he sent home before going over. It made me so sick. Mrs. Uber writes that she just received her son's belongings. Just in case Frank comes this way in his travels have him give us a call.

Write when you can.
Love
Mrs. Himmler

This crew list is made up from several sources and may not represent the crew as it flew that day. It can be assumed that ten out of the list may have flown that day as Carr says only two survived the crash and eight died.

Sgt	Frank Carr**	824	G
S/Sgt	Alton E Douglass (KIA)?	824	G
S/Sgt	J. R. Dunn	824	
S/Sgt	Vezio Egizi (KIA)?	824	T/G
S/Sgt	Doyle L Kargel (WIA)	824	R/O
Sgt	Walter F Kendall (WIA)	824	E
2/Lt	Howard C Long (MIA)	824	N
Sgt	David Uber (KIA)?	824	F
2/Lt	Morris A Daly (KIA)	824	B
2/Lt	John Ehnot (MIA)	824	C/P
2/Lt	Charles A Himmler (KIA)	824	P
S/Sgt	George R Lee	824	U/G
S/Sgt	John G Riley	824	N/G
Cpl	Alex C Pietka *	824	

* While not originally shown on the crew list, he appears in the crew photograph. ** Frank Carr also appears on a crew photograph of George Patzer's crew.