

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10926

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanella Italy Command or Air Force 15th Air Force
Group 464th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron 777th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanella Air Base, Italy Course Northeast
Target ROUDNICE O/R Czechoslovakia Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Patchy Stratus 2/10 to 3/10 tops 3000 ft. Clear with ground haze, Visibility 15 miles
4. GIVE: (a) Date 28 Dec 44 Time 1120 A Last known position Kellerberg, Austria
(b) Specify whether: () Last sighted, () Forced down, (X) 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, (X) Other Mid-Air Collision
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J AAF Serial Number 44-41213
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT (None)
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) BP-443825
(b) BP 443933 (c) BP 443726 (d) BP 443747
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.)
(a) BN 1254127 (e) LR 1255850 (i) RT 1254266
(b) LN 1254294 (f) LL 1538670 (j) LT 1254427
(c) UR 1253772 (g) RW 621220 (k) _____
(d) UL 1254273 (h) LW 621289 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) 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 STATUS	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS
371 Pilot	VAN TUYL, RICHARD A. 2nd Lt 0-518075	+ MIA	W. Harold Van Tuyl (F) ^{LWS} Jones Avenue, Wantagh, New York ^{KIA}
372 CP	WILLSON, WILLIAM W. <u>POW</u> 1st Lt 0-825353	O MIA	Paul W. Willson (F) C/O Boys Life, 2 Park Avenue, New York
373 TAV	AMES, CHARLES J. <u>POW</u> F/O T-132424	O MIA	Myrtle H. Ames (M) ^{POW} 2749 Glen Mawr Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa.
374 BOMB	BOEHM, FRANK H. <u>POW</u> 2nd Lt 0-2064393	O MIA	Katherine B. Boehm (M) 37-13 57th St, Woodside L.I., N.Y. ^{POW}
375 E.G.	Solorio, Albert H. <u>POW</u> Cpl 39408845	+ MIA	Rose Solorio (M) Rt #3, Box 82, Sacramento, Calif.
376 ROG	Gomez, Louis P. <u>POW</u> Cpl 39557456	+ MIA	Ruth Gomez (M) ^{KIA} 2518 S. Trinity St, Los Angeles, Calif.
377 A.G.	Serra, Americo J. <u>POW</u> Cpl 33700946	+ MIA	Clementine Serra (M) ^{KIA} 458 Mahogany Alley, Denora, Pa.
378 G.	Tobey, Thomas E. <u>POW</u> Cpl 39218268	+ MIA	Earl Lee Tobey (F) ^{KIA} Rt #4, Albany, Oregon.
379 G.	Pusanski, Richard T. <u>POW</u> Cpl 15128497	+ MIA	Mary Pusanski (M) ^{KIA} 4214 Archwood Ave, Cleveland, Ohio
380 G.	Pratt, Robert C. <u>POW</u> Cpl 32941186	+ MIA	Clarence Pratt (F) ^{KIA} Chesterstown, New York.
(11)			
(12)			

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) VICTOR J. DEWOLF	Cpl	36894884		X	
(2) OSCAR A. BORG	Cpl	37680281			X
(3)					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
(X) Parachutes were used, () Parachutes seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
() Other reasons (specify) Parachutes seen to open
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 METHOD OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No search, over enemy territory

- 3 Inclosures.
Incl 1 Statement, DEWOLF Date 31 December 44
Incl 2 Statement, BORG
Incl 3 Location Sketch.

CONFIDENTIAL

KENNETH F. BOWEN
Capt., AC
Adj.

1310

777TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

30 December 1944

WITNESS STATEMENT

I was Tail Gunner on Yellow "E", flying number 13 position on 28 December 1944, while on a bombing mission to Roudnice, O/R Czechoslovakia. Enroute to the target, the formation was at about 19-20,000 feet at approximately 1120 hours, and I saw Red "G" come up under Yellow "P", the tail surface hitting near the bomb-bays of Yellow "P". The tail surfaces cracked off and drifted away. I don't know whether the tail turret remained a part of the plane or whether it was knocked off with the tail surfaces. Yellow "P" pulled up and looked to be temporarily out of control, but straightened out and left the formation.

Red "G" went into a flat spin, losing all forward motion. The motors were still turning. I saw one chute come out of the rear of the plane, apparently the camera hatch. I followed Red "G" clear to the ground where it hit and exploded near a populated clearing in the mountains.

