

10390

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AC
of P. M. WOOD, Capt., AC
Date **JAN 1 1956**

no further action

10390

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location APO 520, U.S. Army Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AAB, Pantanelle, Italy Course NE
 Target Vienna S. Ordnance Depot Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Visibility unlimited-dark clouds to west.
4. GIVE: [a] Date 11 Dec 44 Time 1308A Last known position Vienna, Austria, damaged
 [b] Specify whether: [] Last sighted, [] Forced down, [] Seen to crash, or
 [] Last contacted by radio, [] No information. by W. H. REDDILL, Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. QUENCH, Capt., AC Date JAN 15 1945
5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only] [] Enemy aircraft, [] Enemy anti aircraft, [] Other Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24H AAF Serial Number 42-95337
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43 AAF Serial Number [a] 42-45460
 [b] BP-448120 [c] 42-64733 [d] BP-423243
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number]
 [a] MG-M2 Cal. 50 85017 [c] MG-M2 Cal. 50 1188042 [i] MG-M2 Cal. 50 1184391
 [b] " " " " 1187944 [l] " " " " 1184988 [j] " " " " 1185516
 [c] " " " " 1184406 [g] " " " " 1187713 [k] _____
 [d] " " " " 1185607 [h] " " " " 1184539 [l] _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [] Battle Casualty, [] Non Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
 [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
N/A 1) Pilot	Bertaux, John F. 1st Lt., 0562531	MIA Mrs. Josephine V. Bertaux (mother), 217 Pennsylvania A. Clarksburg, WV.
N/A 2) Co-pilot	Kiolbassa, Chester L. F/O., T-62634	MIA Alice Siemplenski (sister) 3918 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago, Ill.
DEAD 3) Navigator	Gustina, Charles F. F/O., T-129415	MIA Micheal D. Gustina (father) 601 Berwick, Syracuse, N.Y.
N/A 4) Bomb'dr.	Fried, Mardy J. 1st Lt., 01011840	MIA Sybil Fried (wife) 1645 Pratt Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
DEAD 5) Eng-Gun.	Rangel, Fernando B. Sgt., 38457458	MIA Concepcion Rangel (mother) 718 1/2 Stoples, Corpus Christi, Tex.
DEAD 6) ROM-Gun.	McNeil, Albert W. T/Sgt., 13084087	MIA Albert L. McNeil (father) 781 Maple Ave., Brockway, Pa.
DEAD 7) Arm-Gun.	Aiello, Anthony J. Sgt., 32920538	MIA Catherine Aiello (mother) 374 9th Street, Fairview, N.J.
N/A 8) Gunner	Guadagne, Joseph J. Sgt., 42057611	MIA Anna Guadagne (mother) 238 9th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.
EUSW 9) Gunner	Streit, Matthew G. Sgt., 36770760	MIA Mathilda Streit, (mother) 9405 Albany Ave., Evergreen PK, Ill.
DEAD 10) Gunner	Peterson, Richard H. Sgt., 6139708	MIA Eva Peterson (mother) 27 Union Street, Lynn, Mass.
[11]		
[12]		

