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H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

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~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by ~~_____~~
Date MAR 1 1948

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Classified ~~SECRET~~ changed

to ~~SECRET~~
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AO
Date MAR 15 1948

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

96-68

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

Pan ENEIA, Italy

ORGANIZATION: Location APO 520, c/o PM, NY, NY. Command or AF 15th A.F.
Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 776th Bombardment Sq (H).

SPECIFY: Point of Departure A.A. Fld, Gioia, Italy Course Due North
Target Atzgerdorf Type of Mission Bombing
Aircraft Factory, Austria.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Weather clear with slight haze. Visibility 10 to 15 miles, not counting the smoke.

GIVE: (a) Date 29 May 1944 Time 1152 Location 44° 42' N. - 16° 31' E.
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio
() Forced Down () Seen to Crash; or
() Information not available.

AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
(X) Enemy Aircraft () Enemy Anti-aircraft () Other circumstances as follows: Ship was crippled by flak and finished by enemy fighters.

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24-H AAF Serial No 42-52540

ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) GP-302238
(b) GP-302616 (c) GP-302496 (d) GP-303296

INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) Browning Sub MG, .50 cal #220703 (b) Browning Sub MG, .50 cal #110379
(c) " " " 111037 (d) " " " 316842
(e) " " " 220808 (f) " " " 1057717
(g) " " " 317854 (h) " " " 617327
(i) " " " 80845 (j) " " " 317465

PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty () Non-Battle Cas.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers 0 Total 10
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

CREW POSITL #	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
RTD	Pilot 5 <u>Jares, Robert C.</u>	2d Lt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mr. Joseph Jares, Father, 562 Sacamore Ave., Teaneck, N.J.
RTD	Co-Pilot 10 <u>Simpkins, Ray (NMI)</u>	F/O	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mr. Elijah Simpkins, Father, 1115 Walnut St., Kenova, W. Va.
	Bombardier 7 <u>Moore, Paul S.</u>	F/O	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mrs. Myrna Lela Moore, Mother, 1106 N.W. 1st St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
RTD	Navigator 4 <u>Girardeau Jr., William M.</u>	2d Lt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mr. William M. Girardeau Sr., Father, 1104 S. Capen Ave., Winter Park, Fla.
RTD	Eng.-Gunner 1 <u>Ankney, Elton W.</u>	S/Sgt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mrs. Verma Donna Ankney, Mother, Box #12, Sweetwater, Idaho.
	Rad. Oper-Gun. 3 <u>Balliet, Robert M.</u>	S/Sgt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mr. Stephen D. Balliet, Father, 28 River Drive, Appleton, Wisconsin.
RTD	Eng.-Gunner 7 <u>Monacelli, Thomas P.</u>	Sgt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mrs. Myrtle E. Monacelli, Mother, General Delivery, Easton, Washington.
	Gunner 8 <u>Moore, Kenneth G.</u>	Sgt.	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	Mr. Walter E. Moore, Brother, 78-11 Cler Pl., St. Louis, Mo.

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(See Reverse Side)

Contd on other side

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R.T.D. Armorer Gunner Maer, Joseph J. Pfc. [REDACTED] Mrs. Mary Maer,
 Mother, 1430-69th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 R.T.D. Gunner Atkinson, Benard W. Sgt. [REDACTED] Mrs. J. B. Atkinson,
 Mother, Tioga, Louisiana.

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-CRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO	by			
			Radio	Sighted	Crash	Forced Landing
John W. Nance	Capt.	[REDACTED]				X
Martin H. Neuhaus	Sgt.	[REDACTED]		X		
Stamford (NLT) Scherer	2d Lt.	[REDACTED]				X

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 Parachutes were used Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
 Any other reason (specify) _____
- ATTACH AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH, AS INCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: (if no search, so state giving reason) No search was made due to planes being over enemy territory and undergoing attack by fighters.

Date of this Report: 1 June 1944.