Victor J. DeWolf

VICTOR J. DEWOLF
Cpl, 36894884
777th Bomb Sq (H)

777TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

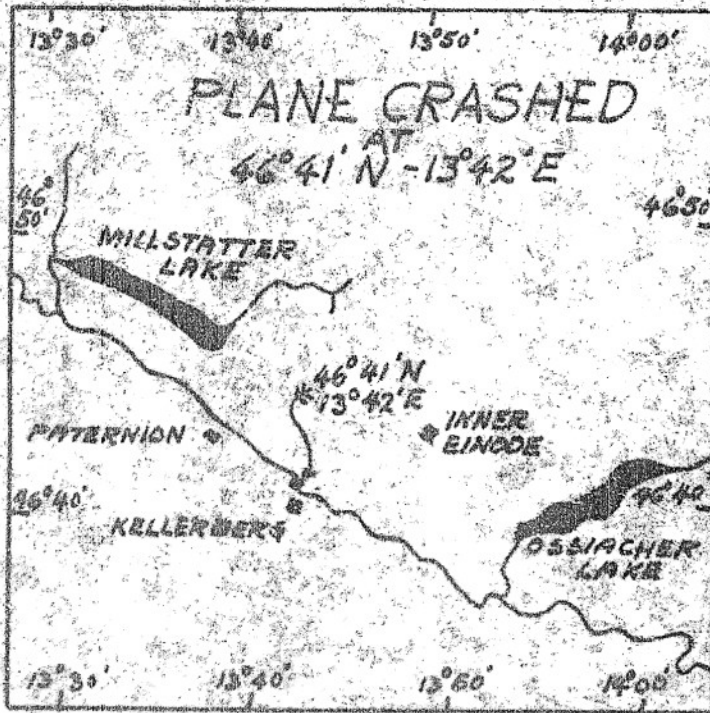
30 December 1944

WITNESS STATEMENT

I was the Tail Gunner on Yellow "S", flying number 23 position, on a bombing mission to Roudnice O/R Czechoslovakia, on 28 December 1944. On the way to the target I noticed Red "G" was wandering about in the formation, although his position was supposed to have been in the slot, off my right wing and to the rear.

I did not see the planes at the moment they collided, but I did see Red "G" when it fell away. At this time, the formation was at about 19-20,000 feet at approximately 1120 hours. I saw one chute open, and it appeared to have come from the camera hatch. It is my belief that the spinning of the plane prevented any other crew members from bailing out. I saw Red "G" hit the ground, explode, and burn. //

Oscar A. Borg
OSCAR A. BORG
Cpl, 37680281
777th Bomb Sq (H)



AUSTRIA

Rec'd

1st. Lt. William W. Williams ✓

Mr. Paul W. Williams (father)
Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut

2nd. Lt. Richard J. Van Dyke ✓

Mr. S. Harold Van Dyke (father)
James Avenue
Montagh, New York

2nd. Lt. Frank E. Hinson ✓ *Rec'd*

Mrs. Katherine E. Hinson (mother)
1743 77th Street
Brooklyn, New York

W/O Charles J. Jurek ✓ *Rec'd*

Mrs. Marie Jurek (mother)
1743 77th Street
Brooklyn, Pennsylvania

Cpl. Richard E. Fuzonati ✓

Mrs. Mary Fuzonati (mother)
414 47th Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Cpl. Thomas L. Tobey ✓

Mr. Earl L. Tobey (father)
Route Number Four
Albany, Oregon

Cpl. Robert C. Pratt ✓

Mr. Clarence Pratt (father)
Charleston, New York

Cpl. Maurice J. Serna ✓

Mrs. Claudine J. Serna (mother)
475 Broadway Alley
Denver, Pennsylvania

Cpl. Louis F. Stone ✓

Mr. Harold Stone (father)
1212 South Thibault Street
Los Angeles, California

Cpl. Albert E. Salas ✓

Mr. Donald E. Salas (father)
Route 3, Box 81
Bakersfield, California

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Willson, W^m. W. Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-825353
2. Organization 777th B. Sqdn
464 B. Gp Commander Schroeder (?) Rank Col. Sqn CO Wm. Moore Rank Lt. Col.
15TRAAF (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, ~~Hi-ALT. Heavy Bomb~~ B-500th BOM, target, Rudnice, Czech, target time, ?, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, ITALY (SPUR) - West of Trieste (near Villach) route flown as briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? Flew Tail end charlie (Dog Box, 31)
6. Did you bail out? YES (I WAS THROWN clear of Aircraft approx 300 ft. ALT.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? 2 Others, F/O C. J. Ames, Lt Frank Bachm
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". F/O AMES, C. J. POW, 2nd Lt. Frank Bachm - POW, (Chalilow, W.W. POW.
- * 9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 15-20 kms. up railroad west of Villach, Austria
approx 100 yds. from R.R. across train factory.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt. Van Tuxl, Cpl. Solario, Cpl. Serra were positively in plane. Could not contact waist - tank section was cut away from aircraft.
11. Where were they in aircraft? 3 mentioned above - Lt/Van Tuxl refused to leave seat till others were out. Cpl. Serra couldn't get out of nose turret - Cpl. Solario was jolted but somewhat conscious - he (Solario) was lying on flight deck.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.

* - see other side for MRP. (over)

The mission on which we went down was the first for Lt. Van Tuyl's crew. They were very nervous and several times I had to attempt to calm them down.

When we were hit, the tail section of the plane was severed from the rest of the ship. The tail gunner must have been killed immediately. The ship was completely out of control. It took no time to notify the crew to bail out - altho all communications had been cut - the alarm bell did ring on the flight deck, at least. I told Van Tuyl to get out, and then turned to the task of opening the bombay doors. (The emergency release was jammed and wouldn't break at first.) By the time I got the doors open, we had lost several thousand feet. I could not make my way out, as the force of the spin pinned me down. I sincerely doubt that anyone could have gotten out after the first 30 seconds.

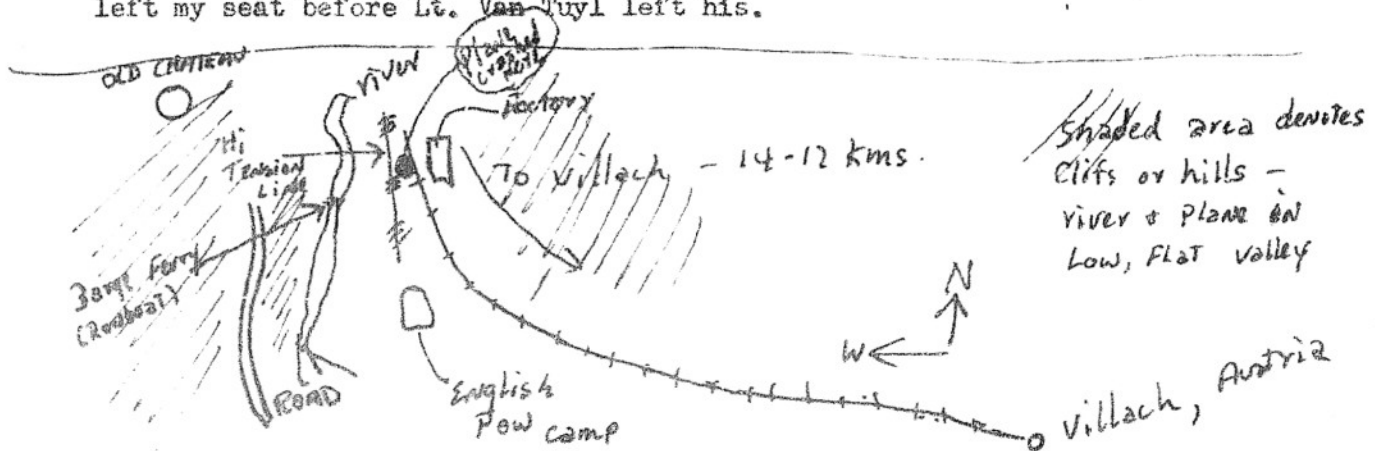
I was thrown clear at about 300-400 feet from the ground. How or why, I cannot say.

Lt. Van Tuyl gave his life trying to bring the plane out of the spin with the use of engines and by refusing to bail out until all others whom he could possibly help were safe.

The cause of probable death was not clear, but I consider the following factors as the most important.

- 1) The violence of the spin which made it impossible to move about.
- 2) The highly excitable condition of the enlisted men - those who were conscious.
- 3) The fact that there was little or no time in which to bail out - we were flying over the Alps (Austrian)
- 4) The first impact which must have caused considerable injury to those in the waist and tail.

I was checking out this new crew - altho flying as co-pilot. I gave the order to bail out, and I rang the alarm bell to bail out. I received no reply over inter-phone. Lt. Van Tuyl also gave the order to bail. I felt that it was time to attempt to get out, although I had ordered the pilot to get out as soon as we knew the ship couldn't remain in the air, so I left my seat before Lt. Van Tuyl left his.



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Van Tuyl, Richard A.
 Rank: 2nd Lt
 Serial number: O-518075
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of Pilot / (Fighter)~~: Pilot

File 10926

Did he bail out? To The best of my knowledge, NO.

Where? _____

If not, why not? As Van Tuyl realized all could not bail out. He attempted to keep

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Plane from too violent a spin by the use of engines. I told him to bail out -

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? Sitting in Pilot seat watching me attempt to

Any hearsay information: Force (Pl. Solorio to bail out with my chute.

After capture, The Germans told me he was dead.

Mr. Harold Van Tuyl (father of Lt. Van Tuyl) wrote
12 July 45 → me last summer that The WD had notified the him
of his son's death. (Notification was result of captured records.)

