

1384

RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by L. A. SHAW, Lt. Col., AF
by F. B. GUNCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1950

ORIGINAL RECORDS
COMPLETED

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

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

7384

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 131; Command or Air Force 8th Air Force
Group 398th Bomb Hq; Squadron 603rd Bomb Hq; Detachment None

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 131 Course per atchd track chart
Intended Destination Target Area & Return Type of Mission Operational

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Ceiling and visibility unlimited except for haze.

4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 Aug. 1944; Time Approx 1300; and Location Tr. 4850N-0035W
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

(b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted, () Last Contacted by Radio,
() Forced Down, () Seen to crash, or () 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, () Other Circumstances as Follows

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-107223

7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1620-97 A.A.F. Serial Number
(a) SW-014929; (b) SW-015789; (c) SW-015260; (d) SW-015306

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
(a)	Buffalo Arms	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	1296305
(b)	Buffalo Arms	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	1296315
(c)	Buffalo Arms	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	716488
(d)	Buffalo Arms	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	1101339
(e)	Buffalo Arms	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	1101526
(f)	High Standard	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	158673
(g)	High Standard	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	158530
(h)	High Standard	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	158120
(i)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	716559
(j)	Frig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	716674
(k)	Chapin, General Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	716748
(l)	Chapin, General Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	716616

*See Det. 8012
120941A
8848
121A*

*121A
941A*

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____

rel 81

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10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10

<u>CREW POSITION</u>	<u>NAME IN FULL</u> (Last Name First)	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
1. Pilot, CA	WAGNER, LLOYD C., JR	Captain	0-726821 <i>RTD</i>
2. Pilot	HOPKINS, ROBERT L	Captain	0-670546 <i>RTD</i>
3. Tail Gunner	KUSHERA, FREDRICK J, Jr.	2nd Lt	0-759258 <i>RTD</i>
4. Navigator	BERNICK, VONNIE L	1st Lt	0-749408
5. Navigator	STITZ, THOMAS J	2nd Lt	0-700081 <i>RTD</i>
6. Bombardier	ARNOLD, CHARLES	2nd Lt	0-706773
7. Eng Turret Gunner	Cernillor, William J	T Sgt	32149064 <i>RTD</i>
8. Radio Gunner	Gibeau, Raymond C	T Sgt	37220236 <i>RTD</i>
9. Ball Turret Gunner	Hochadel, James F	S Sgt	15323467
10. Left Waist Gunner	Werner, John I	S Sgt	19129433 <i>RTD</i>
11.			
12.			

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME: (Check Only One)

<u>Name in Full</u> (Last Name First)	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Contacted</u>		<u>Saw</u>	
			<u>By Radio</u>	<u>Last Sighted</u>	<u>Saw Crash</u>	<u>Forced Landing</u>
1. BERWICK, GARFIELD L	S Sgt	39568054		X		
2. REED, HOWARD W	2nd Lt	0-756321		X		
3. LANDRIF, WILLIAM E., JR.	S Sgt	31180915		X		

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

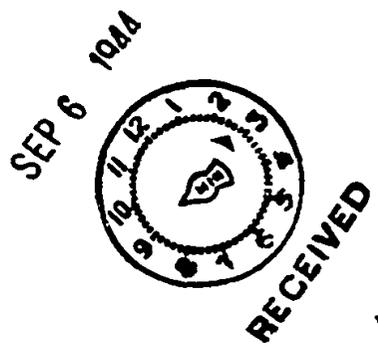
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT:

(Descriptions attached)

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE No knowledge of search being made.

Date of Report 10 August 1944



(Signature of Preparing Officer)
WILLIS E. GIBEAU
1st Lt, Air Corps
Statistical Control Officer

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398th Bombardment Group Ev
Bretteville le Rabet, France Mission 8 August 1944

Lead Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			B-6 HOPKINS WAGNER <u>7223-A</u>			
		F-7 Lehner <u>7138-T</u>		B-2 Kaufman Davidson <u>7982-K</u>		
B-5 Fisher <u>7078-U</u>		B-7 Newman <u>7053-W</u>		B-2 Engel <u>7789-H</u>		
B-8 Moore <u>7977-R</u>		F-5 Funter Rudrud <u>2506-L</u>		B-3 Wagnan <u>2562-G</u>		B-4 Rehne <u>7825-J</u>
	F-4 Clark <u>7183-J</u>		F-8 Driscoll <u>7810-S</u>			

