

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Classification changed
to Restricted

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 20 Jan 48

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

7794

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 airplane is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Wethersfield, Essex, Eng; Command or Air Force IX Bomber Comd.
Group 416th Bomb Gp (L); Squadron 669th B G; Detachment ---
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Wethersfield, Essex; Course See Incl No. 1.
Intended Destination M/Y Frevent, France; Type of Mission Operational
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
No clouds, haze to 12,000 ft, visibility 6 to 8 mi down sun, 2 mi up sun.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 August 1944 Time 1241 hours and Location West of Frevent, Fr.
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

6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series A-20G-30; A.A.F. Serial Number 43-9673
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2600-23; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 43-106990
(b) 43-153207
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 604998; (b) 946298; (c) 946632; (d) 946297
(e) 238391; (f) 60489; (g) 981571; (h) 981579
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
8. (1) 981575 All M-2 Browning Cal .50 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
fixed and flexible Aircraft Machine Guns.
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	<u>Dontas, Peter</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0 806 236</u>
2. Mechanic Gunner	<u>Fields, William E.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>35 339 996</u> <u>RTD</u>
3. Armorer Gunner	<u>Nielsen, Arthur L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>37 389 813</u> <u>RTD</u>
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

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

D. 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. Wheeler, Richard V.	1st Lt	0-26098		X		
2. Arrington, Henry P.	1st Lt	0-749608		X		
Johnson, Keith L.	S/Sgt.	16 021 559		X		
3. Czech, Joseph L.	S/Sgt.	16 028 039		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 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 None

DATE OF REPORT 12 August 1944

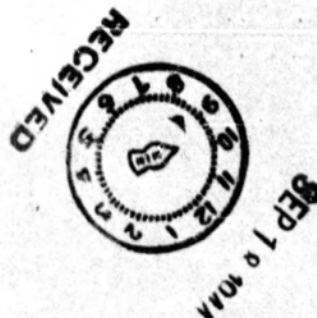
For the Commanding Officer:

George Schenk
GEORGE SCHENK,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

2 Incls:

Incl No. 1 - Map Overlay.

Incl No. 2 - Eye Witness Statement.



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Missing Air Crew Report - - Airplane A-20G-30, AAF Serial No. 43-9673
416th Bomb Gp (L)

Eye Witness Statement of:

1st Lt. Richard V. Wheeler, 026 098 and his crew.

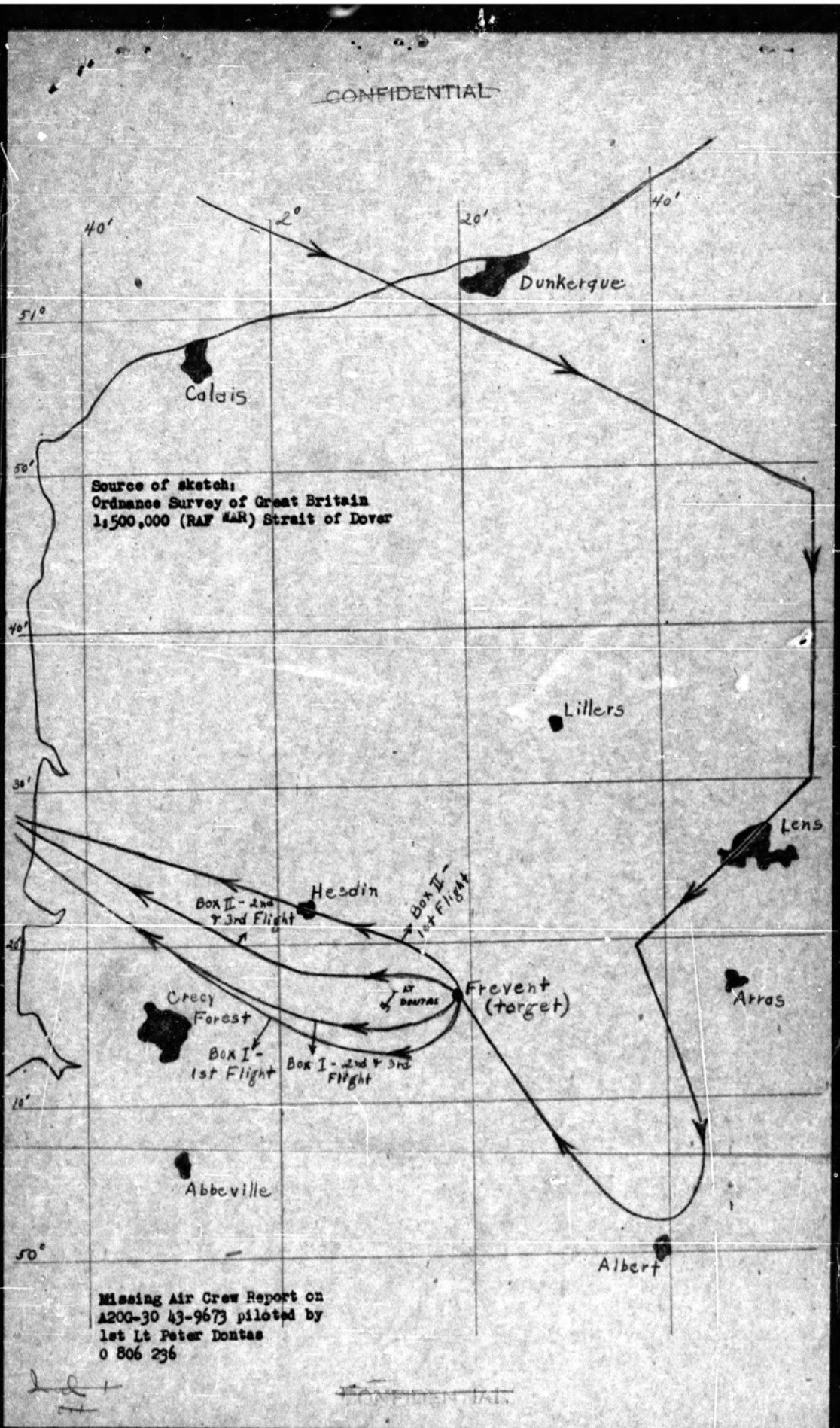
Plane hit by flak at approximately 1241 hours over target area, last seen going down in flames over target, one parachute observed coming from plane.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FPRA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Nielsen, Arthur L.
Rank: S/Sgt
Serial number: 37389813
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxx (Fighter)~~: Armorer Gunner

