

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by S. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. J. [unclear], Capt., AC
Date 3 [unclear] 1968

12997

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12997 MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

2405-125

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Pantanello Air Base, Italy Command or Air Force: 15th AF
 Group 464th Bombardment Group (H) Squadron 779th Bomb Sq (H)
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure Pantanello Air Base, Italy Course Nove Zauky, Hungary
 Target Nove Zauky, Hungary Type of mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
4/10 at 10,000. Visibility 5 to 10 miles through haze of smoke.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 14 March 1955 Last known position Pacs, Hungary (46°05'N 18°15'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 lack of fuel.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24 L AAF Serial Number 44-49713
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Hoodoo Pete" Call name Black Zebra.
8. ENGINES: Type, model & series R-1830-43 AAF Serial Number (a) CP-319713
 (b) CP-319482 (c) CP-319720 (d) EP-454808
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) Browning 50 Cal M2
 (a) 1719737 (b) 1766720 (c) 983498
 (d) 1719762 (e) 1719695 (f) 980294
 (g) 1719716 (h) 1720060 (i) _____
 (j) 1719752 (k) 1720109 (l) _____
10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: Battle Casualty, Non Battle Casualty.
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
 (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 RTD Behnzen, Donald L. 1st Lt 0822343 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Louise T. Behnzen, Hanley Rd, Le Moyne, Ohio.
- 2) Co-Pilot RTD Schiffel, Frank (nm) 2d Lt 0687707 MIA Father Mr. RTD
John Schiffel, 1109 N. 11th St, E. St. Louis, Ill.
- 3) Navigator RTD Kephert, Robert L. F/O 1129329 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Edith C. Kephert, 218 Magnolia Ave, Modesto, Calif.
- 4) Bomb RTD Shorard, Donald N. 1st Lt 0782974 MIA Father Mr. RTD
Nelson E. Shorard, Box 121, La Grange, Wyoming.
- 5) Eng RTD Rice, Robert L. S/Sgt 35731523 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Anna S. Rice, Route #1, W. Terra Haute, Ind.
- 6) RO Gnr RTD Trabucco, John S. 2/Sgt 13107514 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Elizabeth Trabucco, Box 145, Export, Pa.
- 7) Aerial Gnr RTD Jeffrey, Daniel M. Sgt 38487617 MIA Father Mr. RTD
Robert W. Jeffrey, Jeanette, Pa, Box 72.
- 8) Aerial Gnr RTD Staniszewski, Chester F. Sgt 12093921 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Hattie Staniszewski, 23 Weiss St, Buffalo, New York.
- 9) Aerial Gnr RTD Henry, Carl K. Sgt 36777968 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Elta C. Henry, Morrison, Tenn.
- 10) RO Gnr RTD Nastase, Samuel A. Cpl 33253584 MIA Brother Mr. RTD
Pete J. Nastase, 1106 Philadelphia St, Indiana, Pa.
- 11) Arm Gnr RTD Kausermayer, Edward E. P/Sgt 32916857 MIA Mother Mrs. RTD
Anna Kausermayer, 115 Vaughn St, Clyphert, Pa.

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 LAST		
			BY RADIO	SIGHTED	FORCED CRASH LANDING
(1) <u>Daniel S. Pickrell Jr.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>051265</u>	<u>x</u>		
(2) _____					
(3) _____					

13. IF PERSONNEL 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) Parachutes were not used.
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.

2 Enclosures.
 Incl 1 - Statement Date 10 March 1955 of Lt. Pickrell (see Serial 051265)
 Incl 2 - Map of area where plane last contacted (see Serial 051265)

Alphonse Simmons
 ALPHONSE SIMMONS
 Capt., Air Corps,
 Adjutant

1801

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

19 March 1945

On the 14 March 1945 we bombed a target in Hungary. About $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before we reached Pecs Lt. Bahnsen, pilot of "Black Zebra", called the Red Force leader and said that he was low on gas and he was going to land at Pecs, Hungary. The Red Force leader suggested that Lt. Bahnsen wait and land in Yugoslavia, but Lt. Bahnsen said it was against his better judgement as he didn't want to take the chance on trying to make it to Yugoslavia, so the Red Force leader told him to land at Pecs. He then called and received fighter cover and headed toward the airfield at Pecs.

Daniel S. Pickrell, Jr.

DANIEL S. PICKRELL JR,
2d Lt, 0831268
779th Bomb Sq (H)
464th Bomb Gp (H)

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HUNGARY

46° 05' N

LACT SEAN

Foco

m. Pallard

Novitica

TIBERNATI

m. Pallo

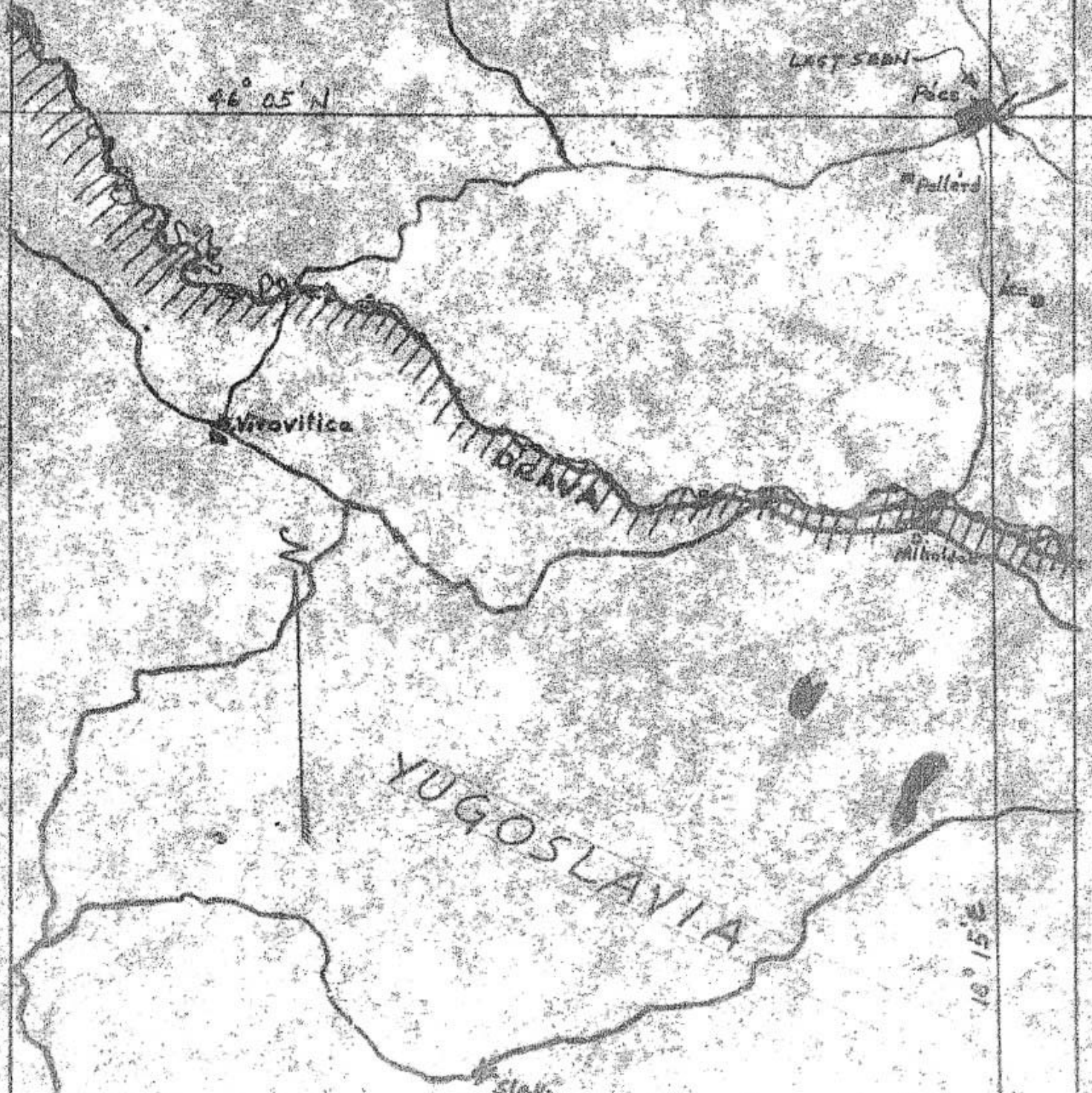
YUGOSLAVIA

Slav. Pallo

16° 15' E

BOUNDING OF NAVY BANKY
MARCH 4, 1945

BOUNDING BY E C
MARCH 4, 1945



Subject: Incorrect Serial Number on MACR #12997

Re: Serial # 44-49713, Hoosier Pete. Please correct this to read Serial number 44-49731. The incorrect serial number is on the MACR.

The correct serial number is confirmed by Mission Report #319 dated Mar 14, 1945 from Commanding General, 55th CBW, 44-49731, piloted by Donald Bahnsen, crash landed at Pees, Hungary, that date.

Additional bit of info - aircraft was later repaired and returned to home base. Aircraft was eventually returned to ZI, then on Jan 16, 1946 to RFC, Kingman, AZ.