

11334

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~

by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG

Date ~~DEC 16 1940~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Classification changed to RESTRICTED by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG Date MAR 15 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

11334

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

REPORT: This Report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name England; Command or Air Force 8 A.F.  
Group 457 Bomb. Gp. (H); Squadron 750th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Station 130; Course  
Target or Intended Destination Merseburg, Germany; Type of Mission  
Objective Bombing.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
9/10 to 10/10ths - visibility unlimited
4. GIVE: (a) Day 12 Month Dec. Year 1944; Time 1111; and Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. 50-15N 08-15E  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was 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 (☐); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (☐); Other Circumstances as follows: Reasons unknown.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B17G; AAF Serial Number 43-37567
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Willie III
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; AAF Serial Number  
(a) 024470; (b) 010943; (c) 023729; (d) 024228
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below date, type and serial number):  
(a) 1199315; (b) 1530804; (c) 1531169; (d) 1531212;  
(e) 1530669; (f) 1531656; (g) 1530852; (h) 1199810;  
(i) 1531290; (j) 1531433; (k) 1531557; (l) 1530686;  
(m) 1531433; (n) 1531433; (o) 1531433; (p) 1531433
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty ☒  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9  
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status	
1. Pilot	Higgins, Montell C.	1st Lt.	0750986	MIA	6.T.E
2. CP	Bell, William M. Jr.	2nd Lt.	0520639	MIA	Pow RTD
3. N	McCaugham, John Q.	1st Lt.	0719853	MIA	Pow RTD
4. B	Harstein, Harold F.	2nd Lt.	01928571	MIA	Pow RTD
5. RO	Lawyer, Fred E.	T/Sgt.	35610335	MIA	Pow RTD
6. TPG	Winder, Francis J.	T/Sgt.	1307245	MIA	Pow RTD
7. BTG	Porter, Philip G.	S/Sgt.	35705727	MIA	Pow RTD
8. WG	Perry, Russell A.	S/Sgt.	11095617	MIA	Pow RTD
9. TG	Smigielski, Bill C.	S/Sgt.	35688136	MIA	Pow RTD
10.					
11.					

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landin
1. Hollis, Medford E.	1st Lt.	0755439		X		
2. Sandbaum, Carl P.	1st Lt.	0763714		X		
3. Evans, R. Ph I.	1st Lt.	0760607		X		

(Over)

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 15'



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13. 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 \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH ANY WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT \_\_\_\_\_

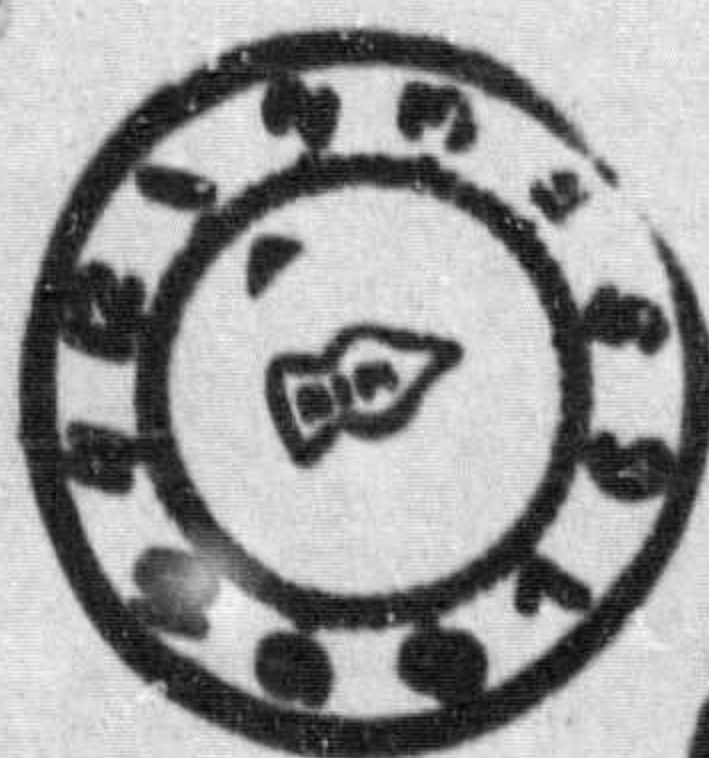
Date of Report 20 December 1944.

