

13194

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

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

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MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2493

13194

1. ORGANIZATION: Location PANTANELLA AAB, ITALY Command or Air Force 15th AF
Group 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Squadron 778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure PANTANELLA AAB, ITALY Course 3000
Target BRATISLAVA RANGIER M/Y, CZECH. Type of mission BOMBING
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Cirrus Stratus, basis 23000'; Visability 10 miles
4. GIVE: (a) Date 26 Mar 45 Time 1422 Last known position 48° 35'N 16° 00'E, Austria
(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 Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B 24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49194
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT Notic
8. ENGINE: Type, model & series R 1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) BP-453454
(b) BP-453441 (c) 42-90928 (d) BP-458504
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] All Browning .50 Cal Machine Guns
(a) Left Nose 1763069 (c) Left Waist 1296488 (i) _____
(b) Right Nose 1716190 (f) Right Waist 1766161 (j) _____
(d) Left Upper 1762603 (g) Left Tail 1765405 (k) _____
(e) Right Upper 1081793 (h) Right Tail 1766192 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers _____; 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 AND ADDRESS
CAAC Pilot	STEVES WALTER	MAJ 0-379041	MIA ✓ Arnie L. Steves Wife 528 Jerks Ave, Panama City, Fla.
P1 CR	WILSON HARRY S	MAJ 0-432783	MIA ✓ Mrs. B. Wilson c/o Braden Wife Rt #3, Knoxville, Tenn
P1 N	JOHNSTON ROBERT H	1st Lt. 0-2060997	MIA ✓ Elizabeth Johnston Mother Swing Hall, Oxford, Ohio
P1 N	BLACK GERALD W	1st Lt. 0-2056529	MIA ✓ Paul S. Black Father 121 N. Court St, Luray, Virginia
P1 B	BROWN THOMAS F JR	1st Lt. 0-776478	MIA ✓ Helen I. Brown Wife 1150 So. Farvey Ave, Oak Park, Ill
(6) B	WILSON PETER K	1st Lt. 0-722907	MIA ✓ Isabel Wilson Mother Church Lane, Middle Island, New York
(7) EG	LAWSON GEORGE P	T/Sgt. 36594297	MIA ✓ Marion E. Lawson Wife 1573 Buena Vista, Detroit, Mich
(8) TROG	CALLISON TALMADGE P	T/Sgt 34652433	MIA ✓ Mary S. Callison Mother Rt #3, Greenwood, S. C.
(9) AG	SKINNER, WILLIAM W	S/Sgt 18163597	MIA ✓ Percy B. Skinner Father 1604 So. Victor, Tulsa, Oklahoma
(10) AG	BUFFO ELMER A	S/Sgt 33420193	MIA ✓ Inez G. Buffo Wife 1009 Epiphany St, Pittsburgh, Pa.
(11) AG	HIATT ROLAND H	S/Sgt 15133747	MIA ✓ Clarence R. Hiatt Father 4498 S. Hills Dr., Cleveland, Ohio

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	SIGHTED	SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING
(1) <u>DOWNER, FRANK B.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>12087194</u>		<u>X</u>	
(2) <u>BANGER, LI E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>34730880</u>		<u>X</u>	
(3) _____					

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
(9) Parachutes were used (Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.)
 Other reasons [specify] _____
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. No search

3 Inclosures.
Incl 1-Sketch
Incl 2-3-Statements

Date 28 March 1945

Carl V. Hardy
Signature of preparing officer
CARL V. HARDY
Capt, Air Corps
Adjutant

