

10647



Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. [REDACTED], Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

Date 20 1 5 1951



MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

10647

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or Air Force 15th AF  
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bombardment Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course Odertal, Germany  
 Target Odertal, Germany Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Clear visibility 5 to 10 miles.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 26 Dec 44 Time 1237 Last known position Germany 50°19'N 17°23'E  
 (b) Specify whether:  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,  Enemy anti aircraft,  Other Circumstances unknown possible mechanical

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 J AAF Serial Number 42-78618 difficulty.

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT No Nickname. Call Name "Black Fox"

8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) CP-326869  
 (b) BP-451089 (c) BP-451249 (d) BP-453961

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: [Make, type and serial number] Browning 50 Cal M2  
 (a) 1259109 (c) 1259306 (i) 1258809  
 (b) 1259284 (d) 1259113 (j) 1259082  
 (e) 1281239 (g) 1281106 (k) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (f) 1280828 (h) 1281183 (l) \_\_\_\_\_

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS:  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)<br>RANK, SERIAL NUMBER | CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP<br>STATUS AND ADDRESS |
|---------------|---|---|
|---------------|---|---|

- |               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| 1) Pilot      | <u>Tuomey, Kenneth R.</u><br><u>Joe Ann Tuomey, 8236 S. Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.</u>            | <u>2d Lt 0705267 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>   |
| 2) Co-Pilot   | <u>Faber, Bernard H.</u><br><u>Dorothy S. Faber, 579 Yale Ave., Hillside, New Jersey.</u>        | <u>2d Lt 0716084 MIA</u> Mother Mr <u>RTD</u>  |
| 3) Navigator  | <u>Ventres, Robert L.</u><br><u>Ernest L. Ventres, 251 9th Ave N., Clinton, Iowa.</u>            | <u>2d Lt 02065199 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u> |
| 4) Bombardier | <u>Seirer, Max L.</u><br><u>Parker V. Seirer, Colliyer, Kansas.</u>                              | <u>2d Lt 0782971 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>  |
| 5) Eng Gunner | <u>Peltz, Frank N.</u><br><u>Ann Peltz, Box 95, Cerdale, Penna.</u>                              | <u>S/Sgt 35066211 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>  |
| 6) RO Gunner  | <u>Robinson, Cyril D.</u><br><u>Paul Robinson, 1409 West Ave, Bronx, New York.</u>               | <u>Sgt 12193118 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>   |
| 7) Arm Gnr    | <u>Letaw, Melville T.</u><br><u>Anne R. Letaw, 229 So. Wilmington St., Raleigh, No. Carolina</u> | <u>Cpl 14082843 MIA</u> Mother Mrs <u>RTD</u>  |
| 8) Aerial Gnr | <u>Heffernan, George D.</u><br><u>Dorothy Heffernan, Chestnut St., Norwood, New Jersey.</u>      | <u>S/Sgt 32387963 MIA</u> Wife Mrs <u>RTD</u>  |
| 9) Aerial Gnr | <u>Dambra, Joseph P.</u><br><u>Gene Dambra, 1357 Harrod Ave., Bronx, New York.</u>               | <u>Sgt 32811938 MIA</u> Father Mr <u>RTD</u>   |
| 10) Arm Gnr   | <u>Fargotstein, Manuel</u><br><u>Ida Fargotstein, 1129 N. Euclid Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna.</u>    | <u>Sgt 13156104 MIA</u> Mother Mr <u>RTD</u>   |

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (use only) C. COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

| NAME IN FULL                   | RANK          | SERIAL NO.     | CONTACTED LAST |          |                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------------------------|
|                                |               |                | BY RADIO       | SIGHTED  | SAW FORCED CRASH LANDING |
| (1) <u>John E. Marsh</u>       | <u>2d Lt</u>  | <u>0827813</u> |                | <u>X</u> |                          |
| (2) <u>William J. Saunders</u> | <u>1st Lt</u> | <u>0711026</u> |                | <u>X</u> |                          |
| (3) _____                      |               |                |                |          |                          |

13. IF PERSONS 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) Aircraft last seen 1237.

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 made.

- 3 Enclosures  
 Incl 1-Statement of Date 29 Dec 44  
13 March (Septup)  
 Incl 2-Statement of Lt Saunders (Septup)  
 Incl 3-Map of Area where plane last seen (Septup).
- Walter J. ...  
 Signature of reporting officer  
 ADDRESS: 1100 ...  
CAPT., AF, USA.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

27 December 1944

I last saw Lt. Tuomey's plane, Black Fox, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before the Initial Point, on the bombing mission of 26 December 1944. Lt Tuomey was then flying number 23 position in Charlie box. At that time, we moved from Charlie 22 to Charlie 12. My tail-gunner stated that Black Fox moved in Charlie 22 and was there over the target. In that position, the aircraft lettering could not be seen by any in our ship yet the ship directly ahead us for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after the rally was believed to be Black Fox. At no time did Lt. Tuomey appear to be in trouble and at no time did he send a radio call of distress over Group frequency.

