

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,  
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982.

8065

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Classification changed

to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by ~~A. M. BARTON, Lt. Col., AG~~  
by ~~F. M. SIMON, Capt., AG~~  
Date: ~~SEP 1 1953~~

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Classified **RESTRICTED**  
to  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. E. MURPHY, CAPT, AG

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

8095

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 390th Bomb Hq; Squadron 601st Bomb Hq; Detachment None

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

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

4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 Aug 1944; Time approx 1800; and Location Nr 4851N-0088W  
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-1G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-97394 X

7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1620-9; A.A.F. Serial Number  
(a) SN-009941; (b) SN-009918; (c) SN-009845; (d) SN-009782

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

	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
(a)	High Standard	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	1062995
(b)	Colt Arms Corp.	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	52482
(c)	Colt Arms Corp.	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	648955
(d)	Colt Arms Corp.	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	638676
(e)	A.C. Spark Plug, C.M.	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	73265
(f)	High Standard	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	601870
(g)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	647575
(h)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	647676
(i)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	972324
(j)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	972209
(k)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	638689
(l)	Prig. Div. Gen. Motors	.50 Cal A/C Mach Gun	638659
(m)			
(n)			
(o)			
(p)			
(q)			
(r)			
(s)			
(t)			

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: ( ) Battle Casualty As Noted at night  
or ( ) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

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10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9

<u>CREW POSITION</u>	<u>NAME IN FULL</u> (Last Name First)	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>	
1. Pilot	BLACKWELL, JR. WALLACE M.	2nd Lt	0-817100	(Rescued)
2. Co-Pilot	ANDERSON, ROY L	2nd Lt	0-766606	(Rescued)
3. Navigator	CASSUTO, ISALORE	2nd Lt	0-718242	(Rescued)
4. Toggler	BACON, ADRIAN S	Cpl	34761844	(Rescued)
5. Top Turret Gunner	BRUNSBERG, ARNOLD I	S Sgt	37281754	(Rescued)
6. Waist Gunner	AUGUSTIN, ROBERT R	Cpl	36441177	(MIA)
7. Radio Operator Gunner	Brown, Jr, Millver B	Sgt	19137170	(Rescued)
8. Ball Turret Gunner	Decker, Gerald A	Cpl	37820511	(Rescued)
9. Tail Gunner	Simons, Charles	Sgt	20242353	(MIA)

11. \*NOTE: All personnel except the two marked MIA have returned to this station.

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Contacted			Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
		By Radio	Last Sighted	By		
1. BROWN, MILLVER B., JR	Sgt	19137170	X			
2. DECKER, GERALD A	Cpl	37820511	X			
3. WEBB, HENRY	2nd Lt	0-700380	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) \_\_\_\_\_

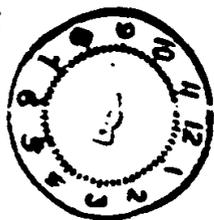
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT:  
(Eye Witness Statements 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 any search being made.

Date of Report 11 August 1944

RECEIVED



SEP 9 6 1944

Wallace L Campbell  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
WALLACE L CAMPBELL  
1st Lt, Air Corps  
Statistical Control Officer

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396th Bombardment Group Bv  
Bretteville le Rabet, France Mission 6 August 1944

Lead Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			B-8 HOPKINS WAGNER <u>7226-A</u>			
		B-7 <u>Lehner</u> 7138-T		B-2 Kaufman Davidson <u>7952-K</u>		
	B-5 <u>Fisher</u> 7078-U	B-7 <u>Newman</u> 7053-M			B-2 <u>Engel</u> 7789-H	B-4 <u>Rehme</u> 7325-J
B-8 <u>Moore</u> 7977-R		F-5- Punter Rudrud <u>2506-L</u>		B-3 <u>Wagnan</u> 2562-G		
	F-4 <u>Clark</u> 7193-L	F-8 <u>Driscoll</u> 7810-S				