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1905-12

3/27/45

STEVES

WIENS

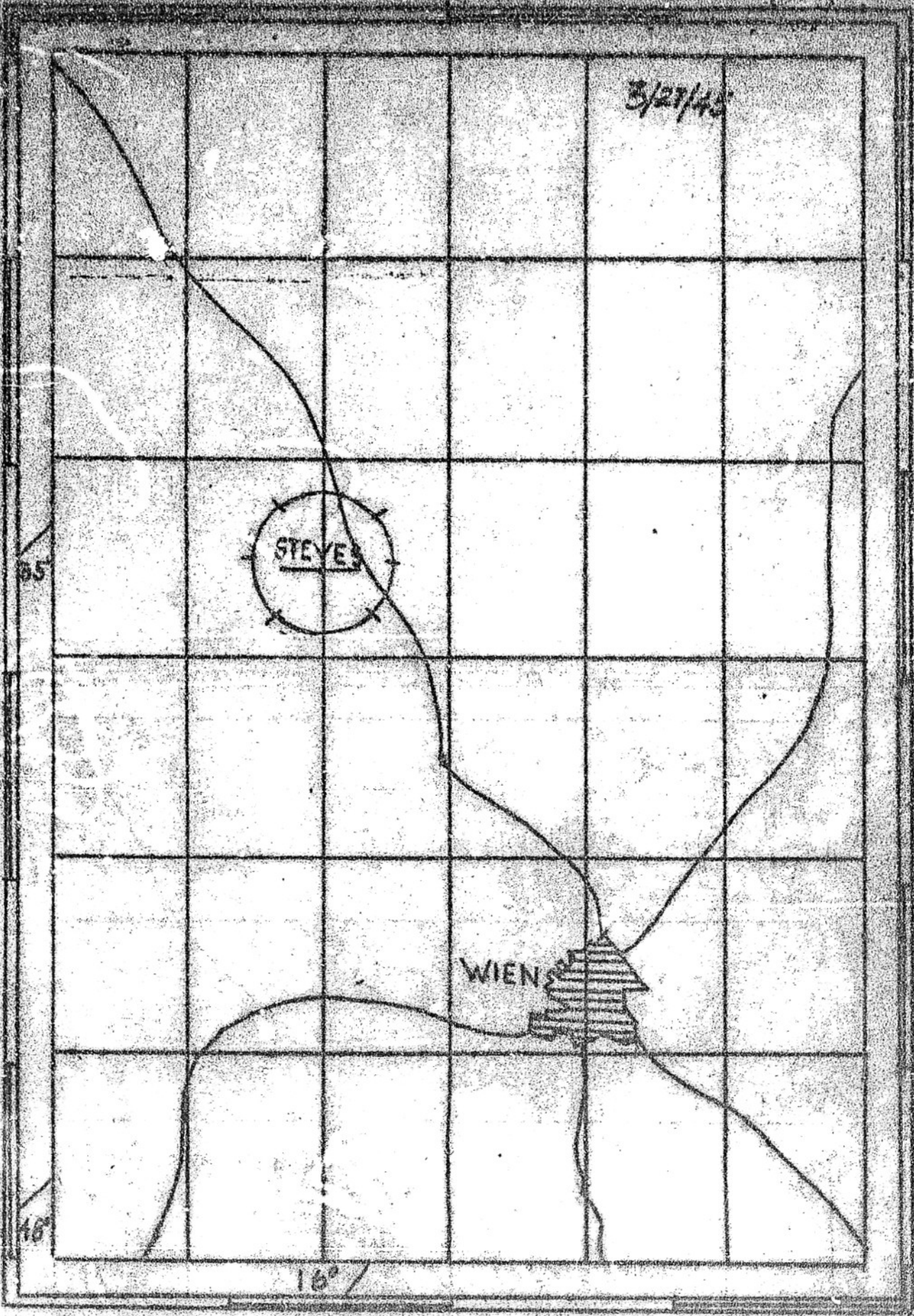
65°

16°

16°

90°

Incl 1



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27 March 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I was waist gunner (Radio Operator), on Capt Brown's crew, flying White X in number 11 position, Baker Box. About two (2) hours before target, White T, the group's lead ship, changed places with Yellow J in number 12 position, Able Box. Right after the target, I noticed White T moved back and to the right out of position and later resumed her place. Soon after, White T started to lose altitude. A few minutes later parachutes appeared and I counted eight (8). During this period the ship appeared to be under control. There seemed to be neither fire nor smoke.

Frank B. Dcner

FRANK B. DCNER
T/Sgt, 12087194
778th Bomb Sq (H)

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902-1

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27 March 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I was Panther operator flying White Y, with Lt Fert's crew in number 21 position, Baker Box. I heard over the radio, before we reached the IP, that the autopilot on White T, the lead ship, was out and the deputy lead was taking over the group lead. White T moved to number 12 position, Able Box and dropped bombs from there. Approximately four (4) minutes after bombs away, White T went into a moderate glide. Two (2) parachutes appeared. The ship then leveled off somewhat and shortly thereafter resumed the glide. Immediately, I counted seven (7) additional parachutes came from the ship.

L. E. Barger
L. E. BARGER
S/Sgt, 34730860
778th Bomb Sq (H)

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1905-

~~SECRET~~

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Prepared by
MIS-X Section
CPM Branch

DATE: 21 Apr 45

NARRATOR : CALLISON, Toladage P., T/Sgt. SQUADRON : 770th Bn.
ARMY SERIAL NO. : 3488288 CREW/P : 211th Bn.
HOME ADDRESS : RPO #1, Box 280, Greenwood, MO TYPE AIRCRAFT : B-24
EX-REPORT NO. : None MISSION DATE : 25 Mar 45

