

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

4972

MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Wethersfield Essex Eng.; Command or Air Force IX Bomber Command
Group 416th Bomb Gp (L); Squadron 668th Bomb Sq Detachment XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Wethersfield, Essex; Course See Incl 1.
Intended Destination Beauvais, France; Type of Mission Operational
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
1/10 Altocumulus at 11,000 feet. Visibility 4 miles.
4. GIVE: (a) DATE 20 May 1944; TIME 12:02; and Location Montdidier, France
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane
(b) Specify whether (X) Last sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LAST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) () Enemy Airplane; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows plan hit by flak. last seen going into clouds below formation with dinghy flying loose from cockpit.
6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series A-20 G-25; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-9216
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2600-23; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 13-107-302
(b) 43-107-330
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 715454 Fixed; (b) 714880 Fixed; (c) 928697 Fixed; (d) 927909 Flex
(e) 928357 Fixed; (f) 927855 Fixed; (g) 928778 Fixed; (h) 928164 Flex
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 3; Passengers 0; Total 3
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot (1022)	✓ BRADFORD, Blair H.	1st Lt, AC (AUS)	0742670
2. A-Gunner (748)	✓ Gray, Clarence M.	S Sgt	14153336 RTD
3. Armorer-Gunner (612)	✓ Molver, Vern E.	S Sgt	19005380 RTD
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

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

APPENDIX NO 1 A

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Incl 13

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WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Thompson, James B.	S Sgt	15016702		X		
2. Fales, John A. Jr.	S Sgt	13039715		X		
3.						
12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used <u>X</u> ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____						
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, UTM, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN.						
14. ATTACH EYE WITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE.						
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE <u>None</u>						

Date of Report 22 May 1944

George Schenkein
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
GEORGE SCHENKEIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Diagram.
Incl 2 - Eye Witness Descriptions.

RECEIVED



16 MAY 1944

APPENDIX NO 1 A

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AFPA-11

File # 4972

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BRADFORD, Blair H.
Rank: 1st Lt, AC(AUS)
Serial number: 0742670
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~SP-4 (Fighter)~~; Pilot

Did he bail out? NO

Where? _____

If not, why not? HE MUST HAVE BEEN KILLED

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

OUR BOMB RUN.

Was he injured? YES

Where was he when last seen? AT THE FIELD

Any hearsay information: NOTHING EXCEPT HE WAS KILLED

Sources: FLACK

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on suppositions: NO WE

Total number of missions of above crew member: ABOUT 25

Dates and destinations if possible: WE BEGAN FLYING MARCH
10/44 AND HIS LAST WAS MAY 20/44

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Date and time aircraft
was shot down:

20 May 44, time: 1220

Casualty No.: KU 1915

Place of crash:

Rienue north Poix

Type of aircraft:

Fortress

Reporting office:

Beauvais

Name	Rank	Serial Number	captured wounded dead	Place of internment
GRAY Clarence Martin	S/Sgt.	14153336	captured	Dulag Luft

Casualty No.: KU 1915

1st additional report of 4 Aug 44.

BRADFORD Blair H.

Offr. O-742670 Dead

MACR 4972

Dulag Luft, 3 June 44 No.

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FORM 1A

KU - 1915

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

PLACE: **Airbase Headquarters 226/XI Peix**
(Air District Command 19/XI Beauvais)

DATE: **26. May 44**

NAME AND FIRST NAME OF PRISONER:

GRAY, Clarence M.

14153336

YEAR OF BIRTH: **---**

RANK: **S/Sgt**

PLACE AND DATE OF CAPTURE: **20. May 44, 1220 h, 3 km South of Rieux, 34 Northwest**
immediately after parachute landing (of Peix

PARTICULARS CONCERNING CAPTURE:-

(CRASHED? EMERGENCY LANDING? SHOT DOWN?)

unknown

TYPE OF CRAFT

Boston A 20

serial No. 0916

REMARKS:

wreckage 100 %

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FORM 1

EU - 1915

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airbase Headquarters 226/XI Poix
(Air District Command 19/XI Beauvais)

PLACE: 26. May 44 -- Poix

DATE: 26. May 44

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boston A 20

EN, LANDING:
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

AT: 20. May 44, 1220 h, 3 km South of Rieux, 34 km
Northwest of Poix

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

B R A D F O R D

FIRST NAME:

Blair H.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA)

o-742670

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED)

Dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Poix

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

XU - 1915

Identification Tag.

