

13086

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Classification changed  
to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by E. A. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. HENNING, Capt., AC  
DATE 1 MAR 1966

~~RESTRICTED~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

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by E. A. BRADSHAW, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. [unclear], Capt., AC  
Date 1 MAR 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

13086

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Aldermaston : Command or Air Force 9th TCG  
Group 434th TCG Squadron 72nd TOSg : Detachment None
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Aldermaston : Course 222° Magnetic  
Target or Intended Destination Hiesville : Type of mission glider mission
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
5 cloud cover - cloud base 1000 to 5000 - 6 miles visibility
- (GIVE: (a) Day 6 Month 6 Year 1944 : Time 2053:15 : and location See overlay  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. South of Hiesville  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ): Last contacted by  
radio (X) : Forced down ( ): Seen to crash ( ): or Information not Avail-  
able ( ).
- 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: Enemy Ground Fire.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series Horsa Glider : AAF Serial Number HG-915
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series None : AAF Serial Number  
(a) None (b) None (c) None (d) None
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below links, Type and Serial Number):  
(a) None (b) None (c) None (d) None  
(e) None (f) None (g) None (h) None  
(i) None (j) None (k) None (l) None  
(m) None (n) None (o) None (p) None
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA (Crew only)  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 2 : Passengers 6 : Total 8  
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; if more than 11  
persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheets  
and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status	
1. Pilot	KETCHAM, Remington M.	F/O	T-121427	POW	RTD
2. Co-pilot	BALDWIN, Clarence A.	F/O	T-1289	POW	RTD
3. Passenger	BAUM, Gerhard	1st Lt	O-1824560	Unknown	RTD
4. Passenger	FRATZKE, Alfred R.	1st Lt	O-1994602	Unknown	RTD
5. Passenger	Gamble, Kenneth F.	1st Lt	35745146	Unknown	
6. Passenger	Fuhrmann, Harold H.	T/4	36287752	Unknown	
7. Passenger	Towner, Robert W.	T/4	15100875	Unknown	
8. Passenger	Stephens, Jules J.	T/4	31196702	Unknown	

9. Passengers 3 to 8 were assigned to the 101st Airborne.  
10. Status of passengers at the landing is unknown at this headquarters.

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-  
CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

(Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			Saw	
			By	Last Sight	Crash	Forced Landing	
1. TARBELL, Frederick H.	Capt	O-740306	X				
2. BARRICK, James J.	1st Lt	O-836206	X				
3. KING, Joseph P.	2nd Lt	O-195311		X			

(Over)

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Incl 2

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13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE 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. **See attached overlay.**
15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. **See attached statements.**
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT \_\_\_\_\_

**Not applicable.**

Date of Report 10 February 1945

*James H. Taylor*  
(Signature of Reporting Officer)

**JAMES H. TAYLOR,**  
Captain, Air Corps  
Adjutant.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Glider was towed by Aircraft C-47A, AAF Serial No. 43-15628, piloted by Captain Frederick H. Tarbell, O-740306.  
Tow ship returned safely.



Revised: Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, 15 August 1944.

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72ND TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON  
434TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP  
APO LUS, US ARMY

19 February 1945

CERTIFICATE

I saw the glider land a field containing a wooded area. The right wing struck the wooded area damaging it severely. The fuselage and left wing were undamaged. I did not see any of the occupants get out of the glider although it is known that the Pilot F/O Remington M. Ketchum and the Co-pilot Clarence A. Baldwin were seen running toward a wooded area closely followed by some German Soldiers. To the best of my knowledge I do not know if the passengers of the glider ever left it.

*Joseph P. King*  
JOSEPH P. KING,  
2nd Lt, Air Corps,  
72nd Tr Carr Sqdn.

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72ND TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON  
434TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP  
APO 133, US ARMY

20 February 1945

STATEMENT

I was the pilot of the C-47A Tow Ship #43-15828 and towed the Horsa Glider with F/O Remington M. Ketcham Pilot, and F/O Clarence A. Baldwin, Co-pilot on 6 June 1944.

