

6139

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification Change
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., 22
by D. M. SHERMAN, Capt. 23
Date 10/19/40

RESTRICTED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EUS

1st Lt. William R. Hitstaler

Mrs. Laverda B. Hitstaler, (Wife)
1525 South Elizabeth Street,
Denver, Colorado.

EUS

2nd Lt. Stanley E. Edwards, Jr.

Mr. Stanley E. Edwards, Sr., (Father)
425 North Willow Avenue,
Phoenix, Arizona.

RTD

2nd Lt. John H. Hendry

Mr. John P. Hendry, (Father)
150-29 115 Avenue,
Jamaica, New York.

EUS

T/Sgt. Alvia F. Vezina

Mrs. Amanda C. Vezina, (Mother)
General Delivery,
Loadore, Idaho.

DED

S/Sgt. Orlo A. Montgomery

Mrs. Bernadine M. Montgomery, (Wife)
2326 South Galapago Street,
Denver, Colorado.

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a stamp or bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

~~SECRET~~

6139

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUEENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 15 1948

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

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

William R HITZTALER, 1st Lt, O-524956
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

21 June 1944
(Date)

14 Troop Carrier Squadron, 61 Troop Carrier Group
(Unit)

E&E #780

<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>				<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	O-524956	1st Lt	William R HITZTALER	RD
CO-PILOT	O-701914	2d Lt	Stanley E EDWARDS	MIA
NAVIGATOR	O-698627	2d Lt	John H HENDRY	RD
BOMBARDIER				
RADIO OPERATOR	17089122	S/Sgt	Orlo A MONTGOMERY	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER				
BALL TURRET GUNNER				
WAIST GUNNER				
WAIST GUNNER				
TAIL GUNNER				
ENGINEER	39678075	T/Sgt	Alvin F VEZINA	MIA

Carried 19 paratroopers; dropped 18 successfully.

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
6 June 1944; 0315 hours; North west of VALOGNES

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?
Shot up a lot; it was on fire; left engine and trail edge of left wing near fuselage were burning.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **between 1000 and 1500 feet.**

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
One paratrooper injured; crew unknown.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?
Navigator - chute opened.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **I don't know.**

Did source see any other members of the crew dead or alive after reaching the ground?
No.

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.

I did not hear about or see any members of crew until by return to UK.

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 navigator, E&E #781.

~~SECRET~~

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

6139

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

John H HENDRY, 2d Lt, O-698627
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)

21 June 1944
(Date)

14 Troop Carrier Squadron, 61 Troop Carrier Group
(Unit)

E&E #781

	<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>	<u>PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS</u>
PILOT	O-524956 1st Lt William R HITZTALER	RD
CO-PILOT	O-701914 2d Lt Stanley E EDWARDS, JR	MIA
NAVIGATOR	O-698627 2d Lt John H HENDRY	RD
BOMBARDIER		
RADIO OPERATOR	17089122 S/Sgt Orlo A MONTGOMERY	MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER		
BALL TURRET GUNNER		
WAIIST GUNNER		
WAIIST GUNNER		
TAIL GUNNER		
ENGINEER	39678075 T/Sgt Alvin F VEZINA	MIA

~~Carried 19 paratroopers; dropped 18 successfully.~~

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

6 June 1944; 0315 hours; NW of VALOGNES.

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

Left engine burning; right engine unknown; many flak holes in plane. Tail section shot up.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? 2500 feet

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed? Believe one EM was killed; 1 paratrooper was injured.

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

Pilot, co-pilot, navigator and one EM; chutes opened; injured paratrooper unknown.

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?

No

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 two aviators were captured by Germans at time of landing. Believed to be Co-pilot and EM who bailed out.

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? Heard that Co-pilot and one EM were captured. Saw both bail out.

One EM was hit by flak, believed killed. Paratrooper unknown.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON
MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

6133 *a*

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

- Barkston Heath,**
- ORGANIZATION: Location Lincs, England : Command ~~XXXXXX~~ **IX TCC**
 - SPECIFY Point of Departure: Barkston, Heath, England Course South-West
Group 61st T.C.Gp. : Squadron: 14th T.C.Sq. Detachment -----
1° 15' N. 49° 25' N.
 - WEATHER & CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT THE TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Cloudy
Intended Destination France Type of Mission Para-troops
 - GIVE: (a) Date 6 June 1944 Time 0220-B, and Location 1° 49' W 49° 28' N.
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (X) Last Sighted () Last Contacted by Radio () Forced Down: () Seen to Crash: or () Information not available.
 - 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 Unknown as to what happened to aircraft after last sighted by Lt. Middlebrooks.
 - AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series C-47-a : A.F. Serial Number 42-23638
 - ENGINES: Type, Model and Series PW: 1830-92 : A.F. Serial Number CP-351797
(b) CP-351714 : (c) _____; (d) _____
 - INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) None : (b) _____ : (c) _____ : (d) _____
(e) _____ : (f) WILL BE : (g) _____ : (h) _____
 - THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW ~~XXXX~~ REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
 - NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 5 : Passengers 19
Total 24

(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 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	
<i>14 Nov 47</i>	P1	<u>Hitzler, William R.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0 524 956</u>	<i>RTD RTD</i>
	EUS 2	<u>Edwards, Stanley E. Jr.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0 701 914</u>	<i>PAW RTD</i>
	RTD 3	<u>Hendry, John H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0 698 627</u>	<i>RTD RTD</i>
	EUS 4	<u>Vezina, Alvin F.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>39 678 075</u>	<i>PAW RTD</i>
	DED 5	<u>Montgomery, Orlo A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>17 089 122</u>	<i>MIA</i>
	EUS 6	<u>Heisler, W.C.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>01 295 712</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	KIA 7	<u>Emmett, W.P.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>20 904 872</u>	<i>MIA</i>
	EUS 8	<u>Romas, J.</u>	<u>Cpl.</u>	<u>12 073 642</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	EUS 9	<u>Taylor, R.R.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>37 506 031</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	KIA 10	<u>Stout, C. G.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>15 114 250</u>	<i>MIA</i>
	EUS 11	<u>Hitchcock, G. A.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>6 907 291</u>	<i>EUS</i>
	EUS 12	<u>Terryberry, B. M.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>12 080 559</u>	<i>RTD</i>
	EUS 13	<u>Letcon, C. E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>12 073 199</u>	<i>RMC</i>
	EUS 14	<u>Hurley, R. T.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>12 073 323</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	EUS 15	<u>Hollman, J. E.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>38 450 695</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	EUS 16	<u>Wagner, J. C.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>35 557 626</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	KIA 17	<u>Cummings, D. W.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>17 150 861</u>	<i>KIA</i>
	KIA 18	<u>Ball, G.</u>	<u>Pfc</u>	<u>35 629 657</u>	<i>KIA</i>
	KIA 19	<u>Ponder, J. L.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>39 233 735</u>	<i>KIA</i>
	EUS 20	<u>Alvarez, R. R.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>38 441 081</u>	<i>EUS</i>
	EUS 21	<u>Lindberg, O.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>26 185 914</u>	<i>PAW</i>
	RTD 22	<u>Ely, B.D.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>25 623 444</u>	<i>RTD</i>
	KIA 23	<u>LaChance, H. E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>11 998 049</u>	<i>KIA</i>
	EUS 24	<u>Truett, W. F.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>34 121 996</u>	<i>PAW</i>

Incl # * Company F .. 82nd Airborne Division

JUL 21 1944



RECEIVED

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

Check only one column

Name in full (last Name First)	Serial Rank Number	By Radio	Contacted		Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
			Last Sighted			
1. <u>Middlebrooks, Berlin I.</u>	<u>1st Lt. 0 524 954</u>	<u>X</u>				
2.						
3.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used - - - (b) Persons were seen wading away from scene of crash - - - -; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) Aircraft No. 42-23638 last seen entering clouds at approximately 1° 49' W. 49° 28' N.

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

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 7 June 1944

Lewis S. Frederick Jr.
(SIGNED) S. FREDERICK JR.
Of Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

- 2 Incls:
- Incl 1. - Eyewitness report from Lt. Middlebrooks (trip)
- Incl 2. - Map showing approximate location aircraft last sighted. (trip)

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6139
6

FOURTEENTH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON
AFC 133, U.S. ARMY

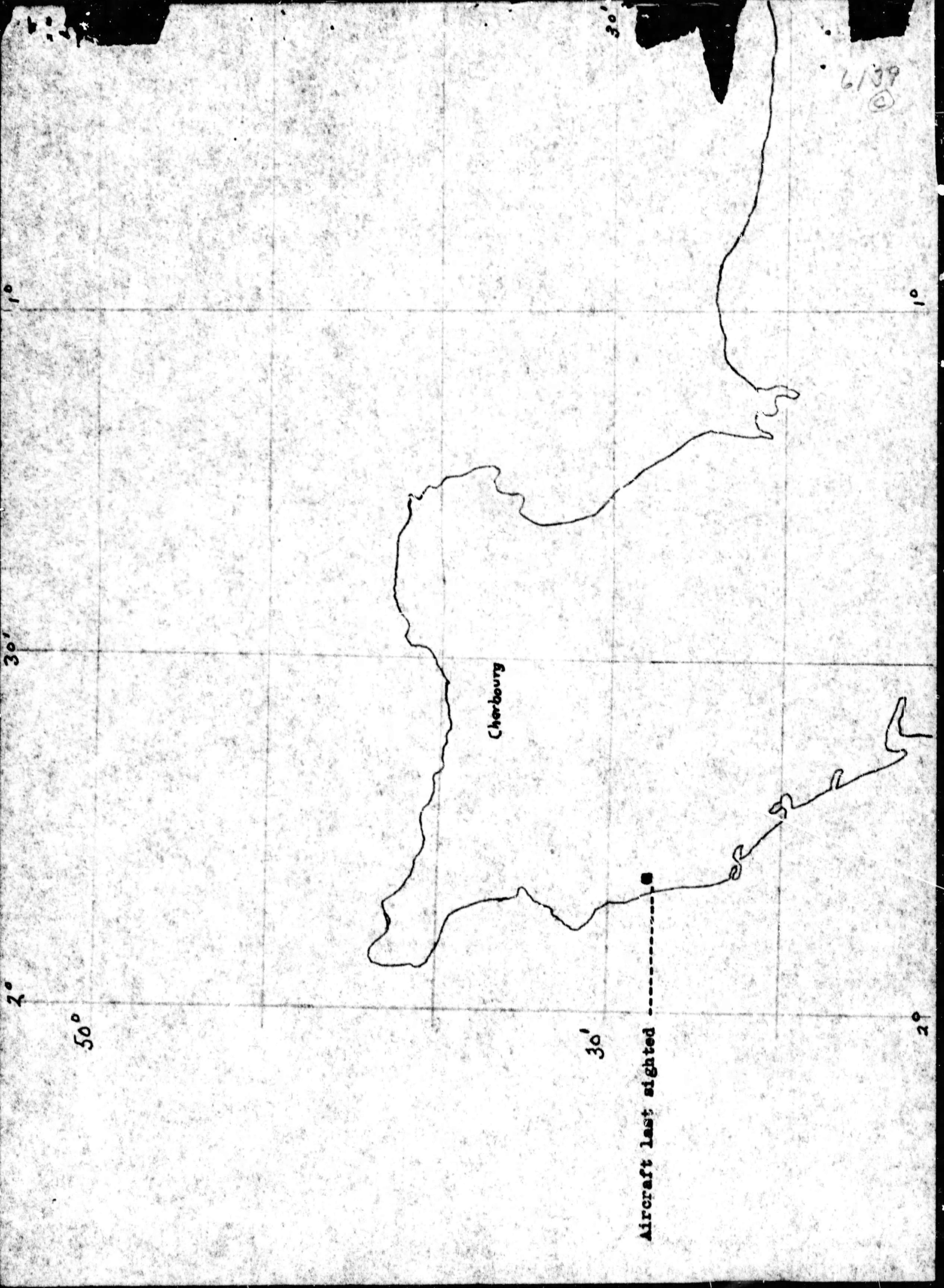
7 June 1944.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I was flying on the left wing of 1st Lt. WILLIAM R. HITZTALER, O 524 956, who was pilot in Aircraft No. 42-23638 on the morning of the 6 June 1944.

As we approached the coast of France, we encountered large layers of clouds ranging from 1000 to 1500 feet. Our element which was led by Lt., Hitztaler tried to climb above the clouds. Lt., Hitztaler succeeded in getting over the top of the clouds and was heading straight for the DZ, when I last saw him. This was about 0220 hrs and his position was approximately $1^{\circ} 49'$ W. and $2^{\circ} 28'$ N.

Berlin I. Middlebrooks
BERLIN I. MIDDLEBROOKS
1st Lt., AC O 524 924



6139
C

Cherbourg

Aircraft last sighted

10

10

30'

2°

2°

50°

30'

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7-186
6139

FOURTEENTH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON
Office of the Squadron Commander

APO 133, U S Army
28 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Supplemental Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U S Army.,
Attention: Statistical control Unit. (Thru Channels).

1. In compliance with Memorandum 35-6, your Headquarters, dated 20 May 1944, the following information is submitted to supplement Missing Air Crew Report, this headquarters, dated 7 June 1944.

a. 1st Lt William R. Hitztaler O 524 956 (Pilot) and 2d Lt John H. Hendry O 698 627 (Navigator), of aircraft C 47a No. 42-23638, have returned to this organization on 21 and 22 of June 1944 respectively.

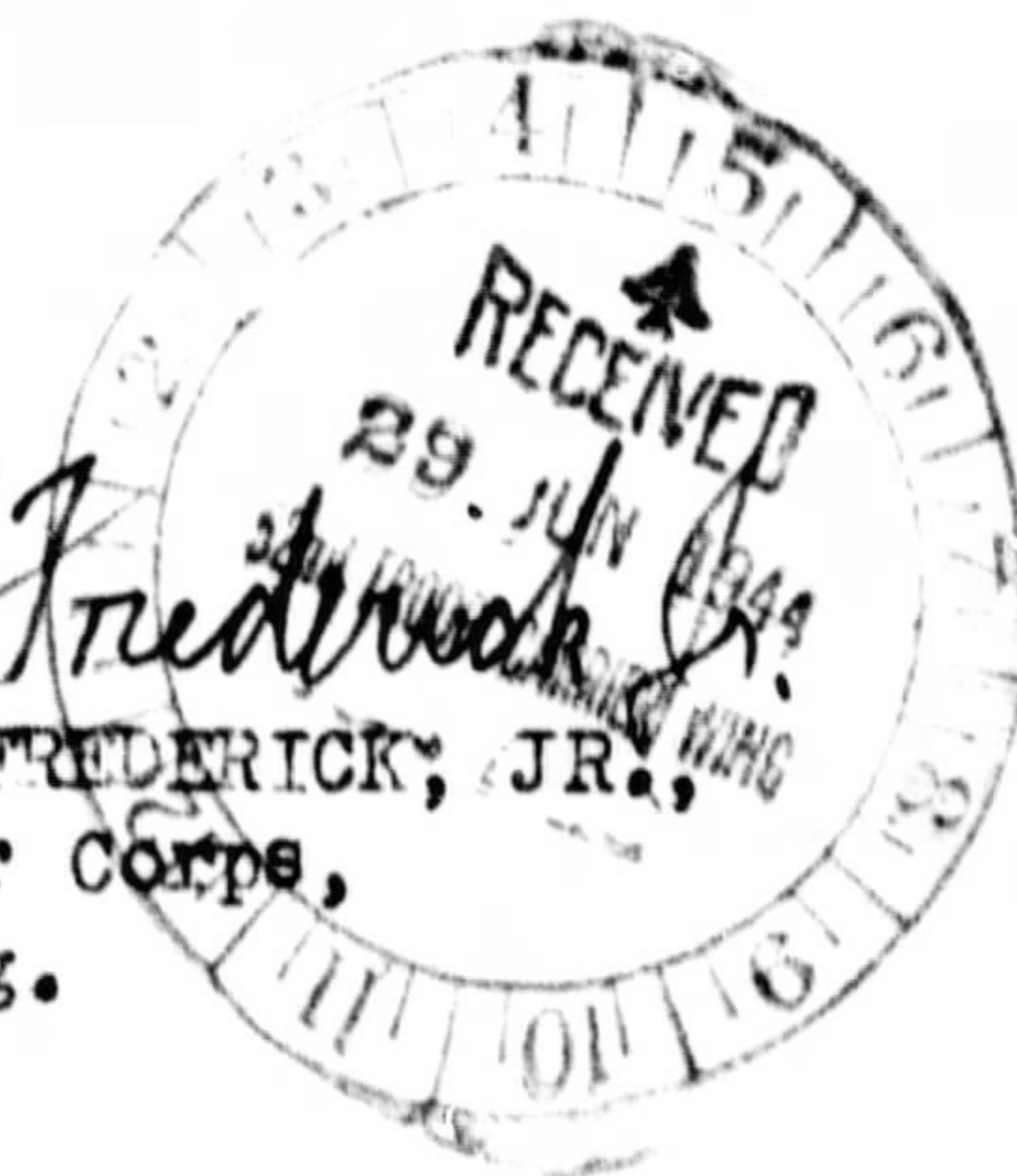
b. Aircraft succeeded in getting over the DZ and dropping all Paratroopers, encountering much flak and anti-aircraft fire proceeding to and over the DZ.

c. All control cables were shot out of aircraft and Lt Hitztaler informed other crew members to bail out. Lt Hitztaler, after seeing that all members of the crew had abandoned the aircraft, bailed out.

d. The aircraft was approximately 49° 29' N., 1° 37' W at this time.

1 Incl:
Incl 1 - Overlay Map.

Lewis S. Frederick, Jr.
LEWIS S. FREDERICK, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

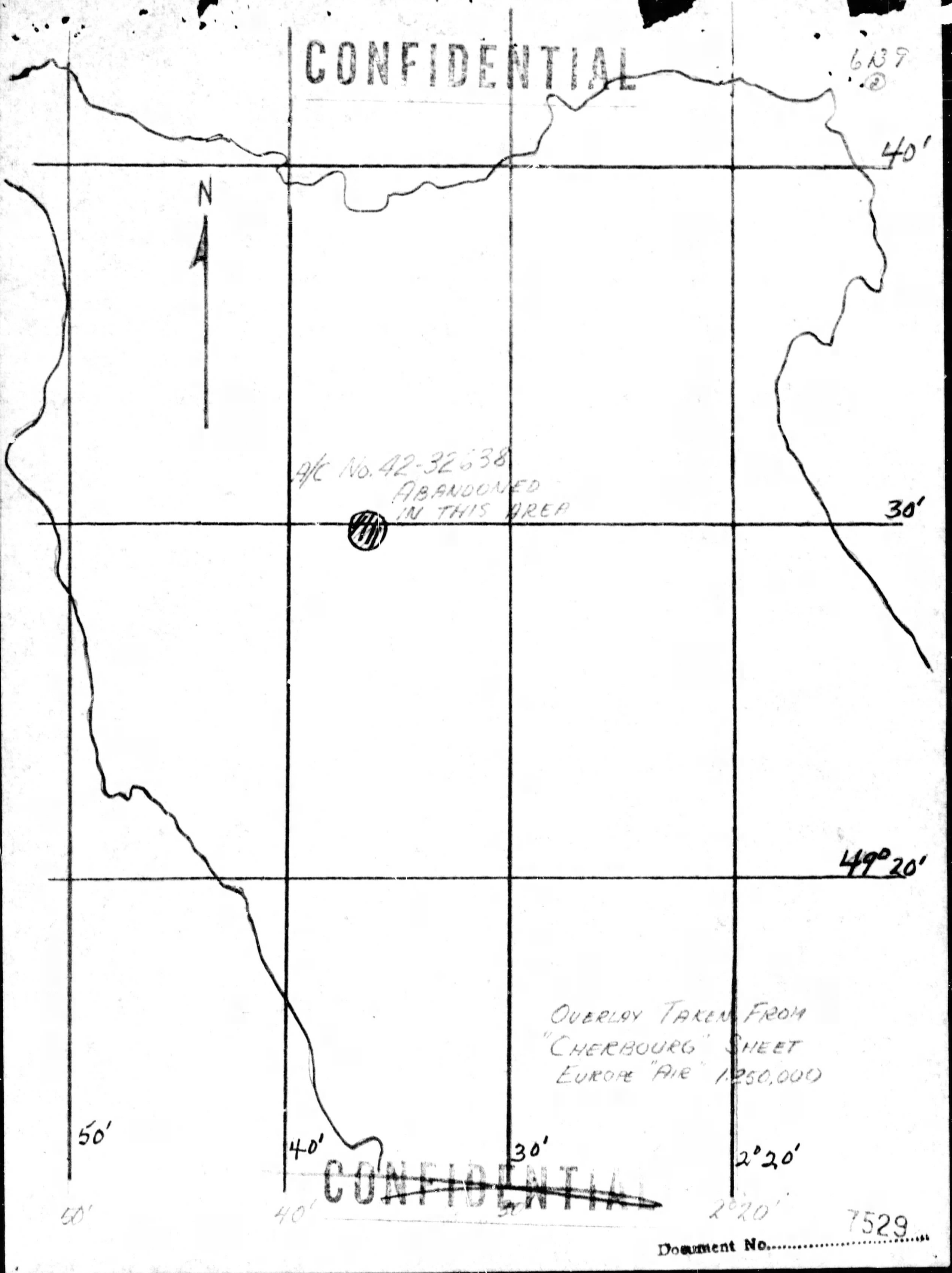
7529

Document No.....

Incl #2

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6139
②



A/C No. 42-32638
ABANDONED
IN THIS AREA



OVERLAY TAKEN FROM
"CHERBOURG" SHEET
EUROPE "AIR" 1:250,000

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INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 6139

Name of crew member: MONTGOMERY, Orlo A.
 Rank: S/Sgt.
 Serial number: 17089122
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxx (Fighter)~~: Radio Operator

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was killed before he could bail out

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I was standing near him when he screamed and fell

Was he injured? yes

Where was he when last seen? In the plane

Any hearsay information: No

Source: _____

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 5 missions

Dates and destinations if possible: Invasion of Sicily, Invasion of Italy, & Invasion of Normandy

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Alvin F. Virginia Rank 1st Sgt. Serial No. 39678875
2. Organization 61st Gp Commander? Rank _____ Sqn CO Fredrick's Rank Major
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month June day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Paratroopers, target, Normandy, target time, 3:00, altitude, 500 ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? over the Cherbourg peninsula
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". Lt. Edwards was taken prisoner some time ago. The others I have no knowledge. I heard later that Lt. Hiltaker Pilot made it out OK.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near the little town near St. Joseph
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) I don't know
11. Where were they in aircraft? In the passage behind the pilot
12. What was their condition? I think they were dead.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Lt. Edwards was in except for a sprained ankle. He was taken prisoner.
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 6139

Name of crew member: **MONTGOMERY, Orlo A.**
 Rank: **S/Sgt.**
 Serial number: **17089122**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ (~~Fighter~~): **Radio Operator**

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? He was hit by flak and either badly wounded or killed

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: When hit, he was standing directly behind me, facing aft. As he fell, he turned and faced me. He was bleeding badly, and seemed to be dying.
 Was he injured? Yes. In the stomach or chest.

Where was he when last seen? Lying on the floor of the companionway

Any hearsay information: Only that the aircraft had been found, and that two bodies were in it. One was an injured paratrooper who didn't jump, and the other was Sgt. Montgomery.

Source: Official.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Probably he was too badly injured to bail out and went down with the aircraft.

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge. However, records of the Squadron may show it- 14th Troop Carrier Sqdn., 61st T.C.Gp., APO 123, NY
 Dates and destinations if possible: _____

John H. Hendry
 JOHN H. HENDRY
 1st Lt. A.C.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name John Herbert Hendry Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-698627
GI TCG Mitchell Fredericks
2. Organization 14TCS¹Gp Commander Willis Rank Col. Sqn CO Lewis J. Rank Major
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 6th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Paratroop drop, target, Normandy, target time, 0232, altitude, 600' route scheduled, Around Normandy peninsula, approach the flow (approach target from South, continue on course) Same - South from England, around Normandy target from the South
5. Where were you when you left formation? Just over coast going in
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes - Lt. Hitztaler, pilot; Lt. Edwards, co-pilot; Sgt Vesina, Engineer.
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". 2nd Lt. Stanley Edwards and T/Sgt. Al Vesina bailed out together at about 0245 or 0250. Near Valognes, Normandy. I bailed out next, and then 1st Lt. Hitztaler went out through the escape hatch on top of the plane.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? don't know
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) The radio operator, S/Sgt. Orlo A. Montgomery
11. Where were they in aircraft? Lying in the aisle of the aircraft just behind the pilot's and co-pilot's seats
12. What was their condition? wounded, and probably unconscious
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Lt. Hitztaler (Captain now) in England about July 19, 1945 on the way back to the States. He was in good condition and back on flying status. Lt. Edwards, in Paris about the middle of May, 1945, had just been released from a German prison camp. He seemed to be in good condition
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. None

John H. Hendry
 JOHN H. HENDRY

1st Lt. A.C.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)