

4306

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. NUENCH, Capt., AC  
Date **MAR 13 1946**

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEAT OF

MAIR 4306

25 April 1944, 1130

near St. Germain  
Type Fortress 97070  
Target:  
Airfield Command  
Chartres

13. N<sup>o</sup> 7.

BU 1641

Cpt. BENDER	Edward Martin	0-728547	capt.
1st.Lt. FULLER	Edwin Keith	0-676250	capt.
2nd.Lt. SOULES	Bill	0-689387	capt.
S/Sgt. WOYURKA	Michael	33236947	capt.
T/Sgt. FREE	James Lawrence	3441214	capt.
S/Sgt. SARICO	John Paul	17109426	capt.

KU 1641

On 25 Apr 44, at 1130 hours, Fortress, near St. Germain, 25 km southwest of Bernay, AA 3/CO/00 N.



B-17 42-97070

crew of 11

MACR 4306

DATA ABOUT THE CAPTURED ENEMY AIR CREW

Service Br: Regional defense Reg't. d.Lw. Lisieux

Place: Lisieux

Time: 9:00, 26 Apr 1944

Subject: Shooting of a Boeing-Fortress B 17

Near: Westerly of Tal v. Le Coudrai, 12 miles S. SE of Orbec

On: 25 Apr 1944, about 11:30

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
Bender, E. M.	Capt.	0728547
Koyurka, Michael	Sgt.	33236947

The two were captured 200 miles South of the place of the crash.

*not to 400 ft.*

EU 1641

DATA ABOUT THE CAPTURED ENEMY AIR CREW

Air Base Command R (v) 204/XIII  
Chartres  
36 Apr 44

Subject: Shooting of a Boeing F 17 near St. Germain, 25 miles SW  
Bernay, on 25 Apr 1944, 11:30.

<u>NAMES:</u>	<u>RANK:</u>	<u>ASN</u>
Fuller, Edwin K.	1/Lt.	0676250
Soules, Bill	2/Lt.	0689387
Free, James L.	T/Sgt.	34441214
Sarico, John P.	S/Sgt.	17109426

Two captured through the unit 59601 c near Air Force Regiment.  
Delivered at Lissieux, (1 Captain, 1 Sergeant.) Such action for  
these 7 still travelling.

Remaining: 4 captured brought to Computing Station West, Oberursel.

Near the battle are various items of the captured.

Place and time of the capture: In barns and village structures of the  
community of St. Germain. For two of  
the captured, it appeared that the French  
citizens were trying to conceal them.

KU 1641



IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>
1	Bill Soules	068937
1	Edwin K. Fuller	0676250
1	James L. Free	3444214
2	Edward M. Bender Next of kin, Martin G. Bender, 425 N. Fountain St., Cape Girardeau, Mo.	0728547
1	leather strip and the following on it:	E. M. BENDER FLIGHT COMMANDER
1	picture (possibly Bender)	KU 1641
6	pictures of the plane crash of a B 17 G	254

TELEGRAM

Open  
2025 Three Wittich LSOU

Open

SSD LLNP No. 76 26 Apr 11:15

To Computing Station West Oberursel/TS.

GLTD: TO KDO. FL. BER B/ Room 7 Caen.

To Computing Station West, Oberursel.

To Flg. Kdo. West Frankreich.

to D (Air) 2706/07 on the side 7 numbers. C will be reported.

A) 25 Apr 1944. About 12:00, shooting place: In Tal West of Le. Central, 12 miles SSE Orbec, Captain 2 miles SW of the shooting place. Sgt. 200 miles in a southerly direction of the shooting place.

B) Captain E. M. Bender, ASN, 0728547 T 4243 A, Sgt. Michael Woyurka, ASN, 33236947 T 43 B C.

C) Refused to make any statements.

Perhaps, sum total 9 men escaped, vicissitudes unknown.

