

13129

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. Brandunas, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. Muench, Capt., AC
Date OCT 15 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

13129

PANTANELLA AAF, ITALY

Command or Air Force 15th AF

Group 444TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

Squadron 778TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

2. SPECIFY: Place of departure PANTANELLA AAF, ITALY Course 246°

Target HEILIGENSTADT M/Y, VIENNA, AUSTRIA type of mission BOMBING

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

2/10 to 3/10 Low Cumulus, tops 1000', visibility 15 miles.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 22 Mar 45 Time 1250 Last known position 48° 10'N 16° 17'E, AUSTRIA

(b) Specify whether: [] Last sighted, [] Forced down, [X] 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 24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49146

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT NONE

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R 1830-65 AAF Serial Number (a) BP-425910

(b) BP-453377 (c) BP-447540 (d) BP-453338

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) All Browning .50 Cal Machine Guns

(a) Left Nose 1062873 (c) Left Waist 1765439 (i) Left Tail 1180756

(b) Right Nose 1063606 (j) Right Waist 1763045 (ii) Right Tail 1192415

(c) Left Upper 1080578 (k) Left Ball 1081035 (k)

(d) Right Upper 1080511 (l) Right Ball 1063212 (l)

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: [X] Battle Casualty, [] Non Battle Casualty.

11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers; Total 9

[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	WILSON LYLE J	2d Lt MIA	Sara Wilson Mother RTD Macon, Mississippi
2) PMP	WEHMAN ROY C	2d Lt MIA	Roy C. Wehman Father RTD 315 So. Fifth St, Union City, Tenn
3) PMP	FIGGINS JAMES P JR	2d Lt MIA	James P. Figgins, Sr Father 7327 Walnut St, Kansas City, Mo.
4) PMP	WOJCIK STANLEY A	Sgt MIA	Marie L. Wojcik Wife RTD 570 W. 189 St, New York, N.Y.
5) PMP	PARENT MAURICE C	Sgt MIA	Joseph Parent Father RTD 320 Pine St, Lewiston, Maine
6) PMP	HORVATH JOSEPH J	Cpl MIA	Joseph Horvath Father RTD 23 Cranston St, Fairfield, Conn
7) PMP	PETTIT RICHARD F	Cpl MIA	Carma Pettit Mother Pattonville, Texas
8) PMP	SCOOPES LESLIE JR	Cpl MIA	Leslie Scoopes Father RTD 120 Tensja, Raton, N.M.
9) PMP	AULD JAMES A	Cpl MIA	Winnie M. Auld Wife RTD 700 Des Moines Bldg, Des Moines, Iowa

APR 9 1945



12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE [one only] COLUMN INDICATE BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE: CONTACTED LAST SAW FORCED BY RADIO SIGHTED CRASH LANDING

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No.	BY RADIO	SIGHTED	CRASH	LANDING
(1) CRUDO, JOSEPH J.	Sgt	32719637		X		
(2) BARILLA, DOMINICK S.	Cpl	15073700			X	
(3)						

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.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

