

CONFIDENTIAL

Date	Writer	Wrote About
5-2-46	Lt. G. W. Satterfield	Daniels
"	"	Daniel
"	"	Samson
"	"	Porter
"	"	Mann
"	"	Tillman
		(6)

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779th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
464th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S.ARMY

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location PANTANELLA Command or Air Force: 15th AF, Group 464th B GRP: Squadron 779th BOMB SQ.: Detachment NONE
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure GIOIA AIR BASE, Course PARMA, ITALY Intended Destination PARMA, ITALY, Type of Mission BOMBING,
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF ***** WHEN LAST REPORTED. CLEAR.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 2 MAY 1944; Time 1220; and Location 44°18'N-9°58'E of last known whereabouts of missing *****. **CREW MEMBERS**
(B) Specify whether () Last Sighted: () Last contacted By radio: () Forced down: (X) Seen to COLLIDE () Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) () Enemy Aircraft: (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft: (X) Other circumstances as Follows: B-24 #543 COLLIDED WITH B-24 #454
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24 H AAF Serial No. 42-52454
7. ENGINES: Type Model and Series R 18830-43 AAF Serial No.
(a) 42CP 302738 (b) 42CP 302750
(c) 42CP 302830 (d) 42CP 302459
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 973278; (b) 973460; (c) 942590; (d) 942460; (e) 391416
(f) 391729; (g) 225401; (h) 973320; (i) 940860; (j) 634945
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (b) Battle Casualty, BATTLE CASUALTY or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10: Passengers 0, TOTAL 10. (Starting with Pilot, Furnish the following particulars; If more than 12 persons were aboard aircraft list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

<u>CREW POSITION</u>	<u>Name in Full (LAST NAME FIRST)</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	
1. <u>PILOT</u>	<u>SAMSON, DAVID H.</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0803876</u>	<u>KIA</u>
2. <u>CO-PILOT</u>	<u>STERNAGLE, ROY J.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T61099</u>	<u>KIA</u>
3. <u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>PORTER, FARMER B. JR.</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0684658</u>	<u>KIA</u>
4. <u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>HENDERSON, JOHN M. 111</u>	<u>2ND LT</u>	<u>0687509</u>	<u>POW/RTD</u>
5. <u>ENGINEER GNR</u>	<u>MANN, CHARLES N.</u>	<u>T/SGT.</u>	<u>35373368</u>	<u>KIA</u>
6. <u>ENGINEER GNR</u>	<u>TILLMAN, SYLVAN H.</u>	<u>S/SGT.</u>	<u>15105738</u>	<u>KIA</u>

7.	<u>ROM GNR</u>	<u>HARVEY, ROBERT L.</u>	<u>T/SGT.</u>	<u>19074501</u>	POW/RTD
8.	<u>ENGINEER GNR</u>	<u>PEEL, DELBERT R.</u>	<u>S/SGT.</u>	<u>17128726</u>	DED
9.	<u>ARMORER GNR</u>	<u>DANIEL, ALFRED W.</u>	<u>S/SGT.</u>	<u>34463986</u>	KIA
10.	<u>ARMORER GNR</u>	<u>DANIELS, THOMAS (NMI)</u>	<u>S/SGT.</u>	<u>32518356</u>	KIA
11.	_____				
12.	_____				

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Incl #1

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	RANK	Serial Number	Check only one column.	
			Contacted by/Last Radio	Sighted
1. HENDERSON, HAROLD W.	2D LT	0698710	SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
2. FELDT, ALBERT J.	2D LT	0687572		
3. JUNKINS, GERALD W.	S/SGT	16030168		
4. AYLESWORTH, RICHARD B	S/SGT	37550515	SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
5. BORODAJKIEWCZ, MICHAEL	S/SGT	12066849		
6. GEBADLO, THOMAS E.	T/SGT	13061013	SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
7. BAKER, ROBERT L.	S/SGT	14125372	SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
			SAW XXXXX COLLISION	
			SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
			X	
			X	
			SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
			X	
			SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES
			SAW NOTHING BUT 3	CHUTES

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used NONE; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) NO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN TO OPEN FROM LT. SAMSON'S SHIP, #454. PARACHUTES OPENED FROM #543

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 CIRCUMSTANCES 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

NO SEARCH MADE.

Date of report 7 MAY 1944

/s/ Arthur E. Chambers /s/
ARTHUR E. CHAMBERS,
CAPT., AIR CORPS,
UNIT COMMANDER

8 INCLS:

- INCL 1 - STATEMENT OF LE. HAROLD W. HENDERSON
- INCL 2 - STATEMENT OF LT. ALBERT J. FELDT
- INCL 3 - STATEMENT OF S/SGT. GERALD W. JUNKINS
- INCL 4 - STATEMENT OF S/SGT. RICHARD B. AYLESWORTH
- INCL 5 - STATEMENT OF S/SGT. MICHAEL BORODAJKIEWCZ
- INCL 6 - STATEMENT OF T/SGT. THOMAS E. GEBADLO
- INCL 7 - STATEMENT OF S/SGT. ROBERT L. BAKER
- INCL 8 - MAP OF AREA WHERE PLANE FELL.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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

28 May 1944

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, 15th Air Force, APO 520,
U. S. Army.

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report on crew assigned to this Squadron reported missing in action as of 2 May 1944, on a mission bound for Parma, Italy.

KIA	2d Lt.	SAMSON, David H.	0803876
	F/O	STERNAGLE, Roy J.	T61099
KIA	2d Lt.	PORTER, Farmer B. Jr.	0684658
	2d Lt.	HENDERSON, John M. III	0687509
KIA	T/Sgt.	MANN, Charles N.	35373368
	S/Sgt.	TILLMAN, Sylvan H.	15105738
	T/Sgt.	HARVEY, Robert L.	19074501
	S/Sgt.	PEEL, Delbert R.	17128726
	S/Sgt.	DANIEL, Alfred W.	34463986
	S/Sgt.	DANIELS, Thomas (NMI)	32518356

2. Subject personnel are Battle Casualties as defined by paragraph 2, Section II, Circular 10, NATOUSA, dated 24 January 1944.

3. Battle Casualty report forwarded to your Headquarters 5 May 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

/s/ Arthur E. Chambers /s/
ARTHUR E CHAMBERS,
Capt., Air Corps,
Executive Officer

1 incl:

Incl 1 - MAC Rpt, Lt. Samson and Crew
7 May 1944, w/ 8 incls (sent)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

704 1st Ind. C-WDC-14
Hq 55th Bomb Wing (H), APO 520, U. S. Army, 30 May 1944

TO: CG, 15th AF, APO 520, U. S. Army.

Battle Casualty report forwarded 7 May 1944.

For the Wing Commander:

/s/ E. M. O'Reilly /s/
E. M. O'Reilly,
Capt, Air Corps,
Actg Adj

1 Incl: (quint)

AG 704 2nd Ind. GP-hm/gow
HQ, FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 10 June 1944

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

Personnel included in attached MAC Report were processed on consolidated BCR L-74, dated 10 May 1944, which was forwarded to the 30th MRU, 10 May 1944.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Harold B. Neely /s/
HAROLD B. NEELY,
Major, AGD,
Assistant AG.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 (dup)

Incl #7

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

✓ 2 nd Lt. David E. Samson	Mr. Clyde D. Samson, 2307 Barge Street. Yakima, Washington.	(Father)
✓ 2 nd Lt. Farmer B. Porter, Jr.	Mrs. Birdie S. Porter, 992 North Willet Street, Memphis, Tennessee.	(Mother)
F/O Roy J. Sternagle Jr.	Mrs. Bessie Sternagle, Box 34, Paris, Idaho	(Wife)
✓ T/Sgt. Silvan H. Tillman	Mrs. Elenora K. Tillman, Saint Meinrad, Indiana.	(Mother)
✓ T/Sgt. Charles N. Mann	Mrs. Ethel G. Mann, Star Route, Versailles, Indiana.	(Mother)
S/Sgt. Delbert R. Peel	Mrs. Zoe B. Peel, 201 West 7 th , Garnett, Kansas.	(Mother)
✓ S/Sgt. Alfred W. Daniel	Mrs. Chessie M. Daniel, 703 N. Bloodworth Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.	(Mother)
S/Sgt. Thomas Daniels	Mrs. Bessie C. Daniels, 520 Simpson Street, Greensboro, North Carolina.	(Wife)
✓ 2 nd Lt. John M. Henderson III	Mrs. Louise L. Henderson, Dewitt, Arkansas.	(Wife)
✓ T/Sgt. Robert L. Harvey	Mr. Everett W. Harvey, 701 Hemlock, Mason City, Washington.	(Father)

	2 nd Lt. David E. Samson	Mr. Clyde D. Samson, 2307 Barge Street. Yakima, Washington.	(Father)
371	2 nd Lt. Farmer B. Porter, Jr.	Mrs. Birdie S. Porter, 992 North Willet Street, Memphis, Tennessee.	(Mother)
	F/O Roy J. Sternagle Jr.	Mrs. Bessie Sternagle, Box 34, Paris, Idaho	(Wife)
	T/Sgt. Silvan H. Tillman	Mrs. Elenora K. Tillman, Saint Meinrad, Indiana.	(Mother)
371	T/Sgt. Charles N. Mann	Mrs. Ethel G. Mann, Star Route, Versailles, Indiana.	(Mother)
371	S/Sgt. Delbert R. Peel	Mrs. Zoe B. Peel, 201 West 7 th , Garnett, Kansas.	(Mother)
	S/Sgt. Alfred W. Daniel	Mrs. Chessie M. Daniel, 703 N. Bloodworth Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.	(Mother)
	S/Sgt. Thomas Daniels	Mrs. Bessie C. Daniels, 520 Simpson Street, Greensboro, North Carolina.	(Wife)
	2 nd Lt. John M. Henderson III	Mrs. Louise L. Henderson, Dewitt, Arkansas.	(Wife)
	T/Sgt. Robert L. Harvey	Mr. Everett W. Harvey, 701 Hemlock, Mason City, Washington.	(Father)

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN 2 May 1944, 1230 CASUALTY NO. ME 1071

PLACE OF CRASH at Villa Franca

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Liberator

REPORTING OFFICER Air Fleet Command 2

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
HENDERSON JOHN M. III	2 nd Lt.	O-687509	captured	Dulag Luft
HARVEY ROBERT L. 7 December 1918	T/Sgt	19074501	captured	Verona
DANIELS THOMAS	S/Sgt	32518356	dead	2 May 1944, Cemetery Canossa
DANIEL ALFRED W.	S/Sgt	34463986	dead	same

CASUALTY NO. ME 1071 1st Supplementary Report, dated 28 June 1944

MACR

- SAMSON DAVID R	2 nd Lt.	O-803876	dead	2 May 1944, Cemetery Canossa
PORTER FARMER E.	2 nd Lt.	O-684658	dead	same
MANN CHARLES M.	T/Sgt	35373368	dead	same
TILLMAN SILVAN N.	T/Sgt	15105738	dead	same

*MACR 5412
SEE AV 1038/44*

REMARKS

Dulag Luft: 25 May 1944, kg.

DATE: XXXXXX .5/2/44	1230	485	ME 1071
PLACE: near Villa Franca	2 nd Lt. HENDERSON, John M.	O-687509	.
near La Spezia	2 nd Lt. SAMSON, David R.	O-803876	dead,missing
	2 nd Lt. PORTER, Farmer E.	O-684658	dead,missing
TYPE: Liberator J	F/O STERNAGEL,		missing
Markings: "Big Fat Mama"	T/Sgt. HARVEY, Robert L.	19074501	.
779 (HB) Sqd; 464 Group	T/Sgt. MANN, Charles M.	35373368	dead,missing
	T/Sgt. TILLMAN, Silvan H.	15105738	dead,missing
BASE: Gioia del Colle	S/Sgt. PEEL,		missing
	S/Sgt. DANIEL, Alfred W.	34463986	dead
TARGET: Hq. 2 nd Air Force	S/Sgt. Daniels, Thomas	32518356	dead
	5/2/44 Cemetery Canossa		

2) To Downing 485 a: Downing of Liberator over Canossa, near VILLAFRANCA (Area of LA SPEZIA). 6 crew-members dead.

NAME: S A M S O N David R.
RANK: 2nd Lt.
IDENT. TAG: O-803876 T 42-43 44 O
DATE OF BIRTH: unknown.
NEXT OF KIN: C. D. SAMSON,3307BARGEST. YKIMA WASH.
DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May 1944 over CANOSSA.
PLACE OF BURIAL: Cemetery of CANOSSA.

NAME: P O R T E R Farmer B.
RANK: 2nd Lt.
IDENTTAG: O-803876 T 43 O
DATE OF BIRTH: unknown
NEXT OF KIN: unknown
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May 1944 over CANOSSA
PLACE OF BURIAL: Cemetery of CANOSSA

NAME: T I L L M A N Silvan H.
RANK: T/Sgt.
IDENT. TAG: 15105738 T 43-43 T 44 A
DATE OF BIRTH: unknown
NEXT OF KIN: unknown
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May 1944 over CANOSSA
PLACE OF BURIAL: Cemetery of CANOSSA.

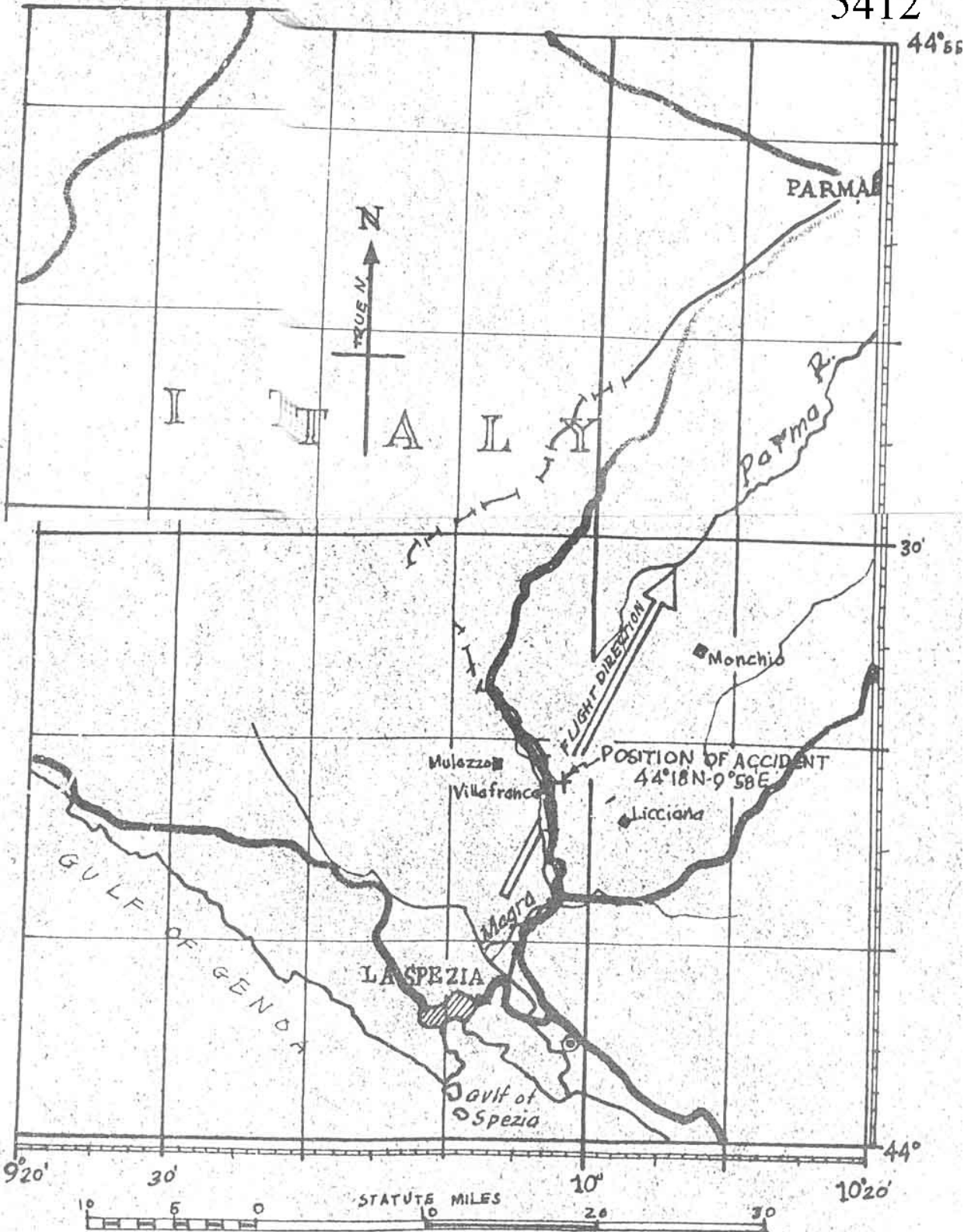
NAME: M A N N Charles M.
RANK: T/Sgt
IDENT. TAG: 35373368 T 42 -3
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May 1944 over CANOSSA
PLACE OF BURIAL: Cemetery of CANOSSA