Low Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			D-7 Dalton Frazier <u>7874-W</u>			
		D-10 Farnsworth <u>2607-F</u>		D-1 Heirtzelman Simeral <u>7080-S</u>		
D Fairbanks <u>7190-L</u>		D-3 Cuccio <u>7401-T</u>			Davis, J.A. <u>2565-M</u>	
D-10 Stallcup <u>7385-X</u>		F-8 Turner <u>7337-R</u>		Blackwell <u>7394-P</u>		Brown <u>2596-N</u>
	F-2 Rudow <u>2543-B</u>		F-3 Doerr <u>2593-C</u>			

High Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			C-9 Rice Lowe, JD <u>7846-T</u>			
		F-6 Cummings <u>7094-N</u>		C-7 Baker <u>7399-H</u>		
C-8 Lowe, DB <u>2519-A</u>		F-9 Rogers <u>2610-Y</u>			C-1 Elwood <u>2536-C</u>	
B-5 Reed <u>6083-V</u>		F-4 Cobb <u>7150-K</u>		D-2 Johnson <u>7389-B</u>		D-8 Armor <u>7338-C</u>
	F-6 Boheme <u>7387-H</u>		F-7 Link <u>7374-X</u>		F-12 Mann <u>7188-G</u>	

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-107225, Pilot CA,
Captain Meyer C Wagner Jr, O-726521, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb
Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

We were leading the low element of the lead group. As the ship was hit after dropping its bombs, it veered off to the right. As soon as it started turning one parachute came out but did not open immediately. I swung my turret and followed this one down and soon after I was able to count ten opened chutes. These were floating down very near the target and flak was very intense at that point. I saw the ship continue to veer to the right for some distance and then I lost sight of it.

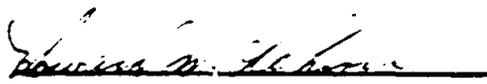
William H. Landrie Jr.

WILLIAM H LANDRIE JR., 31180915
S Sgt, 603rd Bomb Sq
Ball Turret Ganner, B17G 42-107078-U

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17C 42-107223, Pilot CA,
Captain Meyer C Wagner Jr, O-726521, 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb
Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville, le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

I saw Captain Wagner's plane break away from the formation to the
left and down trailing smoke from number one or number two engines. He
dropped his bombs as he broke away from the formation and I heard him
call the deputy lead plane to take over. About thirty seconds later
I saw two men come out. Just then the formation started to the right
and I lost sight of the ship which at that time was about two miles
inside and flying parallel with enemy lines doing gentle banks to the
left. I saw no chutes open.


HOWARD W RIEHME, O-756321
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Pilot, B17G 43-37825

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-107223, Pilot CA, Captain Meyer C Wagner Jr, O-726521. 603rd Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

I was flying as Togglier of Lt Fisher's crew on 8 August 1944. About three or five minutes before the target, I saw Captain Wagner's ship get hit by flak in number two and number three engines. Pieces of metal started flying off these engines. His plane started down to the right then came back up into place. After about two minutes later he started dropping his bombs in train. After about ten bombs were out he started a glide downward still dropping bombs in train--finally salvaging his last four as the ship started veering to the right. In this downward glide I counted ten men bailing out of the ship. I saw two chutes open but was not in position to see most of them open.

Garfield L. Herwick

GARFIELD L HERWICK, 39568054
S Sgt, 603rd Bomb Sq
Togglier B17G 42-107078-U

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**Meldung über den Abschluß eines
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

Abschluß-Nr. XU 9-1 A

Abschlußtag und Zeit: 8.8.44

Abschlußort: Caen

Flugzeugtyp: Fortress

Meldende Dienststelle: Stalag-Luft XII A

Besatzung:

Name und Vornamen: Geburtsdag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwendung Grablage

KUSNERA	Frederick	2/Lt.	0-759258	gef.	Stalag-Luft XIIA
STITZ	Thomas J.	2/Lt.	0-700081	gef.	Stalag-Luft XIIA
GERMILLER	William Joseph	T/Sgt.	32449064	gef.	Stalag-Luft XIIA
GIBEAU	Raymond C.	T/Sgt.	37220236	gef.	Stalag-Luft XIIA
WERNER	John Irving	S/Sgt.	19129433	gef.	Stalag-Luft XIIA

Bemerkungen: 7384

BÜLAG-LUFT, den 25.2.44 v. S.

