

9209

Date: 08 Oct 44 Location: Pantanello AAB, Italy Command or Air Force: 15th Air Force
 Group: 464th Bomb Gp (H) Squadron: 777th Bomb Sq (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello AAB, Italy Course 790
 Target Vienna, Austria Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
4/10 cumulus, tops 8000 ft. and 8/10 Cirrostratus
4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 Oct 44 Time 1214 Last known position Vienna Austria
 (b) Specify whether: (X) 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, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24H AAF Serial Number 41-29441
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT None
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) BF-429668
 (b) BP-428667 (c) CP-326908 (d) BF-439686
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number)
 (a) RB 973839 (c) RW 940920 (i) LN 940557
 (b) RT 941671 (f) LM 941353 (j) IT 941096
 (c) LB 973174 (g) LW 226612 (k) _____
 (d) RM 941505 (h) RE 406398 (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
KIA	Pilot <u>KARAS, JOE E. JR.</u>	2nd Lt <u>0-713465</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mr. Joe Karas (f) <u>Ray</u> 3 <u>3 RD #1 Table Rock, Nebraska</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>MILLER, JOHN H. JR.</u>	2nd Lt <u>0-773192</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mr. John H. Miller Sr. (f) <u>Rice</u> 6 <u>127 Meridian Ave. Fresno Calif.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>MERRILL, RICHARD E.</u>	2nd Lt <u>0-2060830</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Dr. Leslie V. Merrill (f) <u>Rice</u> 5 <u>Box 387 Preston, Idaho.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>LUND, HORACE H.</u>	2nd Lt <u>0-777488</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mr. Richard Lund (p) <u>RID</u> 4 <u>471 Bunkerville, Nevada</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>McPherson, Edwin R.</u>	Sgt <u>35852654</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mrs. Marion E. McPherson (M) <u>Rice</u> 7 <u>Box 99 Rta #1 Melbourne, Ky.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>Hoffman, John F.</u>	Sgt <u>33618321</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mrs. Katie Hoffman (M) <u>Rice</u> 2 <u>2152 Adams St. Reading, Pa.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>Price, May T.</u>	Sgt. <u>34465580</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mr. Mayo Price (F) <u>Rice</u> 8 <u>Rta #3 Tarboro, North, Carolina</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>Rigdon, Ray W.</u>	Sgt <u>18159971</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mrs. Sarah E. Rigdon (M) <u>Rice</u> 9 <u>401 Myeth St. Taylor, Texas.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>Downey, Kenneth M.</u>	Sgt <u>42102139</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mrs. Julia Downey (M) <u>Rice</u> 1 <u>40-22nd St. Irvington, N. J.</u> <u>MIA</u>
KIA	<u>Silberstein, Frank</u>	Sgt <u>12102209</u>	<u>MIA</u>	Mr. Samuel Silberstein (F) <u>Rice</u> 11 <u>1352 Pine Street, Santa Monica, California.</u>