D) Boeing-Fortress B 17

E) Unknown

F) 279070

G) Shooting by a pursuit plane  
Land Sch. Kgt. D. LW. Lisieux

KU 1641



TELEGRAM

1950 3 Paul LSOU

Date, 27 Apr 1944  
Time, 7:50  
From: L.S.FM.  
Through: Paul

SSD LLWC No. 39 26 Apr 1130  
To West Computing Station, Oberursel  
Subject: Shooting of an enemy plane on 25 Apr 1944 1130, near St. Germain,  
25 miles SE Berna Y Die Ktr. Report: Type of ship: Boeing F 17.  
Distinguishing marks; possibly G.E.-Work no. A F 42 - 97070.  
Crew: 7 French parachutists reported. 2 captured (1 Captain, 1 Sgt.) from  
the unit 59601. C near LW Regiment. Delivered at Lissieux. 4 captured (1  
Fitet Lt., 1 Lt. and 2 sergeants.) From field command. Alencon to Fl. H.  
KDTA. delivered at Chartres. Similar action for the 7 others travelling.  
Shooting circumstances: Presumably motor trouble. Machine with some of the  
last crew members exploded in the air. 100% destruction. Portions of the  
plane scattered for 4/5 of a mile.

FL. H. KTR. B (V) 204 Room. 12 Chartes

KU 1641

b/St. Germain  
25 mi. SE Bernay

Fortress

6

1. 1/Lt. K. Edwin Fuller  
0676250
  2. 2/Lt. Bill Soules  
0689387
  3. T/Sgt. James L. Free  
34441214
  4. S/Sgt. John P. Sarico  
17109426
- 5th & 6th names are  
run together  
4 men escaped.

MACR 4306  
B-17 42-97070  
25 April 44

KU 1641



W. Le Coudrai,  
12 mi. S. SE Orbec

Fortress

MACR 4306

- 2
1. Capt. E. M. Bender  
0728547
  2. Sgt. Michael Woyurka  
33236947
- 8 men were missed.

KU 1637

25 Apr 44

~~SECRET~~

4306

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Earl E WOODARD, 2d Lt, O-678659  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

28 June 1944  
(Date)  
EZE #808

	<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>		<u>PRESENT</u>
			<u>OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-722547	Capt Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-438016	Major Roderick L FRANCIS	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-729604	Capt Arthur T CAVANAUGH	RD
BOMBARDIER	0-676250	1st Lt Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt Laymon M MAHAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt James L FREE	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt Michael WOYURKA	MIA
WING GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt John P SARICO	P/W
WING GUNNER	0-689387	2d Lt BILL (NMI) SCULES	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	0-563353	1st Lt Monroe J HOTALING	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-678659	1st Lt Earl E WOODARD	RD

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
25 April 1944; 1100 hours near GACE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
On fire - plane crashed and burned up.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 22,000 feet.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
Not to my knowledge.

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

All bailed out, as far as I know.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Exploded.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Yes - 4 who came out with me.

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.  
Heard that 2 were P/W; believed to be Capt BENDER and Lt SCULES.

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?

Believes other 6 are P/W.



4306 28

~~SECRET~~

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Laymon M MAHAN, T/Sgt, 37232064  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

30 June 1944  
(Date)  
E&E #810

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT</u>
				<u>OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-728547	Capt	Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-438016	Major	Roderick L FRANCIS	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-729604	Capt	Arthur T CAVANAUGH	RD
BOMBARDIER	0-676250	1st Lt	Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt	Laymon M MAHAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt	James L FREE	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt	Michael WOYURKA	MIA
WAIIST GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt	John P SARICO	P/W
WAIIST GUNNER	0-689387	2d Lt	Bill (N MI) SOULES	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	0-563353	1st Lt	Monroe J HOTALING	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-678659	1st Lt	Earl E WOODARD	RD

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
25 April 1944; 1135 hours; near GAGE

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
On Fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21,000 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
Lt Hotaling was burned.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
Saw 6 other chutes.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Do not know.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Yes - saw the 4 who have returned.

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.

Helpers said a Captain and one other were captured.

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?

See above.

4306  
f/s

~~SECRET~~

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Monroe J HOTALING, 1st Lt, O-563353  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

28 June 1944  
(Date)

ESE #809

	<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>		<u>PRESENT</u>
			<u>OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	O-728547	Capt Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	O-438016	Major Roderick L FRANCIS	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-729604	Capt Arthur T CAVANAUGH	RD
BOMBARDIER	O-676250	1st Lt Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt Laymon W MAHAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt James L FREE	P/W
MID TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt Michael WOYURKA	MIA
WING GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt John P SARICO	P/W
WING GUNNER	O-689387	2d Lt BILL (NMI) SOULES	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	O-563353	1st Lt Monroe J HOTALING	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-678659	1st Lt Earl E WOODARD	RD

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
28 June 1944; 1130 hours; Le Sap, France.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Right wing and entire fuselage from bomb-bay rearward was involved in fire.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21,000 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
I was severely burned about the eyes before bailing out.