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
P/W and X Detachment
Military Intelligence Service



REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Meyer C. WAGNER, Capt., O-726521
(Name) (Rank) ASN

5 Sep 1944
(Date)

605 Bomb. Sqdn., 398 Bomb. Group
(Unit)

EAE 2365

				PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS
<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				
COMMAND PILOT	O-670566	Capt.	Robert L. HOPKINS	MIA
PILOT	O-726521	Capt.	Meyer C. WAGNER	RTD
CO-PILOT	O-759258	2d Lt.	Frederick J. KUSHERA	P/W
NAVIGATOR	O-749408	1st Lt.	Vannorlin WERNECKE	RTD
BOMBARDIER	O-700081	2d Lt.	Thomas J. STITZ	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	82449064	T/Sgt.	William J. GERMILLER	P/W
TOP TURRET GUNNER	87280236	T/Sgt.	Raymond C. GIBEAU	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	15233487	S/Sgt.	James F. HOCHADEL	MIA
WAIST GUNNER				
WAIST GUNNER	19129435	S/Sgt.	John I. WERNER	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	O-706773	2d Lt.	Charles ARNOLD	MIA

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.

8 Sep 1944; 1200 hrs.; 12 mi. E of VINE;

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
Severe damage; on fire, two engines out, AFCE and controls out and communications system out.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out?

13,000 ft.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

I am not sure but I believe one or more men were shot while descending in chutes.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?

All bailed out and all chutes opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground?

The fire spread rapidly, but plane only exploded when it hit the ground.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground? Yes. I have seen alive all members but HOPKINS, HOCHADEL and ARNOLD.

Did he receive any information from others as to whether any other members of the crew were dead or alive? If so, give details furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise. **Germans told of a red head who was shot thru the head and dead upon landing. He left ship OK. Believe he was shot while descending.**

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?

No.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted other personnel to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and his reason for his opinion? **As above.**

4

1 Name:

EE 941 A dead Michael James F. 15923487

Mia 8 Aug 44

PIA
Air Corps

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN 8 Aug. 1944

CASUALTY NO. EH 941 A

PLACE OF CRASH Fortress

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT Stalag-Luft XII A

REPORTING OFFICE _____

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
HUNTER, Frederick	2/Lt.	0-799258	captured	Stalag-Luft XII
STILL, Thomas J.	2/Lt.	0-700061	"	"
GOSWELLER, William Joseph	T/Sgt.	32449864	"	"
GIESAU, Raymond C.	T/Sgt.	37228236	"	"
HUNTER, John Irving	S/Sgt.	19129433	"	"
Running No. EH 941 A		1st Additional Report, 11 Oct. 1944		
WPKLES, Robert Larry	Capt.	0-670546	captured	Dalag-Luft

REMARKS:

Dalag-Luft, 25 Sep. 1944 v. 5.

Flak- Assault- Regiment 1 (mot.)

8 AUG 44

Section Ia

Subject: Identification tag of an American Pilot.

Enclosure: identification tag.

To General Command III Flak Corps

Section Ia

Regiment delivers one identification tag of one American pilot, who has bailed out of a Fortress II AM, downed on Aug 44, time 1400. He was wounded by Flak-splinter and died. Body was interred at street Gambacourt-Berjou, near eastern outskirts of Gembacourt.

Report on grave will be submitted later.

1 identification tag:

James F. Madedel
15523487 T 43-43 A
G

117
7384

Date: Aug
8 April 44
Place: Caen
Type of craft: Fortress
Markings: 603(HBo)Sqd.
398 Group

See DA 8013

8 EUS
1 KIA
1 P88

Rank:	Name:	KU 941 a
Capt.	WAGNER,	EUS
Capt.	HOPKINS, Robert Larry	EUS: 0-670548
	(or ? HOPKINS)	
1st Lt.	WERNECKE,	EUS
1st Lt.	STITZ, Thomas J.	EUS : 0-700081
2nd Lt.	ARNOLD,	KIA
T/Sgt.	GIBBAU, Raymond C.	EUS : 37220236
T/Sgt.	GERMILLER, William Joseph	32449664 EUS
S/Sgt.	MOCHADL, James F.	: 15323487
S/Sgt.	WERNER, John Irving	EUS : 19129433
2nd Lt.	KUSHERA, Frederick	EUS : 0-799258

✓
Capt. Meyer C. Wagner, Jr.

