

12997

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. Brandunas, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. Muench, Capt., AC
Date OCT 15 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

12997 MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2405

- ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bomb Sq (H)
- SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course Nove Zamky, Hungary
Target Nove Zamky, Hungary Type of mission Bombing
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
4/10 at 10,000. Visibility 5 to 10 miles through haze of smoke.
- GIVE: (a) Date 14 March 49 Time 1355 Last known position Fecs, Hungary (46°05'N 18°15'E)
(b) Specify whether: Last sighted, Forced down, Seen to crash,
 Last contacted by radio, No information.
- AIRCRAFT [LOST] [BELIEVED LOST] AS A RESULT OF: [Check one only]
 Enemy aircraft, Enemy anti-aircraft, Other lack of fuel.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49713
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Hoosier Pete", Call name Black Zebra.
- ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-319713
(b) CP-319482 (c) CP-319720 (d) EP-454808
- INSTALLED WFAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Browning 50 Cal M2
(a) 1719787 (c) 1766720 (i) 983498
(b) 1719762 (j) 1719695 (ii) 980294
(c) 1719706 (k) 1720060 (k) 1719752 (l) 1720109 (ii)
- PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty.
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
(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>RTO Bahnsen, Donald L.</u>	<u>1st Lt 0822343 MIA Mother Mrs. Louise T. Bahnsen, Hanley Rd, Le Moyne, Ohio.</u>
2) Co-Pilot	<u>Schiffel, Frank (nm)</u>	<u>2d Lt 0687707 MIA Father Mr. John Schiffel, 1109 N. 11th St, E. St. Louis, Ill.</u>
3) Navigator	<u>RTO Kephart, Robert L.</u>	<u>F/O T129329 MIA Mother Mrs. Edith C. Kephart, 218 Magnolia Ave, Modesto, Calif.</u>
4) Bomb	<u>Sherard, Donald N.</u>	<u>1st Lt 0782974 MIA Father Mr. Nelson E. Sherard, Box 121, La Grange, Wyoming.</u>
5) Eng	<u>RTO Rice, Robert L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt 35731523 MIA Mother Mrs. Anna S. Rice, Route #1, W. Terre Haute, Ind.</u>
6) RO Gnr	<u>RTO Trabucco, John S.</u>	<u>S/Sgt 13107514 MIA Mother Mrs. Elizabeth Trabucco, Box 145, Export, Pa.</u>
Aerial Gnr	<u>Jeffrey, Daniel M.</u>	<u>Sgt 38487617 MIA Father Mr. Robert E. Jeffrey, Jeanerette, La. Box 72.</u>
Aerial Gnr	<u>Staniszewski, Chester P.</u>	<u>Sgt 12098921 MIA Mother Mrs. Hattie Staniszewski, 23 Weiss St, Buffalo, New York.</u>
Aerial Gnr	<u>Henry, Carl K.</u>	<u>Sgt 36777968 MIA Mother Mrs. Etta C. Henry, Morrison, Tenn.</u>
RO Gnr	<u>Nastase, Samuel A.</u>	<u>Cpl 33253584 MIA Brother Mr. Pete J. Nastase, 1106 Philadelphia St, Indiana, Pa.</u>
Arm Gnr	<u>Kausmeyer, Edward E.</u>	<u>S/Lt 32916817 MIA Mother Mrs. Anna Kausmeyer, 115 Vaughn St, Clybourn, Pa.</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 | CRASH LANDING |
| (1) <u>Daniel S. Pickrell Jr.</u> | <u>2d Lt</u> | <u>0871268</u> | <u>x</u> | | |
| (2) _____ | | | | | |
| (3) _____ | | | | | |
- 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] Parachutes used.
 - ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT
 - ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
 - ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No Search

2 Enclosures

Date 14 March 49

Inc. 1

Signature of reporting officer

HUNGARY

46° 05' N

Saad

LACT SARI

Facs

Pallard

Ata

Vrovifica

YUGOSLAVIA

Mihola

Slav.
Folaga

16° 15' E

C O N F I D E N T I A L
779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

19 March 1945

On the 14 March 1945 we bombed a target in Hungary. About 1/2 hour before we reached Pecs Lt. Bahnsen, pilot of "Black Tebra", called the Red Force leader and said that he was low on gas and he was going to land at Pecs, Hungary. The Red Force leader suggested that Lt. Bahnsen wait and land in Yugoslavia, but Lt. Bahnsen said it was against his better judgement as he didn't want to take the chance on trying to make it to Yugoslavia, so the Red Force leader told him to land at Pecs. He then called and received fighter cover and headed toward the airfield at Pecs.

Daniel S. Pickrell Jr

DANIEL S. PICKRELL JR.
2d Lt, 0831268
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

Andrey