

10647



Classification changed
 to **RESTRICTED**
 by E. A. [REDACTED], Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. [REDACTED], Capt., AC
 Date **28 1 5 1988**



MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10647

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanelia Air Base, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bombardment Sq (H)
 2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanelia Air Base, Italy Course Odertal, Germany
 Target Odertal, Germany Type of mission Bombing
 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear visibility 5 to 10 miles.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 26 Dec 44 Time 1237 Last known position Germany 50°19'N 17°23'E
 (b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last contacted by radio, No information.
 5. AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]
 Enemy aircraft, Enemy anti aircraft, Other Circumstances unknown possible mechanical difficulty.

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-78618
 7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No Nickname. Call Name "Black Fox"
 8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-326869
 (b) BP-451089 (c) BP-451249 (d) BP-453961
 9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Browning 50 Cal M2
 (a) 1259109 (c) 1259306 (ii) 1258809
 (b) 1259284 (ii) 1259113 (ii) 1259082
 (c) 1281239 (ii) 1281106 (ii) _____
 (d) 1280828 (ii) 1281183 (ii) _____

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
1) Pilot	<u>Tuomey, Kenneth R.</u> <u>Joe Ann Tuomey, 8236 S. Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.</u>	<u>2d Lt 0705267 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>
2) Co-Pilot	<u>Faber, Bernard E.</u> <u>Dorothy S. Faber, 579 Yale Ave., Hillside, New Jersey.</u>	<u>2d Lt 0716084 MIA</u> Mother Mr <u>RTD</u>
3) Navigator	<u>Ventres, Robert L.</u> <u>Ernest L. Ventres, 251 9th Ave N., Clinton, Iowa.</u>	<u>2d Lt 02065199 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>
4) Bombardier	<u>Seirer, Max L.</u> <u>Parker V. Seirer, Collyer, Kansas.</u>	<u>2d Lt 0782971 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>
5) Eng Gunner	<u>Peltz, Frank N.</u> <u>Ann Peltz, Box 95, Cardale, Penna.</u>	<u>S/Sgt 35066211 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>
6) RO Gunner	<u>Robinson, Cyril D.</u> <u>Paul Robinson, 1409 West Ave, Bronx, New York.</u>	<u>Sgt 12193118 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>
7) Arm Gnr	<u>Letaw, Melville T.</u> <u>Anne R. Letaw, 229 So. Wilmington St., Raleigh, No. Carolina</u>	<u>Cpl 14082843 MIA</u> Mother Mr <u>RTD</u>
8) Aerial Gnr	<u>Heffernan, George D.</u> <u>Dorothy Heffernan, Chestnut St., Norwood, New Jersey.</u>	<u>S/Sgt 32387963 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>
9) Aerial Gnr	<u>Dambra, Joseph P.</u> <u>Gene Dambra, 1357 Harrod Ave., Bronx, New York.</u>	<u>Sgt 32811938 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>
10) Arm Gnr	<u>Fargotstein, Manuel</u> <u>Ida Fargotstein, 1129 N. Euclid Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna.</u>	<u>Sgt 13156104 MIA</u> Mother Mr <u>RTD</u>

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 SIGHTED	FORCED CRASH LANDING
1) <u>John R. Marsh</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>0827813</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2) <u>William J. Saunders</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0711026</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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) Aircraft last seen 1237.
 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: CP Search here. No search made.

3 Enclosures.
 Incl 1-Statement of Date 29 Dec 44
John R. Marsh (Septap)
 Incl 2-Statement of 1st Saunders (Septap)
 Incl 3-Map of area where plane last seen (Septap).
 Signature of reporting officer: William J. Saunders
 ADDRESS: 1129 N. Euclid St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

27 December 1944

I last saw Lt. Tuomey's plane, Black Fox, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before the Initial Point, on the bombing mission of 26 December 1944. Lt Tuomey was then flying number 23 position in Charlie box. At that time, we moved from Charlie 22 to Charlie 12. My tail-gunner stated that Black Fox moved in Charlie 22 and was there over the target. In that position, the aircraft lettering could not be seen by any in our ship yet the ship directly behind us for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after the rally was believed to be Black Fox. At no time did Lt. Tuomey appear to be in trouble and at no time did he send a radio call of distress over Group frequency.

John E. Marsh

JOHN E. MARSH,
2d Lt 0827813
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

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779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

27 December 1944

On a bombing mission, 26 December 1944, Black Fox was in Dog Box up until the time of the breaking up of Dog Box, to fill in the rest of the boxes. Dog 11 moved to Able Box, Dog 12 and 13 moved to Baker Box and Dog 21 and 22 moved to Charlie Box of which Black Fox was one of them. Upon the breaking of the box, my gunner reported all the ships had joined their respective boxes. Our crew did not notice Black Fox falling behind the formation before or after the target and didn't report any snips of the group lagging, noticeably.

William J. Saunders

WILLIAM J SAUNDERS,
1st Lt 0711026
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2d Lt. Kenneth H. Tucey	Mrs. Joe Ann S. Tucey (Wife) 8235 South Morgan Street Chicago, Illinois
2d Lt. Bernard H. Faber	Mrs. Dorothy M. Faber (Mother) 579 Yale Avenue Hillside, New Jersey
2d Lt. Robert L. Ventres	Mr. Ernest L. Ventres (Father) 251 9th Avenue North Clinton, Iowa
2d Lt. Max L. Seirer	Mr. Parker V. Seirer (Father) Collyer, Kansas
S/Sgt. George J. Hofferma	Mrs. Dorothy Hofferma (Wife) Chestnut Street Riverside, New Jersey
S/Sgt. Frank H. Falts	Mrs. Ann Falts (Wife) Box 95 Cardale, Pennsylvania
Sgt. Joseph P. Chandra	Mr. Joseph Chandra (Father) 137 Marrod Avenue New York, New York
Sgt. Cyril O. Robinson	Mr. Paul Robinson (Father) 1109 East Avenue Bronx, New York
Sgt. Manuel Fargotstein	Mrs. Ida Fargotstein (Mother) 1127 North Duane Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Cpl. Melville T. Letaw	Mrs. Anna M. Letaw (Mother) 1125 South 27th Street Birmingham, Alabama