*Gerald H. Galligan*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR ANY OTHER STATEMENTS:

GERALD H. GALLIGAN,  
Capt., A. C.,  
Air Statistical Officer.

FEB 14 1945



RECEIVED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



(S-2 Summary of  
Eye-Witness Accounts)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(S-2 Summary of  
Eye-Witness Accounts)

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 457th Sqdn. 750th A/C No. 43-37567

MISSION DATE 12 December 1944 FIRST PILOT Montell C. Higgins  
(Name)

1st Lt. 0-750986

DESTINATION Merseburg

(Rank)

(Serial No.)

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

(a) By coordinates Approximately 5015 - 0815

(b) Approximate altitude 25,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading (Roughly) 250 degrees

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation A few hundred yards

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing A/C):

No flak was encountered up to point where aircraft was reported seen last.

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

No damage was noticed to aircraft. It was flying lead in the low squadron and appeared to be having difficulty maintaining speed and altitude, causing the whole squadron to fall behind. It was flying at an airspeed of only 130 miles per hour and was losing altitude. Several witnesses said all four engines were turning. One witness reported number 4 engine feathered.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

Aircraft was not out of control.

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



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

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation, was it last seen with escort? No If so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and/or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

No parachutes were seen and no one was seen to jump.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

Just before leaving the formation, aircraft number 43-37567 dropped its wheels, pulled out to left and flew alongside the deputy lead aircraft, number 43-38301, for about one minute. One witness believes that aircraft number 43-37567 may have trailed the formation for some time instead of turning back immediately.

8. Date of report 19 December 1944

EYE-WITNESSES:	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>Medford E. Hollis</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-755439</u>	<u>43-38301</u>
2.	<u>Carl P. Sundbaum</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-768744</u>	<u>43-38810</u>
3.	<u>Ralph I. Evans</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-760607</u>	<u>42-97535</u>
4.	<u>John R. Godwin</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-816801</u>	<u>43-38881</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and One Copy):

Hugh M. Hamill

<u>(Name)</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-571919</u>	<u>Asst. Gp. S-2.</u>
<u>HUGH M. HAMILL</u>	<u>(Rank)</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>Duty</u>

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-S-44F-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 44.

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



Final Report on Downings of 12 December 1944 (Fighter-bomber appearance over Hamm, Darmstadt, Aschaffenburg.

- 1.) Hinzerath 10 1/2 km southeast of HINERATH ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Darmstadt  
HINERATH - HP 4 - , American bomber. 1 dead,  
8 prisoners, Marks and No. unknown. K U 3518



12 Dec. 1944

Hinzerath 6/ Bernkastel

KU 3538

Target: Airdistrict XIV

1 dead



12/12/44.  
9.) Sonnenberg, 12 km northwest of Idar-Oberstein, RP 8, 1230  
Fortress, 99 % damage. Identification marks unknown. Pastory  
No.: 43-37567, 1 dead, 8 prisoners. RI 2470



KU 3470

11) 12 Dec. 44. Time not known. 1 American bomber, crashed near Hinzersath.  
9 prisoners. 1 dead.

No 10) and 11) are temporary reports. Additional report will follow after

-8-

continued next page.



~~12 Dec. 1944 1230~~

Sensweiler b/Idar-Oberstein

1 dead

KU 3470

Type: Fortress

Markings: 37567

Target: H.Q. of airbase area  
Neustadt a.W.

MACR 11334



Page 4

KU 3470

Airbase District Command 12/VII  
NEUSTADT a.d.W.

NEUSTADT a.d.W., December 24, 1944

Subject: Downing of enemy aircrafts.

To: Distributor

KU 3470

- 1) December 12, 1944; 12:30, Sensweiler, 12 km north-west Idar-Oberstein  
(70 HP 8) Boeing 17 G, Damage 99%; License-No.: 43-37557.  
8 POW's, 1 dead. Names not known.



