

6945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by ~~E. M. MURPHY~~, Lt. Col., AC  
by ~~F. M. MURPHY~~, Capt., AC  
Date ~~MAR 1 1948~~

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*Status as  
of 11/1/46*

✓ F/O William Jew

*POW*

Mrs. Alma Jew, (Wife)  
2215 Fish Avenue,  
New York, New York.

✓ F/O Steve P. Odahowski

*POW*

Mr. Alexander Odahowski, (Father)  
3267 Armitage Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

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(11)  
YMSO

6945

Class ~~Confidential~~ changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUNCH, Capt., AC  
Date MAR 15 1946

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES ARMY

JWP/wcj

AGO 871  
12 August 1944

AG 360.33

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.  
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

1. Forwarded herewith Missing Glider Crew Report concerning Horsa Glider number HS 129 of the Ninth Troop Carrier Command.
2. Records of this headquarters indicate the present status of personnel aboard aircraft to be as shown below:

|           |     |                          |          |     |             |
|-----------|-----|--------------------------|----------|-----|-------------|
| Pilot     | F/O | Steve P. Odahowski, ✓    | T-1296   | MIA | 7 June 1944 |
| Co-Pilot  | F/C | William (NMI) Jew, ✓     | T-798    | MIA | 7 June 1944 |
| Passenger | T/5 | Edward L. Hanawalt, ✓    | 35291463 | DOJ | 6 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pfc | Emilie L. DeStefano, ✓   | 36326079 | DOJ | 6 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pfc | Leonard R. Bartlett, ✓   | 34235073 | MIA | 6 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pfc | Richard J. Mitchell, ✓   | 36326813 | DOW | 7 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pfc | Maurice C. Smith, ✓      | 35152758 | MIA | 6 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pvt | Laude H. Lively, ✓       | 35136076 | KIA | 8 June 1944 |
| Passenger | Pvt | George J. Berger, Jr., ✓ | 32860620 | MIA | 6 June 1944 |

3. Headquarters of the IX Troop Carrier Command states that until more conclusive evidence is received in connection with the attached statements, F/Officers Odahowski and Jew will be carried as missing in action.

For the Theater Commander:

*H. M. Rund*  
H. M. RUND,  
Lt. Col, AGD,  
Asst. Adjutant General.

- 1 Incl:  
Missing Glider Crew Report, 434th T.C. Gp  
Horsa Glider - HS 129, 7 June 1944 and  
statements thereto.

mc 20980

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEAD QUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

*Glider*  
~~MISSING~~ CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an airplane is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Station 467 Command or Air Force Ninth TCC  
Group 434 T. C. Squadron 71st T.C. Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of departure Station 467 Course 102° Mag  
Intended Destination France Type of Mission Glider
3. WEATHER CONDITION AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST OBSERVED Visibility 4 to 5 mi. Scattered cloud 2500 ft.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 7 June 44 Time 2130 and Location 61-16-54° N  
of last known position of missing airplane Glider  
(b) Specify whether ( ) last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio; (X) forced down; ( ) seen to crash; or ( ) information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF: (Check one only) ( ) Enemy airplane; ( ) Enemy anti-aircraft; ( ) Other circumstances as follows Glider cut loose at LZ.
6. AIRPLANE: Type, model and series Horsa A.A.F. Serial No. HS 129
7. ENGINES: Type, model and series \_\_\_\_\_; A.A.F. Serial No. (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) None (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below name, type and serial No)  
(a) None (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD Glider: Crew 2 Passengers 7  
Total 9. (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.) Glider

*Station 467 of 11/16/44*

| Crew Position | NAME IN FULL<br>(Last Name First) | Rank        | Serial Number    |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Pilot      | COAHOWSKI, STEVE P. <i>MIA</i>    | Pow F/O AC  | T-12964          |
| 2. Co-Pilot   | JEW, WILLIAM (NMI)                | Pow F/O AC  | T-798 <i>RTP</i> |
| 3. Passenger  | *Hanawalt, Edward L.              | DOI T/5 CAC | 35291463         |
| 4. Passenger  | *DeStefano, Emilie L.             | DOI PFC     | 36326079         |
| 5. Passenger  | *Bartlett, Leonard K.             | DOI PFC     | 34235073         |
| 6. Passenger  | *Mitchell, Richard J.             | DOI PFC     | 36326813         |
| 7. Passenger  | *Smith, Maurice C.                | POW PFC     | 35152758         |
| 8. Passenger  | *Lively, Claude H.                | MIA Pvt     | 35136076         |
| 9. Passenger  | *Berer, George J. Jr.             | MIA Pvt     | 32860620         |
| 10.           | *101st Airborne Division          |             |                  |

