

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

124173062

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Mandria, Italy Command or Air Force 5th Air Force
 Group 450th Bombardment (M) Station 721st Bombardment (M)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Monte Air Base, Italy Course North
 Target Klaner-Mauthausen I/T, Austria Type of mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
 Thick layer of broken stratus clouds based at 10,000 ft., tops to 11,500 feet.
 Moderate rain-falling conditions were present in the clouds.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 16 March 1945 Time 1100 Last known position 42°00'N-17°00'E
 (b) Specify whether: (X) Last sighted, () Forced down, () Seen to crash,
 () Last contacted by radio, () No information.
5. AIRCRAFT (OST) ~~BOEING B-29~~ AS A RESULT OF: (X) Back one only
 () Enemy aircraft, () Enemy ant-aircraft, () Other Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-29 AAF Serial Number 42-64448
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Bombs Up"
8. ENGINES: Type, model & make P&W R-2800 AAF Serial Number (s) 42-65211
 (a) W 430201 (b) 42-90203 (c) CP 32254
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) All Browning air-cooled M-1
 (a) 359768 (b) 999733 (c) 359673
 (d) 359516 (e) 359727 (f) 999600
 (g) 359701 (h) 359712 (i) _____
 (j) 359572 (k) 1284097 (l) _____

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, () Non-Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
 (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 AND ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
<i>DEB</i>	Pilot <u>HARRIS, ROBERT F.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>O-634425</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Marian Ella Harris, wife,</u> <u>1021 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, New Jersey.</u>	<u>Wife</u>
<i>DEB</i>	CP <u>NOSSKEA, WESLEY S.</u>	<u>F/O.</u>	<u>T-64481</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Vera Koszka, mother, Box 76,</u> <u>Agawam, Long Island, New York.</u>	<u>Mother</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>W. HENKA, HAROLD H.</u>	<u>2d Lt.</u>	<u>O-6074435</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. Edward Henka, father, 201 South</u> <u>20th Street, St. Joseph, Missouri.</u>	<u>Father</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>ABO, Davis, Frank A.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>20362020</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Catharine L. Davis, mother,</u> <u>2032 First</u>	<u>Mother</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>ROG Dumont, Henry J.</u>	<u>Col.</u>	<u>31383608</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mr. Joseph S. Dumont, father,</u> <u>3 Main Street, Fairfield, Maine.</u>	<u>Father</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>ALLEN, Thomas J.</u>	<u>Col.</u>	<u>42001616</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Mary M. Tomarsak, mother,</u> <u>151 West 26th Street, Bayonne, New Jersey.</u>	<u>Mother</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>ANDR, Cecile, Tony, Pvt.</u>	<u>39013712</u>		<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Frances Oehl, sister,</u> <u>205 West 6th Street, Walsenburg, Colorado.</u>	<u>Sister</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>AD Shaffer, Richard B.</u>	<u>Col.</u>	<u>33094756</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Gertrude E. Shaffer, mother,</u> <u>633 Puffer Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.</u>	<u>Mother</u>
<i>DEB</i>	<u>AAQ Quinn, George F.</u>	<u>Col.</u>	<u>37109708</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Mrs. Katherine T. Quinn, mother,</u> <u>505 South Madison, Ottumwa, Iowa.</u>	<u>Mother</u>

- (10) _____
- (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 BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED (BUSH LANDING)	SAW	FOREFD
(a) <u>Charles P. Bilyew, Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>39561175</u>			<u>X</u>	
(b) <u>Alton H. Hinton</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>39141935</u>			<u>X</u>	

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 (O) Parachute were used. (X) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash.
 (X) Other rescue (Specify) _____ (X) Search was made under control at an altitude of 8,000 feet.
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 DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH. A search was not conducted by this unit. Search was not available at this headquarters.

3 Inclosures: - Statement, Date 21 March 1945
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 3 - _____

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HEADQUARTERS
150TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), JAF
APO 520 US AFHQ

20 March 1945

On 15 March 1945, our group was on a mission to bomb the marshalling yards at Wiener-Neustadt, Austria. I was flying as tail turret gunner in ship number 506 in the number five (5) position of the first (1st) box in the second (2d) attack unit. Lieutenant Harris was pilot of a B-24D type aircraft, serial number 42-64448, nicknamed "Bottoms Up", flying in the number ten (10) position of the same box. Enroute to the target, just before the rendezvous point, the formation was approaching a dense cloud. I was standing by the left waist window waiting for the formation to go into the cloud so that I could watch the other aircraft in the formation to be certain that they did not get too close to my ship while flying through this cloud. At this point, I could see Lieutenant Harris's aircraft in the formation. As the formation went through the cloud, I continued to watch and each time there was a break in the cloud I would observe what the other aircraft were doing. About the second (2d) or third (3d) break in the cloud, I saw Lieutenant Harris's aircraft banked to the left on an approximate ninety degree (90°) bank and was in a climb of approximately thirty degrees (30°) and then the cloud covered my view of this aircraft. This is the last time, I saw Lieutenant Harris's aircraft. The ship was under control and nothing was visibly wrong with the ship. The altitude was approximately eight thousand feet (8,000'). The time was 1100. The coordinates were 46°00'N-17°00'E. When the ship I was flying in broke away from the formation. When we came out of the cloud, the formation was reformed but Lieutenant Harris's aircraft was not in sight. I did not see any parachutes leave the ship.

Charles P. Bilby, Jr.

CHARLES P. BILBY, JR.,
3956117,
Sergeant.

Incl 1 to Incl 1

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HEADQUARTERS
150TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAE
APO 520 US ARMY

20 March 1945

On 16 March 1945, our group was on a mission to bomb the marshalling yards at Wiener-Neustadt, Austria. I was flying as waist gunner (right) in ship number 600 in the number nine (9) position of the first (1st) box in the second (2d) attack unit. Lieutenant Harris was pilot of a B-24E type aircraft, serial number 42-64448, nicknamed "Bottoms Up", flying in the number ten (10) position of the same element. Enroute to the target, just before the rendezvous point, the formation went through a dense cloud. As the formation began to fly through this cloud, I could see Lieutenant Harris's aircraft in the right lane flying slightly lower than it would normally be. As the cloud got heavier, the ship went out of sight. This is the last time I saw Lieutenant Harris's aircraft. The ship was under control and nothing was visibly wrong with the ship. The ship I was flying in continued through the cloud for approximately ten (10) minutes and when we came out, the formation was reformed. But Lieutenant Harris's aircraft was not in sight. I did not see any parachutes leave the ship.

Alfred E. Minato

ALFRED E. MINATO,
39341925,
Sergeant.

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SKETCH SHOWING LOCATION WHERE LT. HARRIS'S
AIRCRAFT #42-64448 WAS LAST SEEN.

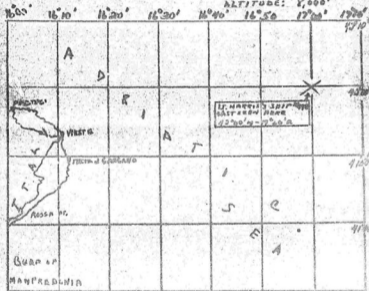
Type B-24H

DATE: 16 MARCH 1946

TIME: 1100

POSITION: 42°00'N-17°00'E

ALTITUDE: 8,000'



SCALE 10 STATUTE MILES.

Incl 3 to Incl 1

SKETCH DRAWN FROM 1/50000
SECTIONAL MAP OF HARRIS