*John E. Marsh*

JOHN E. MARSH,  
2d Lt 0827813  
779th Bomb Sq (H)  
464th Bomb Gp (H)

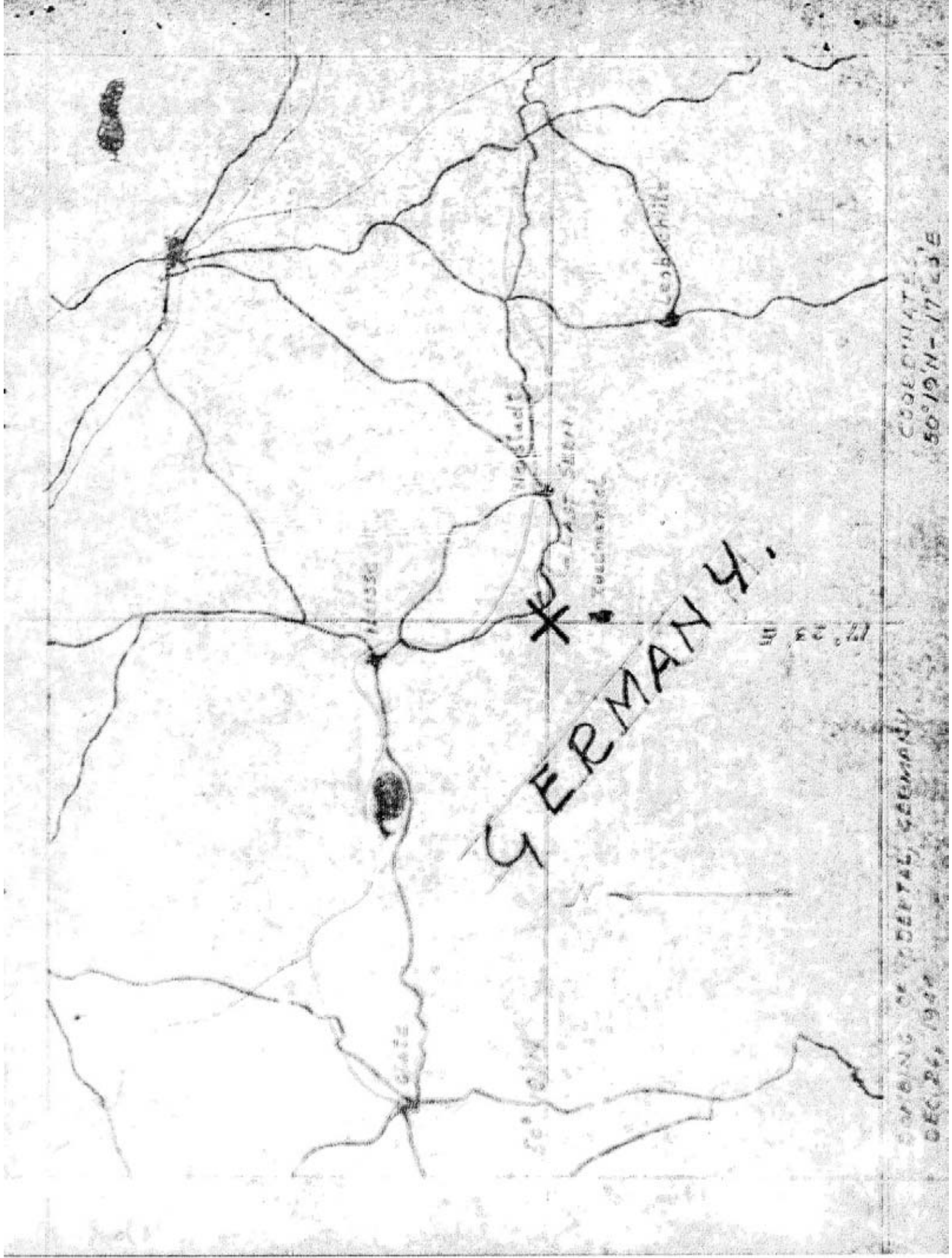
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
779TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

27 December 1944

On a bombing mission, 26 December 1944, Black Fox was in Dog Box up until the time of the breaking up of Dog Box, to fill in the rest of the boxes. Dog 11 moved to Able Box, Dog 12 and 13 moved to Baker Box and Dog 21 and 22 moved to Charlie Box of which Black Fox was one of them. Upon the breaking of the box, my gunner reported all the ships had joined their respective boxes. Our crew did not notice Black Fox falling behind the formation before or after the target and didnt report any snips of the crew logging, noticeably.

*William J. Saunders*

WILLIAM J SAUNDERS,  
1st Lt 0711026  
779th Bomb Sq (H)  
44th Bomb Gp (H)



COORDINATE  
50° 19' N - 17° 23' E

SOARING OF TURTLES, GERMANY  
DEC. 24, 1944

GERMAN Y.

17 23 M

MERSCH

Hofstadt

Lebachhille

Zusmarshausen

GATE

50° 19' N

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2d Lt. Kenneth E. Tuomey   | Mrs. Joe Ann S. Tuomey (Wife)<br>8236 South Morgan Street<br>Chicago, Illinois       |
| 2d Lt. Bernard H. Faber    | Mrs. Dorothy M. Faber (Mother)<br>579 Yale Avenue<br>Hillside, New Jersey            |
| 2d Lt. Robert L. Ventres   | Mr. Ernest L. Ventres (Father)<br>251 9th Avenue North<br>Clinton, Iowa              |
| 2d Lt. Max L. Seirer       | Mr. Parker V. Seirer (Father)<br>Collper, Kansas                                     |
| S/Sgt. George D. Hefferman | Mrs. Dorothy Hefferman (Wife)<br>Clement Street<br>Riverside, New Jersey             |
| S/Sgt. Frank H. Falts      | Mrs. Ann Falts (Wife)<br>Box 95<br>Cardale, Pennsylvania                             |
| Sgt. Joseph P. Danbra      | Mr. John Danbra (Father)<br>1357 Marrod Avenue<br>New York, New York                 |
| Sgt. Cyril D. Robinson     | Mr. Paul Robinson (Father)<br>1109 West Avenue<br>Bronx, New York                    |
| Sgt. Samuel Fargotstein    | Mrs. Ida Fargotstein (Mother)<br>1129 North Duane Avenue<br>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| Cpl. Melville T. Letaw     | Mrs. Anne S. Letaw (Mother)<br>1225 South 29th Street<br>Birmingham, Alabama         |