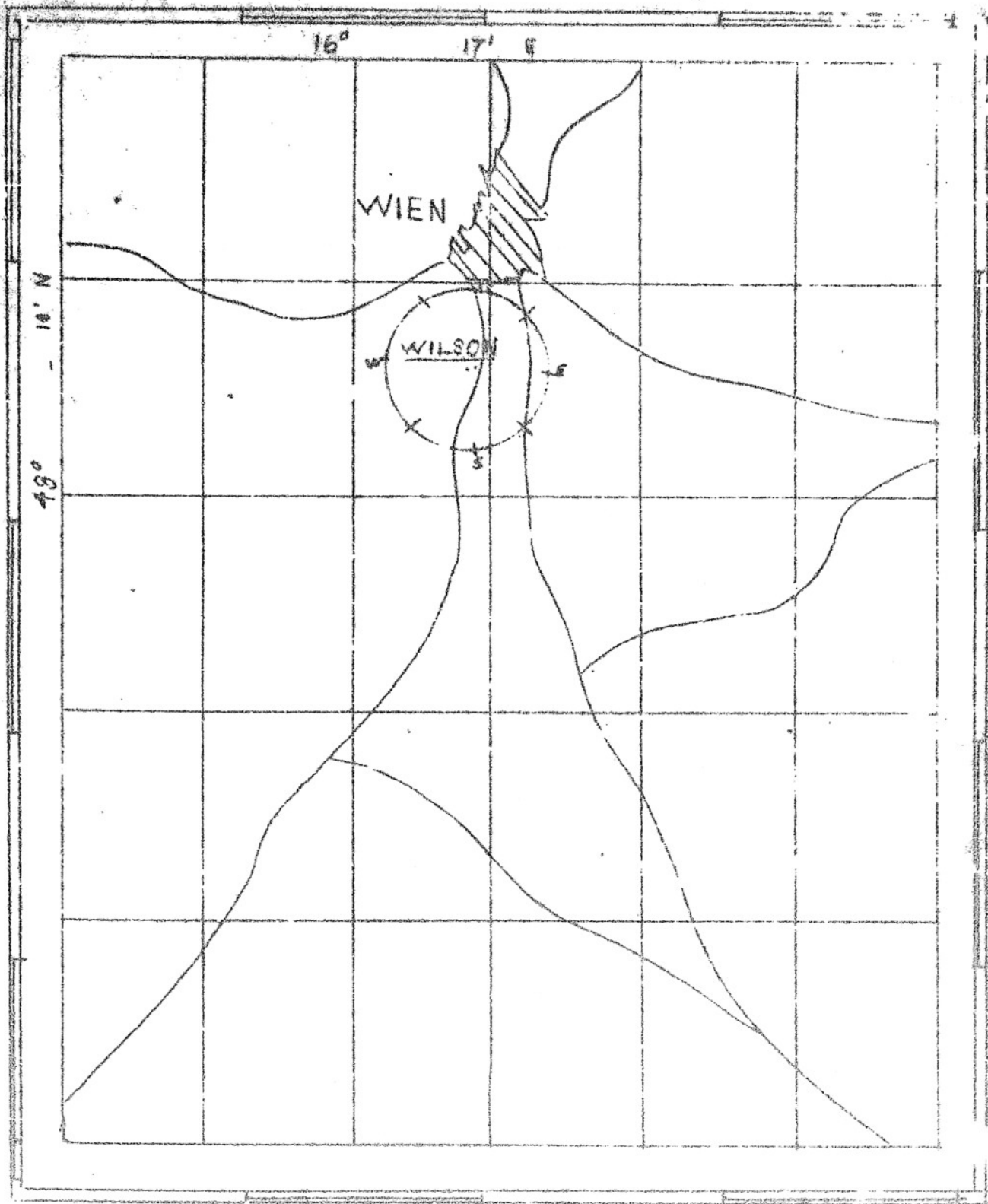
16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE No search

3 Inclusions: Incl 1-Sketch: Date 24 Mar 45 Richard J. Brown, Jr. Signature of preparing officer

Incl 2-Statements: CONFIDENTIAL RICHARD F. BROWN, JR., CAPT, USAF

Incl 1

3/22/45



$48^{\circ} 10' N$
 $16^{\circ} 17' E$

Sheet 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23 March 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying ball turret, in number 23 position Dog Box. After bombs away I noticed that No 3 engine on White F was on fire. The plane stayed under control for about a minute during which time the ship veered to the right. Approximately six (6) bursts of flak followed the ship which rolled over and went into a right spin. No 3 engine was still burning but the fire did not seem to have spread. I saw four (4) men leave the ship.

Joseph J. Crudo

JOSEPH J. CRUDO
Sgt, 32719637
778th Bomb Sq (H).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl 2'

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23 March 1945

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying left waist on Lt McGovern's crew in White E, number 31 position, Baker Box. Immediately after we released our bombs and had started to rally right, I was at the right waist window when Lt McGovern called on the interphone that White F was peeling off to the left. I rushed to the left waist window and observed a silver ship spinning left. I observed no markings nor did I see any fire. I saw three (3) parachutes open, then three (3) more, and then two (2) more for a total of eight (8). I watched the plane until it hit the ground and burst into flames.

Dominick S. Barilla
DOMINICK S. BARILLA
Cpl, 15073700
778th Bomb Sq (H)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Incl 3'

2nd Lt. James P. Higgins, Jr.

Mr. James P. Higgins (father)
7327 Walnut Street
Kansas City, Missouri

2nd Lt. Roy C. Wehman

Mr. Roy C. Wehman (father)
315 South 5th Street
Union City, Tennessee

2nd Lt. Lyle J. Wilson

Mrs. Sara T. Wilson (mother)
Macon, Mississippi

Mrs. Lyle J. Wilson (wife)
Route 93
Macon, Mississippi

Sgt. Stanley A. Wojcik

Mrs. Marie L. Wojcik (wife)
570 West 189th Street
New York, New York

Sgt. Maurice C. Parent

Mr. Joseph Parent (father)
320 Pine Street
Leviston, Maine

Cpl James A. Auld

Mrs. Winnie A. Auld (mother)
700 Des Moines Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Cpl. Leslie Scoops, Jr.