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

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Unknown.

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Saw 4 who came out with me.

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.

Heard that 6 were captured.

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?

See above.



SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

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

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNA, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. WENDEL, Capt., AC

4306

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Date MAR 15 1946

Roderick L FRANCIS, Major, O-438016  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

26 June 1944  
(Date)

EAE #806

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT</u>
				<u>OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	0-728547	Capt	Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	0-438016	Major	Roderick L FRANCIS	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-729604	Capt	Arthur T CAVANAUGH	RD
BOMBARDIER	0-676250	1st Lt	Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt	Laymon M MAHAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt	James L FREE	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt	Michael WCYURKA	MIA
W/ST GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt	John P SARICO	P/W
W/ST GUNNER	0-689387	2d Lt	Bill (NMI) SOULES	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	0-563353	1st Lt	Monroe J HOTALING	RD
NAVIGATOR	0-678659	1st Lt	Earl E WOODARD	RD

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
25 April 1944; 1133 hours; 4 kms from LeSap, France.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Ship on fire from wings back to tail

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 21,000 feet

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

No.

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

All bailed out.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? No

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Yes.

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.  
Yes - met 4 who came out with me.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?  
Yes - burned completely.

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?  
Believe other 6 members P/W.

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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Operations Officer  
AAF STATION 130

A. P. O. 557  
29 April 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report - Supplement - Mission of 25 April 1944,  
Nancy-Essy, France.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, A. P. O. 634.  
(THRU: Channels). ATTN: Statistical Control.

*DMS*  
CAVANAUGH, ARTHUR T., Captain - O-729604 was acting as Group  
Lead Navigator on A/C 42-97070 lost over France 25 April 1944. There  
were eleven men on the aircraft.

CAVANAUGH

*Gerald H. Galligan*  
GERALD H. GALLIGAN  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Gp Statistical O.

Attention invited  
to next sheet, stating  
name of 11<sup>th</sup> crew  
member:

Capt. CAVANAUGH

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HEADQUARTERS 457TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Operations Officer  
AAF STATION 130

A. P. O. 557  
29 April 1944

SUBJECT: Narrator's Report of Missing Air Crew - Mission 25 April 1944 -  
Nancy-Essy, France.

TO : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, A. P. O. 634.  
(THRU: Channels). ATTN: Statistical Control.

1. The 457th Group was about thirty miles south of Le Havre, France at 2,000 feet when it was noted the bomb bay doors of the lead ship (A/C No. 42-97070) were open and a flame coming out of the forward end, extending to the tail on the outside of the ship.

2. About this time it appeared that nine men bailed out and another after the plane had left the Group formation. However, another crew, who were flying in the low squadron, sighted eleven men leaving the ship. The men pulled their rip chords while they were still at altitude. There was a strong northwest wind, so they were blown inland.

3. The ship went down in a slow spiral thru the clouds and the fire seem to be out.

*Wade E. Knudson*

WADE E. KNUDSON  
2nd Lt., AC  
Tail Gunner of  
Deputy Lead A/C.

CONFIDENTIAL

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

PPA-8  
9

File 4306

Name of crew member: HOTALING, Monroe J.  
Rank: 1st Lt  
Serial number: O-563353  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Right Waist Gunner

Flew Tail Gunner

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR ECHAUFFOUR (PROVIDENCE OF "ORNE")

If not, why not? ✓

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: NONE  
WITH LT. HOTALING.

Was he injured? SLIGHT BURNS OVER THE EYES (NOT SERIOUS)

Where was he when last seen? OVER

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



DEAR SIR

THIS LETTER HAS HAD ME  
KINDLY MIXED UP, BUT I PRESUME  
LT. JACK HOTALING (AS I KNEW HIM) IS  
STILL LISTED AS M.I.A. IF HE  
IS HE MUST HAVE WENT DOWN LATER.  
BECAUSE HE CAME BACK TO THE GROUP  
WITH THE REST OF US (~~MAJ. FRANCIS~~,  
MAJ. FRANCIS, CAPT. CAVKAUGH,  
LT. WOODARD, AND MYSELF. THE LAST  
TIME I SAW HIM HE HAD MADE  
CAPTION AND WAS WITH COL. LUPER,  
OUR GROUPE COMMANDER. I HAD  
A LETTER FROM A FRENCH LADY,  
NOËLLE, GUILLOU, OF ECHAUFFOUR,  
SHE SAID, I SAW JACK LAST YEAR, IT  
WAS WRITTEN DEC. 28, 1945.

