5459

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by
by
Date MAR 15 1946

RESTRICTED

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HIN AC 1011

11. INDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO OR BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

1. The plane was last seen by members of the 82nd Fighter Group, name of the person or persons who last saw the plane are not available.

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parchutes were used yes (b) Persons were walking away from scene of crash ____ or (c) Any other reason (Specify) ____

RECEIVED

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CICUUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None.

Date of Report 11 May 1944.

William W. Berg

WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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18-19

5455

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification changed to RESTRICTED by [illegible], Col., AC by [illegible], Capt., AC Date MAR 15 1946

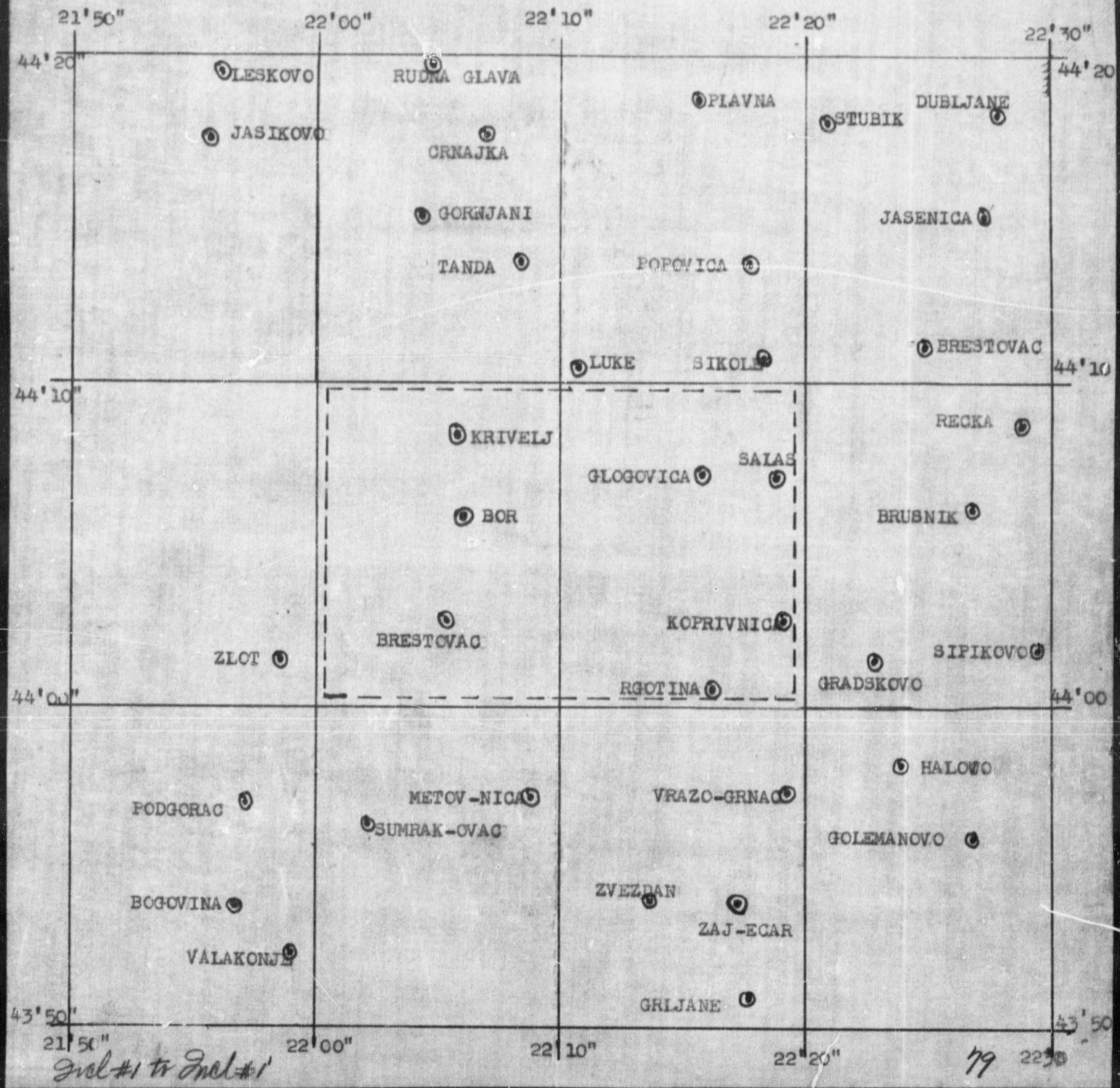
1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Fld, Italy. Command or Air Force 15th Air Force. Group 455th Bomb Group; Squadron 742nd Bomb Sqdn; Detachment ____.
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Fld, Italy; Course from San Giovanni Fld, Italy to 4216N/1854 E, to 4240N/1910E, to 4412N/2247E, to 4506N/2422E, to IP, to target. Intended Destination Campina Marshalling Yards and Military Installations, Rumania. Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Base to middle of Adritric, clear. From there to coast, a band of stratocumulus, 10/10, tops at 5,000 feet, Over mountains to target, patches of cirrus at 30,000 feet, visibility 8 to 10 miles in haze. At target, 2/10 to 3/10 cirrus at 30,000 feet, visibility 8 to 10 miles at target.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 6 May 1944; Time 1049, and location lost in the area of Bor, Yugoslavia (b) Specify whether (X)Last Sighted; ( ) Last contacted by radio; ( ) Forced down; ( ) Seen to crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF : (Check only one (X) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances as follows ____:
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24-H: AAF Serial Number 42-52282.
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43; AAF Serial Number (a) CP-300682 (b) CP-307382 (c) CP-301537 (d) CP-301571.
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below make, Type and Serial Number) all are Browning Air-Craft Machine Guns, Type M-2. (a) 681325 (b) 1152997 (c) 218246 (d) 1150948 (e) 1153145 (f) 681624 (g) 1152856 (h) 1153190 (i) 1151275 (j) 1152988 (k)
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS (a) Battle Casualty yes or Non-Battle Casualty ____.
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10, Passengers None, Total 10. (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft, list particulars on a seprate sheet and attach original to

1. Pilot	Beck, William A Jr	1st Lt	0745590
2. Co-Pilot	Bunata, Joseph M	2nd Lt	0748554 RTD
3. Navigator	Thomas, Joseph S	2nd Lt	0727353
4. Bombardier	Dowling, Matthew J	2nd Lt	0688321
5. Radio Operator Gun	Sefcik, Martin J	T Sgt	13038064
6. Engineer Gun	Crummy, John J	S Sgt	11084038 RTD
7. Asst Radio Op. Gun	Shelton, James W	S Sgt	38395508
8. Gunner	DuVal, Harry W	S Sgt	13119901
9. Asst Engineer Gun	Carswell, Gerald B	T Sgt	16021695
10. Armorer Gunner	Kraus, Henry W	S Sgt	32639845

Encl #1

77

BOR COPPER MINES, YUGOSLAVIA. TARGET CHART NO. 8-20-NA. SCALE 1:250,000.



Incl #1 to Incl #1

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First Lieutenant William A. Beck, Jr.	Mrs. William A. Beck (Mother) 215 Rigsby, San Antonio, Texas.
Second Lieutenant Joseph M. Bunata	Mr. Michael S. Bunata (Father) 1603 Pine Street, Pueblo, Colorado.
Second Lieutenant Joseph S. Thomas	Mrs. Catherine Z. Thomas (Mother) 519 Percy Street, Greensboro, North Carolina.
Second Lieutenant Matthew J. Dowling	Mrs. Patrick Dowling (Sister-in-law) 110 Cherry Street, Perrysburg, Ohio.
Technical Sergeant Martin J. [illegible]	Mr. Anton Sefcik (Father) Rural Free Delivery Number Five, Butler, Pennsylvania.
Staff Sergeant John J. Crummey	Mrs. Mabel Crummey (Mother) Box 83 East Barrington, Deerfield, New Hampshire.
Staff Sergeant James W. Shelton	Mr. James F. Shelton (Father) General Delivery, Ryan, Oklahoma.
Staff Sergeant Harry W. DuVal	Mrs. Lelia E. DuVal (Mother) 123 Bellamy Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia.
Staff Sergeant Henry W. Kraus	Mrs. Lillian Kraus (Mother) 1630 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, New York.
Technical Sergeant Gerald B. Carswell	Mrs. Bertha W. Carswell (Mother) Rural Route Number One, Menomonie, Wisconsin.

STATEMENT

My flight had just set course for home when we saw a lone B-24 being attacked by three ME 109's. We were about three miles away at the time. We started to give chase. As we approached the bomber started to smoke and the crew proceeded to bail out. I noticed four chutes open and one that didn't. Another of the group noticed the four open and three that didn't.

Joseph Cardimona

JOSEPH CARDIMONA,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

CONFIDENTIAL

STATEMENT

We had just been jumped by enemy fighters over the Danube when I saw a lone B-24 turning around and heading back. Shortly afterwards, when the bomber was about 4 miles away, I saw three (3) Me 109's making a pass at this same bomber - 2 coming in from the side and one from above. I directed my flight towards this attack but before coming into range I saw a large fire on the bombers left wing, near the fuselage. Then it started down in a sloppy spiral. Just as we passed the bomber in pursuit of the enemy aircraft I saw four (4) chutes come out and open. That is all I saw. We were in the vicinity of Bor Copper mines, Yugoslavia.