Mr. Leslie Scoops (father)
120 Terraja
Baton, New Mexico

Cpl. Richard F. Pettit

Mrs. Carona Pettit (mother)
Pattenville, Texas

Cpl. Joseph J. Horvath

Mr. Joseph Horvath (father)
23 Cranston Street
Fairfield, Connecticut

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WILSON, LYLE J. Rank 2ND LT. Serial No. 0-677178
2. Organization 464TH GROUP Gp Commander BYRD Rank COL. SqN CO MARTIN, SHERMAN F. Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, MARSHALLING YARDS, target, VIENNA, target time, 13:55, altitude, 23,500 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? HIT 5 SECONDS BEFORE BOMBS AWAY - LAGGED BEHIND - DID NOT LEAVE FORMATION UNTIL AFTER BOMBS AWAY
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 THROUGH BOMBAY APPROXIMATELY 14:20 - IN HUNGARY
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? SAW CORPORAL JAMES R. DULD IN CORPORAL PABLES AUGUST 1945 - SAW LT. JAMES P. FIGGINS IN SAN ANTONIO IN OCTOBER 1945 - ALL CREW MEMBERS ARE IN U.S. IN GOOD CONDITION -
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)

File # 13129

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

FIGGINS, James P. Jr,

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-2070259

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~W/Flight/Navigator~~:

Bombardier

Did he bail out? YESWhere? HUNGARY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: TALKED TOHIM JUST BEFORE WE BAILED OUT-Was he injured? NOWhere was he when last seen? SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS-

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 22

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

PETTIT, Richard F.

Rank:

Cpl.

Serial number:

88 627 581

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Flight/Navigator~~:

Gunner

Did he bail out? YESWhere? HUNGARY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: TALKED TOHIM JUST BEFORE WE BAILED OUTWas he injured? NOWhere was he when last seen? THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM; HOWEVER HE WAS SEEN BY CORP. JAMES A. AULD IN MIAMI BEACH AUGUST 1945.Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

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

_____Total number of missions of above crew member: 14Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WEHMAN, Roy C Rank 1ST LT. Serial No. 0-334073
2. Organization 464 Bn. Gp Commander B. E. O Rank Col Sqn CO SHERMAN F MARTIN Rank Mjr
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Vienna, target, Vienna - NORTH NY, target time, 12:50?, altitude, 23500 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER 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 MEMBERS BAILED OUT - ALL REACHED THE GROUND WITHOUT SERIOUS CASUALTY.
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? I SAW ALL EXCEPT PETTIT - PETTIT WAS REPORTED SAFE BY OTHER MEMBERS OF CREW WHO SAW HIM.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. ALL CREW WAS SAVED - ALL WERE LIBERATED AT MOSEBURG - I BELIEVE ALL REACHED U.S. SAFELY.

(Any additional) information may be written on the back)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name James A. Auld Rank Sgt. Serial No. 17066021
2. Organization 15th ABP Commander Unknown Rank _____ Sqn CO Unknown Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 22 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Vienna, target time, About 12:50, altitude, About 21,000 Ft. route scheduled, Unknown, route flown Unknown
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Vienna
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". I was third out of the plane. I met all of them later on the ground.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Unknown
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? None
12. What was their condition? -----
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? We were all at Stalogue seven A Moosburg Germany, on May 29, 1945, When we were released by American forces.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

File # 15159

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

FIDGINS, James P. Jr.

Rank:

Sgt Lt.

Serial number:

O-507883

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

Bombardier

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Over west occupied HungaryIf not, why not? ---Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: UnknownWas he injured? He received a sprained ankle as a result of the jump.Where was he when last seen? At the RAMP camp at La Harve.

Any hearsay information: I recieved a telegram from him about June 15, 1945
after he had returned to the States. My last report was that
he was stationed at an army air base in Texas.

Source: --- . I was told by my pilot .

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He is undoubtedly
some place here in the states.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown.Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown

File # 14120

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: PETTY, Richard F.
 Rank: Cpl.
 Serial number: 58 027 562
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Guar. AF

Did he bail out? Yes, he was the first man out of the plane, I saw him leave.

Where? Over west occupied Hungary.

If not, why not? -----

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

Was he injured? Unknown.

Where was he when last seen? At Miami Beach Florida about Aug. 8, 1945

Any hearsay information: He told me he was to go to a convalescent hospital
in Colorado.

Source: ---

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None, he is
undoubtedly in the states.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown.

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown