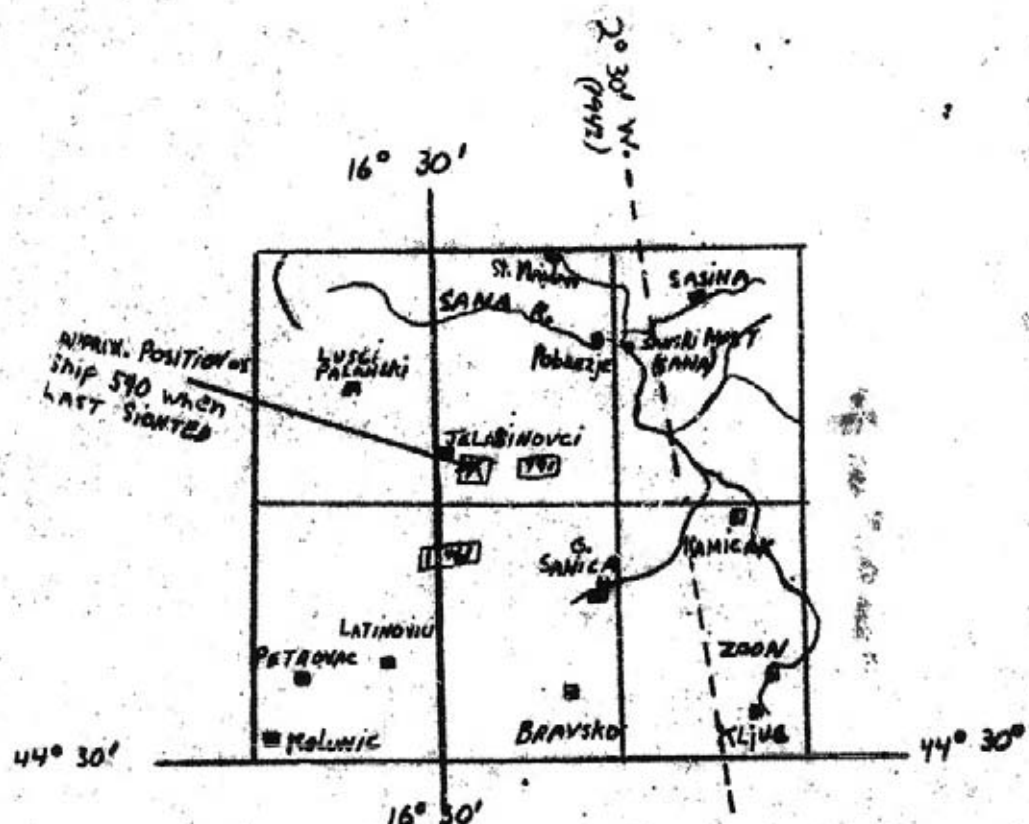


N.E. 44/14



APPRX. POSITION OF SHIP 590 WHEN LAST SIGHTED

2° 30' W. (1970)

■ Towns
□ ELEVATION

SCALE
10 STATUTE MILES

ABBREVIATED MAP OF SECTION OF YUGOSLAVIA.

Incl - 1'

- S T A T E M E N T -

Lt. Jares on Plane #540 dropped back from the main formation with what appeared to be four good engines and for what appeared for the sole purpose of giving three other cripples in the small formation additional fire power. He gave the cripples maximum fire power coverage until one of them was shot down by fighters.

In spite of the excellent formation flown on the wing of a crippled bad ship, Plane 540 was No. 2 plane to be shot down.

Out of the four-ship formation of which was unable to keep up with the main formation I counted Eight (8) parachutes from this one plane, 540, blossom from the ship.

The ship went down in a steep turn after being raked over and over by enemy fighters, became almost inverted, lost a great amount of altitude, recovered momentarily, and then crashed into a mountainside and burst into flames.

Incl-2'

John W. Nance

JOHN W. NANCE,
Capt., Air Corps,
O-790704, Co-Pilot on B-24 H Plane
No. 275, Hq. 464th Bomb Gp (H).

- S T A T E M E N T -

I was flying tail gun position in ship 402 about 1500 yards in front of the formation that was hit by flak and fighters and could see about 12 fighters attack the straggling four-ship formation. The only ship I saw was knocked out was a silver plane, markings of which I could not make out and its stabilizer was torn off and spinning down.

The plane dropped into a spin into a valley through which a river was running. I couldn't see whether or not the plane burst into flames after crashing but I think the plane hit the river between the two valleys.

During the entire scene of the action I could not see any parachutes blossom from any of the planes that were hit. The last bit of information that I can offer is that the terrain in which the ship that was hit crashed was very mountainous and in all probabilities there were no troop concentrations in the immediate or surrounding area.

Martin H. Neuhaus

Martin H. Neuhaus,
Sergeant, ASN [REDACTED]
Tail Gunner, B-24 Plane #402,
776th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H).
APO 520, US Army.

Incl-3'

- S T A T E M E N T -

Red Charley, Ship #540 feathered No. 3 prop slid out to the riggt. Fighters attacked from six oclock in trial. I observed the tail turret gunner firing away. That was the only fire that I observed from that ship.

It stopped on the second attack of the German fighters. The ship started to go off to the right in a steep dive, the Navigator and myself observed seven chutes open, the ship went into inverted flight, but straightened out about 1,000 feet from the ground when we both observed another chute open. The ship leveled off and started to gain a little altitude and seemed to be under contol when she crashed into a hillside. There is no doubt that the pilot and co-pilot never got out. I seen the plane hit the ground and burst into flames.

Stamford Scherer

STAMFORD SCHERER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Flying as Observer on
B-24H Plane #275.
777th Bomb Sq-464th Bomb Gp (H),
APO 520, U.S. Army.

Incl-4'

main 5418

March 12, 1945
237 W. Stetson Ave.
DeLand, Fla.

Subject: Casualty Information of crew members
To : Commanding General AAF

PPA-6
(2)

1. I recieved your letter in regards to casualty information of crew members and enclosed blanks for submitting information about the mission on which we went down.

2. I would be glad to fill them out but if I understand correctly, the information is to collect data on men still M.I.A. whereas all of my crew either escaped with me or were reported as P.O.W.'s several months later.

3. Two of them Moore, Paul S., F/O, T-123054 and Moore, Kenneth G., Sgt. - 17074077 returned with me to Italy. I have had correspondence since returning to the states to the effect that Balliet, Robert M., S/Sgt. 16156965 has returned to the states after being held in a German P.O.W. camp until armistice day.

4. If this information is for some other reason I will be glad to give it but as I understand the purpose of it, it would be a waste of time.

William M. Girardeau, Jr.
1st Lt. A.C. A.U.S. (inactive)

AG

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Elton H. Ankney Rank 3/4t Serial No. 3946448
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander Rank Col Sqn CO Blam Rank Mag'
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month May day 29 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Air Craft Factory, target, Wesman Dist., target time, _____, altitude, _____, 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". I Have seen Them all Since.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Yugoslavia.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No
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? _____
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)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **BALLET, Robert M.**
 Rank: **S/sgt**
 Serial number: **1615666**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) on flight (Fighter) **Radio Operator Gunner**

Did he bail out? yes.

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

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

Was he injured? ~~At the time~~ _____

Where was he when last seen? Camp Lucky strike France. May 1945

Any necessary information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Civilian Appleton Wis.

Received letter from him.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: _____