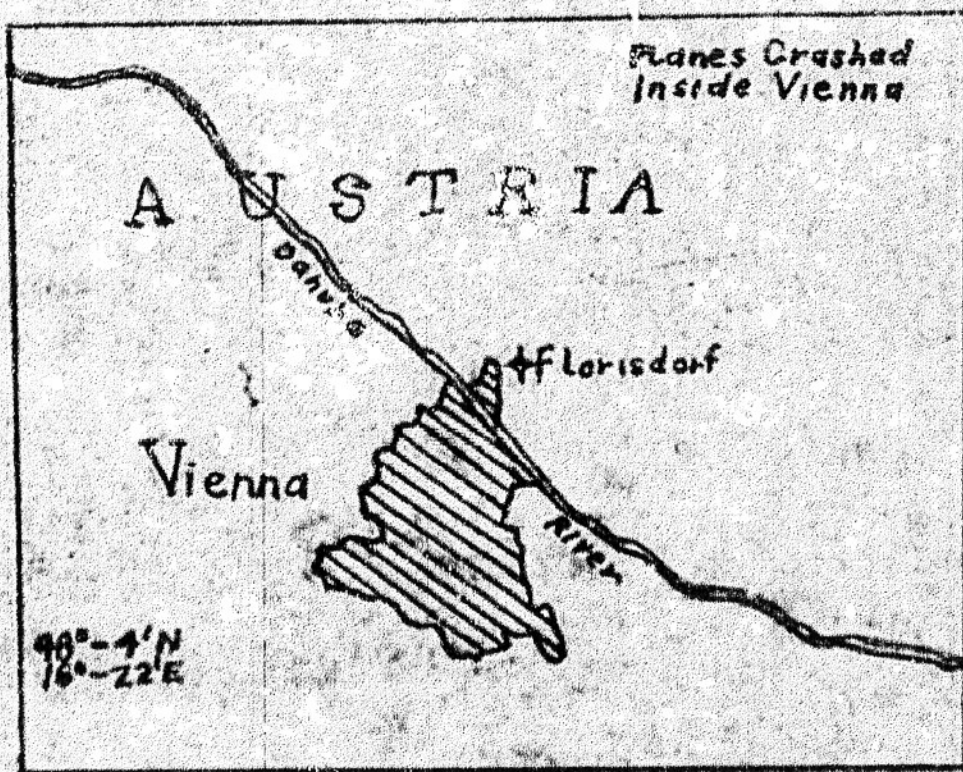
(11) _____
 (12) _____

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	SIGHTED	SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING
(1) <u>John W. Holzappel</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>32704362</u>		<u>X</u>	
(2) <u>George L. Kroll</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>32768144</u>		<u>X</u>	

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (X) 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. 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. There was no search as plane went down over enemy territory.
3. Inclosures:
 Incl 1. Statement of Holzappel 19 Oct. 44
 Incl 2. Statement of Kroll
 Incl 3. Location Sketch.
- Signature of Reporting Officer: E. M. Reilly
 Capt., AC

Reilly



19 October 1944

As ball gunner I go over the target with my guns pointing down. A minute or so after bombs away I saw Yellow "E" in a steep bank peeling off to our right. As the plane peeled away from the formation there was no indication of fire. I started to operate the turret and picked up Yellow "E", piloted by Lt. Karas. A chute opened at about the instant I picked up the ship. A few seconds later another chute opened. I watched Yellow E, she was still in a bank and making a large circle. She began to tighten up making the circle smaller. After two circles the plane nosed down. Almost instantly a flame burst from one of the inboard engines. There was an explosion and the wing came off, another explosion followed disintegrating the fuselage, both wings going down in flames. I observed both wings hit the ground still burning.

John W. Holzappel

JOHN W. HOLZAPFEL
Pvt. 32704362
777th Bomb Sq (H)

19 October 44

The first time I noticed Yellow E, piloted by Lt. Joe E. Karas Jr., it was going down right over the target just after bombs away. Its nose went down and it went into a fairly steep dive. There were no signs of fire or smoke that I could see. The next time I saw Y/E it was going down in a gradual spin, there still was no sign of fire, or smoke. I saw one chute open, and another man had just bailed out. I didn't see his chute blossom.

George L. Kroll

GEORGE L. KROLL
S/Sgt 32768144

Incl 24

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFTDATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 at 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetzendorf, 50 steps West of water tower at
K. R. Station

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 5/XVII - Goetzendorf on the Leitha -
17 Oct. 44 at 14:00 o'clock

CREWSURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: Karas,
Joe

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Unknown

SERIAL NUMBER: O-713 465 - T-43-44 O. P.