Page 1

KU 3472

Mission Data Form

Written in English (pencil)



XV 8838

4 - engines?

received January 11, 1945

December 12, 1944

Hinxworth, 10 km SE Bernkastel

Air district XIV

1 dead

8 prisoners



CLOSING - REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Repairshop (v) 112/XII

LOCATION: Mainz - Finthen

DATE: December 21, 1944

DATE AND TIME:

AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN December 12, 1944 12:30

PLACE OF CRASH: Near Sensweiler, 9 km north-west Idar-Oberstein/Maine.  
(NEAREST TOWN)KIND OF CAPTURE: The aircraft crashed vertical into the ground. Conflagration after crash.  
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER, EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing 17

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: Identification impossible (Probably Studebaker)  
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO:

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT:

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:

(DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)

Whereabouts of Crew:8 crew-members captured; 1 probably dead.  
1 packed (not used) chute were found.Equipment:Ser.-No.: On tops of cylinders (vase-casing): 1) SW 015384, 2) SW 018977,  
3) SW 018998, 4) SW 19021.

Propellers: Hamilton Standard

- 1) On Spinner: MFG-No.: HK 88268
- 2) On Spinner: MFG-No.: HK 88112
- On blade: Part.-No.: 6477 A-C
- Ser.-No.: HKAC 6872
- T.O. NR : 03 - 200 C 2
- Angle : 20 - 88 AT u 2

Radio equipment: All equipment is heavily damaged or burnt up.

(continued next page)



Post: Repairshop (v) 112/XII

Location: Mainz - Finthen

Date: December 21, 1944

Shot down of: Boeing 17 on December 12, 1944; 12:30 p.m.  
Near Semsweiler, 9 km north-west Idar-Oberstein/Mainz.

Whereabouts of Crew:

8 crew-members are captured.

The names and dates of the POW's could not be identified because of transfer by Wehrmacht-bureau Hinzrath and from there by Airbase Headquarters Kirchberg to Oberursel.

1 crew-member probably dead (burnt up)

1 chute, still packed, was found.

In charge of Inspection: SCHMITZ

Signature  
(illegible)  
Air Corps Engineer



PAGE 3

KU 3470

December 12, 1944

12:30

Fortress 17 G

37 567

Sensweiler, 12 km north-west  
Idar-Oberstein

Airdistrict Houstadt a/v.

idant

1 dead, 9 POW's 1



Page 1

KU 3770

J 2569

J 2572



## Following Radio-equipment could be identified:

- 1) Identification probably 62
- 2) Receiver MC-733-D, Ser.-No.: 3806
- 3) Radar Transmitter (probably Radio Transmitter) T 37/AFO-9, Ser.-No.: 58777
- 4) T-U-6 B including Calibration Card
- 5) Transmitter MC-778-D) Ser.-No.: 15 673
- 6) Dynamotor Unit ME-74-A Ser.-No.: 48 246

Armament: 9 Browning Mach.-Guns Cal. 50 M2 (12.7 mm) were found.  
 Ser.-No.: 1) 043024, 2) 043093, 3) 043751, 4) 153080, 5) 153084,  
 6) 153100, 7) 153164, 8) 153166, 9) 153168.

Ammunition: 80 rounds damaged. Marks on bottom: TW 4 EA 44

Bombs: 1 Hest BIF 500-A3, Bombing-Tables, (Fluorescent)  
 Abridged for Bomb. GP. 500 IB. AN - M 43

Armor: Rear-protection for pilot: 8 mm slightly bent plate. Seat unknown.

Cameras: Aerostigmat f : 50  
 12 Inch (305 mm) EM 5344 Made in USA. Eastman, Kodak Co., Rochester  
 N.Y.

Films: Magazine Camera (Aircraft)  
 Type: A 54 Ser.No.: 41 - 16082 (badly damaged)

Turbo super charger: 1) 5 A 4309 YD; No. 2, 3 and 4 could not be found.

Signature  
 (Lilligillie)  
 Aircraft Engineer



Kn 1162

Empty Page.



CLOSING - REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

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DATE: December 21, 1944

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(NEAREST TOWN)KIND OF CAPTURE: The aircraft crashed vertical into the ground. Conflagration after  
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER, crash.  
EMERGENCY LANDING)TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing 17MARKINGS OF CRAFT: Identification impossible (Probably Studebaker)  
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO:

Whereabouts of Crew:

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT:

8 crew-members captured; 1 probaly dead.  
1 packed (not used) chute were found.