Source: Germans & War Dept.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I was thrown

clear only in time to open my chute prior to striking ground. Van
Tuyl did not bail out before me - He had no chance to follow -

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: ~~26~~ 26 of Dec, 1944 - I believe.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Solorio, Albert R. File 10926
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 39408845
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot/Fighter~~: Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? He lost his chute and refused to use either mine or

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He refused

to obey direct order - I left him when I realized I had less than

Was he injured? 1000' IN WHICH TO bail out. ~~to~~
very dazed

Where was he when last seen? lying on the flight deck - plane about 1000' ALT.

Any hearsay information: He was killed -

Source: germans

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I believe

this man was in no condition to think, let alone save
himself. He refused aid -

Total number of missions of above crew member: 0

Dates and destinations if possible: NONE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Gomez, Louis P. File 10926
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 39557456
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of 1st Lt. Wright~~: Radio Operator Gunner

Did he bail out? I don't think so -

Where? —

If not, why not? Don't know - was probably UNCONCIOUS.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: 5 min. before loss of plane, O₂ check. Could not contact waist after plane disabled.

Was he injured? Probably.

Where was he when last seen? ~~Bombardier saw him in turret (last) prior to landing~~

Any hearsay information: —

killed (in plane)

Sources: germans

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —

in part. I do not believe the germans knew exactly who had been killed.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 0

Dates and destinations if possible: None

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Tobey, Thomas E.
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 39218268
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of / Pilot / Fighter~~: Gunner

File 10926

Did he bail out? No

Where? —

If not, why not? Don't know - believe he was either unconscious or dead.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: —

NONE

Was he injured? Probably

Where was he when last seen? NOT seen after take-off

Any hearsay information: Killed -

Source: German's

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —

German report

Total number of missions of above crew member: 0

Dates and destinations if possible: —

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Pusanski, Richard T.
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 15128497
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Gunner

File 10926

Did he bail out? NOWhere? —If not, why not? Probably unconscious - or deadLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: —NONE (Oz check 5 min. before - ok)Was he injured? ProbablyWhere was he when last seen? Not seen after Take-offAny hearsay information: Killed -

His mother called from Cleveland saying that
her son was reported KIA 28 Dec. 44. The report
was received approx. 10 July 45.

The W.D. report was ~~based on~~ the result of captured German records
 Source: German

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —German reportTotal number of missions of above crew member: 0Dates and destinations if possible: —

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Pratt, Robert C.
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 32941186
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Pilot/Fighter~~: Gunner

File 10926

Did he bail out? NoWhere? —If not, why not? Probably killed or unconscious.Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: —None (O2 check 5 min before - OK. Then)Was he injured? ProbablyWhere was he when last seen? Not seen after takeoff.Any hearsay information: killedSource: GERMANSAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —German reportTotal number of missions of above crew member: 0Dates and destinations if possible: —

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CHARLES J. AMES Rank F/O Serial No. T-132424
777th BMB SqB
2. Organization 969th Gp Commander SCHRODER Rank COL Sqn CO MOORE Rank LT. COL
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 2, target, ROUDINCE GECOSAVAN, target
 time, ABOUT 1230, altitude, 20 route sche. uled, _____
 _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? 10KM WNW VILLACH AUSTRIA
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES, TWO OTHERS
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". ALL OTHERS THAN THE THREE OF US THAT BAILED OUT WERE KILLED
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 10 KM WNW OF VILLACH AUSTRIA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) LT. VANTUHL + CREW SERRA, GAMES, PRATT, TOBEY, PUZANSKY, SALORIO
11. Where were they in aircraft? AT THEIR COMBAT POSITIONS
12. What was their condition? I DO NOT KNOW
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I DID SEE LTS. WILLER AND BOEHM ON THE GROUND AFTER WE BAILED OUT & WERE CAPTURED.
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Van Tugel, Richard A.
 Rank: 2nd Lt
 Serial number: 0-518075
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of 11/11/44/11/11/44~~: Pilot

File 10926

Did he bail out? NoWhere? —If not, why not? WAS PROBABLY TRAPPED IN PLANE WHEN IN SPINLast contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: —DO NOT REMEMBERWas he injured? KILLEDWhere was he when last seen? IN PLANE TRYING TO GET OUT.Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID THEY BURIEDSEVEN MENSource: —Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: —Total number of missions of above crew member: 2Dates and destinations if possible: 26 DEC. ODERTAL GERMANY28 DEC. ROUDIMBE CZECH.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Salario, Albert R.** File 10926
 Rank: **Cpl**
 Serial number: **99402215**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Engineer Gunner**

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? I Do Not Know

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? AT THE WAIST GUN

Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID ALL BUT
THREE OF US WERE KILLED

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: 26 DEC. ODELTAL GERMANY
28 DEC. ROUDINCE GREEN

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Coner, Louis P. File 10926
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 39597456
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of B-24D (P-1)~~: Radio Operator Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? DO NOT KNOW

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? AT WAIST GUN.

Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID SEVEN MEN
WERE KILLED

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: 26 DEC. OBERTAL GERM
28 DEC. ROUINCE (2 BOMB.)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Serra, Maurice J. File 10936
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 35700916
 Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? TRAPPED IN BALL TURRET

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? _____

Where was he when last seen? IN BALL TURRET

Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID SEVEN MEN WERE
KILLED

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: 26. DEC. OBERTAL GERMANY
28. DEC. ROUDINCE CZECH.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Pasanski, Richard T.
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 15120497
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of the 44th Bombardment Group~~: Gunner

File 10926

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? TRAPPED IN TAIL TURRET

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? KILLED

Where was he when last seen? TAIL WAS CUT OFF SO HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED INSTANTLY

Any hearsay information: GERMANS SAID SEVEN MEN WERE KILLED

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: 26 DEC. OPER TAL GERMANY
28 DEC Roudince CZECH

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name FRANK H. BOEHM Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. 0-2064393
2. Organization A.C. Co Commander Rank Col Sqn COV-Moore Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, _____, target, Roudnitz, target
time, About 12:00, altitude, 26,000 route scheduled, from
Adriatic to target, route flown same
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 west of Villack, Austria
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes
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". Lt. W.W. Willson (Co-Pilot)
Bailed-out. F/O CHARLES AMES (NAVIGATOR) ALSO BAILED OUT
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near a small town on the RR.
between Villack and Germany. About 20 miles west of Villack
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) The seven listed
on individual questionnaires
11. Where were they in aircraft? At assigned positions
12. What was their condition? Unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Didn't see any again except the two who
bailed out. We got discharged together.
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) 9-1

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Van Tugel, Richard A.
 Rank: 2nd Lt
 Serial number: 0-518075
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of [REDACTED] (Bomber)~~: Pilot

File 10926

Did he bail out? Probably Not

Where? _____

If not, why not? The plane struck just after Co-Pilot bailed out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? About to leave his seat at controls.

Any hearsay information: The co-pilot said that just before he jumped he saw the pilot getting out of his seat but probably didn't have time to jump as plane hit immediately

Sources: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: First 26 Dec 1944 Odeithal
Second: The one he's missing on.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Salorio, Albert R.** File **10926**
 Rank: **Cpl**
 Serial number: **3948845**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) **81177191/17191111**: **Engineer Gunner**

Did he bail out? Probably Not

Where? _____

If not, why not? Unable to escape from spinning plane

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? No knowledge

Where was he when last seen? In waist of plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: First mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 28 Dec 1944 Podnity

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Gunn, Louis P.

File 10926

Rank:

Cpl

Serial number:

305746

Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

Radio Operator Gunner

Did he bail out?

Probably Not

Where?

If not, why not?

Unable to leave waist of spinning plane

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Was he injured?

No knowledge

Where was he when last seen?

In waist of plane

Any hearsay information:

No

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member:

First Mission

Dates and destinations if possible:

28 Dec 1944

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

Serra, Amrico J.

File 10926

Rank:

Cpl

Serial number:

3970096

Position: Crew (Bomber) of

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Amrico Serra

Did he bail out?

Probably Not

Where?

If not, why not?

Unable to leave ball turret.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Was he injured?

Unknown

Where was he when last seen?

In waist of plane

Any hearsay information:

No

Sources:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member:

First Mission

Dates and destinations if possible:

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Tehey, Thomas E.
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 31212210
 Position: Crew (Bomber) Navigator: Navigator

File 10925

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? Unable to leave turret

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? NoWhere was he when last seen? In Nose TurretAny hearsay information: A German guard told us the man in Nose Turret had his head split open.Source: German Guard

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: First MissionDates and destinations if possible: 28 Dec 1944

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **Fasinski, Richard T.**
 Rank: **Cpl**
 Serial number: **15128197**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) of ~~11111111/11111111~~: **Cannon**

File 10926

Did he bail out? Probably Not

Where? _____

If not, why not? Unable to leave tail turret

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? Unknown

Where was he when last seen? In waist of plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: First Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 28 Dec 1944

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Pratt, Robert C. File 10926
 Rank: Cpl
 Serial number: 3291186
 Position: Crew (Bomber) of XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (Fighter): Commander

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? Apparently he was terrified

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? On flight deck of plane

Any hearsay information: The Co-Pilot said that he had the opportunity to jump but either lost his chute or was frightened. He was still in plane when it crashed to our knowledge.

Source: Co-Pilot W. W. Wilson

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: First Mission

Dates and destinations if possible: 28 Dec 1946

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

28 Dec 44

CASUALTY NO.

ME 2536

PLACE OF CRASH

Villach

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE

Wels

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D		PLACE OF INTERMENT
			WOUNDED	DEAD	
ALSO 19 Dec 22 Charles John USA	7/C	T-132424	captured		Belag-luft West
ROHM 19 Jan 24 Frank H. N.Y.	2nd Lt	O-2064993	"	"	"
WILSON 17 Aug 23 William K. Conn.	1st Lt	O-225993	"	"	"

*in a letter 10926
10
E-Cut
7-1/2*

Cus

REMARKS:

Belag-luft, 10 Jan 45 No.