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7888

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF ~~PLANE~~ <sup>Glider</sup>, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

| Name in Full<br>(Last Name First) | Rank | Serial<br>Number | By<br>Radio | Last<br>Sighted | Saw<br>Crash | Forced<br>Landing |
|-----------------------------------|------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. BALLINTINE, JOHN C.            | F/O  | T-60701          |             |                 |              | XX                |
| 2.                                |      |                  |             |                 |              |                   |
| 3.                                |      |                  |             |                 |              |                   |

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash Yes; or (c) Any other reason (Specify Statement that crew were seen taken prisoner by the enemy)

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE ~~PLANE~~ <sup>Glider</sup> WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING ~~AIRPLANE~~ <sup>Glider</sup>.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICIAL IN CHARGE HERE Not Applicable No SEARCH.

Date of Report 6 July 1944

AUG 23 1944



RECEIVED

Irvin P. Vatz  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
IRVIN P. VATZ,  
2nd Lt. A.C.  
Asst Personnel Adjutant.

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01° 16' 54" W

FROM - 1:250,000 Europe (AIR)  
G.S.G.S. 3982  
Cherbourg  
Sheet M 30/9

CONFIDENTIAL

Cherbourg

VALOGNES

MONTebourg

49° 23' 09" N

LZ

CARENTAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

49° 23'

S T A T E M E N T

1 July 1944

I, F/O John E. Beale, T-726, 71st T.C. Sq. 434th T.C. Gp, do hereby state that on 10 June 1944 I saw F/O John C. Ballintine, T-60701 of the 71st T.C. Sq. 434th T.C. Gp. on returning boat while being evacuated. He told me he had been shot above one eye, a grazing wound. He had a bandage over his eye. He also told me he had two fingers shot off by a machine pistol.

He told me that he saw F/O William (NMI) Jew, T-798, F/O Steve P. Cdaowski, T-1296 and F/O Alfred J. Sapa, T-468 all of the 71st T.C. sq. 434th T.C. Gp. taken prisoners and marched away by Germans.

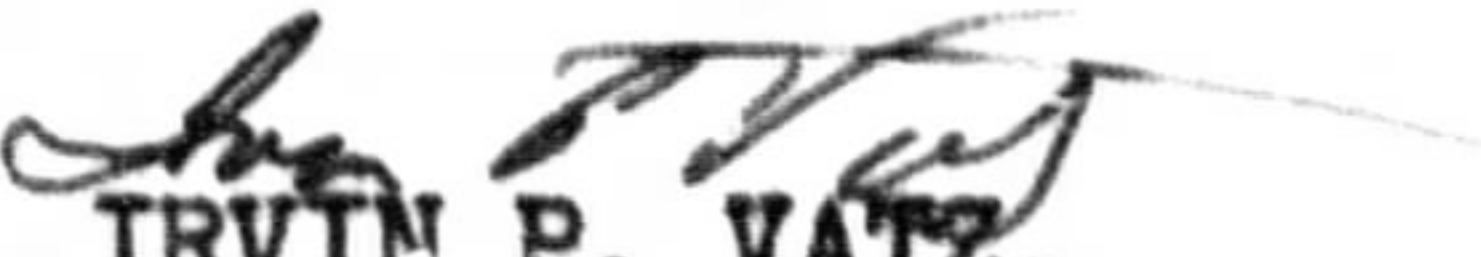
I have not seen F/O John C. Ballintine, T-60701, 71st T.C. Sq. 434th T.C. Gp. since.

/s/ JOHN E. BEALE  
JOHN E. BEALE  
F/O A.C.  
71st T.C. Sq.

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this 1st day of July, 1944  
at USAAF Station 467.

/s/ ROBERT R. COLLINS  
ROBERT R. COLLINS  
1st Lt. A.C.  
Adjutant, 71st T.C. Sq.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

  
IRVIN P. VATZ,  
2nd Lt. A.C.