Mr. Meyer C. Wagner, Sr., (Father)
Warwick Hotel,
Houston, Texas.

✓
Capt. Robert L. Hopkins

Mr. Clifford J. Hopkins, (Father)
Mulberry Grove, Illinois.

✓
1st. Lt. Vernerlia Wernecke

Mrs. Carolyn Daniels Wernecke, (Wife)
516 East 77th Street,
Seattle, Washington.

✓
2nd. Lt. Fredrick J. Kushera, Jr.

Mrs. Dorothy P. Kushera, (Wife)
5614 McMillan Avenue,
Compton, California.

✓
2nd. Lt. Thomas J. Stitz

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Stitz, (Mother)
114 West High Street,
Canal Fulton, Ohio.

✓
2nd. Lt. Charles Arnold

Mrs. Maxine Arnold, (Wife)
c/o Lee Arnold,
Marseilles, Illinois.

✓
T/Sgt. William J. Germiller

Mrs. Katherine Germiller, (Mother)
23 Hoffman Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York.

✓
T/Sgt. Raymond C. Gibeau

Mr. Alfred D. Gibeau, (Father)
Route Number One,
Bellaire, Kansas.

✓
S/Sgt. James F. Hochadel

Mrs. Mildred Hochadel, (Mother)
736 Elm Street,
Youngstown, Ohio.

✓
S/Sgt. John L. Werner

Mrs. Margaret C. Werner, (Mother)
329 Hampton Road,
Hayward, California.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

WAGNER Jr., Moyer C.

Rank:

Captain

Serial number:

O-726 521

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~PILOT/PILOT~~:

Pilot

Did he bail out? YESWhere? NEAR CAEN FRANCE

If not, why not? _____

① Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I WAS ATTEMPTING TO PUT OUT A FIRE ON THE FLIGHT DECK WHEN I REALIZED WE WERE GOING DOWN AT A STEEP RATE. THE PILOT (CAPT HOPKINS) WAS INJURED AND HAD GONE UP IN THE NOSE. CAPT WAGNER WAS IN THE CO-PILOTS SEAT. (CONTINUED ON BACK)

Was he injured? YES IN ONE OR BOTH LEGS

② Where was he when last seen? SEVERAL HOURS LATER HE WAS BROUGHT SEE BACK

Any hearsay information: _____

I UNDERSTAND HE WAS LIBERATED BY AMERICAN TROOPS SHORTLY AFTER AND RETURNED TO THE U.S.

Source: OTHER PRISONERS SHOT DOWN IN OCT. OR NOV. FROM OUR SQUADRON

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

① HE WAS TRYING TO CONTROL THE SHIP WITH THE AUTOMATIC PILOT. I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD HOLD HER UP. HE ANSWERED - THE CONTROLS ARE GONE BAIL OUT. I REPEATED THE ORDER TO THE REST OF THE CREW OVER THE INTERPHONE AND THEN WENT IN THE BOMB-BAY AND SAW THAT THE MEN IN THE WAIST WERE BAILING OUT. WAGNER WAS STILL AT THE CONTROLS WHEN I BAILED OUT.

② TO THE PLACE WHERE I WAS HELD PRISONER HE SAID HE HAD JUST COME FROM THE GERMAN FIRST-AID STATION. HE COULD HARDLY WALK. HE WAS WITH ME SEVERAL HOURS THEN WAS TAKEN AWAY IN A STAFF CAR.

File # 7384
INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ARNOLD, Charles
 Rank: 2nd Lt.
 Serial number: O-706 773
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Bombardier

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR CAEN, FRANCE

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? DONT KNOW

Where was he when last seen? NO KNOWLEDGE

Any hearsay information: _____

LT. CASHURA & LT STITZ WHO WERE TAKEN PRISONER
WITH ME TOLD ME THE GERMANS HAD ASKED THEM TO
IDENTIFY SOME CLOTHES, WHICH THEY SAID ~~WERE~~ LOOKED LIKE
ARNOLD'S