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:

(DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)

Equipment:Ser.-No.: On tops of cylinders (valve-casino): 17 SW 018534, 2) SW 018977,  
3) SW 018998, 4) SW 19021.Propellers: Hamilton Standard

- 1) On Spinner: MFG-No.: NK 88268
- 2) On Spinner: MFG-No.: NK 88112
- On blade: Part.-No.: 6477 A-C
- Ser.-No.: NKAC 6872
- T.O. NR : 03 - 200 C 2
- Angle : 20 - 88 AT u 2

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(continued next page)



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Signature  
(illegible)  
Aircorps Engineer



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Ser.-No.: 58777
- 4) T-U-6 B including Calibration-Card
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- 6) Dynamotor Unit PE-94-A Ser.-No.: 48 246

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Ser.-No.: 1) 043089, 2) 043093, 3) 043751, 4) 153080, 5) 153084,  
6) 153100, 7) 153164, 8) 153166, 9) 153168.

Ammunition: 80 rounds damaged. Marks on bottom: TW 4 EA 44

Bombs: 1 Heft BTF 500-A3, Bombing-Tables, (Fluorescent)  
Abridged for Bomb. GP. 500 LB. AN - M 43

Armor: Rear-protection for pilot: 8 mm slightly bent plate. Seat unknown.

Cameras: Aerostigmat f : 50  
12 Inch (305 mm) EM 5364 Made in USA. Eastman, Kodak Co., Rochester  
N.Y.

Films: Magazine Camera (Aircraft)  
Type: A 54 Ser.No.: 42 - 16082 (badly damaged)

Turbo super charger: 1) 5 A 4389 FD; No. 2, 3 and 4 could not be found.

Signature  
(illegible)  
Airoorps Engineer



Page 3

KU 3470

December 12, 1944

12:30

Fortress 17 G  
37 567

Sensweiler, 12 km north-west  
Idar-Oberstein

Airdistrict Neustadt a/W.

~~Idar-Oberstein~~

1 dead, 9 POW'S ?



3 Pass Photos of P. E. Lawyer

1 Man's Identification Card, Name P. E. Lawyer  
ASN 35610335  
Rank Sgt.

1 Identification Tag:

Fred E. Lawyer

35610335 T 43 - 44 A, P.

*Initial 12 Dec. 44  
En  
Air Corps*



- 1 Pilot and Crew Member physical Record Card: R. A. P e r r y, Sgt.
- 1 Advertisement of Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, London, W.D.2
- 1 Receipt, Name: S/Sgt. Russel A. Perry
- 3 Pass Photos, probably of R.A.Perry
- 1 Identification Tag: Russel A. P e r r y  
11095617 T 43 - 44 A, P.
- 1 Identification Tag: Philip G. P o r t e r  
35705727 T 43 - 44 B, P.



1 Officer's Identification Card No. 365321, Name: William M. Bell, Jr.  
ASN: O-520639  
Rank: 2nd Lt.

1 Identification Tag: Harold F. Harstedt  
T - 2892 T 42 - 44 O, P.

1 Identification Tag: Bell, Jr., Wm. M.  
O - 520639 T 42 - 43 O, P.  
W. Mark Bell  
2453 Braddock Avenue  
Swillvale, Pa.

1 Identification Tag: Bill C. Smigieliski  
36688136 T 43 - 44 O, C.



MACR 11334  
B-17  
AAF 43-37567

K-3470

<b>Date:</b>	12 Dec 44, at 1330	<b>Rank:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	KU 1162 A
<b>Place:</b>	Kirchberg/Hunsrueck		1st Lt. HIGGINS, Montell 0750480	
<b>Type of craft:</b>	Fortress		1st Lt. MCCAUGHAN, John Omeroy ASN: 0-719853	
<b>Workings:</b>	...567 750(HBO)Sqd. 457 Group		2nd Lt. HARSTEDT, Harold Frederick ASN: 0-1998571	
			2nd Lt. BELL, William Mark Jr. ASN: 0-520639	
			T/Sgt. LAWYER, Fred Eugene ASN: 35610335	
			T/Sgt. WINDER, Francis Jerome ASN: 13037245	
			S/Sgt. SMIGIELSKI, Bill Chester ASN: 36688136	
			S/Sgt. PORTER, Philip Grand	
			S/Sgt. PERRY, Russell Albert ASN: 11095617	



DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN

12 Dec. 1944, 1330 hrs

CASUALTY NO. **EU 1162 A**

PLACE OF CRASH

**Kirschberg/Hunersbuck**

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT

**Fortress**

REPORTING OFFICE

**Kirschberg/Hunersbuck**

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAPT'D WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INTERNMENT
------	------	------------------	---------------------------	---------------------

<b>BELL, William Mark</b>	<b>2/Lt.</b>	<b>0-520639</b>	<b>captured</b>	<b>Dulag-Luft West</b>
<b>HARSTEDT, Harold Frederick</b>	<b>2/Lt.</b>	<b>0-1998571</b>	"	"
<b>MC CAUGHAN, John Overoy</b> <b>18 Jan. 1919 USA</b>	<b>1/Lt.</b>	<b>0-719853</b>	"	"
<b>PORTER, Philip Grand</b> <b>9 Dec. 1919</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>		"	"
<b>FERRY, Russel Albert</b> <b>26 Sept. 1921 USA</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>11093617</b>	"	"
<b>LANTIER, Fred Eugene</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>35610335</b>	"	"
<b>SMICKELSKI, Bill Chester</b>	<b>S/Sgt.</b>	<b>36688130</b>	"	"
<b>WINDER, Francis Jerome</b>	<b>T/Sgt.</b>	<b>13037245</b>	"	"

REMARKS:

**Dulag-Luft, 6 Jan. 1945 No.**



1st Lt. Montall C. Higgins ✓

Mr. Charles W. Higgins (Father)  
Post Office Box 673  
320 East Twentieth Street  
Merced, California

1st Lt. John C. McCaughan ✓

Mrs. Mary J. McCaughan (Wife)  
P. O. Box 331  
Antlers, Oklahoma

2d Lt. William M. Bell, Jr. ✓

Mrs. Lucille C. Bell (Wife)  
2453 Braddock Avenue  
Swissvale, Pennsylvania

2d Lt. Harold F. Harstedt ✓

Mr. Gustaf F. Harstedt (Father)  
751 Hillside Avenue  
Leonia, New Jersey

T/Sgt. Fred E. Lawyer ✓

Mrs. Mary R. Lawyer (Wife)  
R. F. D. Number One  
Fredonia, Pennsylvania

T/Sgt. Francis J. Winder ✓

Mr. Howard S. Winder (Father)  
15 S. Diamond Street  
Greenville, Pennsylvania

S/Sgt. Philip G. Porter ✓

Mrs. Versa G. Porter (Wife)  
Route Two  
Carai, Illinois

S/Sgt. Russell A. Perry ✓

Mr. Clyde E. Perry (Father)  
R. F. D. Number One, Box 63  
Albion, Maine

S/Sgt. Bill C. Saigielski ✓

Mrs. Natalie Saigielski (Mother)  
4323 W. Belden Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

gave



1st Lt. Montell C. Higgins

Mr. Charles W. Higgins (Father)  
Post Office Box 673  
320 East Twentieth Street  
Merced, California

1st Lt. John O. McCaughan

Mrs. Mary J. McCaughan (Wife)  
P. O. Box 331  
Antlers, Oklahoma

2d Lt. William M. Bell, Jr.

Mrs. Lucille C. Bell (Wife)  
2453 Braddock Avenue  
Swissvale, Pennsylvania

2d Lt. Harold F. Harstedt

Mr. Gustaf F. Harstedt (Father)  
351 Hillside Avenue  
Isonia, New Jersey

T/Sgt. Fred E. Lawyer

Mrs. Mary R. Lawyer (Wife)  
R. F. D. Number One  
Fredonia, Pennsylvania

T/Sgt. Francis J. Winder

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15 S. Diamond Street  
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Mrs. Vera G. Porter (Wife)  
Route Two  
Carmi, Illinois

S/Sgt. Russell A. Perry

Mr. Clyde E. Perry (Father)  
R. F. D. Number One, Box 63  
Albion, Maine

S/Sgt. Bill C. Smigielski

Mrs. Natalie Smigielski (Mother)  
4323 W. Belden Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11334

Name of crew member: **HIGGINS, Montell C.**  
Rank: **1st Lt.**  
Serial number: **O-750986**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~and Flightman (Rightman)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? Intended to bail out but ship stalled and crashed before he could get out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Co-Pilot was last man to see pilot (Higgins). Higgins was still at controls and waved for the co-pilot to jump.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? At controls

Any hearsay information: I was the navigator. I saw the ship go into a stall,, (I was already on the ground) and crash. It appeared that the pilot lost control before he had a chance to jump.