FORM B GLIDER

PART I

Exercise/Operation Serial #29 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Tug Aircraft

Squadron 73 A/C Type C-47 Tail No. 315201 Chalk No. 13

CREW (TUG)

P Major Hutton, Terry G. 0-429416 \_\_\_\_\_

CP 1st Lt. Rautio, Karl W. 0-675622 \_\_\_\_\_

N 1st Lt Hints, Lawrence G. 0-807213 \_\_\_\_\_

CC Sgt McCombs, Marion C. 39531846 \_\_\_\_\_

RO S/Sgt Lash, Edward G. 16148073 \_\_\_\_\_

GLIDER PILOTS

P F/O Odahowski, Steve P. F/O T-1296 CP Jew, William (NMI) F/O T-798



Exercise/Operation \_\_\_\_\_ Serial #29 \_\_\_\_\_

Form B Glider

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

PART II

GLIDER NUMBER BATTERY NO. 23 TUG AIRCRAFT NUMBER CHALK NO. HORSAS # 13

Glider Number HS 129 Tug Number 4-15201

| NUMBER   | RANK | NAME (or)<br>Item of Equipment                             | SEAT NUMBER (or)<br>Bulkhead number<br>(Port or starboard<br>to be stated) | WEIGHT | REMARKS |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
|          |      | Pilot                                                      |                                                                            | 250    |         |
|          |      | Co Pilot                                                   |                                                                            | 250    |         |
| 35291463 | T/5  | Hanawalt, Edward L.                                        |                                                                            | 210    |         |
| 36326079 | Pfc. | DeStefano, Emilie L.                                       |                                                                            | 210    |         |
| 34235073 | Pfc. | Bartlett, Leonard H.                                       |                                                                            | 210    |         |
| 36326813 | Pfc. | Mitchell, Richard J.                                       |                                                                            | 210    |         |
| 35136076 | Pvt. | Lively, Claude H.                                          |                                                                            | 210    |         |
| 35152758 | Pfc. | Smith, Maurice C.                                          |                                                                            | 210    |         |
|          |      | 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trailer - Hubs at 4" forward of frame | 15                                                                         | 1823   |         |
|          |      | 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trailer - Hubs at 4" forward of frame | 11                                                                         | 1839   |         |
|          |      | 1-Hand cart w/radio at station 14.0                        |                                                                            | 350    |         |
|          |      | 2-Service bikes at station 9.0                             |                                                                            | 410    |         |
|          |      | 1-Unloading trestle at station 3.0                         |                                                                            | 40     |         |
|          |      | 1-Door, panel unloading at station 4.0                     |                                                                            | 26     |         |
|          |      | 2-Tail adapters                                            |                                                                            | 15     |         |
|          |      | Air Corp Comm                                              |                                                                            | 40     |         |
|          |      | Seats for 6 personnel                                      |                                                                            | 60     |         |
| 32860620 | Pvt. | Berer, George J. Jr.                                       |                                                                            | 210    |         |
|          |      |                                                            |                                                                            | 6573   |         |

DELETE THOSE NOT APPLICABLE

- (1) The following seats to be removed All except 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,  
29, 30, 31
- (2) All seats to be left in position.
- (3) Freight carrying only.

Signed /s/Edward L. Hanawalt (Senior Passenger)

Load Checker /s/Steve P. Odabowski, F/Glider Pilot

Countersigned /s/Terry G. Hutton, Maj (CUG Pilot)

WEIGHT INDEX ----- 15,138  
LIMITS ----- 15,680

S T A T E M E N T

I, JOHN C BALLINTINE, F/O, T-60701, 71st T C Sq, 434th T C Gp, do hereby state that I was in the second lift of the Neptune-Bigot operation on the afternoon of 6 June 1944.