Source: LT CASHURA & LT STITZ. THE TAIL GUNNER & NAVIGATOR ON MY CREW

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I BELIEVE
HE WAS KILLED BY FLAK OR BY GROUND TROOPS AFTER
BAILING OUT. BASED ON MY CONVERSATION WITH
LT. STITZ & LT. ^{CASHURA} ~~ARNOLD~~ AND MY OWN EXPERIENCE OF BEING
SHOT AT BY GROUND TROOPS

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOCHADEL, James F.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **15 323 187**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of~~ **(Fighter):** **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR CAEN, FRANCE OVER THE GERMAN LINES

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HE CALLED ME ON INTERPHONE AFTER WE WERE HIT AND ASKED IF ANYONE WERE LEFT UP IN FRONT. I TOLD HIM WE WERE O.K. AND NOT TO BAIL OUT.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? AS HE WAS BAILING OUT.

Any hearsay information: A GERMAN NON-COMM TOLD ME THAT MY RED-HEADED COMRADE HAD BEEN SHOT THROUGH THE HEAD AND KILLED. SGT. HOCHADEL WAS THE ONLY RED HAIRIED FELLOW ON MY CREW. ALL OF US HAD BEEN FIRED ON / AS WE CAME DOWN IN OUR CHUTES. BY GROUND TROOPS

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I BELIEVE HE WAS SHOT BY THE GERMAN TROOPS AS HE CAME DOWN. I NOTICED ONE OF MY CREW LAND NEAR WHERE I WAS WHILE I WAS STILL IN THE AIR. HE HIT THE GROUND AND LAY STILL. THE GERMANS WERE ALL SHOOTING AT ME OVER

Total number of missions of above crew member: ~~HE~~ 18

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

AS I CAME DOWN. MY CHUTE WAS HIT SEVERAL TIMES
I BELIEVE SGT. MOCHADEL WAS THE MAN I SAW
LAND JUST BEFORE ME. HE WAS PROBABLY HIT AND
KILLED BY THIS GROUND FIRE. I KNOW FROM TALKING
TO THE REST OF MY CREW THAT THE MAN I SAW
WAS EITHER SGT. MOCHADEL OR LT. ARNOLD

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WILLIAM J. GERMILLER Rank T/SGT Serial No. 32449064
2. Organization 398th Gp Commander FRANK HUNTER Rank COL. Sqn CO WAGNER Rank CAPT.
3088 GP (H) (full name) # MEYERC. (full name)
3. What year 1944 month AUG. day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, FRAG. BOMBING, target, FRONT LINES NEAR CAEN, FRANCE
 time, 13:10, altitude, 14,000 route scheduled, _____
 route flown AS SCHEDULED
5. Where were you when you left information? 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". EVERYONE BAILED OUT WHEN I GAVE THE ORDER TO BAIL OUT, AFTER CAPT WAGNER HAD TOLD ME HE COULDN'T CONTROL THE SHIP. WAGNER WAITED TILL EVERYONE HAD TIME TO GET OUT BEFORE HE LEFT
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? DON'T KNOW
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
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? CAPT WAGNER — INJURED IN ONE OR BOTH LEGS WAS WITH ME SEVERAL HOURS AND THEN TAKEN AWAY BY THE GERMANS
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: WAGNER Jr., Meyer C.
 Rank: Captain
 Serial number: 0-726 521
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of 1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th/6th/7th/8th/9th/10th/11th/12th/13th/14th/15th/16th/17th/18th/19th/20th/21st/22nd/23rd/24th/25th/26th/27th/28th/29th/30th/31st/32nd/33rd/34th/35th/36th/37th/38th/39th/40th/41st/42nd/43rd/44th/45th/46th/47th/48th/49th/50th/51st/52nd/53rd/54th/55th/56th/57th/58th/59th/60th/61st/62nd/63rd/64th/65th/66th/67th/68th/69th/70th/71st/72nd/73rd/74th/75th/76th/77th/78th/79th/80th/81st/82nd/83rd/84th/85th/86th/87th/88th/89th/90th/91st/92nd/93rd/94th/95th/96th/97th/98th/99th/100th~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? YES

Where? DON'T KNOW EXACT POSITION. WAS IN DAZED CONDITION FOR 3 DAYS FROM HEADWOUND

If not, why not? WAS ABOUT 30 SEC. FROM OUR 2 AUG 44 TARGET.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: WAGNER WAS COMMAND PILOT AND GAVE ME ORDER TO BAIL OUT.