Clarence M. GRAY 14153336 T 42 43

Mrs. W. C. Gray

Southern, Ga.
RFD. 5

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM 12

KU - 1915

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Airbase Headquarters 226/XI

LOCATION: Poix

DATE: 26. May 44

DATE AND TIME: 20 May 44, 1220 h.
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH:
(NEAREST TOWN) 3 km South of Rieux, 34 Northwest of Poix

KIND OF CAPTURE:
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER, unknown
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boston A 20

MARKINGS OF CRAFT:
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: 89216

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. ~~FRONT~~ Radio sets: 1 : B C - 626 - A serial number 3500

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: wreckage 100%

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:

(DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)

4 machine guns 12.7 mm Browning

714980

927855

928097

926778

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DATE: 20 May 1944 AT: 1220 RANK: NAME: KU # 1915
PLACE: Rieux, 34 km north-west of BRADFORD, Blair H *KIA* dead
Poix S/Sgt GRAY, Wlayence Martin ASN: 0-742670
ASN: 14153336
MACR 4972

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1 Downing of B C^{off}. Blair H. BRADFORD
Bosten by Flak O-742870 T 42-4 GP
3 km south-east
of RIEUX, 34 km
north-west of POIX
20 May 1944

burned

same

AV 956/44

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080 1105 55 June 9 2140 h

To information center west Oberursel

Supplemental report on downings

1. Boston May 29 at 1200 h 3 km s of Kienx 34 km of Felix 1 down recovered :
Brandford Blair H.

0-742570

KU - 1915

Authority: NND 735001
By: NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

TELEGRAM FORM

-OBERURSEL-

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE: -

TIME:

TO:

DATE:

THROUGH:

TIME: 1130

ROLL:

FROM: LSPH

THROUGH: Koehler

REMARKS:

continued from page - 113 -

- 4) On 20. May 41 at 1220 h. Boston , 3 km South of Rieux, 34 km Northwest Poix, crashfire, 100 % wreckage. Insignia not ascertainable. Serial number : 99216. 1 prisoner : Sgt ~~G/S/L/V/Z/H/G/E//Gray~~ G R A Y, Clarence M. 14153336.

The prisoners will be transferred to Oberursel on 22. May 1944

Air District Command 19/X1 Beauvais Is.

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AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

4972

1. Your name GRAY CLARENCE M. Rank 1/SGT Serial No. 14152336
2. Organization 98AF Commander MACE Rank COL Sqn CO PRICE Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month MAY day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 30th, target, GERMAN AIR DROME, target IN N. W. FRANCE
time, 1132, altitude, 12000 route scheduled, PARIS
route flown
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER TARGET
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? ONE OTHER BESIDES ME.
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". MY AXM. GUNNER WENT FIRST AND THEN I FOLLOWED.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? ABOUT 10 MILES FROM TARGET
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) JUST THE PILOT.
11. Where were they in aircraft? NOSE.
12. What was their condition?
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I LAST SAW MY AXM. GUNNER JUST BEFORE I LANDED. COMING DOWN IN HIS CHUTE.
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)

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✓ First Lieutenant Blair H. Bradford

Mrs. Myrtle Bradford, (Mother)
823 N. Eleanor Street,
Pamona, California.

Staff Sergeant Clarence M. Gray

Mrs. Vera B. Gray, (Mother)
Route Number Five,
Moultrie, Georgia.