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Low Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			D-7 Dalton Frazier <u>7874-W</u>			
		D-10 <u>Farnsworth</u> 2607-F		D-1 Heintzelman Simeral <u>7080-S</u>		
	D <u>Fairbanks</u> 7190-L	D-3 <u>Cucco</u> 7401-T			D-6 <u>Davis, JA</u> 2565-M	D-6 <u>Brown</u> 2596-N
D-10 <u>Stallcup</u> 7385-X		F-8 <u>Turner</u> 7337-R		D-5 <u>Blackwell</u> 7394-P		
	F-2 <u>Rudow</u> 2543-B	F-3 <u>Doerr</u> 2593-C				

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High Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

			C-9 RICE LOWE, JD <u>7846-T</u>			
		F-6 <u>Cummings</u> 7094-M		C-7 <u>Baker</u> 7399-H		
	C-8 <u>Lowe, DE</u> 2519-A	F-9 <u>Rogers</u> 2610-Y			C-1 <u>Elwood</u> 2536-C	D-8 <u>Armor</u> 7338-C
B-5 <u>Reed</u> 6083-V		F-4 <u>Cobb</u> 7150-K		D-2 <u>Johnson</u> 7889-B	F-12 <u>Mann</u> 7188-C	
	F-6 <u>Boelue</u> 7387-H	F-7 <u>Link</u> 7374-X				

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97394, Pilot, 2nd Lt  
Wallace M Blackwell, O-817100, 601st Bomb Squadron, 385th Bomb Group  
On Operational Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

A direct hit on the tail blew off most of the vertical stabilizer, part of the horizontal stabilizer, and all of the tail position from the tail wheel back. I was in the radio room when this happened--and all I saw was the results of the blast. I think the tail gunner was definitely killed, although his body was blown clear of the ship.

When the bail-out signal was given, the ball turret gunner, waist gunner and I lined up in that order at the waist escape hatch. The ball turret gunner was 100% healthy at the time. I saw him bail out and I saw his parachute open safely. There is a strong possibility that he came down within enemy lines, because the waist gunner and I landed within two thousand yards of the nearest enemy position. The ship was heading toward our lines.

*William B Brown*

HILLIER B BROWN JR, 19137170  
Sgt, 601st Bomb Sq  
Radio Gunner, B17G 42-97394

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Right Waist Gunner's Description of Missing Air Crew flying B17G 42-97394, with pilot, 2nd Lt Wallace H Blackwell, O-S17100. 601st Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Operational Mission to Bretteville, le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

Number four engine received a direct hit and Lt Blackwell feathered the propeller. Within a couple of minutes we received another direct hit in or near the bomb bay. I called the ball turret operator, Bob Augustin to see if he was alright. After a couple of attempts he answered that he was alright and hadn't been hit. He came out of the turret and I told him to put on his chute. He put it on immediately and came back to where I was. At the same time we received another hit directly in the tail gunners position. I saw the tail instantly disappear and also the tail gunner--Sivons. I know he never knew what happened. I called in the damage to the pilot and in about a minute the Co-Pilot gave the bail out call. Bob Augustin was the first man out and I saw his chute open. I looked around to see if the radio operator--Hillyer Brown-- was alright. He was standing behind me and was alright so I bailed out and he followed. On the way down I saw two other chutes that I think was Bob's and Brown's. I landed about two thousand yards from the enemy lines.

*Gerald A. Decker*

GERALD A DECKER, 37520511  
Cpl, 601st Bomb Sq  
Waist Gunner, B17G 42-97394

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97394, Pilot, 2nd Lt Wallace M Blackwell, O-817100, 601st Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

While flying on bomb run leading low squadron of low group about two or three minutes before bombs away, I saw Lt Blackwell's ship receive a direct flak hit in tail gunners compartment and completely knocked it off and half of the rudder. It looked as if a body fell out the tail section. The ship was not out of control and it pulled up out of formation and headed for friendly territory, but I did not observe the ship as it went over us.