File 7794

Did he bail out? No

Where? Plane shot down near Amiens, France. Do not know exact location.

If not, why not? ~~***~~ He did not leave turret. Assume he was wounded or killed.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: Before Entering France. I did not hear him talk at the time we were hit.

Was he injured? Assume he was. Have no way of knowing.

Where was he when last seen? ~~***take off***~~ When Plane went Down.

Any hearsay information: None

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I Believe he was wounded. I made an attempt to get him out off turret, but was unsuccessful.

He was still in turret when the plane went down.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 57

Dates and destinations if possible: Last Mission August 8 1944. Railway Junction Near Amiens, France.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Dontas, Peter
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: 0-806236
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~of B-24D 44-24444~~: Pilot

File 7794

Did he bail out? I believe he did.

Where? Near Amiens France.

If not, why not? _____

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

Lt. Dontas gave bail out order when we were hit.

Was he injured? Have no way of knowing. were seperated by Bombbay--A-20

Where was he when last seen? Before take off.

Any hearsay information: A Para chute was reported to have left our ship

while still near the formation. I did not bail out untill the plane had
lost at least three thousand feet.

Laford
Source: Sgt. Gurtis Of our squadron whom I met in P.O.W. camp.

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

No explanation.

Total number of missions of above crew member: App. 43

Dates and destinations if possible: Last mission August 8, 1944 .

Railway junction near Amiens, France.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Fiel, William E. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 3533996
2. Organization 416 Gp Commander Allysworth Rank Lt. Col Ban CO Farmer Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month August day 8 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, _____, target Rail way Junction, target
time, App. 1030 Hours, altitude, 10,000 Feet route scheduled, Not known
_____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? A few seconds after bombs away.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Believe pilot did.
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 definite knowledge.

Ship blew up in mid-air was scattered over large area.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Open field near Amiens, France.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) S/Sgt. Arthur L. Nielsen

11. Where were they in aircraft? Still in Turret. Plane was A-20-G
12. What was their condition? ***** Wounded or Dead. I could Not get him Out of Turret.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? La st Saw ~~at~~ Pilot At Take Off Time. We were seperated by bomb-bay. There is no way of a gunner seeing the pilot in an A-20.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. Lt. Shainberg Had left leg amputated above knee, Condition seemed good. ~~Was~~ With me in German hospital at Lille France, and Obermassfeld Germany.
I saw the following men in P.O.W. camp. All men named were assigned to 669 Bomb Squadron.