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: WAGNER WAS REPATRIATED IN LATE AUGUST 1944 AND IS NOW AT HOME IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: —

Dates and destinations if possible: AUGUST 2, 1944 OVER FRONT LINES ABOUT 20 TO 30 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF CAEN, FRANCE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: WERNECKE, Vonnerlin
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: 0-749 408
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~WAGNER/WAGNER~~: Navigator

Did he bail out? YES

Where? SAME AS WAGNER

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I PASSED
HIM OUT NAV. ESCAPE HATCH

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? _____

Any hearsay information: _____

WERNECKE ALSO RETURNED TO U.S.A
IN AUG 1944, WITH WAGNER

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: 8 AUG 1944 OVER FRONT LINES
20 TO 30 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF CAEN, FRANCE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: HOCHADEL, James F.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 15 323 487
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Ball Turret Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? ABOUT 30 SECONDS BEFORE OUR 8 AUG 1944 TARGET

If not, why not? -

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? TOP TURRET GUNNER, WILLIAM GERMILLER,

Any hearsay information: SAW HOCHADEL HIT THE GROUND.

HE PRESUMED HIM DEAD BECAUSE HE WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD AND NEVER MOVED AFTER HITTING GROUND. A GERMAN SOLDIER TOLD GERMILLER THAT HOCHADEL WAS DEAD. ALL CREW MEMBERS WERE FIRED UPON BY GERMAN MACHINE GUNNERS AND RIFLE MEN FROM THE GROUND WHILE DESCENDING IN CHUTES.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: SGT. RAMOND GIBBEAU LATER SAW SGT HOCHADEL FACE DOWN ON A STRETCHER BEING CARRIED BY GERMAN SOLDIERS.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 20

Dates and destinations if possible: 8 AUG 1944 OVER FRONT LINES ABOUT 20 TO 30 MILES SOUTH EAST OF CAEN, FRANCE

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

WENDEKE, Vernerlin

Rank:

1st Lt.

Serial number:

O-749 408

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~:

Navigator

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? some vicinity

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? Not sure

Where was he when last seen? on ground before mission

Any hearsay information: _____

think he was injured - but haven't seen or heard from him.

Source: other crew members - mostly Capt. Hopkins

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: None

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

File # 7384
INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

ARNOLD, Charles

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Serial number:

O-706 713

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~:

Bombardier

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Some vicinity

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: heardhim an intercom about 2 min. before bailing out.Was he injured? YesWhere was he when last seen? On ground before missionAny hearsay information: presumed dead by War Dept.Not sure whether it was he or Huchadel seen on ground near a chute.Source: his wife, Mrs. Arnold

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

He was badly wounded by Flak & was probably hit by Flak while in his chute as it opened too quickly, from what other crew members said.Total number of missions of above crew member: unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **HOCHADEL, James P.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **15 323 157**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~15 323 157 (Fighter):~~ **Ball Turret Gunner**

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Same vicinity - from waist window

If not, why not? _____

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

Saw him jump from plane - OK.

Was he injured? NOT in plane.

Where was he when last seen? NOT SURE

Any hearsay information: I could see either he or LT. Arnold lying on ground near a chute with blood all over me west - as I was nearing ground, but rifle fire directed at me + others distracted me from what else went on close to ground!

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

A German NCO (Infantryman) tried to inform Geimiller, Gibson + I that our red-headed comrade was shot thru the neck + we presumed he meant dead

Total number of missions of above crew member: unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John Irving Werner Rank S/SET Serial No. 19129433
2. Organization 398th Bomb Gp Commander Hunter Rank Col. Sqn CO Wagner Rank Capt.
603rd B.Sq. (full name) (full name) Meyer C.
3. What year 1944 month August day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, TROOP SUPPORT, target, about 20 miles North of Fobise, FRANCE.
 time, 1315, altitude, 14000 FT route scheduled, _____
 _____, route flown slightly south of enemy lines flying east.
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lead of Wing
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". Saw TSgt. Wm Gormiller & Raymond Gibeau bail out but did not see them till later on ground. Did not see Capt. Hopkins, Lt. Steitz, Lt. Kuykendall bail out but saw them on ground later. Gormiller, Gibeau & myself bailed out of cockpit door on Capt. Wagner's orders were intercom - nose badly damaged by FFA. About 3 miles short of target
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? unknown
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None
11. Where were they in aircraft? None
12. What was their condition? None
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Could see still form on ground on my descent - not sure whether it was S/SET Hochstetel or Lt. Arnold. Did not see Lt. Werhecke at all on flight, but heard of him later as Lt.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