Signature of Officer John W. Morris
 JOHN W. MORRIS,
 Major, Air Corps,
 Comdg, 776th Bombardment Sq(H)

4 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Sketches of approx location of aircraft was last seen (8 copies)
- Incl 2 - Eye Witness Report of Capt. Nance (8 Copies)
- Incl 3 - Eye Witness Report of Sgt. Neuhaus (8 Copies)
- Incl 4 - Eye Witness Report of 2d Lt. Scherer (8 Copies).



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776th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 520 U.S. Army

JWM/sjh

313.3

1 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, Hq. 464th Bombardment Group (H), APO 520, U.S. Army.

1. Transmitted herewith are the Missing Air Crew Reports on combat crews assigned to this Squadron missing in action as of 29 May 1944, near Atzgerdorf, Austria:

2nd Lt.	(1024)	ROBERT C. JARES	[REDACTED]	MIA
F/O	(1024)	RAY (NMI) SIMPKINS	[REDACTED]	MIA
F/O	(1035)	PAUL S. MOORE	[REDACTED]	MIA
2nd Lt.	(1034)	WILLIAM M. GIRARDEAU JR.	[REDACTED]	MIA
S/Sgt.	(748)	Elton W. Ankney	[REDACTED]	MIA
S/Sgt.	(757)	Robert M. Balliet	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt.	(748)	Thomas R. Monacelli	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt.	(611)	Kenneth G. Moore	[REDACTED]	MIA
Pfc.	(612)	Joseph J. Maer	[REDACTED]	MIA
Sgt.	(612)	Benard W. Atkinson	[REDACTED]	MIA

2. Subject personnel are battle casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II Circular #10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

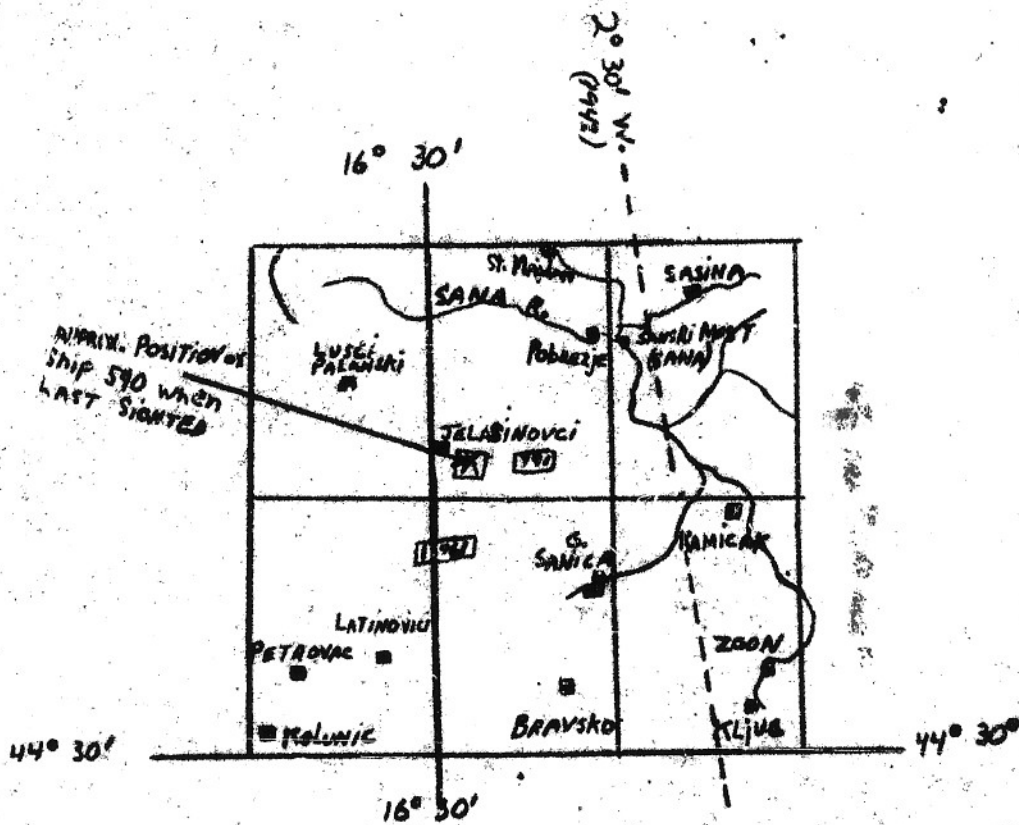
3. Battle Casualty Report forwarded your Headquarters 29 May 1944.