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Am certain that he was killed in the crash of the plane.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: All were in Germany, from August 6, 1946 to Dec 12, 1946.



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name McCaughan, John O Rank Capt Serial No. O-719853
2. Organization 457BG Gp Commander Luper Rank Col Sqn CO Dougherty Rank Capt  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Merseburg, target, Luna Oil Refinery, target  
time, Approx 12:30, altitude, 25000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
As Briefed, route flown As Briefed
5. Where were you when you left formation? 40 Miles North East Frankfurt on Main
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All Except Pilot. Pilot intended to  
bail out but ship stalled and crashed before he could get out.
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". All of crew except Pilot  
were Prisoners of War until the end of the war when they all returned  
safely to the States. Pilot was killed in the crash of the plane.  
Pilot's name was 1st Lt. Montell C. Higgins. Home address of his  
father is Thomas Higgins, Box 673, Merced, California
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? West of Koblenz, Near Luxemburg  
border.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should  
cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) \_\_\_\_\_  
Pilot-1st Lt. Montell C Higgins
11. Where were they in aircraft? Last seen at the controls.
12. What was their condition? O.K. Not Injured.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already des-  
cribed above? All described above
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

File 11334

Name of crew member: HIGGINS, Montell C.  
Rank: 1st Lt.  
Serial number: O-750986  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on the ground (Bomber)~~: Pilot-AIR COMMANDER

Did he bail out? NO

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? UNKNOWN

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

ORDER TO BAIL OUT.

Was he injured? NOT WHEN I LEFT THE AIRCRAFT

Where was he when last seen? IN THE PILOT'S SEAT

Any hearsay information: SOME OF THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS WERE ALREADY ON THE GROUND AND THE AIRCRAFT WAS UNDER OBSERVATION BY THE TIME I BAILED OUT AND HE WAS NEVER SEEN TO LEAVE THE AIRCRAFT.

Source: OTHER CREW MEMBERS - WHICH ONES, I DO NOT REMEMBER AT THIS TIME.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: AT THE TIME I LEFT THE AIRCRAFT, LT. HIGGINS WAS FLYING IT AND IT WAS IN A SHALLOW DIVE. JUST AFTER I BAILED OUT, THE DIVE INCREASED, THEN THE AIRCRAFT PULLED UP ALMOST VERTICALLY, ~~AND~~ STALLED, AND FELL OFF TO THE LEFT, DIVING INTO THE GROUND AND EXPLODING. IT IS MY OPINION THAT LT. HIGGINS  
[CONTINUED BELOW]

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Date and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN

THREW IN THE AFCE. AND THE DIVE INCREASED, I BELIEVE THAT IN HIS HASTE TO GET OUT, HE TURNED THE AFCE. ELEVATOR CONTROL TO THE FULL "NOSE UP" POSITION CAUSING THE STALL.



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name BELL, WILLIAM M. JR. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-520639
2. Organization 457 B.G. Gp Commander <sup>COL.</sup> ROGNER Rank COL. Sqn CO DOHERTY Rank CAPT.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DECEMBER day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, STRATEGIC BOMBING, target, MERSEBURG, target time, UNKNOWN, altitude, UNKNOWN route scheduled, UNKNOWN, route flown UNKNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? LOW SQUADRON LEAD
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". NO KNOWLEDGE
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? APPROX 30 MILES WEST OF KOBLENZ
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) HIGGINS, MONTELL C. 1st Lt. 0-750986 - AIR COMMANDER
11. Where were they in aircraft? PILOTS COCKPIT
12. What was their condition? UN-HURT
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ALL OTHER CREW MEMBERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED BAIL OUT, WERE P.O.W.'S AND ARE NOW BACK IN THE U.S.A.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11334

Name of crew member: HIGGINS, Montell C.  
Rank: 1st Lt.  
Serial number: O-750986  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~normal flight team (right team)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? Unknown.

Where? Near Bruckweiller about 40 miles west of Koblenz.

If not, why not? Unknown.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Went off intercon. to help try to salvo Ball Turret. Radioman, Fred E. Lawyer, remained on to relay orders to us.

Was he injured? No, not that I know of.

Where was he when last seen? I saw him last before take-off at the field.

