

9298

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9298

1. ORGANIZATION: Location PANTANELLA AIR BASE Command or Air Force 15TH AF
 Group 464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Squadron 779TH BOMB SQ (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure PANTANELLA AIR BASE Course VIENNA, AUSTRIA
 Target VIENNA, AUSTRIA Type of mission BOMBING
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CPASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
HEAVY OVERCAST
4. GIVE: (a) Date 17 OCT 44 Time 1222 Last known position CZECHOSLAVAKIA (48°20'N
 (b) Specify whether: () Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information. 17°00'E)
5. AIRCRAFT (LOST) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)
 () Enemy aircraft, () Enemy anti-aircraft, () Other AIRCRAFT DROPPED FROM FORMATION.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-51663
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT NO NICKNAME. CALL NAME "BLACK ITEM"
8. ENGINES: Type, mode. & series R 1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-325212
 (b) CP-325232 (c) CP-325109 (d) CP-325239
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number.) BROWNING 50 CAL M2
 (a) 1548903 (e) 1033972 (i) 1033970
 (b) 1033458 (f) 1033949 (j) 1536969
 (c) 1033414 (g) 1034287 (k) _____
 (d) 1557421 (h) 1033471 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: () Battle Casualty, () Non-Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 1 ; 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PILOT	<u>INST RTD SOLHEID, GERALD H.</u>	<u>2D LT 0767676 MIA WIFE MRS ADELINE M. SOLHEID, 5921 CERMAK ROAD, CICERO, ILL.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PILOT	<u>4/A SALIVAR, CHARLES J.</u>	<u>2D LT 0827829 MIA FATHER MR CHARLES J. SALIVAR, 50-15 198TH ST, FLUSHING, L.I. N.Y.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CO-PILOT	<u>RTD KEATING, THOMAS P. JR.</u>	<u>2D LT 0828181 MIA MOTHER MRS ELSIE H. KEATING, 302 E. 31ST, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOMBARDIER	<u>RTD L'HOMMEDIEU, HARVEY J.</u>	<u>2D LT 02057766 MIA MOTHER MRS LORETTA D. L'HOMMEDIEU, 20 BEACH ROAD, GREAT NECK, L.I. N.Y.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVIGATOR	<u>RTD AUNGST, RUSSELL J.</u>	<u>F/O T127561 MIA WIFE MRS GLADYS M. AUNGST, 269 SO. MAIN ST, PINE GROVE, PA.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENG GNR	<u>NYE, VICTOR M.</u>	<u>CPL 33678474 MIA FATHER MR VICTOR K. NYE, 1705 MEADVILLE ST, PITTSBURGH, PA.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AERIAL GNR	<u>WILKINSON, HARVEY O.</u>	<u>CPL 33766535 MIA WIFE MRS RUTH M. WILKINSON, 125 SUMMIT AVE, JERSEY CITY, N. J.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO GNR	<u>R/D HARDER, DONALD E.</u>	<u>CPL 17079748 MIA WIFE MRS PHYLLIS M. HARDER, RURAL RT #3, BLUE EARTH, MINN.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AERIAL GNR	<u>PIERCE, FRANK R. JR.</u>	<u>CPL 36894220 MIA MOTHER MRS CHRISTINE PIERCE, 421 ABLINGTON DR, BIRMINGHAM, MICH.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARM GNR	<u>COLLUM, KENNETH D.</u>	<u>CPL 32423801 MIA FATHER MR CHARLES COLLUM, 5218 SKILLMAN AVE, NEW YORK, N. Y.</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AERIAL GNR	<u>BECKER, JAMES E.</u>	<u>CPL 16116093 MIA MOTHER MRS DOROTHY BECKER, 5621 N. BAY RIDGE AVE, MILWAUKEE, WIS.</u>

- (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 SIGHTED CPASH LANDING
(1) <u>DONOVAN A. HIMEBAUGH</u>	<u>SGT</u>	<u>35913879</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(2) <u>JAMES W. HOLLEY</u>	<u>S/SGT</u>	<u>19071911</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(3)					

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 reasons (specify) AT NO TIME WAS ANYONE SEEN TO PARACHUTE FROM THE AIRCRAFT.
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 WAS MADE AS AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OVER ENEMY TERRITORY.

3 Inclosures.
 INCL 1 - STATEMENT Date 19 OCTOBER 1944 OF SGT HIMEBAUGH (SEPTUP)
 INCL 2 - STATEMENT OF SGT HOLLEY (SEPTUP)
 INCL 3 - MAP OF AREA WHERE PLANE LAST SEEN (SEPTUP)

Signature of preparing officer
Alderson Timmons
 CAPT., AIR CORPS,
 ADJUTANT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9248-2

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

18 OCTOBER 1944

ON THE 17 OCTOBER 1944 WE BOMBED A TARGET IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA. ABOUT 10 MINUTES AFTER BOMBS AWAY, APPROXIMATELY 1222, I SAW "BLACK ITEM", FLOWN BY 2D LT SALIVAR, DROP FROM THE FORMATION. FROM ALL EXTERIOR SIGNS THERE WAS APPARENTLY NOTHING WRONG WITH THE AIRCRAFT AS HE STAYED AT ALTITUDE ALRIGHT BUT WAS UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE FORMATION. AT NO TIME DID I SEE ANYONE BAIL OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT.