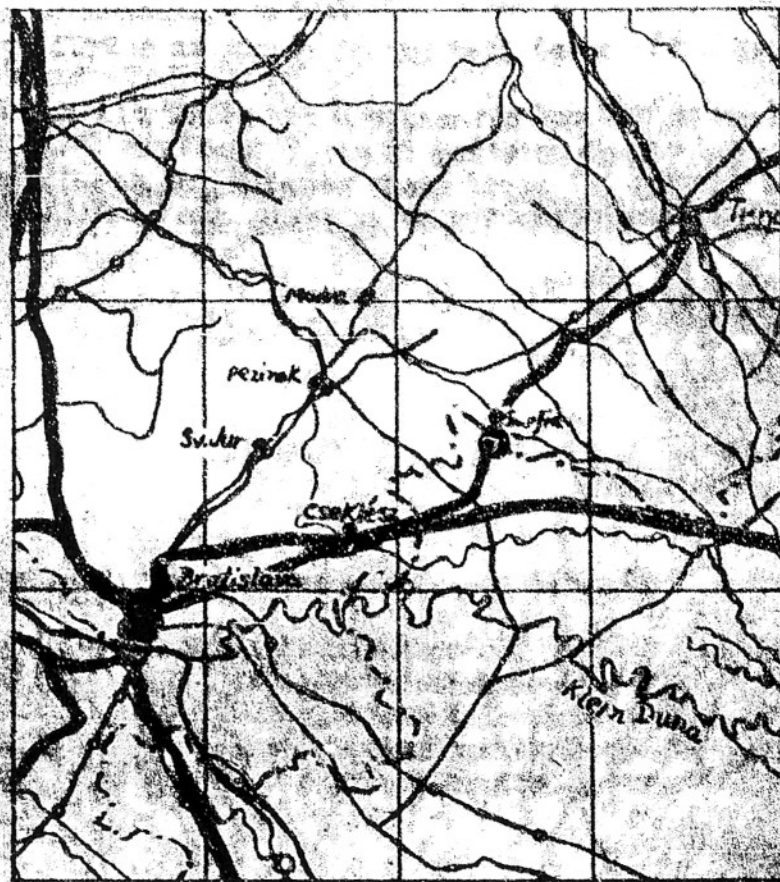
1157

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] <u>Burton, Kenneth L.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>37519635</u> | | <u>X</u> | |
| [2] <u>McCoulskey, Norman W.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>18220031</u> | | <u>X</u> | |
| [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] Unknown
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. None.

Inlosures.

Incl 1-Sketch of Date 15 Dec 44
 Approx. Pos.
 Incl 2- Eye witness report

Signature of preparing officer
 WILLIAM H. REDDILL



48° 30'

17°

30'

48°
18' 35"

● INDICATES AREA IN WHICH
LT. BERTAUX'S CREW WAS LAST
SIGHTED.

BEARING :- 48° 15' N. - 17° 25' E.

WACR - 10390

map #11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as gunner in the ball turret of a B-24, Red Z.

Our ship was in No. 23 position in Dog Box as we approached the target. At that time, I saw Black E. in 31 position in our box. Our ship left the formation with engine trouble about three (3) minutes from the I.P. and at that time, Black E. was still in No. 31 position with no apparent trouble.

KENNETH L. BURTON,
Sgt., AC., 37519635
Ball Gunner,
776th Bomb Sq.,
464th Bomb Gp.,

Kenneth L. Burton

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as tail gunner in a B-24, Red R.

Our ship was in No. 21 position of Dog Box. As we went over the target, I saw Black E. in No. 31 position of our box drop her bombs. About a minute later I looked away and when I looked back to No. 31 position I was unable to see Black E. I observed a cloud of smoke that might have been flak or the remains of Black E. That is the last I saw of Black E.

Norman W. McCoulskey

NORMAN W. McCOULSKLEY,
Sgt., AC., 18220031,
Tail Gunner,
776th Bomb Sq.,
464th Bomb Gp.,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

macr 10390

11 Dec 44

Aiello, Anthony J.	Sgt.	32920538	DED
Bertaux, John F.	1 LT	0562531	KIA
Fried, Mardy J.	1 LT	01011840	KIA
Guadagne, Joseph J.	Sgt.	42057611	KIA
Gustina, Charles F.	F/O.	T-129415	DED
Kiolbassa, Chester L.	F/O	T-62634	KIA
McNeil, Albert W.	T/Sgt	13084087	DED
Peterson, Richard H.	Sgt	6139708	MIA
Rangel, Fernando B.	Sgt	38457458	DED
Streit, Matthew G.	Sgt	36770760	EUS

no statement on
back of this
sheet

I saw no sign
of anyone else after
I left and did some
parts of the job in
full of gas at one time
I was coming down
in my chute. So it
is my belief the
plane exploded before
anyone else had a
chance to get out.

Matthew E. Streit
Sgt. 36770760

1, 11
First Lieutenant John F. Bortaux 2

Mrs. Josephine V. Bortaux (Mother)
217 Pennsylvania Avenue
Clarksburg, West Virginia

371 Flight Officer Chester L. Kielbasa 4

Mrs. Alice Siemlenski (Sister)
3918 West Montrose Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Flight Officer Charles F. Gustina 4

Mr. Michael D. Gustina (Father)
601 Herwick Road
Syracuse, New York

First Lieutenant Hardy J. Fried 3

Mrs. Sybil S. Fried (Wife)
1645 Pratt Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Sergeant Fernando B. Rangel 9

Mrs. Concepcion Rangel (Mother)
712 1/2 North Staples
Corpus Christi, Texas

Technical Sergeant Albert N. McNeil 7

Mr. Albert L. McNeil (Father)
781 Maple Avenue
Breakway, Pennsylvania

Sergeant Anthony J. Aiello 1

Mrs. Catherine Aiello (Mother)
374 9th Street
Fairview, New Jersey

Sergeant Joseph J. Gundage 4

Mrs. Anna Gundage (Mother)
228 9th Street
Brooklyn, New York

Sergeant Matthew G. Streit 10

Mrs. Mathilda E. Streit (Mother)
9463 South Albany Avenue
Evergreen Park, Illinois