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	FWLB RECORDS
PILOT	Capt. Walter Steves	RD
CO-PILOT	Maj. (T) Wilson, HARRY S.	MIA
NAVIGATOR	1st Lt. (T) Johnston	RD
BOMBARDIER	1st Lt. T. F. Brown	RD
RADAR NAVIGATOR	1st Lt. F. H. Wilson PETER W.	KIA
BOSS GUNNER-NAVIGATOR	1st Lt. G. W. Black	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	T/Sgt. Toladage P. Callison	Narrator
ENGINEER-GUNNER	T/Sgt. G. F. Larson	KIA
RIGHT WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt. W. M. Skinner	P/W
LEFT WAIST GUNNER	S/Sgt. (T) Ryatt	KIA
TAIL GUNNER	S/Sgt. W. A. Huffe	MIA

KNOWN INFORMATION: I was with S/Sgt. Skinner upon landing and he had a broken leg. The last time I saw him was on 27 March 1945 and he was being sent to a German hospital. I saw all of the men marked "RD".

HEARSAY INFORMATION: Capt. Steves overheard two Germans say that Lt. F.H. Wilson was dead and also one other unidentified crew member. T/Sgt. Larson was in the bomb bay when the pilot lost control of the ship. He had his chute beside him, but I think he fell out when control over the ship was lost.

DISTRIBUTION:

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AC/AS (PERSONNEL) -1

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS
AAF REDISTRIBUTION STATION NO. 4
SANTA ANA ARMY AIR BASE
Santa Ana, California

CASUALTY INTERROGATION REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEATH IN ACTION OR DURING IMPRISONMENT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEASED:

Date of Interrogation _____

FULL NAME OF DECEASED WILSON Peter K Lt. Radar Operator
Last First Initial Rank Position

HOME TOWN OR STATE Not Known

UNIT 464th Bomb Gp. 778th Bomb Sqd. 15th AAF.

DATE OF MISSION 26 March 1945 TYPE AIRCRAFT B-24

DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH 26 March 1945

KNOWN INFORMATION:

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Our Navigator Lt. Black requested information concerning Lt. Wilson's religion and said that he had been killed. I did not personally see the action of the body after Lt. was killed.

Interrogating Officer _____

George P. Lawson 36594297
Source's Name & ASN
GEORGE P. LAWSON 36594297
1573 Buena Vista Detroit Mich
Home address
1573 Buena Vista Detroit, Mich.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

no. of plane to: AFPPH 1311

1. Your name C. Thomas P. Brown Jr. Rank 1ST Lt. Serial No. 0-176478
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander - Byrd Rank Cpt. Sqn CO S. Martin Rank 1ST Lt.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Communications Bombing, target, Brestelava Czech., target time, around 17:00, altitude, 21,000 ft. (approximate) route scheduled, not remembered, route flown as scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 miles north-west of Vienna Austria.
6. Did you bail out? YES.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, as far as known
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 crew members are safe, but: Maj. Harry Wilson - No knowledge, 1ST Lt. P. K. Wilson - I believe or other crew members to be dead and buried in Austria.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? about 10 or 20 miles West of Vienna
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft who it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No one was left in aircraft to my knowledge, however no trace has ever been found of Major Harry Wilson
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? no one was wounded before bailing out
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. _____

All crew members of our aircraft, with the exception of Major Harry Wilson, co-pilot and asst. Sp. Operations officer, and 1st Lt. Peter K. Wilson, Radar-Navigator, have turned up and are back in the United States. The information I have on these two is only hearsay, but I offer it to you for any help I can be:

1.) The Pilot, Major Walter Steves told me that Major Wilson refused to heed his order to bail out. I know that the bail-out order was given over the interphone once, and via the "bail-out bell" twice. Major Steves told me that Major Wilson shook his head "no" at the abandon-ship order, all three times. What I don't know, but I do know we were losing altitude fast, and Major Steves knows his business about aircraft. I believe all aircraft controls were shot away. At any rate, Major Steves finally left the cockpit and we never heard from Major Wilson again.

2.) The Navigator, 1st Lt. Peter K. Wilson was shot down in the Pacific - told me in a letter that he saw the P-40 Wilson was in, dead. The cause of his death was unknown to Lt. Steves. The Castor was shot down and crashed but the "how" and "where" is unknown.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Thomas F. Brown, Jr. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-776478
2. Organization 46A GP Commander - Byrd Rank Col Sqn. Co. S. Martin Rank Lt. Col. (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 26 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Communications Bombing, target, Bratislava, Czech target time around 13:00, altitude, 21,000ft Approx route scheduled, not remembered, route flown as scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? 20 miles north-west of Vienna, Austria
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, as far as known.
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 crew members are safe, but: Maj. Harry Wilson - No Knowledge.
1st Lt. P. K. Wilson - Heresay of other crew members says he's dead and buried in Austria.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? About 10 or 20 miles west of Vienna
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 one was left in aircraft to my knowledge, however no trace has ever been found of Major Harry Wilson
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? No one was wounded before bailing out.