*Henry Webb*  
HENRY WEBB, O-700350  
2nd Lt Air Corps  
Co-Pilot B17G 42-97337

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ANDERSON ROY L.	0768808	<i>Not reported as Casualty</i>		
AUGUSTIN, ROBERT R.	36441177	RTD	16 AUG 44	Ship. No. 177
BACON, ADRIAN S.	54761344	RTD	27 DEC 44	Ship. No. 010
BLACKWELL, WALLACE E., JR.	0817100	<i>Not reported as Casualty</i>		
BROWN, HILLYER B., JR.	19137170	"	"	"
BRUNSBERG, ARNOLD H.	37281754	"	"	"
CASSUTO, ISADORE	0718242	"	"	"
DECKER, GERALD A.	37520511			

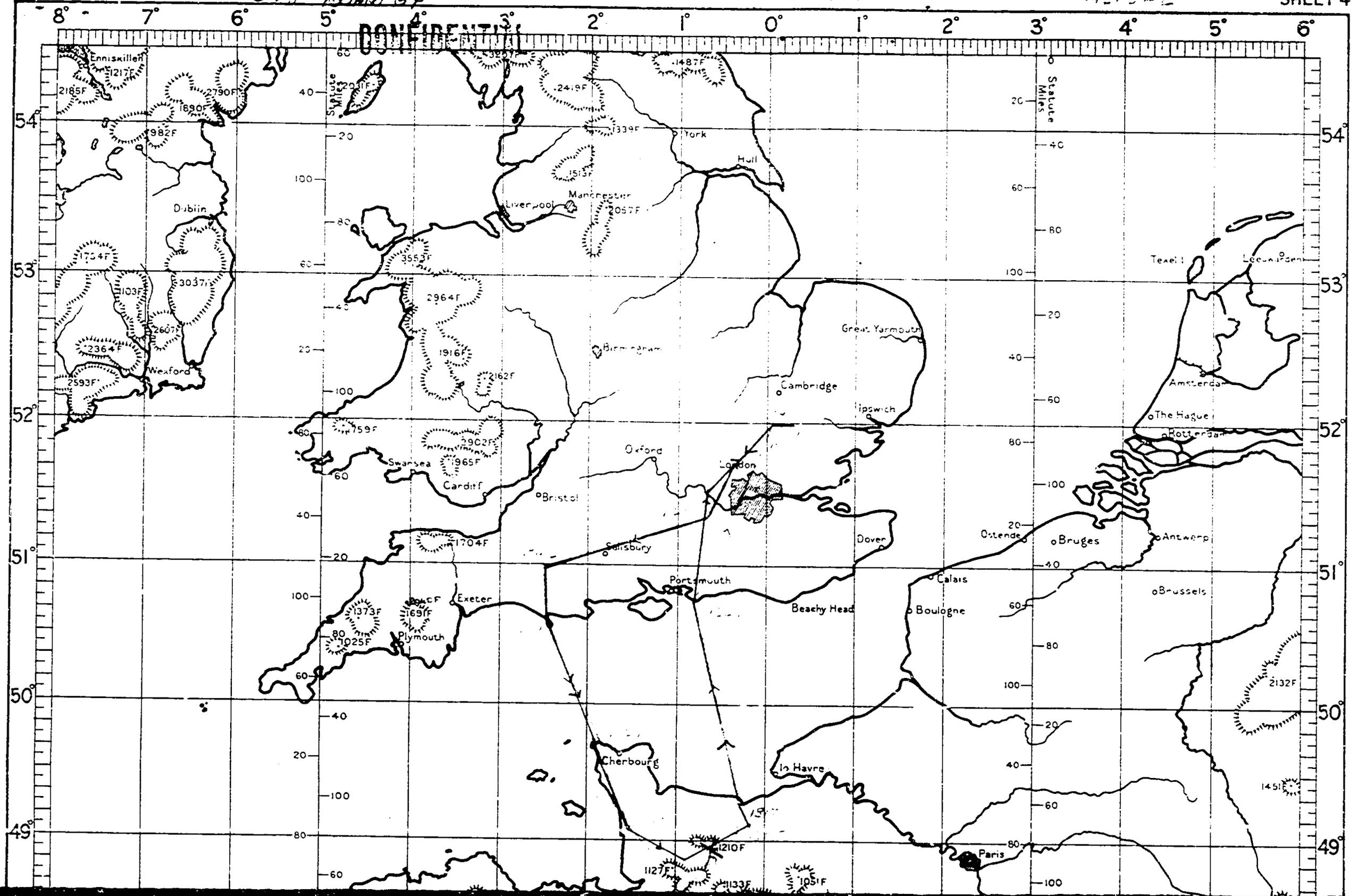
TARGET 4902H 0016W  
CAPTAINS OF AIRCRAFT 398 Bomb GP