Donovan A. Himebaugh
DONOVAN A. HIMEBAUGH,
SGT, 35913879
779TH BOMB SQ (H)
464TH BOMB GP (H)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

9297-3

18 OCTOBER 1944

ON THE 17 OCTOBER 1944 WE BOMBED A TARGET IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA. AFTER WE HAD CLEARED THE FLAK AREA THE CO-PILOT CALLED BACK AND ASKED US IF WE COULD SEE "BLACK ITEM", FLOWN BY 2D LT SALIVAR. THE TAIL GUNNER, SGT HIMEBAUGH, SAID THAT HE SAW HIM TRAILING THE FORMATION. I LOOKED BACK AND SAW A B-24 TRAILING OUR FORMATION BUT COULD NOT SEE HIS MARKINGS. HOWEVER, AT NO TIME DID I SEE ANY MEN BAIL OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT.

James W. Holley
JAMES W. HOLLEY,
S/SGT, 19071911
779TH BOMB SQ (H)
464TH BOMB GP (H)

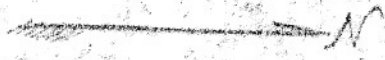
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

9298-4X

BOMBING OF WEIN
10/17/44

WIEN



AUSTRIA

BOHMO

17° 00' E



EAST STERN

CZECH.

HUNGARY

500000
500000

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9298

Name of crew member: SALIVAR, Charles J.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-827829
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~managing team (flight team)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? YESWhere? KISTANJE, JUGOSLAVIA

If not, why not? _____

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

"Good Luck"Was he injured? BROKE 1 LEGWhere was he when last seen? THE ENGLISH HOSPITAL ON THE ISLE OF VIS (Adriatic)

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Well AND healthy. the LAST I heard he WAS
ON HIS WAY HOME TO GET MARRIED

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct. 10, 1944 - VIENNA Oct. 15, 1944 - VIENNA
Oct. 17, 1944 - VIENNA

All MEMBERS OF THIS CREW EVENTUALLY RETURNED
SAFELY TO Allied HANDS.

Gerald H. Solheid
Lt. G. H. Solheid 6-3861, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9298

Name of crew member: **SALIVAE, Charles J.**
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-827839**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~0-827839 (Bomber)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? *****

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Was not injured in any way prior to bailing out. Contacted him two days later (Oct. 19)

Was he injured? His right leg was injured in bailing out.

Where was he when last seen? He was returned to allied control in Bari, Italy

Any hearsay information: on or about 23 Oct 44 and returned to US for further hospitalization. Later stationed at separation center Greensborough N.C. on temporary limited duty. This is not just hearsay, I was an usher at his wedding in Sept 1945.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: (refer to above)

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

THOMAS P. KEATING JR.
 1st. Lt. A.C. 0-828181
 302 E. 31 St. Baltimore Md.
 6-3861, AF

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9220

Name of crew member: SALIVAN, Charles J.
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: 0-527020
 Position: Crew (Bomber) on Flight (Eighteen): Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NORTH AND EAST OF BANGKOVIC YUGOSLAVIA

If not, why not? _____

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

JUST GAVE WORD TO JUMP AS WE WERE LOW ON GAS AND NO PLACE TO LAND

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? HE CAME BACK TO ITALY WITH US AT BARI ^{LAST SEEN} ITALY

Any hearsay information: HE WENT HOME FROM BARI (TO NEW YORK)

ON A HOSPITAL SHIP.

Source: FROM MY COPILOT T.P. KRATING

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

BEFORE HE BAILED OUT HE LANDED IN A ROCK PIKE AND SPRAINED HIS ANKLE. WE FOUND OUT LATER, IT WAS BROKEN.

Total number of missions of above crew member: (3) THREE ?

Dates and destinations if possible: ONLY ONE I KNOW IS OUR MISSION WE BAILED OUT - THAT WAS OCTOBER 17 1944 TO VIENNA AUSTRIA.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9397

Name of crew member: **RALIVAR, Charles J.**
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-027029**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight (Fighter)~~: **Pilot**

PPA-8
 (2)

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? North Central Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

"O.K. Men, you can bail at will."

Was he injured? Right ankle broken

Where was he when last seen? Island of Vis

Any hearsay information: made 1st Lt. in Naples Hospital.

Last contact; Engagement notice from Mitchell Field Hospital.

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 1

Dates and destinations if possible: Oct. 17, 1944 - Vienna

"South Ordinance Works"

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 9263

Name of crew member: **SALIVAR, Charles J.**
 Rank: **2nd Lt.**
 Serial number: **0-7829**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~in the (Bomber)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

Bail out instructions from the pilot

Was he injured? Yes

Where was he when last seen? In the air just after he bailed out

Any hearsay information: I was picked up by Chetris and bailed out. They said some of the crew had been picked up by the Partisans and that some of them had been injured

Source: Chetris Soldier

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

turned over to allied control by the Partisans on the Island of Vis in the Adriatic. From there he was sent to Bari Italy where he was treated for a fractured ankle. Later he was sent to Mitchell Field N.Y.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 2

Dates and destinations if possible: The last one was flown over

Vienna on 17 Oct. 1944. I do not remember the other as I did not fly with him on his first mission

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HARVEY O. WILKINSON Rank EX. SGT Serial No. 33766530
4648.6P
2. Organization 779ASGP Commander _____ Rank _____ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month 10 day 17 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, VIENNA, target, _____, target
time, _____, altitude, 24000 route scheduled, _____
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? JUST OFF THE TARGET
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". All crew members bailed out safely near Strehlin Yugoslavia. Two were taken prisoner by the Germans. Two including myself were held ten months by Yugoslavians. One was picked up by Yugoslavian partisans.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
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? all crew members are either discharged or in the U.S.A.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____