MACH 70

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
 WRECKED DOWN 28 Dec 44 CASUALTY NO. ME 2636
 PLACE OF CRASH Villach 10926
 TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Liberator
 REPORTING OFFICE Wola

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPTURED WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
MIS 19 Dec 22 Charles John USA	F/O	T-132424	captured	Dilag-Luft West
BOHM 18 Jan 24 Frank H. N.Y.	2nd Lt	O-2064393	"	"
WILLSON 17 Aug 23 William W. Conn.	1st Lt	O-825353	"	"

REMARKS:

Dilag-Luft, 19 Jan 45 No.

REPORT ON HOST-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 28 Dec. 1944 about 12:00 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: 14 km. West of Villach

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 Motored Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command - Klagenfurt - 30 Dec. 1944

CREW

SURNAME, AND Willson,
FIRST NAME: William W.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 1st Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: O-825 353 - T-43-44-A

CAPTURED: Captured RECORDED: DEAD:

At Villach on Dec. 28, 1944
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
ME-K2U-2636

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN: - - -

PLACE OF CRASH: 14 km West of Villach

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: 4 Mot. Liberator

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command - Egenfurt - 30 Dec. 1944

CREW

SURNAME, AND Amos,
FIRST NAME: Charles J.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: P/O

SERIAL NUMBER: T-132 424 - T-43-43-0

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:

At Villach on 28 Dec. 1944
DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

11. / Signal Corps Regt. for Special Station 618
 in the Staff of the Signal Corps Regt. 514

A. V. 1943/48

CASUALTY REPORT BY NAME No. 1
 on Numbers of the American AAF
 Report covers the month of December 1944.

Distributor: Army Information Center for War Casualties
 and POW's, WHEELING W 30, Wheeling, West. 47/48

30 December 1944
 Signature Allegable
 MAJ. Mattin. Commander
 killed in action captured Mearns :

No.	Date and place of crash	Unit	Rank	First Name	Last Name	AFSC	Serial	Component	Location of crash	Remarks
1	WHEELING/West (Narrator) 20 Dec. 44, 1150	1st Lt	1st Lt	William	WILSON	11508			sent to Air Base HQ, WHEELING	yes
2	see above	see above	2nd Lt	Frank	STUM				see above	yes
3	see above	see above	W/O	Charles	AMES				see above	yes
4	see above	see above	2nd Lt	Richard	van WIL	0-516075	T 43 44 0	yes	see above	no
5	see above	see above	1st Lt	Albert	MOLANIG	36408845	T 43 44 0	yes	see above	no
6	see above	see above	Opl.	Louis	COOPER	35657486	T 43 44 42	yes	see above	no
7	see above	see above	Opl.	Americus	SLICK		yes		see above	no
8	see above	see above	Opl.	Robert	FRATT		yes		see above	no
9	see above	see above	Opl.	Thomas	HURST	39210258	T 44 44 A	yes	see above	no
0	see above	see above	Opl.	Richard	FRANKLIN	16120497	T 44 44 A	yes	see above	no

434
 334
 334
 334

II./Signal Corps Regt. Special Duties 618
in the Staff of the Signal Corps Regt. 614
Post II, Filed under: No. 18
Letter Registration Book No.: 434/44

A. V. 1948/48

8 January 1948
APNo.: 48908

TO: German Supreme HQ, Army Information Center
(15) SAALFELD/Scale (through official channels)

SUBJECT: Crash of an American four-engined Liberator near Weissenstein
on the Frau / Koenigs, 28 December 1944 at about 1130.

This Battle forwards to you attached herewith the Casualty Report
No. 1 on Officers and NCO's of the American AAF as well as 7 Death
Certificates, 2 Identification tags in duplicate and 3 more iden-
tification tags.

Personal property, identification cards etc. were forwarded to
the Air Base HQ ELACHENFUNK.

12 Enclosures

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj., Battle Commander

lll
vs. 1/10

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	van TUIL
Given Name:	NICHOLAS A.
ASN:	O-512078 F 43 44 0
Sex:	male
Date and Time of Death:	28 December 1944, 1130
Rank:	1st Lt., Pilot
Unit:	15th Airforce
Civilian Occupation:	Student
Place of Death:	UNTERMERSHIM, Valley of the Brac, Romania
Date and Time of the Coroner's Inspection:	28 December 1944, 1300
Cause of Death:	Skull fracture
Which one of the above mentioned diseases caused the death immediately?	Skull fracture
Are symptoms of infectious disease observed:	no
Symptoms of an unnatural death:	Airplane crash
Did the subscribing physician treat the dead person:	no
Did he know the dead person:	no
The dead person was identified by:	Identification tag
Is dispatch of internment requested:	no
Is it requested to transport the dead body into the mortuary or to another place:	no

The physician has no objections against internment before 48 hours have passed.

