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

9136

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Classification changed
to ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
by E. A. BRADNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1946

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

61-110-10-10-10-10
 H. A. BRADUNAS, Capt., AC
 by P. M. MUEHNS, Capt., AC
 MAR 1 5 1948

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAB, Pantanella, Italy. Command of Air Force 15th Air Force.
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 777th Bomb. Squadron (H).
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure AAB, Pantanella, Italy. Course 58°
 Target Blechhammer, Germany. Type of mission Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: 10 Miles Visibility and Haze.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 Oct. 1944. Time 11.25 Last known position 50° 17'N, 18° 15'E.
 (b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.
5. AIRCRAFT (DOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24G AAF Serial Number 42.78434
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Victor"
8. ENGINES: Type, mode & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-326759
 (b) CP-326631 (c) CP-326942 (d) CP-326705
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.)
 (a) RN-1258892 (c) RN-977881 (i) LB-1249348
 (b) LW-1258705 (f) LW-967474 (j) RB-1249115
 (c) RM-1249226 (g) RT-1258973 (k) _____
 (d) LW-1249055 (h) LT-1258946 (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 NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	<u>STANLEY, CHARLES E.</u> 2nd Lieutenant, 0-824007, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Mary E. Stanley, (W),</u> RD #1, East Brady, Pennsylvania. <i>all RFD</i>
(2) Co-Pilot	<u>PLAISANCE, ROBERT S.</u> 2nd Lieutenant, 0-70628, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Meriel Chittenden, (S),</u> 40304 Woodbridge St., N. Hollywood, Cal. <i>PTD</i>
(3) Nav.	<u>CONE, LEO F.</u> 2nd Lieutenant, 0-2058419, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Eleanor L. Cone, (W),</u> Yakt, Montana. <i>RFD</i>
(4) Bomb.	<u>SEAUER, EDWARD C.</u> 2nd Lieutenant, 0-776587, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mr. High Leland Seaver, (F),</u> 23 Maple St., Randolph, Vermont. <i>RFD</i>
(5) ROM	<u>Kiger, Darrell G.</u> S/Sgt. 20759460, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Freda M. Kiger, (W),</u> 12 S. Eddy St., Fort Scott, Kansas. <i>RFD</i>
(6) AM	<u>Tweedale, Claude T. Jr.,</u> Sgt. x19141196, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Lurline Tweedale, (M),</u> 609 Precita Ave., San Francisco, Cal. <i>RFD</i>
(7) AM	<u>Smalley, Forrest L.</u> Sgt. x15340522, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Lula L. Smalley, (W),</u> 4769 Bloor St., Cincinnati, Ohio. <i>RFD</i>
(8) ARM.	<u>Huchholz, Albert R.</u> Sgt. 36509715, <i>MW</i>	<u>Alma Huchholz, (S),</u> 350 S. 19th St., Saginaw, Michigan. <i>RFD</i>
(9)	<u>Homol, Peter,</u> C. Gnr. Cpl. 33293462, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Anna Homol, (M),</u> Box 11, Tyre, Pennsylvania. <i>RFD</i>
(10)	<u>Spomer, Samuel J.</u> C. Gnr. Sgt. x37106748, <i>MW</i>	<u>Mrs. Katherine M. Spomer, (M),</u> 4564 Sherman St., Denver, Colorado. <i>PTD</i>
(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 | FORCED |
| (1) <u>MacLeod, James N.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>31355699</u> | | <u>X</u> | |
| (2) <u>Besore, Charles A.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>37531805</u> | | <u>X</u> | |
| (3) <u>Cook, George P.</u> | <u>Sgt.</u> | <u>6820140</u> | | <u>X</u> | |
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 reason (specify) Possibly an Eighth (8) Chute was seen.
 14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT X
 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. X
 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 as plane went down in enemy territory.

Inclosed:
 Incl 1, Statement of, Date 15 October 1944.
 Sgt. MacLeod.
 Incl 2, Statement, Sgt. Besore,
 Incl 3, Statement, Sgt. Cook,
 Incl 4, Location Sketch.

EM O'Reilly
 Signature of preparing officer
 E. M. O'REILLY,
 Capt. AC.
 Adj.

15 October 1944

I was tail gunner on Lt Machado's plane which was flying Baker 22 position. Just after bombs away I was looking about for enemy fighters. A flash caught my eye. I looked in its direction and saw a plane nose up out of Charlie Box, Number 21 Position. After it nosed up it fell over on its back. This plane must have suffered a direct and serious flak hit between number 1 and 2 engines for it went out of control immediately, rolled over several times and went into a spin. I saw it explode just before it disappeared in the overcast below. I observed seven (7) chutes open. I am sure this plane was one of ours because of its position in the formation.