Page 128 to be con'd on

NAME: D A N I E L Alfred W.
RANK: S/Sgt.
IDENT.TAG: 34463986 T 43 -3 O
DATE OF BIRTH: unknown
NEXT OF KIN: unknown
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May 1944 over CANOSSA, near VILLAFRANCA.
PLACE OF BURIAL: Cemetery of CANOSSA.

NAME: D A N I E L S Thomas
RANK: S/Sgt.
IDENT.TAG: 32518356 T 43 -3 B
DATE OF BIRTH: unknown
NEXT OF KIN: unknown
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH: 2 May over CANOSSA
PLACE OF BURIAL:

5412



- MAIN ROADS
- +— RAILROADS
- ⊙ AIRFIELDS

SCALE 1:500,000

Incl # 8

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

I WAS OPERATING THE NOSE TURRET AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT WHICH I PLACED AT 1220. I DID NOT SEE THE ACCIDENT.

LATER AFTER RECOVERING FROM THE STALL, I SAW A CLUSTER OF 3 CHUTES OPEN AND DRIFT IN THE DIRECTION OF LA SPECIA. I PIN POINTED THE POSITION OF THE CHUTES AT 44° 09° 50' E.

POSITION IN FORMATION F #23 IN SHIP #458.

/s/ Harold W. Henderson /s/
2d LT. HAROLD W. HENDERSON, O-698710
779TH BOMB SQ (H) 464TH BOMB GP (H)

Incl #1

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

ON 2 MAY 1944, I FLEW POSITION 21 IN ABLE BOX. WE WERE TO BOMB PARMAR, ITALY. JUST AFTER WE TURNED TOWARD THE IP, CAPT. WINGFIELD'S SHIP #543 SLID ACROSS ABLE 11 AND COLLIDED WITH LT. SAMSON'S #454 FLYING ABLE 13. HIS NOSE STRIKING THE TAIL SURFACE OF #454. THIS WAS THE LAST I SAW OF EITHER SHIP AND I CONTINUED IN THE FORMATION.