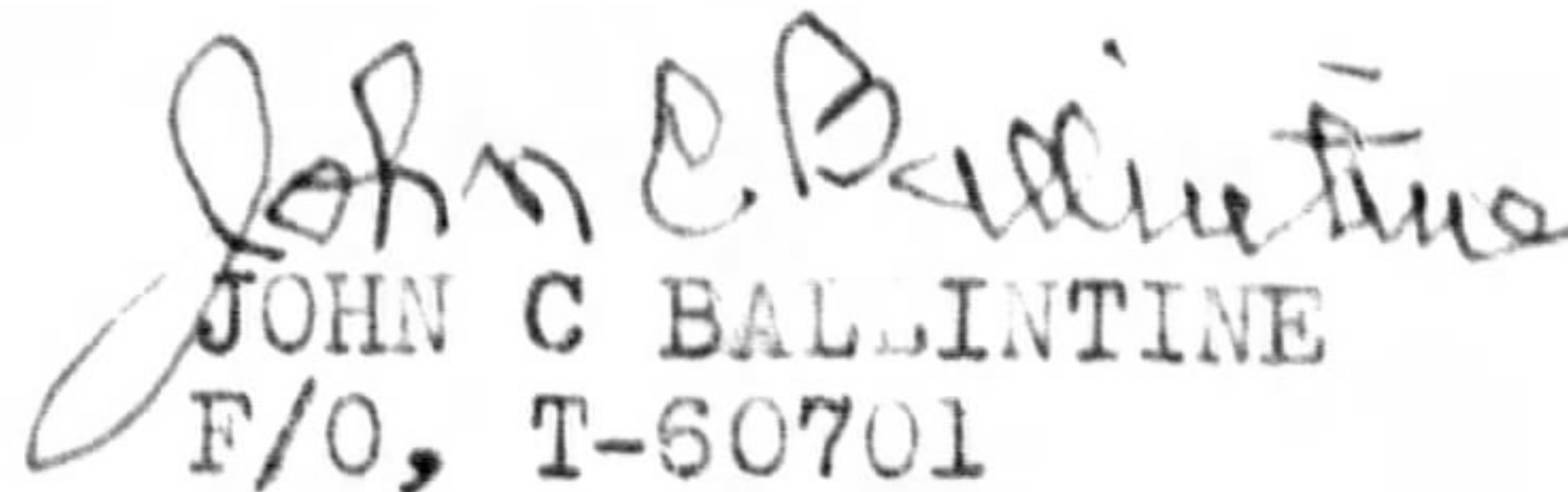
I was the co-pilot for ALFRED J SAPA, F/O, T-468, 71st T C Sq. We were in #10 glider in the left element. After cutoff we made a good landing. The gear was washed out but everyone got out of the glider without injury. We were under enemy fire from the time we got onto the field, both mortar and small arms fire.

Sapa and I got right out of the glider and hit the ground. The airborne troops also got out and hit the dirt. After I had determined the direction of enemy fire I told the men to follow me over to a hedgerow about 30 yards away. Only two followed me. Everyone else, including F/O Sapa stayed by the glider.


About 45 minutes later a platoon of Germans charged the field. The three of us in the hedgerow started picking off as many as we could. One of the airborne soldiers with me had a tommy gun, but an enemy bullet caught the gun and tore it up. Shortly after that everything went blank for me. I came to on the field with a German medic dressing my head. A bullet had mangled the fingers of my right hand and imbedded itself in my left forehead. The German medic was armed with a rifle.

I was taken back to a forward dressing station in St. Come-du-Mont by the Germans. While at the aid station we were shelled and bombed by the Allies. The town was really torn up. The Germans pulled out, abandoning their medics and wounded, both American and German. I was stripped of all my own equipment and lost everything but a picture folio which had nothing of value in it. Even our gas masks were taken away from us.

After I left the glider I did not see F/O Sapa again, I do not know what happened to him.

  
JOHN C BALLINTINE  
F/O, T-60701

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of July 1944

  
ROBERT R COLLINS  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Adjutant, 71st T C Sq

S T A T E M E N T


I, ROBERT CROFT, F/O, T-123375, 75th T C Sq, 435th T C Gp, do hereby state that I participated in the second lift, Neptune-Bigot operation on the afternoon of 6 June 1944 and was attached to the 71st T C Squadron, 434th T C Gp for such operation.

I was co-pilot for GUS T GRIFFIN, 2d Lt, O-\_\_\_\_\_, 75th T C Sq, 435th T C Gp. We landed o.k. Two of the airborne soldiers in our glider were hit before landing. We hit the ground and tried to crawl to cover, but both Griffin and myself were hit before reaching cover. I received seven flesh wounds, a broken left elbow, severe wounds of the left leg. I couldn't move but Griffin tried to move on and got hit. I feel sure he was killed.


I was captured about 2200 6 June 1944 and treated by German medics on the field. At the same time that I was being treated the Germans were gathering captives on the same field, those that were uninjured were marched away. I saw F/O William Jew, T-798, 71st T C Sq and F/O Steve P O dahowski, T-1296, 71st T C Sq among the captives being marched away and yelled at them, they nodded to me. I did not see them again.

The German medic who treated me was armed with a German Lueger pistol.

I do not know F/O Alfred J. Sapa, T-468, 71st T C Sq, and I cannot say for sure whether or not he was among the captives.

  
ROBERT CROFT  
F/O, T-123375

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of June 1944.

  
ROBERT R COLLINS  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Adjutant, 71st T C Sq