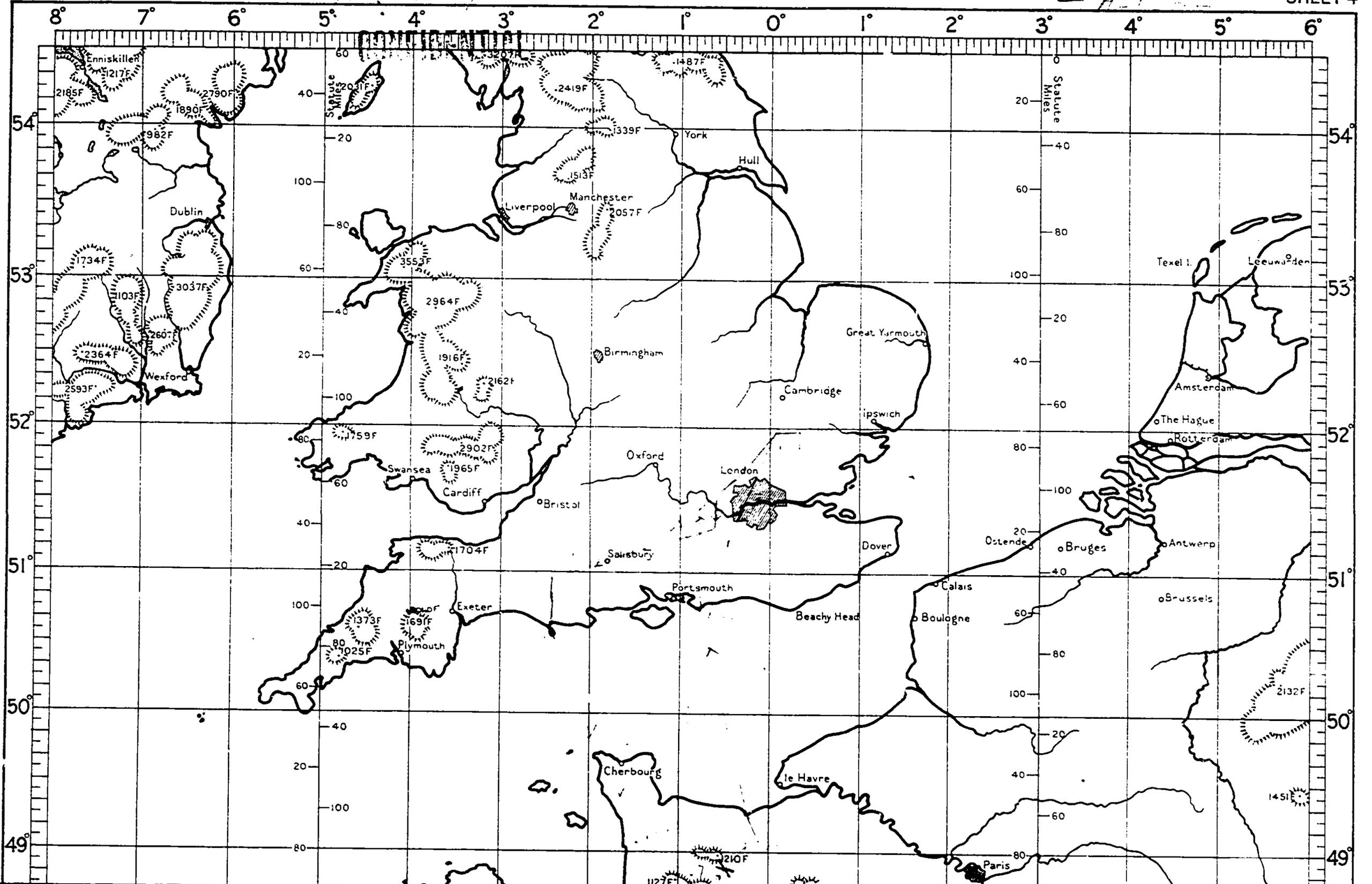
(Any additional information may be written on the back)