John W. Morris
JOHN W. MORRIS,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report w/4 Incls. (7 copies)

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N. E. 44/14



Abbreviated Map of Section of
YUGOSLAVIA.

■ Towns
□ ELEVATION

SCALE
10 STATUTE MILES

Incl - 1'

- S T A T E M E N T -

Lt. Jares on Plane #540 dropped back from the main formation with what appeared to be four good engines and for what appeared for the sole purpose of giving three other cripples in the small formation additional fire power. He gave the cripples maximum fire power coverage until one of them was shot down by fighters.

In spite of the excellent formation flown on the wing of a crippled bad ship, Plane 540 was No. 2 plane to be shot down.

Out of the four-ship formation of which was unable to keep up with the main formation I counted Eight (8) parachutes from this one plane, 540, blossom from the ship.

The ship went down in a steep turn after being raked over and over by enemy fighters, became almost inverted, lost a great amount of altitude, recovered momentarily, and then crashed into a mountainside and burst into flames.

Incl-2'

John W. Nance
JOHN W. NANCE,
Capt., Air Corps,
[REDACTED], Co-Pilot on B-24 H Plane
No. 275, Hq. 464th Bomb Gp (H).

- S T A T E M E N T -

I was flying tail gun position in ship 402 about 1500 yards in front of the formation that was hit by flak and fighters and could see about 12 fighters attack the straggling four-ship formation. The only ship I saw was knocked out was a silver plane, markings of which I could not make out and its stabilizer was torn off and spinning down.

The plane dropped into a spin into a valley through which a river was running. I couldn't see whether or not the plane burst into flames after crashing but I think the plane hit the river between the two valleys.

During the entire scene of the action I could not see any parachutes blossom from any of the planes that were hit. The last bit of information that I can offer is that the terrain in which the ship that was hit crashed was very mountainous and in all probabilities there were no troop concentrations in the immediate or surrounding area.

Martin H. Neuhaus

Martin H. Neuhaus,
Sergeant, ASN [REDACTED]
Tail Gunner, B-24 Plane #402,
776th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H).
APO 520, US Army.

Incl-3'

- S T A T E M E N T -

Red Charley, Ship #540 feathered No. 3 prop slid out to the riggt. Fighters attacked from six oclock in trial. I observed the tail turret gunner firing away. That was the only fire that I observed from that ship.

It stopped on the second attack of the German fighters. The ship started to go off to the right in a steep dive, the Navigator and myself observed seven chutes open, the ship went into inverted flight, but straightened out about 1,000 feet from the ground when we both observed another chute open. The ship leveled off and started to gain a little altitude and seemed to be under contol when she crashed into a hillside. There is no doubt that the pilot and co-pilot never got out. I seen the plane hit the ground and burst into flames.

Stamford Scherer

STAMFORD SCHERER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
[REDACTED] Flying as Observer on
B-24H Plane #275.
777th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H),
APO 520, U.S. Army.

Incl-4'

man 5418

March 12, 1945
237 W. Stetson Ave.
DeLand, Fla.

PPA-8
2

Subject: Casualty Information of crew members
To : Commanding General AAF

1. I recieved your letter in regards to casualty information of crew members and enclosed blanks for submitting information about the mission on which we went down.

2. I would be glad to fill them out but if I understand correctly, the information is to collect data on men still M.I.A. whereas all of my crew either escaped with me or were reported as P.O.W.'s several months later.

3. Two of them Moore, Paul S., F/O, T-123054 and Moore, Kenneth G., Sgt. - 17074077 returned with me to Italy. I have had correspondence since returning to the states to the effect that Balliet, Robert M., S/Sgt. 16156965 has returned to the states after being held in a German P.O.W. camp until after V-E day.

4. If this information is for some other reason I will be glad to give it but as I understand the purpose of it, it would be a waste of time.

William M. Girardeau, Jr.
1st Lt. A.C. A.U.S. (inactive)

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AG