James N. MacLeod

Sgt James N MacLeod
31355699

15 October 1944

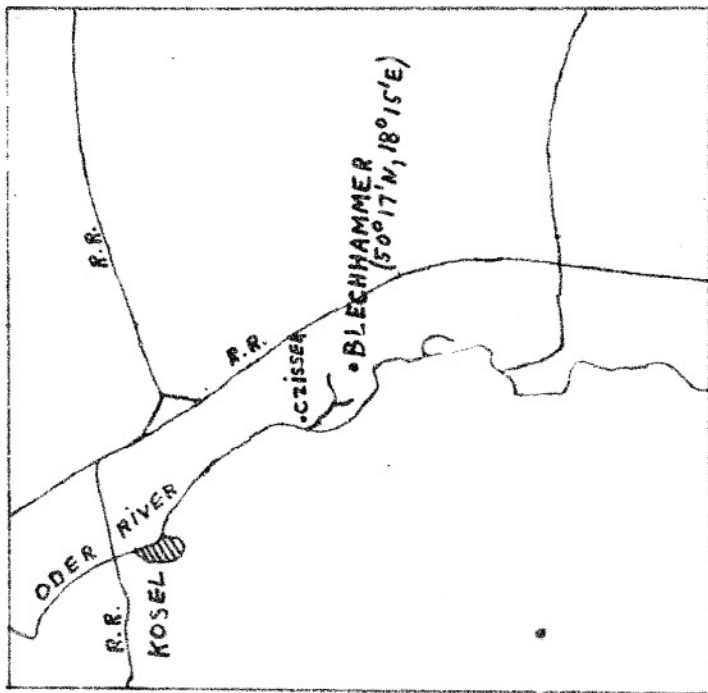
I was top gunner on Lt Machado's plane which was flying Baker 22 position. I heard the boys say "Ship going down". I looked out the bomb bays and saw a plane rolling off its back. It went into a flat spin. I am pretty sure it was one of our planes from the yellow letter and the yellow on the fuselage but I could not identify the letter. I saw seven (7) chutes and a possible eighth.

Charles A. Besore
Sgt Charles A Besore
37531805

15 October 1944

I was ball gunner on Lt Machado's plane which was flying Baker 22 position. The tail gunner called me and said there was a plane going down to our rear. I swung around to six o'clock and saw a plane rolling over and then go into a spin. I saw seven (7) chutes ppen.

George P. Cook
Sgt George P Cook
6829140



PLANE LAST SIGHTED AT 50°17'N, 18°15'E.

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777TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 US ARMY

16 October 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

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

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report on Crew assigned to this Squadron, which was missing in action as of 13 October 1944, over Germany.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>
✓ 2nd Lieutenant,	CHARLES E. STANLEY,	0-824007,
✓ 2nd Lieutenant,	ROBERT S. PLAISANCE,	0-709628,
✓ 2nd Lieutenant,	LEO F. CONE,	0-2058419,
✓ 2nd Lieutenant,	EDWARD C. SEAVER,	0-776587,
✓ Staff Sergeant,	Darrell G. Kiger,	20759460,
✓ Sergeant,	Claude T. Tweedale, Jr.,	19141196,
✓ Sergeant,	Forrest L. Smalley,	15340522,
✓ Sergeant,	Albert R. Buchholz,	36509715,
✓ Corporal,	Peter Homol,	33293462,
✓ Sergeant,	Samuel J. Spomer,	37706748,

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, 14 October 1944.

For the Squadron Commander:

1 Incl:
Incl 1, MAC Report, Lt. Stanley and Crew,
15 Oct. 1944, W/4 Incls (7 copies).

E. M. O'Reilly
E. M. O'REILLY,
Capt. AC.
Adj.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Robert S. Plaisance Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0709628
2. Organization 464 B.G. (H) Commander A.L. Schroeder Rank Col. Sqn CO W.E. Moore Rank Lt. Col.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month October day 13th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Strategic, target, Blechhammer, Germany target time, 1153, altitude, 23,000' route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target area
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". Crew members all bailed out successfully in area stated in question #9
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 15 miles North of Campeni, Rumania
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
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. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: STANLEY, Charles E.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-824 007
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(Pilot)~~ Pilot

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 15 miles north of Campeni, Rumania

If not, why not? _____

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

Crew assembled Three days after "bail out" in Campeni, Rumania

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Returned to active duty 777 BS. (H)

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: SEEVER, Edward C.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-776 587
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~(P/FLAAT/FLAAT);~~ Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 10 miles north of Comperi, Rumania

If not, why not? _____

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

Crew assembled three days after "bail out" in Comperi, Rumania

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Returned to active duty 777 BS (H)

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

file # 9136
 INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: _____
 Rank: _____
 Serial number: _____
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~PIIHHH/IIHHH~~: COBE, Leo F.
 Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? 15 miles north of Campeni, Rumania

If not, why not? _____

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

Crew Assembled Three days after "bail out" in Campeni, Rumania

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Returned to Active duty 777 B.S. (H)

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name SAMUEL J SPOMER Rank S/SGT Serial No. 37706748
2. Organization 464 B.C.P. Op Commander _____ Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC. day 2 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, OIL REFINERIES, target, BLECHHAMMER, target
time, 12-?, altitude, 23,500 route scheduled, NOT KNOWN
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? LAKE BALATON
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". THE ENTIRE CREW BAILED OUT AND CAME TOGETHER TWO DAYS LATER, LT. SEAVIER AND MYSELF LEFT THE REST OF THE CREW WHEN RESCUE SHIPS WERE FLOWN IN.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? YES
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
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. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)