CAPTURED: WOUNDED: DEAD: Recovered dead

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery in Goetzendorf on the Leitha

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 at 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetsendorf - 50 steps west of water tower
at R. R. Station

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 3/XVII - Goetsendorf on the Leitha -
17 Oct. 44 at 14:00 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND Merrill,
FIRST NAME: Richard M.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Unknown

SERIAL NUMBER: 0-2 060 830 - T-43-44 - O/P

CAPTURED: WOUNDED: DEAD: Recovered Dead

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery at Goetsendorf on the Leitha

REMARKS:

CASUALTY NO.
NE-KSU-2302

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 - 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetzendorf - 50 steps west of water tower at
R. R. Station

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (G) 5/XVII - Goetzendorf on the Leitha - 17 Oct.
at 14:00 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND H. Lund
FIRST NAME: Horace

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: 2nd Lt.

SERIAL NUMBER: T-43-44 A/P

CAPTURED: Captured WOUNDED: DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Captured at Goetzendorf, 200 M. east of place of crash - at 12:30

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 at 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetzendorf, 50 steps west of water tower at
R. R. Station

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 3/XVII - Goetzendorf, on the Leitha -
17 October 44 at 14:00 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND R. McPherson

FIRST NAME: Edwin

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Unknown

SERIAL NUMBER: 36 862 664

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: Recovered Dead

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery in Goetzendorf on the Leitha

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 - 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetsendorf - 50 steps west of water tower
at R. R. Station - 17 Oct. 44 at 14:00 o'clock

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command & (O) 5/XVII - Goetsendorf on the Leitha -
17 Oct. 44 at 14:00 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND John F. Hoffmann
FIRST NAME: John F.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Unknown

SERIAL NUMBER: 33 618 321 - T-43-44 O/C

CAPTURED: WOUNDED: SEAS: Recovered Dead

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP: TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery in Goetsendorf on The Leitha

REMARKS:

REPORT ON SHOT-DOWN AIRCRAFT

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT

WAS SHOT DOWN: 17 October 1944 at 12:20 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH: Air Field at Goetzendorf - 50 steps west of watch tower
at R. R. Station

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Liberator No. 12944

REPORTING OFFICE: Air Base Command A (O) 3/XVII - Goetzendorf, on the Leitha -
17 Oct. 44 at 14:00 o'clock

CREW

SURNAME, AND FIRST NAME: Rigdon,
Ray W.

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK: Unknown

SERIAL NUMBER: 18189971 - T-45-44-E

CAPTURED:

WOUNDED:

DEAD: Recovered Dead

DISTRIBUTION: WHICH CAMP:

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery in Goetzendorf on the Leitha

REMARKS:

MAER 9209
 B-24
 AAF 41-29441
 10 men

		U S A		ME 2302	
DATE:	17 Oct. 44 at 1300				
PLACE:	Area of Vienna South of airfield Gostendorf	9209 10	2nd Lt. KANAS, Joe E. 2nd Lt. MILLER, JR, John H. " MERRILL, Richard M. " LUND, Horace Henry	Kia Kia Kia	0-713455 dead 0-755192 dead 0-2350830 dead 0-777488
TYPE:	Liberator 777th (H.B.) Sqd 484th Grp.	9 KIA 1 KIA	1st Sgt. HOFFMAN, John F. " MC PHERSON, Edwin E. " PRICE, MARY T " SILBERSTEIN, Frank " DOWNEY KENNETH M " RIDGON, Ray W	Kia Kia Kia Kia Kia Kia Kia	33615321 dead 38862664 dead 24466580 dead 12182209 dead 104139 dead 15188971 dead
TARGET:	HQ of airfield Parndorf Cemetery Gostendorf / L.				

Date and Time Aircraft
was shot down

17 October 1944 at 1300

Casualty Nr. ME 2302

Place of crash:

Area Vienna

Type of Aircraft:

L i b e r a t o r

Reporting Office:

Airbase Headquarter Parndorf

Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of Internment
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LUND Horace Henry
27 June 23

2nd Lt O-777488

captured Dulag Luft West

EUS

Dossing Nr. ME 2302

1. Supplement dated 21 December 1944

FRICE, MAY T.