<u>S/Sgt. Grady Cope</u>	<u>S/Sgt. James Thomson</u>	<u>Sgt. Layford Curtis</u>
<u>S/Sgt. Gerald Correy</u>	<u>S/Sgt. W Kasper</u>	
<u>S/Sgt. Jeong S. Wing</u>	<u>All above named men were all right when last seen by me on Febury 6 1945.</u>	
<u>S/Sgt. Findley Hatch</u>		

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

MACR-7797

KU 2704

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT
WAS SHOT DOWN

8 Aug. 1944

1600 o'clock

PLACE OF CRASH

HEUF - POUCEL

TYPE OF CRAFT

Marauder

REPORTING OFFICE

Air District Command BELGIUM

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CAUSE WOUNDED DEAD	PLACE OF INCIDENT
FIELDER	William Edward	S/Sgt. 3533996	Sept'd	Dulag Luft

Reporting No. KU 2704

First supplementary report of 23 Nov. 1944

(1) FORTAS

Peter

Offr. 0-806236 dead

DULAG LUFT, 8 Sept. 1944 No.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM LEAF #1

K U 2704

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: AIR BASE COMMAND
BELGIUM-NORTHFRANCE

DISTRIBUTOR: AIR FLEET COMMAND 3/10
BULAG LUFT. GEBIRSEN
SECTION OFFICER.

OFFICE OR STATION:

LOCATION:

OFFICE OR APPRAISAL-VALUES:

OWNED)
REGARDING: EMERGENCY LANDINGS
CRASH)

MARAUDER

DATE AND TIME: 8 August 1944, 1600

AT: 16 00 NEAR: LE PONGHEL (PE 7), 6 km W of AUXI LE CHATEAU.

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

SURNAME) 4 Dead, impossible to recognize
FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME) 1 Prisoner of War, Sgt. FIELDS, W.B. 3533996
1 Crewmember at large.

CHRISTIAN NAME)
FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME)

RANK:

SERIAL
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERVICE

NATIONALITY:

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE:
DATE OF CAPTURE:
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE:
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:

STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:
DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY:
CONDITION OF BODY:

THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM)

DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD
ASCERTAINED?

DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL:
GRAVE LOCATION:

POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE
G.F.P. OR S.D., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY
PATROAGE OR FAVOR:

DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL:
DATE:

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO
PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:

REMARKS:

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)

INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

K U 2704

RESERVE St. HOSPITAL 3/617
Filesign: 4 Kef.

Local Hq 10 August 1944

Refers to: Chief MEDICAL OFFICER at Army High Command at BELGIUM/NORTHFRANCE
Sect. I Filesign: 30 Dated: 13 Dec. 44.

Subject : HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

To : FIELD AIR BASE COMMAND, BELGIUM/NORTHFRANCE &
RESERVE STATION HOSPITAL 617

On 9 August 1944 The American Prisoner of War
Sgt. WILLIAM E. FIELDS ASN 55339998 T 42/43/ B.P. ✓
has been admitted for stationary treatment.

signed: ?
Major M.C. and CHIEF SURGEON.

Information sent to : DULAG LILLE, HOFMURSEL,
COMMAND AND DISTRICT LILLE Ie.

JEP

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM 1047 (1)

I U 2704

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: **COMMAND AIR BASE**
OFFICE OR STATION: **DISTRICT 8/III**
DATE: **20 August 1944**
LOCATION: **L I L L E**

DISTRIBUTOR: **CAMP COMMAND CHIEF AIR BASE,**
BELGIUM/NORTHERN FRANCE, I.e.,
DULAG LUFT, OBERURSSEL.

OFFICE OR APPRAISAL-VALUES:

REGARDING: DOWNED) **"MARAUDER"**
EMERGENCY LANDINGS)
CRASH) DATE AND TIME: **8 August 1944, 1600**

AT: **16 00** NEAR: **LE POMCHER, 6 km NW of AUXI LE CHATEAU**

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

SURNAME)
FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME) **F I E L D S**
CHRISTIAN NAME)
FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME) **WILLIAM E.**

RANK: **Sgt.**

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERIAL
SERVICE **35339996**

NATIONALITY: **AIR CORPS USA.**

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE:
DATE OF CAPTURE: **8 August 1944**
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE: **Place of crash**
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:

STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:
DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY:
CONDITION OF BODY:

THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM)

Uniform

DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD
ASCERTAINED:

DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL:
GRAVE LOCATION:

POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE
G.F.P. OR S.D., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY
PATRONAGE OR FAVOR:

DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL: **Reserve Station Hospital CALMETTE/**
DATE: **8 August 1944**

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO
PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:

17 August 1944

REMARKS:

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)

INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

Remarks: After late information received from St. Hospital, Prisoners of War LUNK & HERON have not been transferred because of fever. On their place the Sgts. FIELDS & LLOYD HAVE BEEN SENT TO OBERURSSEL. (See Radio-message dated 18 August 1944)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

K U 2704

AIR BASE COMMAND E(v)7117/XI
AIR PORT MONCHY-BRETON

Local Hq 8 August 1944

FINAL REPORT ON CAPTURE OF ENEMY MATERIAL AND ENEMY CREWMEMBERS.