Any hearsay information: He was still at the controls of the airplane when last man bailed out.

Source: William M. BELL Jr., Co-pilot.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: My belief he was still at controls; After landing by chute I saw the ship in a shallow dive. It started to climb a little, then stalled and started to fall on its dead side (Engines 3&4) but reversed and fell off on its live side. For a second it looked like a crash landing, but the nose dropped till the ship dove vertically into the ground where it blew up on contact with the ground. About 200 yds. from me, PERRY. Number 2 engine sounded like it was running away during the stall. Plane hit across gully near town believed S.W. of E. about a mile from Bruckweiller, in trees below watch-tower. Schauren another town there.

Total number of missions of above crew member: His 20th when we went down.

Dates and destinations if possible: December 12, 1944. Destination was oil at Mersberg and back to group.



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name PERRY, Russell A. Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 11095617
2. Organization 457th Gp Commander Rogers Rank COL. Sqn CO Doriety Rank Capt.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Oil, target, Merseberg, target  
time, shortly after 12:00N, altitude, about 24,700 route scheduled, south-cen-  
tral Germany, route flown English Channel, Belgium, between Kolbenz &  
Frankfurt and to Merseberg
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lead of low Sqn. About the I.P.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All crew-members, but pilot who is unknown
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". At orders PORTER, Philip G. 1st, SMIGIELSKI, Bill C. 2nd, PERRY, Russell A. 3rd, LAWYER, Fred E. last thur waist door. Told WINDER, Francis J., HARSTEDT, Harold F., BELL, William M. Jr went thur bomb-bays. McCaughan, John C., went out nose hatch. HIGGINS, Montell C., Unknown.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 40 miles west Koblenz. Near Bruchweiller, and another town farther away called Schauren.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Unknown, but believed the pilot, Montell C. HIGGINS was still at the controls.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Last known pilot seat.
12. What was their condition? All-right as far as known.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? There; right after we bailed out with complains of bruises. Since: Lawyer, F.E., PORTER, P.G., SMIGIELSKI, B.C., Lucky Strike, France. WINDER, F.J., HARSTEDT, H.F., Atlantic City, N. Jersey. McCaughan, J.O., on ship, Argentina, crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Southampton, England to Hampton Roads, Virginia.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE, but heresay.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

(over)



No.2.

Not sure of the group commanders name.

Don't know either of the Gp. or Sqdn. commanders full names.

Those are all base commanders.

**FLYING COMMANDER:**

Group commander of that mission I don't remember.

Our sqdn. commander on that mission was our pilot, Montell

C. HIGGINS of Low Sqdn. I think BELL was the acting pilot that day.



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11334

Name of crew member: **HIGGINS, Montell G.**  
Rank: **1st Lt.**  
Serial number: **0-750398**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Pilot)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? I don't think so

Where? Near Bruchenviller in Western Germany

If not, why not? I don't know

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He said we would have to leave the ship

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In the pilots seat

Any hearsay information: The Co-pilot bailed out and Higgins said he would follow.

Source: Co-pilot

Any explanation of his fate based in ~~part~~ on supposition: We were only a few miles from our own lines, and since the load was considerably lessened, I believe he tried to fly the ship back to our lines.

Total number of missions of above crew member: twenty, I believe

Dates and destinations if possible: You will probably find this in his #201 file.

a-1



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Philip Grant Porter Rank 1st Sgt Serial No. 35705727
2. Organization 457 Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Sqn CO Doherty Rank Maj  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Dec day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Merseberg, target, oil refinery, target time, 12:30, altitude, 2500 ft route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near the 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". I bailed out first so I have no knowledge of how they bailed out.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Bruchweiler, Ger.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) M. C. Higgins  
I believe
11. Where were they in aircraft? in the pilots compartment
12. What was their condition? not wounded
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
none
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information.  
none

(Any additional information may be written on the back)



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11334

Name of crew member: HIGGINS, Montell C.  
Rank: 1st Lt.  
Serial number: C-750986  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~some flightman (Bighman)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? I DO NOT THINK SO

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? PLANE WENT OUT OF CONTROL TOO SOON

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: WHEN HE ORDERED THE CREW TO BAIL OUT

Was he injured? NOT AT THAT TIME

Where was he when last seen? AT THE CONTROLS

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: THAT WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE PLANE, THE SHIP WENT OUT OF CONTROL