/s/ Lt. Albert J. Feldt /s/
2D LT. ALBERT J. FELDT, O-687572
779TH BOMB SQ. (H) 464TH BOMB GP (H)

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

I WAS IN MY TURRET WHICH IS THE LOWER BALL. WE WERE ON THE WAY TO THE TARGET WHICH WAS AT PARMAR, ITALY. WE WERE APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MINUTES FROM THE TARGET. I HAD MY TURRET POINTED AT 12 O'CLOCK AND OVER THE EARPHONE I HEARD SOMEONE SAY, WHICH SOUNDED LIKE A FIGHT, AND ABOUT THAT TIME I NOTICED THIS PLANE #454 COMING UP ALONG SIDE ON THE LEFT AND WAS VERY CLOSE. HE WAS COMING UP ALONG SIDE AND I FIGURED WE WERE GOING TO HIT, SO I STARTED TO GET OUT OF THE TURRET. WHEN I WAS ABOUT HALF WAY OUT, THIS PLANE #454 AND OUR OWN HIT. SHORTLY AFTER THAT I HEARD THE ONE LONG BLAST ON THE ALARM BELL, SO I FINISHED GETTING OUT OF THE TURRET, GRABBED MY CHUTE PAKC, WHICH WAS LAYING ON THE COMMAND DECK. I PULLED OFF MY OXYGEN MASK AND QUICKLY SNAPPED THE PACK TO MY HARNESS AND HEADED FOR THE REAR ESCAPE HATCH. WHEN I GOT THERE I OPENED THE DOOR AND WAS ABOUT TO JUMP WHEN I FELT THE SHIP LEVEL OUT AND SO I HESITATED WHILE THE FLAK WAS BURSTING OUTSIDE, I NOTICED THREE FORMS PASS BENEATH THE PLANE WATCHING THRU THE BOTTOM HATCH.

/s/ S/Sgt. Gerald W. Junkins /s/
S/SGT. GERALD W. JUNKINS, 16030168
779TH BOMB SQ. (H) 464TH BOMB GP (H)

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

ON MAY 2, 1944, OUR TARGET WAS PALMAR ITALY. I WAS FLYING BEHIND THE LEAD SHIP. THE LEAD SHIP TURNED SHARPLY TO THE RIGHT AND THE RIGHT SHIP MOVED OVER TO THE LEAD SHIP. HE FLEW OVER-HEAD OF OUR SHIP, AND THE COMPLETE FORMATION TRIED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD SHIP. LT. SAMSON'S SHIP, WAS FLYING TO THE LEFT REAR OF US, AND WAS TRYING TO FOLLOW FORMATION. CAPT WINGFIELD'S SHIP CAME OVER US TO TAKE THE LEAD BUT ALL SHIPS WERE BEARING TO THE RIGHT. ISAW THREE CHUTES OPEN FROM CAPT. WINGFIELD'S SHIP. IN MY OPINION, NO ONE COULD HAVE BAILED OUT OF LT. SAMSON'S SHIP. THE CHUTES DRIFTED INLAND.

/s/ Richard Aylesworth /s/
S/SGT. RICHARD AYLESWORTH, 37550515
779TH BOMB SQ. (H) 464TH BOMB GP (H)

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

I, S/SGT, MICHAEL BORODAJIEWICZ, WAS THE NOSE GUNNER ON ONE OF THE SHIPS THAT COLLIDED IN MID-AIR SEVEN MINUTES FROM THE TARGET. AFTER THE COLLISION HAPPENED I FORCED MYSELF OUT OF THE TURRET WITH THE HELPOF LT. B. B. WILLIAMS, MY BOMBARDIER. THEN WHEN I WAS AT THE BOMBARDIER'S POSITION LT. W. J. CHILMONCZYK, NAVIGATOR OF OUR SHIP, PULLED THE RELEASE HATCH OPEN AND BAILED OUT. I SAW HIS CHUTE OPEN. THEN LT. B. B. WILLIAMS SEEING I WAS OUT OF THE TURRET BAILED OUT AND HIS CHUTE OPENED. I THEN GOT READY TO BAIL OUT WHEN THE SIP BEGAN TO STRAIGHTEN OUT, ALSO SAW SOMEONE'S FEET OUT OF THE FLIGHT DECK; SO I DECIDED THAT I WOULD GO OUT THE BOMB BAY, AND SEE WHO WAS STILL ON THE FLIGHT DECK. I FOUND OUR RADIO OPERATOR AND PILOT ON DECK. PILOT WAS FIGHTING THE SHIP TO BRING IT IN TO CONTROL WHICH HE DID. IT HAPPENED ALL SO QUICK, THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY OBSERVATION. ALL I HEARD WAS SOMEONE SAY "THERE IS A SHIP SLIDING IN", OVER THE INTERPHONE, AND I SAW THIS RUDDER COMING AT ME. I GOT A GOOD JOLT; THEN AFTER THE RIGHT RUDDER BROKE AWAY FROM THE SHIP, THE LEFT RUDDER HIT US AGAIN AND THEN THAT SHIP WENT DOWN RIGHT UNDER OURS. THE RIGHT RUDDER WAS HOOKED ON TO MY LEFT GUN, WHICH CAPT. WINGFIELD LANDED WITH. AT THE SAME MOMENT THE COLLISION HAPPENED SOMEONE CALLED OVER THE INTERPHONE, "ENEMY FIGHTER COMING". AFTER THE COLLISION HAPPENED AND BOTH SHIPS WERE IN A DIVE, THE ENEMY STARTED TO SEND UP FLAK WHICH WAS BAD BUT AFTER MY PILOT GOT THE SHIP UNDER CONTROL, HE MANEUVERED HER BEAUTIFULLY OUT OF THE FLAK. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I OBSERVED.