Terrance M. Coleman
TERRENCE M. COLEMAN,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
96th Fighter Squadron.

Encl 2

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2 copies

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STATEMENT

We had just broken off a fight with enemy aircraft over the Danube when a bomber called in that it was being attacked by 3 FW 190's. About 4 or 5 miles away I saw a lone bomber and directed my flight towards it. As we came within range I saw it smoking heavily and as it rolled up on its side I saw a large fire under the nose. A total of seven (7) chutes came out, four (4) of which opened and three (3) were streamers. We continued past the B-24 in pursuit of the enemy aircraft, which were 3 Me 109's. I did not see bomber again. It was spiralling as we passed by.

Pelton W. Ellis

PELTON W. ELLIS,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.
96th Fighter Squadron.

Re: Lt Beck's crew

Encl 1

81

STATEMENT

Our flight was a few miles east of the Danube river when we noticed a B-24 being attacked by 3 ME 109's. We headed for the B-24 but before our flight could reach the bomber it was on fire and starting to spin down. I saw five men parachuting down. 2 were open, 3 failed to open. The bomber crashed in flames just west of the Danube.

Harold W Houston

HAROLD W. HOUSTON,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

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1065

AG 360.33 4th Ind. S: 1 June 1944 C/JF/jr
HQ 306TH WING (US), APO 520, 25 May 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 82nd Fighter Group, APO 520.

1. For compliance with 3rd Indorsement and return through this headquarters.

By command of Brigadier General STROTHER:

J. Friedman

J. FRIEDMAN,
Capt, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

A-1

AG 360.33 5th Ind. (C/a/f)
Hq 82nd Fighter Gp, APO 520, 1 June 1944.

283 To: CG, 306th Wing, APO 520.

1. Statements of Lts. Cardimona and Houston relative to crash of B-24 aircraft are enclosed herewith.

For the Group Commander:

D. A. Suddeth

D. A. SUDDETH,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

3 Incl:
Added 2 Incl.
Incl 2 - Stmt of Lt Cardimona (quin)
Incl 3 - Stmt of Lt Houston (quinn)

CONFIDENTIAL

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AG 360.33 6th Ind. 5459 C/JF/jne
HQ 306TH WING (US), APO 520, 3 June 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

65

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

307

J. FRIEDMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst Adjutant.

3 Incls: n/c.

AG 360.33 7th Ind. GP-hm/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 10 June 1944.

5809

TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534. Attn: Casualty Branch, AGD.

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR L-78, dated 14 May 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 14 May 1944.

For the Commanding General:

HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 (dup).

CONFIDENTIAL

INCL #4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

455th Bombardment Group (H)
742nd Bombardment Squadron (H)

360.33

APO 520 U. S. Army
11 May 1944

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer 455th Bombardment Group (H) APO 520 U. S. Army

1. Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Report of 1st Lt. William A. Beck Jr and crew missing in action over Yugoslavia since 6 May 1944.

2. Statement of missing Aircraft will be forwarded as soon as it is received by this organization.

For the Commanding Officer:

William W. Berg

WILLIAM W. BERG,
1st Lieut., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl:
MACR of Lt. Beck and crew with 1 Incl.

360.33 1st Ind G-CO-3
HQ 455TH BOMB GROUP (H), APO 520, 12 May 1944.

TO: CG, 304th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520.

1. Forwarded.

2. Battle Casualty Report was forwarded your headquarters 10 May 1944.

For the Group Commander:

C. A. OLSON,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: n/c

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360.33 C-DB-4 2nd Ind.
HQ 304TH BOMB WING (HV), APO 520, 12 May 44.
TO: CG, XVAF, APO 520.

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.

2. Eye witness statements from members of the 82nd Fighter Group, are not available at the present time, but will be forwarded as soon as they reach this Headquarters.

For the Commanding Officer:

15-261
(560)

Harold G. Wilson
HAROLD G. WILSON,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

1 Incl: MAC Rpt Lt Beck and Crew
w/1 incl (quin)

1731
(521c)
A-1

AG 360.33 3rd Ind. S: 3 June 44 GP-hm/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 22 May 1944.

TO: CG, 306th Wing, APO 520.

1. Attention invited to paragraph 11 of inclosed MAC Report.

2. Desire signed statements be prepared from personnel of 82nd Fighter Group who have knowledge of probable fate of missing aircraft.

By command of Major General TWINING:

Harold B. Nekly
HAROLD B. NEKLY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl: n/c