Villach 29 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MB. Garrison Surgeon

mha *rec* *flex*

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	SOLORIO
Given Name:	Albert R.
ASN:	20459815 P 48 44 0
Sex:	Male
Date and Time of Death:	28 December 1944, 1130
Rank:	Engineer, Aircraft mechanic
Unit:	18th Airforce
Civilian Occupation:	Student
Place of Birth:	WHICHIMSTEN, Valley of the Brca, Ecuador
Date and Time of the Coroner's Inspection:	28 December 1944, 1200
Cause of Death:	Skull fracture
Which one of the above mentioned diseases caused the death immediately?	Skull fracture
Symptoms of infectious diseases?	none
Symptoms of an unnatural death?	none Airplane crash
Did the subscribing physician treat the dead person?	no
Did he know the dead person?	no
The dead person was identified by:	Identification tag
Is it requested to dispatch the internment?	no
Is it requested to transport the dead body into the cemetery or to another place?	no

The physician has no objections against interment before 48 hours have passed.

Villach 28 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MD, Garrison Surgeon

DEP 410

A. V. 1943/45

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	<u>ROHRE</u>
Given Name:	<u>LEONIE P.</u>
ANN:	<u>39557486 F 45 44 AB</u>
Sex:	<u>MALO</u>
Date and Time of Death:	<u>28 December 1944, 1130</u>
Rank:	<u>Opl., 1st Wireless Operator</u>
Unit:	<u>15th Airforce</u>
Civilian Occupation:?	<u>?</u>
Place of Death:	<u>WHISSENSTEIN, Valley of the Draa, Kaernten</u>
Date and Time of Coroner's inspection:	<u>29 December 1944, 1500</u>
Cause of Death:	<u>Skull fracture</u>
Which one of the above mentioned diseases caused the Death immediately?	<u>Skull fracture</u>
Symptoms of infectious diseases?	<u>none</u>
Symptoms of an unnatural death?	<u>Airplane crash</u>
Did the subscribing physician treat the dead person?	<u>no</u>
Did he know the dead person?	<u>no</u>
The dead person was identified by:	<u>Identification tag</u>
Is it requested to dispatch the interment?	<u>no</u>
Is it requested to transport the dead body into the mortuary or to another place?	<u>no</u>

The physician has no objections against interment before 48 hours have passed.

Villach 29 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MD, Garrison Surgeon

28.12.44

MACR 10926

A. V. 1943/45

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	<u>SERRA</u>
First Name:	<u>Americo</u> J. 33,700,146
Sex:	male
Date and Time of Death:	29 December 1944, 1130
Rank:	Cpl., 1st Gunner
Unit:	15th Airforce
Civilian Occupation:	?
Place of Death:	WEISSKOPFEN, Valley of the Drava, Koroaten
Date and Time of Coroner's inspection:	29 December 1944, 1500
Cause of Death:	The dead body was found burned
The dead person was identified by:	3 dead were found burned. According to a list of the crew members given by the 3 survivors and the 4 dead identified by identification tags, Americo-S. was identified to be one of the burned bodies.

Villach 29 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MD, Garrison Surgeon

DEB-441

A. V. 1943/45

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	<u>TCBY</u>
First Name:	<u>Thomas</u>
Sex:	<u>Male</u>
Date and Time Of Death:	<u>28 December 1944, 1120</u>
Rank:	<u>Cpl., 2nd Wireless Operator</u>
Unit:	<u>15 th Airforce</u>
Civilian Occupation:	<u>Y</u>
Place of Death:	<u>WALSCHBERG, Valley of the Drau, KARNIOLAN</u>
Date and Time of Coroner's inspection: β	<u>29 December 1944, 1800</u>
Cause of Death:	<u>the dead body was found burned</u>
The dead person was identified by:	<u>3 dead bodies were found burned. According to a list of the crew members, given by the 3 survivors and the 4 dead identified by identification tags, Thomas TCBY was identified to be one of the burned bodies.</u>

Villach 29 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MB. Garrison Surgeon

m/ on Dec 28/44

A. V. 1945/46

Year 1944

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:	FURANKI
Given Names:	Richard F
ASN:	10129497 T 44 44 A
Sex:	Male
Date and Place of Birth:	18 years old
Date and Time of Death:	28 December 1944, 1120
Rank:	Cpl., 2nd Gunner
Unit:	15 th Airforce
Civilian Occupation:	Student
Residence:	Cleveland, Ohio
Place of Death:	WHISKEYSTEIN, Valley of the Drak, Kacraton
Date and Time of Coroner's inspection:	28 December 1944, 1500
Cause of death:	skull fracture
Which one of the above mentioned diseases caused the death immediately?	Skull fracture
Symptoms of infectious diseases?	none
Symptoms of an unnatural death?	Airplane crash
Did the subscribing physician treat the dead person?	no
Did he know the dead person?	no
The dead person was identified by:	Identification tag.
Is it requested to dispatch the internment?	no
Is it requested to bring the dead body to the mortuary or another place?	no

The physician has no objections against interment before 48 hours have passed.