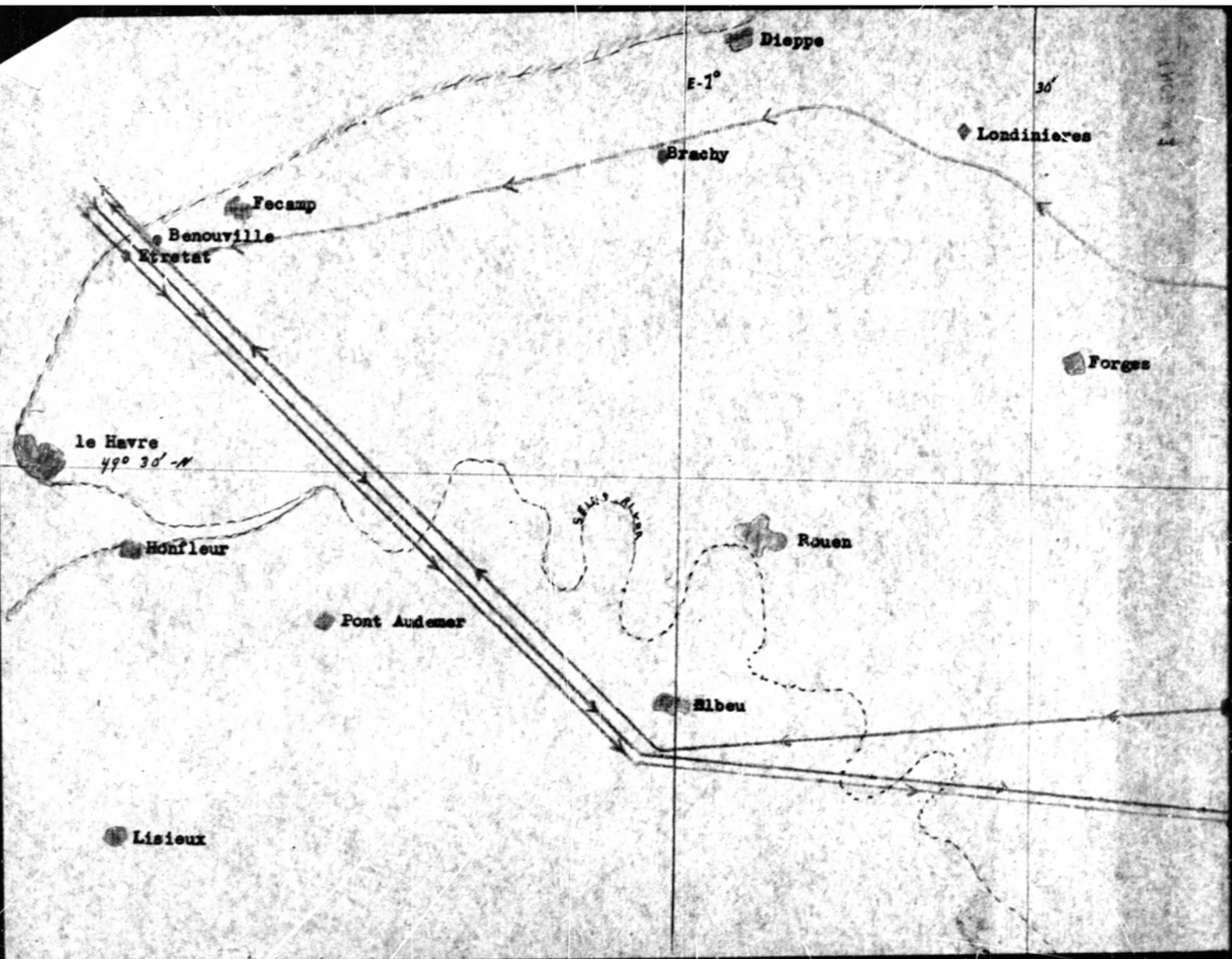
✓ Staff Sergeant Vern E. Molver

Mrs. Marguerite Sprenger, (Mother)
1934 East Seventh Street,
Albany, Oregon.