Sgt 34466580

dead cemetery Gotsendorf/L

GILBERSTEIN Frank

Sgt 12182209

dead side

DOWNEY, KENNETH M.

Sgt 42102L39

dead side

RINDON Ray W.

Sgt 18189971

dead side

KARAS Joe E.

2nd Lt O-713465

dead

MILLER Jr. John *af*

2nd Lt O-773192

dead

MURRYLL Richard M.

2nd Lt O-2060830

dead

HOFFMAN John F.

Sgt 33618321

dead

MC PHERSON Edwin R.

Sgt 36862644

dead

all KIA

Dulag Luft 7 November 1944

MACR 9209

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
(ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Horace H. Lund, Second Lieutenant, ASN O-777488, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, depose and state that:

I am at present stationed at AAF Redistribution Station #3, Santa Monica, California, for the purpose of processing; that the Judge Advocate at this station has requested that I give certain information that I might have surrounding the alleged death of Sergeant John F. Hawkins.

On or about the 17th day of October, 1944, while I was assigned to the 464th Bombardment Group, 777th Bombardment Squadron, 15th Air Force, our plane departed on a regularly assigned bombardment mission over Germany, and one of the members of our crew was Sergeant John F. Hawkins. Our target on this mission was Vienna, Austria.

Over the aforesaid target on the aforesaid day, we received three direct hits by enemy flak and the airplane in which we were flying went into a spin. I was trying to get the nose gunner out and all of a sudden I was thrown free of the ship and landed by parachute about fifty yards from the place the airplane in which we were flying, crashed. There was practically no wind blowing on this day.

Immediately on landing I was taken into custody by members of the German army. None of the rest of my crew was in the custody of the aforesaid Germans and I saw no parachutes in the immediate area. The German Luftwaffe officer who took me prisoner told me I was the only one that came out of my ship.

I was taken from there to an air field near Vienna, Austria, and at the said air field I saw one of the dog tags of Sergeant John F. Hawkins lying on a desk; one corner of the dog tag of Sergeant John F. Hawkins was burned off.

It is my opinion that all the members of my crew were killed, except myself.

Horace H. Lund
Horace H. Lund
2nd Lt., ASN O-777488

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15 day of Aug. 1945

Shane Milkovick
SHANE MILKOVICK
Captain, Air Corps
Judge Advocate

File
B/C Ltr Chief, Notification Br, Personal Affairs Div, Asst Chief of Air Staff - 1, Hq, AAF, Washington, dtd 31 Jul 45, Subj: Second Lt. Horace H. Lund, O-777488

1st Ind. RS3AJ/ak
Hq, AAF Redistribution Station #3, Santa Monica, Calif, 26 August 45

TO: Hq, AAF, Chief, Notification Branch, Personal Affairs Division,
Asst Chief of Air Staff - 1, Washington, D.C.

Certified statement of 2nd Lt. Horace H. Lund forwarded herewith
in compliance with basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Charles E. Hammond
CHARLES E. HAMMOND
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

1 Incl:
Statement (In trip)

TWENTYEMPERSREGDRAIDSLMD 19 DEC 49 13

FOR MAJ SEKOWSKI QM LN RM 1D684 PENT URMSG 9 15 DEC ON JOHN F HAWKINS

ROSTERS OF 777TH CMB SQ 464TH BOMB GP FROM AUG TO DEC 44 SHOWS NO

JOHN F HAWKINS FIND ONE CHARLES B HAWKINS 14030404 FUTURE ADDRESS

RT 1 CLYDE NC

CCC FIRST LINE URMSG DEEEEEE URMSG 9 16 DEC RPT 16

16 Dec 49

QM Pentagon Liaison was requested to search
casualty records for a
John L. Hawkins
KIA 17 Oct 44

Miss Anderson replied that the records indicate
no John (any initials) Hawkins
to have been KIA on 17 Oct 44

E. Hatt
Ident Sect