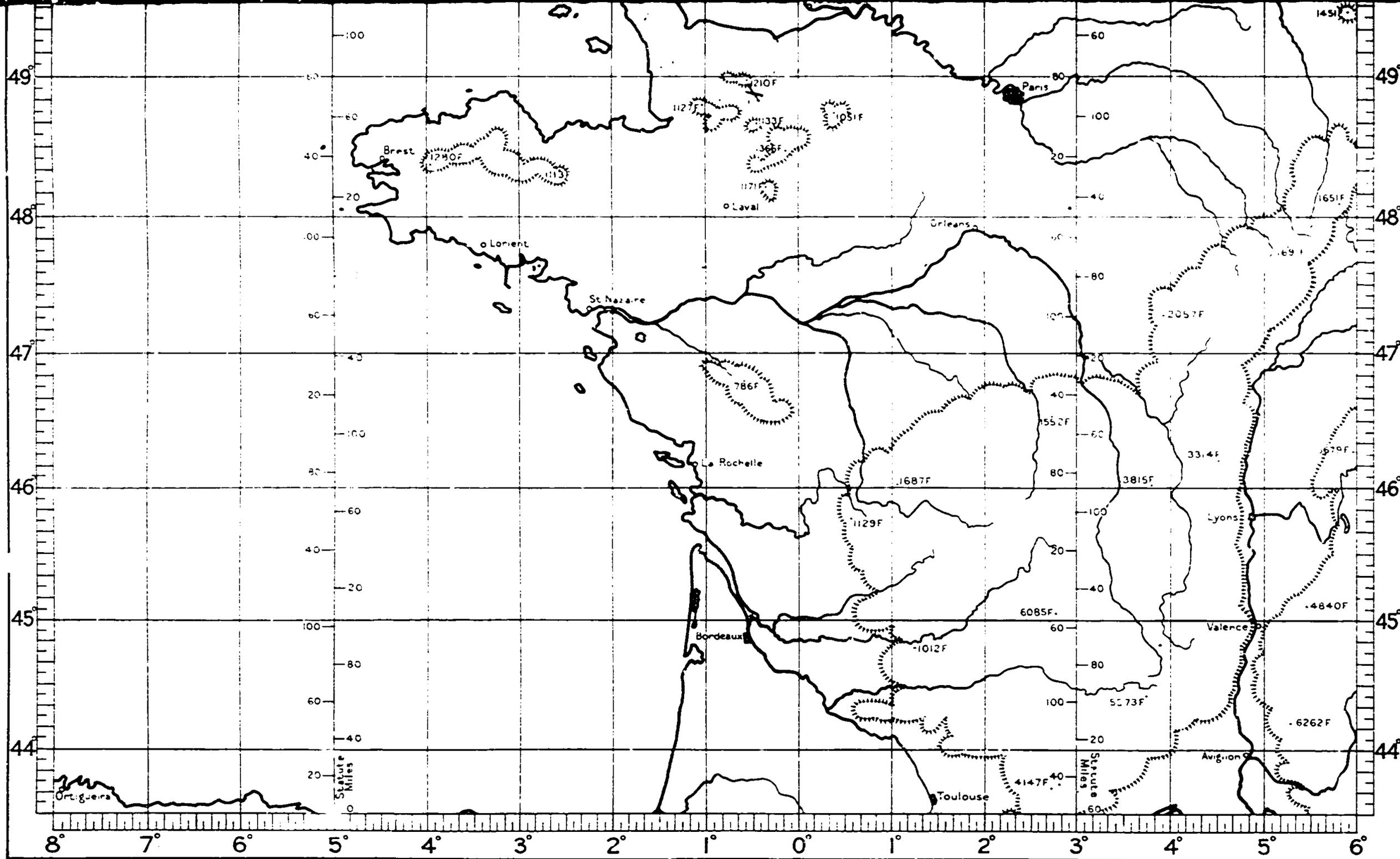
Capt. Hopkins was wounded in the head & arm by
Flak (not mentioned on individual Casualty Questionnaire.)

After being assembled by German Infantrymen, T/Sgt.
Germiller, Gibeau & I learned that "our red-headed
comrade," probably Hochadel, had been shot thru the neck
by rifle fire - which we were all subject to on
hearing the ground.

ENNISKILLEN TO AVIGNON

INTENDED
ALT





OR 1373

HEIGHTS IN FEET

Compiled and drawn at H.Q./G.S.G.S. 1943

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Scale 1 : 2,890,000 (approx) at 56°N.