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419TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO 520 U. S. ARMY

G/CAP/1W

17 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Witnesses' Statements to Accompany Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 301st Bombardment Group (H), APO 520, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with Letter, Headquarters 301st Bombardment Group, Subject same as above, dated 19 May 1944, the following statements of those witnesses who last saw Aircraft Number 44-6445, which was lost on 16 March 1945, are submitted:

"I saw 6445 on the rally off the target. His number two engine was shooting a lot of oil. He was still in formation but had a lot more flak to go through. No engines were feathered when I saw him."

George M. Parr, Jr.
GEORGE M. PARR, Jr., O-2066160,
2nd Lt, Air Corps, Bombardier,
Flying Acft #6717, 1-3 Position.

"I heard over VHF Channel B a ship call in saying that he had two engines out and no oxygen and was heading for Zara. I am not positive but I believe it was 6445."

Roger W. Penninger
ROGER W. PENNINGER, O-778935,
1st Lt, Air Corps, Pilot,
Flying Acft #6355, 1-3 Position.

"I heard on VHF Channel A, aircraft 6445 talking to our fighters and at the time they had protection of those fighters, which were going to follow along to Zara. I do not know if they got there."

Richard F. Doetsch
RICHARD F. DOETSCH, O-2064889,
2nd Lt, Air Corps, Co-pilot,
Flying Acft #6355, 1-3 Position.

"While returning from a bombing mission to Floridsdorf Oil Refinery, Vienna Austria and at 1422 hours, I saw a plane, which I assumed was 6445, losing altitude and gaining airspeed. Rapid loss of altitude indicated trouble with oxygen system. I watched it until it was lost from sight in haze. Plane was flying on a heading of 173°, apparently toward Zara, Yugoslavia and under control."

Lawrence B. Sneider
LAWRENCE B. SNEIDER, O-307796,
Captain, Air Corps, Cond Pilot,
Flying Acft #8714, 1-1 Position.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Carl A. Patrick
CARL A. PATRICK,
Capt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

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