SINCERELY

Laymon M. Mahan

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: INSALTA, George J.  
 Rank: 1st Lt  
 Serial number: 0-55133  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Serial Number~~ (Fighter): Right Waist Gunner

File 4386

Did he bail out? yesWhere? Gate; France

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ToldWas he injured? yesWhere was he when last seen? met on ground after ten days

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

officer was member of expedition that  
escaped into Spain with me

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

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

He returned safely to England with  
me.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 18862

Name of crew member:

**NOTALING, Monroe J.**

Rank:

**Capt.**

Serial number:

**000000**

Position: Crew (Bomber) 011777007117701197111

**Tail Gunner**

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Oramenburg, Germany

If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

officer was told to bail out

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? officer is now back in U.S.

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

officer is definitely in U.S. and has just been relieved from active duty

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: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 12023

Name of crew member: BLOOD, Lloyd J.  
 Rank: T/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 22507264  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) 111771011177101111 20

Did he bail out? yes

Where? over Oranienburg, Germany

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

was told to bail out

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? in radio compartment

Any hearsay information: German officer told me that Sgt Blood was dead and showed me his dog tags.

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

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

might have been propaganda but since I did see two other crew members and not Sgt Blood believe he was dead

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



WAR DEPARTMENT  
Squadron "A" 326th AAF BU  

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MacDill, Field, Tampa Fla.  

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

COMMANDING GENERAL  
ARMY AIR FORCES  
ATTENTION : AFPPA-8  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, ETC.



PPAS  
②

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: NEALIE, Monroe J. File # 4365  
 Rank: 1st Lt  
 Serial number: 0-51333  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) Strategic (Fighter): Right Waist Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Near or in the area of Bourges, France.

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Asked me to hand him oxygen hose, then he bailed out.

Was he injured? No, that is when he left the ship

Where was he when last seen? in the ship.

Any hearsay information: One German soldier said one man was dead. That is the only information he gave.

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I was under the impression that he made it back through the underground.

Total number of missions of above crew member: I do not know.

Dates and destinations if possible: He was group gunnery officer and was not a regular crew member.



After we were given the order to abandon ship, I came out of the ball turret and started to put on my parachute. All the rest of the crew had left but the pilot. Lt Hotaling was sitting by the left waist window motioning for me to hand him an oxygen hose. My own personal opinion is that he was a ~~little~~ little afraid to bail out. I was too busy trying to get my chute on. I never wore anything in the ball, but had everything set up right outside of the ball. I motioned for him to leave cause he was sitting there with his chute on. Then he decided to leave and the last I saw of him was leaving the ship through the waist door.

Michael Longaker

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Wayne, Michael Rank 1st Sgt Serial No. 32276947
2. Organization 457<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Leeper Rank 1st. Col. Sqdn CO Francis Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month April day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, \_\_\_\_\_, target, \_\_\_\_\_, target time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, \_\_\_\_\_ route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Lead.
6. Did you bail out? Yes.
7. Did other members of crew bail out? All of them.
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". \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Some where near Bergeas, Fr.
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 that I know of.
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? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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)

No list of crew attached to these papers.



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **NEALING, Monroe J.** File # **4306**  
 Rank: **1st Lt**  
 Serial number: **0-21000**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (Pilot): **Right Waist Gunner**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? 30 MILES SOUTH OF LE HARVE, FRANCE

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

JUST BEFORE BAILING OUT

Was he injured? PROBABLY SLIGHTLY BURNED

Where was he when last seen? I UNDERSTAND THAT HE WENT

Any hearsay information: BACK TO ENGLAND WITH FOUR MORE OF  
OUR CREW MEMBERS, MAJOR ROD. L. FRANCES, SQDN. C.O.;  
1<sup>ST</sup> LT. EARLE E. WOODARD; 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. ARTHUR CAUNAUGH; T/SGT.  
LAYMON M. MAHAN.

Source: T/SGT. T/SGT. LAYMON M. MAHAN - RADIO OPERATOR

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN - WAS NOT REGULAR  
CREW MEMBER.