/s/ S/Sgt. Michael Borodajewicz /s/
S/SGT. MICHAEL BORODAJIEWCZ, 12066849
779TH BOMB SQ. (H) 464TH BOMB GRP (H)

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

ON 2 MAY 1944 ON A BOMBING MISSION TO WEST PARMA. I, T/SGT THOMAS E. GEBADLO, WAS IN A PLANE IN THE MID-AIR COLLISION. BEING THE RADIO OPERATOR I WAS ON THE FLIGHT DECK BEHIND THE CO-PILOT. I FELT AN AWFUL JAR AND THE UPPER TURRET GUNNER T/SGT. TONY ALISEO, DROPPED DOWN ON THE FLIGHT DECK, PUT HIS PACK ON, OPENED UP THE BOMB BAY DOORS AND JUMPED. I DID NOT SEE THE CHUTE OPEN. I HAD MY PACK ON AND LOOKED BACK TO SEE IF THE CO-PILOT WAS COMING. I SAW THE CO-PILOT GO OUT THRU THE ESCAPE DOOR IN THE UPPER HATCH. I WAS READY TO GO BUT THE PILOT WAS NOT MOVING SO I THOUGHT HE WAS INJURED. I WENT BACK TO SEE WHAT WAS THE MATTER AND SEE IF I COULD BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE. I FIND PILOT, CAPT WINGFIELD, HIS SHIP UNDER CONTROL. AND HE TELLS ME WE WILL BE ALRIGHT. AN HOUR LATER WE LANDED AT AN ARMY AIR BASE.

/s/ T/Sgt Thomas Gebadlo /s/
T/SGT. THOMAS GEBADLO, 13061013
779TH BOMB SQ (H) 464TH BOMB GP (H)

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

ON MAY 2, 1944 OUR TARGET WAS PARMAR, ITALY. I WAS FLYING BEHIND THE LEAD SHIP. THE LEAD SHIP TURNED SHARPLY TO THE RIGHT AND THE RIGHT SHIP MOVED OVER TO THE LEAD SHIP. HE FLEW OVERHEAD OF OUR SHIP, AND THE COMPLETE FORMATION TRIED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD SHIP. LT SAMSON'S SHIP WAS FLYING TO THE LEFT REAR OF US AND WAS TRYING TO FOLLOW FORMATION. CAPT WINGFIELD'S SHIP CAME OVER TO TAKE THE LEAD BUT ALL SHIPS WERE BEARING TO THE RIGHT. IN MY OPINION NO MEMBER OF THE CREW WOULD SURVIVE BECAUSE OF THE TERRIFIC RATE OF SPEED THE PLANE WENT DOWNWARD.

/s/ S/Sgt Robert L. Baker /s/
S/SGT. ROBERT L. BAKER, 14125372
779TH BOMB SQ (H) 464TH BOMB GRP (H)