I talked to F/O Ketcham over the inter-communication system just as he was the release signal over the Landing Zone on the Cherbourg Peninsula. At that time he said "Good Luck" and released from the tow ship. I then made a right turn away from the Drop Zone with the rest of the formation.

The landing made by F/O Ketcham and F/O Baldwin was not observed.

*Fredrick H. Tarbell*  
FREDERICK H. TARBELL,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
72nd Tr Carr Sqdn.

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72ND TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON  
434TH TROOP CARRIER GROUP  
APO 153, US ARMY

20 February 1945

**STATEMENT**

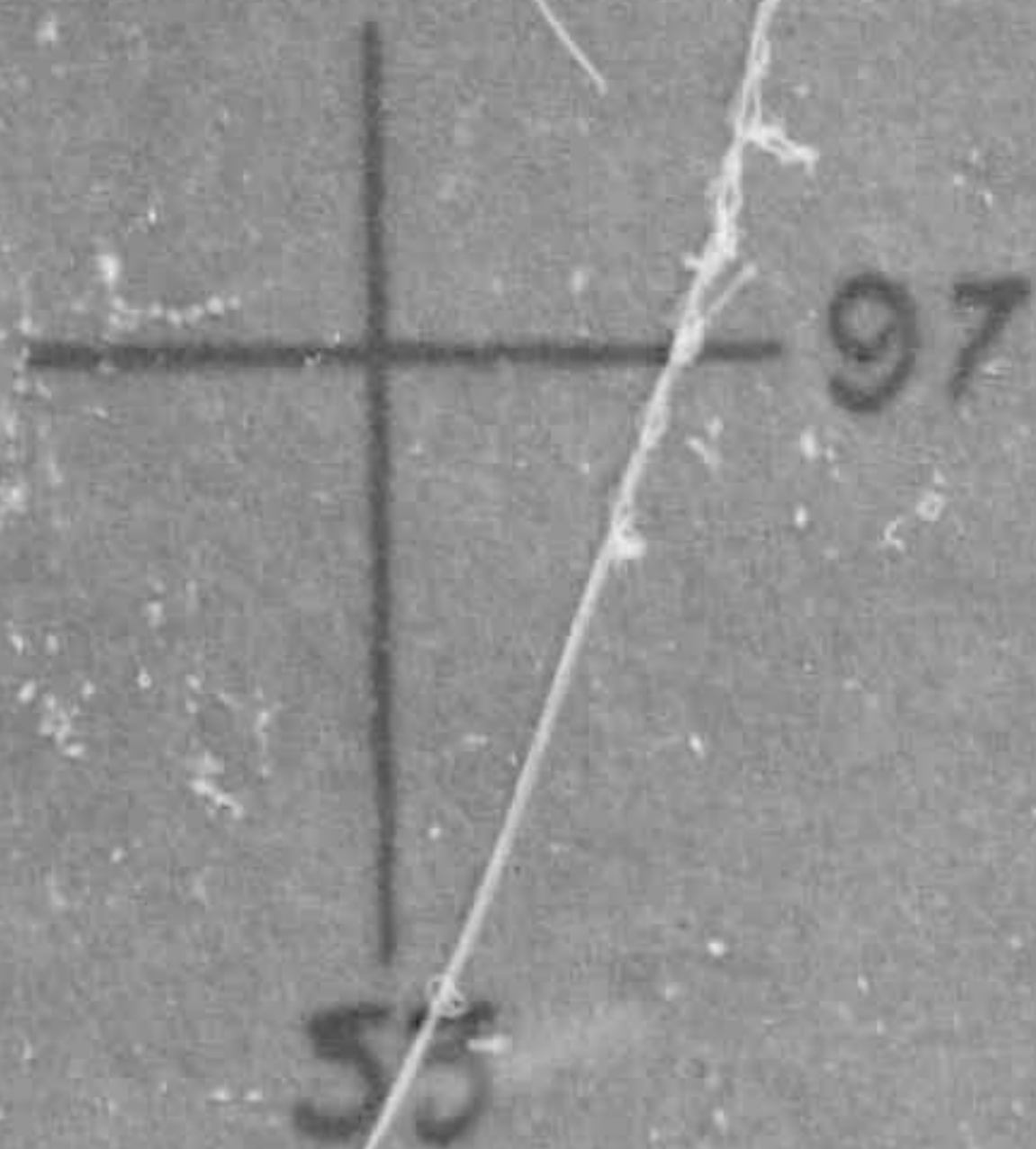
I was co-pilot of the C-47A, AAF Serial No. 43-15628, aircraft that towed the Horsa Glider piloted by F/O Ketchum and co-piloted by F/O Baldwin on 6 June 1944 into France.