Villach 28 December 1944

Signed: Signature illegible

Maj. MD, Garrison Surgeon

Handwritten signature

A. T. 1963/45

Year 1944

MAR 17 1946
ME 2636

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Last Name:
 First Name:
 Sex:
 Date and Time of Death:
 Rank:
 Unit:
 Civilian Occupation:
 Place of Death:
 Date and Time of Coroner's
 Inspection:
 Cause of Death:
 The dead person was identified by:

PHAFF
 Robert C. 32,971,186
 male
 20 December 1944, 1130
 Cpl., Red Aircraft mechanic
 15th Airforce
 Student
 WEISSHOFEN, Valley of the Drava, Kaseroten
 20 December 1944, 1900
 The dead body was found burned
 3 dead bodies were found burned. According
 to a list of the crew members, given by
 the 3 survivors and the 4 dead identified
 by identification tags, Robert PHAFF
 was identified to be one of the burned
 bodies.

Villach 20 December 1944

Signed : Signature illegible

Maj. ED. Garrison Sargosa

DEB 490

Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII - Klagenfurt - 30 Dec. 1944

Airfield Command - Klagenfurt

T R A N S P O R T L I S T

1st Lt.	William W. Wilson	O-825 255 - T-43-44-A
2nd Lt.	Frank E. Boehm	O-2-084 305 - T-43-45-B
P/O	Charles J. Amse	T-152 424 - T-43-45-C

Klagenfurt - 30 Dec. 1944

Air Base Command A (O) 11/XVII

Air Field Command Klagenfurt

D. Luft 2706/07

Transfer of Three American Prisoners of War

To: Oberursel

Via Collecting Station Air Base Command Wels.

The Air Base Command at Klagenfurt is transferring three American Prisoners of War, who parachuted on 28 Dec. 1944, 14 km West of Villach, captured on 29 Dec. 1944 and delivered to Air Base Command Klagenfurt for transporting.

The captives were turned over to a First Lieutenant, (Organization unknown) of the Main Guard, but no personal effects (money, maps etc.,) were turned in. Should any articles appear, they will be forwarded.

Captain.

28 Dec. 1944

1200

14 km W. of Villeach, Corinthia

Weissenstein/Drautal

FORCED LANDING

Air Base Command Kaiserslautern form 1 of 30/12 -

P.	1st Lt.	Willeon, William W.
CP.	2nd Lt.	Vantyl, Richard ? †
H.	P/O.	Ames, Charles John
B.	2nd Lt.	Beckm, Frank H.
E.	Corp.	Soloria, Albert ? †
R.	Corp.	Gouss, Louis ? †
G.	Corp.	Saria, Americus ? †
G.	Corp.	Pruett, Robert ? †
G.	Corp.	Toby, Thomas ? †
J.	Corp.	Puczanaki, Richard ? †

Klagenfurt - 3 January 1945

1. Time shot down: At 11:20 o'clock on 23 Dec. 1944
2. Place shot down: Weissenstein, Drauztal-Lansacher Field
3. Means of Capture: Rammed by another American plane
4. Crew: 10 - Seven dead and three captured

If dead - where buried: By mayor of Weissenstein - local Cemetery

5. Type Plane: B-24-D
6. Markings: G
7. Admission No: 40033
8. Condition of Plane: Tail assembly burned also wing assembly - balance of plane damaged - 20% damage
9. Camera equipment: When received - burned
10. Motor type: Left outer 43412 - left inner 43437-E
Works No. right inner 43920-i - right outer 43925
11. Radio equipment: Transmitter receiver unit type to 30a3 - Trans. R Unit Tu 6 4 BB
12. Propeller type: Hamilton Standard
13. Ammunition: 8 heavy MG Cal. 12.7
14. Special equipment: Reflex - Visier on
15. Plane fuel on hand: None
16. Captured parts: To Interrogation and investigation station authorized -
17. Terrain: Meadow land
18. Watch over plane: Watch Command of Air Field Klagenfurt
19. Salvage by: Salvage Group Klagenfurt
20. Community: Mayor - Fred Kozak - Long dist. 1-82
21. Landing station: Weissenstein-Kellerberg
22. Salvage begins: 3 January 1945
23. Salvage Ends: 10 January 1945
24. Difficulties: None

Signed: