

CONFIDENTIAL

14TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON  
61ST TROOP CARRIER GROUP

APO 133, US Army,  
16 January 1945.

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

I certify that the following statements are true and exact to the best of my knowledge regarding injured personnel left aboard aircraft 42-23638 at the time I bailed out:

There was one (1) injured paratrooper aboard with wounds in the leg or legs at the time of the "abandon ship" order. Several seconds previous to this order, the radio operator, S Sgt Montgomery, was hit by flak, appearing to be wounded in the stomach, chest or face, or two or more of these places. I was standing between the pilot and co-pilot, who were at the controls, and S Sgt Montgomery was standing directly behind me facing aft. As he fell, he turned and wrapped his arms around my legs. His blood was on the navigator's table, maps, floor, and my trouser legs, so I assumed he was injured seriously. He passed into unconsciousness very soon after. His position in the plane, when I left, was in the aisle in the forward end of the ship.

The paratrooper was up and going after a chute at the time I bailed out. Whether he made it or not, I don't know. He was directly behind the bulkhead when I last saw him.

The only other person in the aircraft at the time I left was Lieutenant Hitztaler, the pilot.

I don't know what kind of uniform either one of the men was wearing and I don't know if the paratrooper was still wearing his boots, but am quite sure that S Sgt Montgomery was wearing normal government issue work shoes.

*John H. Hendry*

JOHN H. HENDRY,  
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Navigator, C-47 No. 42-23638.

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