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Amiens

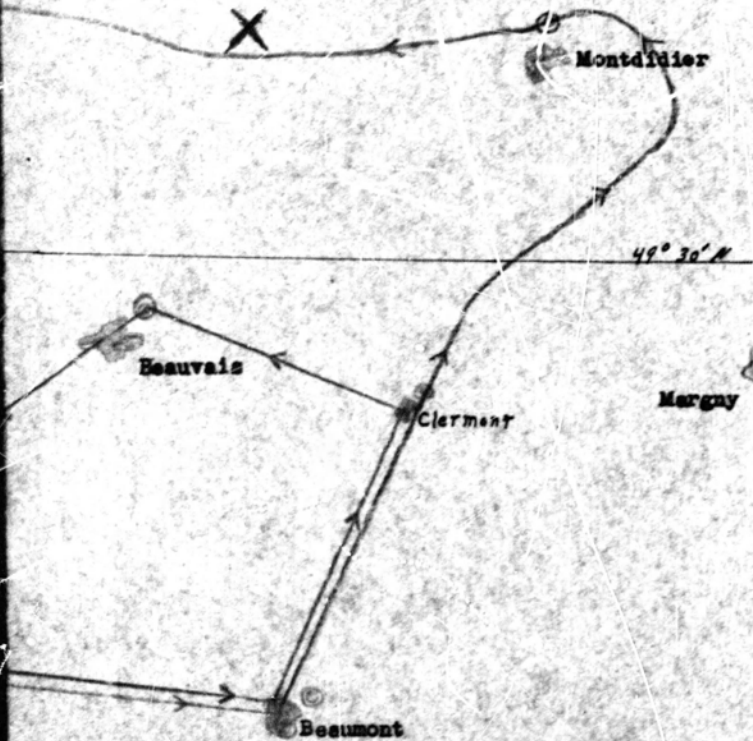
SOURCE OF SKETCH

Map 1:500,000 Europe (Air) Le Harve 2nd Edition-
Northern Zone Layer System and Map 1:500,000 Europe
(Air) Paris Northern Zone Layer System 2nd Edition

KEY: Blue line with pointers indicates proposed route

Red line with pointers indicates actual route covered

Blue X indicates approximate place Plane A 20 G-25
43-9216 last sighted



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Missing Air Crew Report -- Airplane A 20 G-25 AAF Serial No 42-9216.
416th Bomb Gp (L)

EYE WITNESS DESCRIPTION

Observation by S Sgt James B. Thompson 15016702.

"First plane seen to go down with dinghy flying loose from cockpit.
Lose sight of plane in a cloud about 500 feet below formation.
Two chutes were seen to open from this ship. This was the first
ship seen to fall and located in or about the area 5 miles north
west of Montdidier, France."

Observation by S Sgt John A. Fejes Jr. 13039715.

"Plane seen flying zig-zag course approximately 2,000 feet below
formation. Dinghy flying loose from cockpit. Two chutes seen
to open before plane went into cloud bank. When plane last
sighted both engines still running and plane in level flight.
This plane fell shortly after making the bomb run."

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18 September 1945

Bradford, Blair H., O-742670, T43-44op

Burned to death 3 kilometers Southeast of Reinx, 34
kilometers northwest of Poix.

Buried in the French cemetery of Poix.

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KU - 1915

4972
26K

Identification Tag.

Clarence M. GRAY 14153336 T 42 43

Mrs. W. C. Gray

Moultrie, Ga.
RFD. 5

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FORM 1A

KU - 1915

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

PLACE: Airbase Headquarters 226/X1 Poix
(Air District Command 19/X1 Beauvais)

DATE: 26. May 44

NAME AND FIRST NAME OF PRISONER:

G R A Y , Clarence M. 14153336

YEAR OF BIRTH: ---

RANK: S/Sgt

PLACE AND DATE OF CAPTURE: 20. May 44, 1220 h, 3 km South of Rieux, 34 Northwest
immediately after parachute landing (of Poix

PARTICULARS CONCERNING CAPTURE:-

(CRASHED? EMERGENCY LANDING? SHOT DOWN?)

unknown

TYPE OF CRAFT

. Boston A 20 serial No. 8916

REMARKS:

wreckage 100 %

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM 1

KU - 1916

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airbase Headquarters 226/Y1 Poix
(Air District Command 19/X1 Beauvais)

PLACE: 26. May 44 Poix

DATE: 26. May 44

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boston A 20

~~ENEMY LANDING~~ AT: 20. May 44, 1220 h, 3 km South of Rieux, 34 km
Northwest of Poix

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

B R A D F O R D

FIRST NAME:

Blair H.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA)

o-742670

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED)

Dead

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Poix

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM #2

KU - 1915

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Airbase Headquarters 226/XI

LOCATION: Poix

DATE: 26. May 44

DATE AND TIME: 20 May 44, 1220 h,
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN

PLACE OF CRASH:
(NEAREST TOWN) 3 km South of Rieux, 34 Northwest of Poix

KIND OF CAPTURE:
(PIAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER, unknown
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boston A 20

MARKINGS OF CRAFT:
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: 89216

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES: Radio sets : 1 : B C - 6 - A serial number 3500

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: wreckage 100%

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:
(DULOG -LUFT, ETC.)

4 machine guns 12.7 mm Browning
714980
927855
928097
926778

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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Date	Letter	Wrote About
4/26	B	Wadsworth

**GERMAN LUNDS
COMPLETED**

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