Sergeant Richard H. Peterson 8

Mrs. Ruth Peterson (Wife)
25 Minot Street
Dorchester, Massachusetts

First Lieutenant John F. Bertaux

Mrs. Josephine V. Bertaux (Mother)
317 Pennsylvania Avenue
Clarkeburg, West Virginia

Flight Officer Chester L. Kiolbassa

Mrs. Alice Siemlenski (Sister)
3918 West Montrose Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Flight Officer Charles F. Gustina

Mr. Michael D. Gustina (Father)
601 Berwick Road
Syracuse, New York

First Lieutenant Mardy J. Fried

Mrs. Sybil S. Fried (Wife)
1645 Pratt Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Sergeant Fernando B. Rangel

Mrs. Concepcion Rangel (Mother)
718 1/2 North Stoples
Corpus Christi, Texas

Technical Sergeant Albert V. McNeil

Mr. Albert L. McNeil (Father)
781 Maple Avenue
Brookway, Pennsylvania

Sergeant Anthony J. Aiello

Mrs. Catherine Aiello (Mother)
374 9th Street
Fairview, New Jersey

Sergeant Joseph J. Gundagno

Mrs. Anna Gundagno (Mother)
238 9th Street
Brooklyn, New York

Sergeant Matthew G. Streit

Mrs. Mathilda B. Streit (Mother)
9405 South Albany Avenue
Evergreen Park, Illinois

Sergeant Richard H. Peterson

Mrs. Ruth Peterson (Wife)
35 Ninth Street
Dorchester, Massachusetts

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Matthew G. Streit Rank Sgt. Serial No. 36770760
2. Organization 776th ^{Sq.} Gp Commander Sch. Oeder Rank Col Sqn CO Morrison Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Dec. day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Vienne, Austria, target time, 1210, altitude, 23,000 ft. route scheduled, unknown
route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? no knowledge
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". no knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? no knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) no knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? no knowledge
12. What was their condition? no knowledge
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw the navigator getting his chute on just before I bailed out, and also saw the pilot and co-pilot trying to get the plane under control.
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)

(over)

It is my belief that the plane blew up just after I bailed out, because on my way down I saw parts of the plane floating down past me, and couldn't find any trace of the aircraft in the sky whatsoever. We did have a direct hit with an 88 M.M. which blew off part of the wing.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: BERTAUX, John F.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: 0 - 56 25 31
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~1st Engineer (Engineer)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He told me
to go in the bomb bay and release the bombs that stuck in the rack at
bombs away.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign
of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me
as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded
before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy,
9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: KICIBASSA, Chester L.
 Rank: F/O
 Serial number: T - 6 26 34
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Pilot (Right)~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? Yes, a flak wound in right leg received over the target.

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: GUSTINA , Charles F.
 Rank: F/O
 Serial number: T - 12 94 15
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: FRIED, Mardy J.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: 0 - 10 11 840
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~as Pilot (Pilot)~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: RANGEL , Fernando B.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 38 45 74 85
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot (Fighter)~~: Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? No Knowledge

Where? No Knowledge

If not, why not? No Knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: MC NEIL , Albert W.
 Rank: T/Sgt.
 Serial number: 13 08 40 87
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~MC NEIL (Fighter)~~: ROM - Gunner

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: One - rest unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: AIELLO , Anthony J.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 32 92 05 38
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxFighter (Fighter)~~: Arm - Gunner

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: GUADAGNE , Joseph J.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 42 05 76 11
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxFighter(Fighters):~~ Gunner

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 10390

Name of crew member: PETERSON, Richard H.
 Rank: Sgt.
 Serial number: 61 39 708
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SAFELIGHT (Fighter)~~: Gunner

Did he bail out? No knowledge

Where? No knowledge

If not, why not? No knowledge

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In his position

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw no sign of anyone else after I left and I saw parts of the plane falling past me as I was coming down in my chute. So it is my belief the plane exploded before anyone else had a chance to get out.

Total number of missions of above crew member: five

Dates and destinations if possible: 1 - Vienne, 6 Nov.; 2 - Northern Italy, 9 Nov.; 3 - Near Vienne, 26 Nov.; 4 - Linz, 29 Nov.; 5 - Vienne, 11 Dec.