Distributor: RESERVE BOARD WEST, O R A U S E L L

DATE OF CRASH: 8 August 1944 Time: 1400, place of crash: LE PONCHEL, 3 km NW of
AUXI LE CHATEAU.

Type of Plane: N A R A U S E L L

DAMAGE: 100 %

Kind of capture: BY FLAK

For search of escaped Crewmembers FLAK 469 at LE PONCHEL has been alerted.

Guard for downed plane: 469 Flak Unit.

Remaining Crew: 3 dead

1.) D O I T A S, PETER O-306236

2.) Not to recognize

Other Crewmembers probably completely burned

Prisoner of War: 1 man

1.) S/Sgt. F I L L I S, transferred to Station Hospital C A L M E T T E - L I L L E.

Probably all large: 1 man

signed: JDOSE
SHIRKANT

Technical Data: Body of plane: 100 % damage, Wings: 700 % damage Fuselage: 100%
damage, landing gear: 100 % damage.

Type of engine: Could not be recognized, 100 % damage

Weapon of plane: Type could not be recognized, Caliber: 12,8 mm

Board communication: Delt.

Radio material and facilities: Nothing was found.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

FORM 1047 41

K U 2704

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: **Command Air Base District 8/III** DISTRIBUTOR: **CHIEF AIR BASE COMMAND, BELGIUM/NORTHFRANCE, I.e. DULAG LUFT, OBERURSEL. COMMAND AIR BASE DISTRICT.**
OFFICE OR STATION: **L I L L E**
DATE: **14 August 1944**
LOCATION: OFFICE OR APPRAISAL-VALUES:

REGARDING: **DOWNED**) **"MARAUDER"**
EMERGENCY LANDINGS) **DATE AND TIME: 8 August 1944, 1600**
CRASH)
AT: **1600** NEAR: **LE PONGHEL, about 6 km NW of AUXI LES CHATEAU.**

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

SURNAME)
FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME) **FIELDS**
CHRISTIAN NAME)
FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME) **WILLIAM E.**

RANK: **Sgt.**
SERIAL
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERVICE **35339996**

NATIONALITY: **USA AIR CORPS.**

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE: STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:
DATE OF CAPTURE: **11 August 1944** DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY:
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE: **Near place of crash** CONDITION OF BODY:
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY: **Flak Unit**

THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM)

Uniform

DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG:
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD ASCERTAINED?

DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL:
GRAVE LOCATION:

POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE
U.S.A. OR S.D., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY
PATRONAGE OR FAVOR:

DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL: **STATION HOSPITAL CALMETTE, LILLE.**
DATE: **9 August 1944**

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO
PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:

1/5 August 1944

REMARKS:

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE, PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)

INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

1 Messge money bag;
1 First Aid jacket;
1 Pocket knife;
1 Parachute instruction book
1 Black Photographic
1 Paper bag
16 Sterling coins.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

K U 2704

8 August 1944 Time: 1600, Type of plane: M A R A U D E R 26
NEUF - PONGHEL, 6 km NW of AUXI LE CHATEAU

CHIEF AIR BASE COMMAND BRUSSEL

100 % Damage

2 Men dead

1 Prisoner of War

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

JPC/12/2/44

1st Lt. Peter Dantas

Mrs. Alberta Boyd (sister)
1808 South Main Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

S/Sgt. William E. Fields,

Mrs. Rose S. Fields (wife)
1313 Polk Street,
Forb Wayne, Indiana.

S/Sgt. Arthur L. Nielsen

Mrs. Marjorie A. Nielsen (wife)
Route #2,
Gerald, Missouri.

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Classification changed
by S. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Supt., AG
Date 20 Mar 45

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AO
Date **MAR 15 1948**

Date	Writer	Wrote About
9/20/92	Paul	Wanda Molten

**GERMAN RECORDS
COMPLETED**

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~