Contact was made with F/O Ketchum by interphone just before release at the LZ. He released normally and that is where my account of either of them ended. I did not see them land.

*James I. Barrick*  
JAMES I. BARRICK,  
1st Lt, AIF Corps,  
72nd Tr Carr Sqdn.

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WHERE GLIDER OF P/O KETCHUM + P/O BALDWIN LANDED

Hiesville

Vierville

40

90

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Scale 1:50,000 or 1 Inch to 0.79 Miles

REPORT ON ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
CAPTURE OF PARATROOPS

DATE AND TIME AIRCRAFT  
WAS SHOT DOWN:

6/1/44 2100h

PLACE OF CRASH:

Northern France

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT:

Paratrooper

REPORTING OFFICE:

Special Detachment Chartres

CREW

SURNAME, AND  
FIRST NAME:

KETCHAM, Benington Montross

DATE OF BIRTH:

RANK:

S/O

SERIAL NUMBER:

T-121427

CAPTURED:

yes

WOUNDED:

DEAD:

DISTRIBUTION:

WHICH CAMP:

Dulag Luft

TYPE OF INJURY:

GRAVE LOCATION:

REMARKS:

Dulag Luft, 7/22/44 No.



captured, 6 June 44 at 2100  
Flacm. North-France  
Yvesi Horsa  
72nd Sgd.  
434th Group  
Basil Aldermaston

No. 1 1000/A/10

V/O KETCHUM, Rasington Montrose, T-121427

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W 2 86  
130

*Partington*

landed, 6 June 44 at 2100  
Place North-France  
72 Sqd.  
434th Troop Carrier Group  
Base: Aldermaston

Rank	Name	No.
P/O	KITCHEN, Revington	1000/A
P/O	MALDEN, Clarence A.	T-121427
		T-1239

## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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Name of crew member: STEPHENS, Jules J.  
 Rank: T/4  
 Serial number: 31196702  
 Position: Crew ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~:  
 (Glider) Passenger

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? We all landed together

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: We  
dispersed about the glider and little or no conversation took place

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? When we got out of the glider

Any hearsay information: None

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: As far as I know  
all the men riding with me were captured. We were split up and rode on different  
trucks. I know of one that was strafed and burned. This man may have been on it.  
A paratroop officer who buried the men, had their dog-tags and to my knowledge he  
intended to turn them over to some German authority to be sent to Geneva.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Unknown to me

Dates and destinations if possible: Unknown to me

The above strafing took place on a small hill on the outskirts of St. Lo

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

13086

Name of crew member: TOWNER, Robert W.  
 Rank: T/A  
 Serial number: 15100875  
 Position: Crew (~~Paratrooper~~)  
 (Glider): Passenger

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? We all landed together

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: We  
dispersed about the glider and little or no conversation took place.

Was he injured? Not to my knowledge

Where was he when last seen? When we got out of the glider.

Any hearsay information: None

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: As far as I know  
all the men riding with me were captured. We were split up and rode on different  
trucks. I know of one that was strafed and burned. This man may have been on it.  
A paratroop officer who buried the men, had their dog-tags and to my knowledge he  
intended to turn them over to some German authority to be sent to Geneva.

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