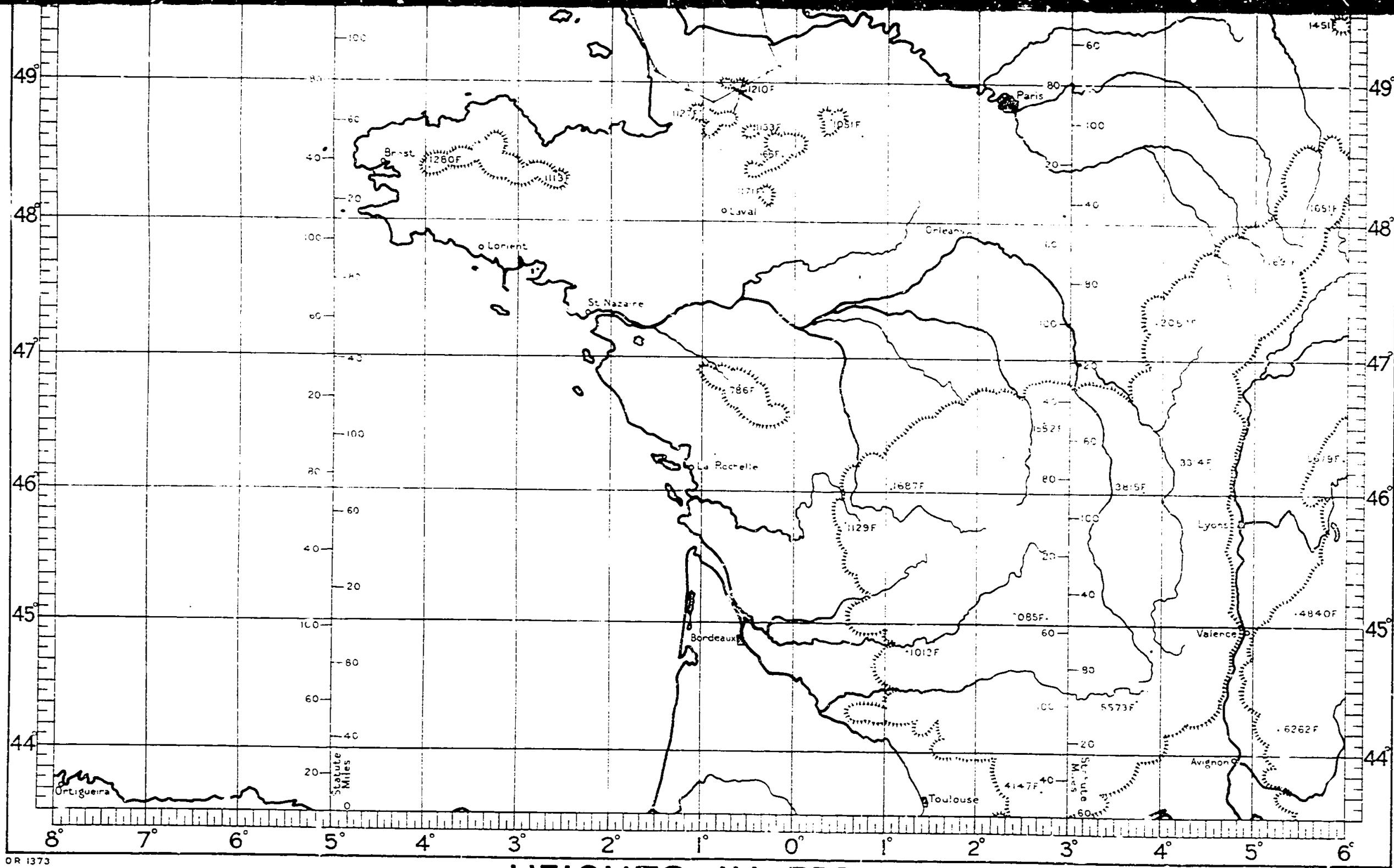
8 AUGUST 44  
ENNISKILLEN TO AVIGNON

INTENDED  
ACTUAL

SHEET 4

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OR 1373

# HEIGHTS IN FEET

Scale 1:2,890,000 (approx) at 56°N.

Compiled and drawn at F.O.G.S.G.S. 1943

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