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name FREE, JAMES L. Rank T/SGT Serial No. 3444214  
85AF, 457 BOMB GR. (H) LUPER, JAMES R. FRANCIS, RODERICK L.
2. Organization 2<sup>nd</sup> Sq. Gp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Rank LTCOL Sqn CO \_\_\_\_\_ Rank MAJOR  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month APRIL day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, BOMBING, target, NANCY-EDSEL, FRANCE target  
 time, \_\_\_\_\_, altitude, 21,000 FT. route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? 30 MILES SOUTH OF LE HARVE, FRANCE
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 CREW MEMBERS BAILED OUT AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 30 MILES SOUTH OF LE HARVE, FR.
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? THE LAST TIME I SAW THE FOLLOWING NAMED MEN WAS BEFORE WE BAILED OUT ON THIS LAST MISSION, MAJOR RODERICK L. FRANCIS; 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. EARL E. WOODARD; 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. ARTHUR CAURNAGH; 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. HOTELLING; T/SGT. LEYTON M. MAHAN. I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE FIVE MEN EVADED AND WENT BACK TO ENGLAND TOGETHER. (CONT ON BACK)
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)



SIX OF US WERE ~~BE~~ TAKEN PRISONER. I LAST SAW CAPT.  
EDWARD M. BENDER AND WILLIAM SOULES AT CAMP LUCKY  
STRIKE (CAMP RAMP) AWAITING SHIPMENT HOME (MAY 1945)

I LAST SAW 1<sup>ST</sup> LT. EDWIN K. FULLER AND S/SGT. JOHN P.  
SARICO AT MIAMI BEACH, FLA. (AUG. 1945)

I LAST SAW <sup>SGT.</sup> MICHAEL WOFORNA AT STALAG XVII B. BUT HAVE  
~~NOT~~ RECEIVED LETTERS FROM HIM SINCE HE RETURNED HOME

a-1

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Bender, Edward M. Rank capt Serial No. 0-728547  
~~AH F 457~~ 457th Gp. 750th Sq.
2. Organization AH F 457th Gp Commander J. Luper Rank col. Sqn Co Francis Rank Maj  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month April day 25 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, unknown, target, Airfield in France, target time, unknown, altitude, 21,500 route scheduled, unknown, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Between Paris and Elbeuf
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 crew members were injured while in the ship.  
All bailed out in vicinity of Elbeuf.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 32 kilo. N.E. of Bernay Fr.  
 (according to German report.)
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? \_\_\_\_\_
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)



Loss of ship due to mechanical failure  
and not to enemy action.

Since liberation I have:

seen and spoken to,

Lt. Bill Soules at Mooseberg, Gr.

Lt. E.K. Fuller " " "

T/Sgt. Jim Free at camp Lucky Strike, Fr.

S/Sgt. John Saries " " " " "

Lt. E.E. Woodard at St. Louis, Mo. U.S.A.

Corresponded with:

S/Sgt. Mike Woyutka.

Lt. Woodard arrived in England with:

Maj. Rod L. Francis

Capt. - - Cavanaugh

Lt. M.J. Hotelling

T/Sgt. L.M. Mahan.

The ship carried eleven men. With  
the ten listed above, and me, all are  
accounted for.

Edward M Bender

*none*

**SECRET**

*no mack*

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

*no mack*  
*15-7-45*

Arthur T CAVANAUGH, Capt, O-729604  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
750 Bomb Squadron, 457 Bomb Group  
(Unit)

28 June 1944  
(Date)

SEE #807

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT</u>
				<u>OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	O-728547	Capt	Edward M BENDER	P/W
CO-PILOT	O-438016	Major	Roderick L FRANCIS	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-729604	Capt	Arthur T CAVANAUGH	RD
BOMBARDIER	O-676250	1st Lt	Edwin K FULLER	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	37232064	T/Sgt	Laymon M MAHAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	34441214	T/Sgt	James L FREE	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	33236947	S/Sgt	Michael WOYURKA	MIA
W/ST GUNNER	17109426	S/Sgt	John P SARICO	P/W
W/ST GUNNER	O-689387	2d Lt	Bill (NMI) SCULS	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	O-563353	1st Lt	Mource J HOTALLING	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-678659	1st Lt	Earl E WOODARD	RD

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

25 April 1944; 1130 hours; 4 km NW of St EVROUVE, France

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
On fire; very extensive; right wing, bomb-bay, etc.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 20,000 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
No - act to my knowledge.

What numbers of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
Saw 7 chutes other than my own.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? No

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?  
Yes - saw 4 who came out with me.

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.  
Heard that 6 were P/W; 1 shot in legs.

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?  
See above.