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 21

Dates and destinations if possible: UNKNOWN



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name FRED E. LAWLER Rank T/SGT Serial No. 35610335  
457 Bomb GP
2. Organization 750 BOMB SQDN Gp Commander ROGNER Rank Col Sqn CO DOUGHERTY Rank Capt  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month DEC day 12 did you go down? YES
4. What was the mission, 18th, target, MERSEBERG, target  
time, UNKNOWN, altitude, UNKNOWN route scheduled, UNKNOWN  
, route flown UNKNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? ABOUT 30 MIN FROM I.P.
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". ALL BUT PILOT  
BAILED OUT SUCCESSFULLY
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR CHAUREN IN THE LUXEMBOURG AREA
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) ONE - THE PILOT  
AT LEAST WE THINK HE MUST OF BEEN
11. Where were they in aircraft? IN PILOTS SEAT
12. What was their condition? NOT INJURED
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? IN PRISON CAMP
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 11534

Name of crew member: **HIGGINS, Montell G.**  
Rank: **1st Lt.**  
Serial number: **0-780986**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? Unknown Lt. Higgins wasn't seen to get out.

Where? Bruchweiler approximately 20 miles west of Coblenz

If not, why not? B-17 went into stall Pilot wasn't seen beforehand

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: pilot said  
we would have to bail out. Plane was at 3000 ft.

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? In the pilot seat

Any hearsay information: Evidently Lt. Higgins had the plane on auto-pilot  
and accidentally turned it off on getting out of the seat. Plane appeared  
too go into stall due to manual adjustment of trim tabs.

Source: eye-witness and conversation with navigator

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 20

Dates and destinations if possible: 6. Aug. '44, Genshagen, 9, Aug. Munich, 11, Aug.  
Brest, 16, Aug. Schkeuditz, 3, Sept. Ludwigshafen, 9, Sept. Ludwigshafen, 10, Sept.  
Gargenau, 19, Sept. Soest, 25, Sept. Frankfurt, 27, Sept. Koln, 20 Oct. Kassel, 14, Oct.  
Koln, 15, Oct. Koln, 26, Oct. Bielefeld, 5, Nov. Frankfurt, 21, Nov. Merseburgh, 26, Nov.  
Misburg, 9, Dec. Sindelfingen, 12, Dec. Merseburgh.



## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HARSTEDT, Harold E. Rank 2nd Lt. Serial No. O-1998571
2. Organization 457 Bomb Col. Gp Commander Rogner Rank Col. Sqn CO Doherty Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month December day 12 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Merseburgh, target, oil refinery, target  
time, approx. 1200hrs, altitude, 26,000 ft. route scheduled, unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown scheduled
5. Where were you when you left formation? approximately 30 miles east of Frankfurt.
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". Navigator left through the front escape hatch. Bombardier, copilot and engineer left through the bomb bay. All others left through the rear door.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? in a pasture outside of Bruchweiller
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) Lt. Higgins- pilot
11. Where were they in aircraft? Flight deck.
12. What was their condition? normal
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Met all other crew members on the ground. Civilians turned us over to the military as a group. All were uninjured as far as I know. I injured my right shoulder in the bail out.
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)



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

**Abschuß-Nr.** KU 1162 A

**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 12.12.44 - 13.30

**Abschußort:** Kirchberg/Hunsrück

**Flugzeugtyp:** Fortress

**Meldende Dienststelle:** Kirchberg/Hunsrück

**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtsdag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Eck.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage
✓ BELL William Mark			2. Lt.	0-520639 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ HARNSTEDT Harold Frederick			2. Lt.	0-1998571 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ MC GAUGHAN John Overoy 18.1.19 USA			1. Lt.	0-719853 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ PORTER Philip Grand 9.12.19			S/Sgt.	gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ PERRY Russell Albert 26.9.21 USA			S/Sgt.	11095617 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ LAWYER Fred Eugene			T/Sgt.	35610335 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ SMIGIELSKI Bill Chester			S/Sgt.	36688136 gef. Dulag-Luft West
✓ WINDER Francis Jerome 26.4.17			T/Sgt.	13037245 gef. Dulag-Luft West

11334

**Bemerkungen:** ~~11334~~

**DULAG-LUFT, den** 6.1.45 **Vo.**