

13565

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

RESTRICTED

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MURCH, Capt., AC

date ~~1 MAR 1968~~

RESTRICTED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C

C O N F I D E N T I A L

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England; Command or Air Force VIII; Group 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed
 Target or Intended Destination Hamburg, Germany Type of Mission _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
810 Cumulus. Tops 10,000 feet.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 20 Month 3 Year 45; Time 1655; and Location 5359 N-0930 E
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by
 radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not Available ()
5. 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G; AAF Serial Number 42-97271
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any "Boss Lady"
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial Number (a) SN-007492; (b) 42-59219; (c) 41-41113; (d) SN-007821
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
 (a) 2408228 High S. (b) 778663 Colt Pat (c) 1279689 Frig.; (d) 1279475 Frig.; (e) 174793 High S. (f) 977566 Colt Pat (g) 972525 Frig.; (h) 651025 GMC; (i) 949575 Browning (j) 152902 Browning (k) 653226 GMC; (l) 652910 GMC; (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
 or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
 (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars; If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Full Name (Last Name First)	Rank	ASN	Current Status
1. Pilot	<u>Hicks, Gerald Warden</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>O-784158</u>	<u>MIA</u>
2. Co Pilot	<u>Hendricks, Jesse William</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-4919</u>	<u>MIA</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Thiefels, Robert J.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-135012</u>	<u>MIA</u>
4. Toggaler	<u>Gussin, John A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>19129620</u>	<u>MIA</u>
5. Radio Operator	<u>Winnar, Charles H.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>17133434</u>	<u>MIA</u>
6. Top Turret	<u>Goodman, William L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt.</u>	<u>37619572</u>	<u>MIA</u>
7. Ball Turret	<u>Crocki, Robert D.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>35299906</u>	<u>MIA</u>
8. Tail Gunner	<u>Meeks, Sherman E.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>38565355</u>	<u>MIA</u>
9. Waist Gunner	<u>Wolcott, Roger (NMI), Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>31051958</u>	<u>MIA</u>
10.				
11.				

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

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

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
			by Radio	Last Sighted		
1. Barrett, Robert Brandt	Sgt	35235212		X		
2. O'Bryan, William Howard	Sgt	38566244		X		
3. Sandbek, Phillip E.	Sgt	36724837		X		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ___; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ___; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

No chutes seen to emerge

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

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

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT _____

Date of Report 28 March 1945

J. R. Wyatt

(Signature of Preparing Office.)

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

J. R. WYATT,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

Incl 1



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Instructions: 1. If aircraft returned, only questions 6 and 7 are applicable. 2. Question number 5 not applicable to Fighter Groups. 3. Summary will be prepared in five copies, four of which will be forwarded. 4. Interrogating Officer will sign original and second copy.

GROUP 384th SQ 545th A/C # 42-97271 MISSION DATE 20 March, 1945

FIRST PILOT GERALD W. HICKS 2nd Lt., O-784158 DESTINATION Hamburg, Germany
NAME RANK SER#

1. Position of missing aircraft when last sighted or contacted:

(a) By coordinates 5359N-0930E

(b) Approximate altitude Approx. 14,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading unknown

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation Below, slightly behind, and to the right of the formation heading for deck.

2. Describe enemy opposition (intensity of flak, intensity and method of enemy fighter attack, etc., with particular reference to missing aircraft.)

No E/A attacks reported, but some E/A observed in target area. Moderate to intense accurate flak at Hamburg. No damage sustained here. Moderate accurate flak encountered in the Kaiser Wilhelm area, in which area A/C 271 was hit by a burst of flak in the #2 engine.

3. Description of extent of damage to missing aircraft (including fires, explosions, etc):

No fires or explosions noted. A large hole was observed in front of the cockpit. No other damage reported. No propellers feathered.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

The concussion of the flak burst threw the A/C up 100 feet and ship then skidded out of formation to the right and dropped about 7,000 feet below squadron altitude. A/C was observed heading for deck apparently under control.

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort? No If, so, give distinguishing markins of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.). _____

6. Number of parachutes seen and description of jumps (approximate altitude, time between jumps, etc.):

No chutes observed emerging.

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

None

Heckman

8. Date of report 26 March, 1945

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SER #</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	<u>Barrett, R. B.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>35235212</u>	<u>106</u>
2.	<u>O'Bryan, W. H.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>38566244</u>	<u>106</u>
3.	<u>Sandbek, E.</u>	<u>Sgt.</u>	<u>36724837</u>	<u>408</u>
4.	<u>Rallis, M.</u>	<u>PFC</u>	<u>32398964</u>	<u>408</u>

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

John C. Henes
JOHN C. HENES 1st Lt. 0-51201 S-2 Officer
NAME RANK SER # DUTY

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OE-S-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

eb/5/12/45

1st Lt. Gerald W. Hicks

Mrs. Edna A. Hicks (mother)
114 Palm Avenue
Baldwin Park, California

F/O Jesse W. Hendricks

Mr. Elmer J. Hendricks (father)
629 Park Street
Hillsboro, Illinois

F/O Robert J. Thiefels

Mr. Ferdinand N. Thiefels (father)
247 Chippewa Road
Pontiac, Michigan

S/Sgt. John A. Gussin

Mr. George Abid (uncle)
1682 West 35th Street
Los Angeles, California

S/Sgt. Charles H. Winner

Mrs. Delores M. Winner (wife)
236 Georgia Avenue
Ferguson, Missouri

S/Sgt. William L. Goodman

Mrs. Mary V. Goodman (mother)
Route #1
Vandalia, Missouri

Sgt. Robert D. Grecki

Mr. Robert S. Grecki (father)
1428 Vance Street
Toledo, Ohio

Sgt. Sherman E. Neeks

Mrs. Martha F. Neeks (mother)
611 South Broadway
Holdenville, Oklahoma

Sgt. Roger Wolcott, Jr.

Mrs. Imogene Wolcott (mother)
270 Park Avenue
New York, New York

**CASUALTY BRANCH
PROCESSING AND VERIFICATION SECTION**

Name Hicks, Gerald W. Serial No. 0784158

Grade 1st Lt.

Organization A/C

OFFICIAL REPORTS: (IMPORTANT—Unofficial reports or information will not be shown below. This information will be indicated—"Code X.")

Type of Casualty	Date and Area	Classification and Message No.	Battle	Nonbattle	Date E. A. Notified
<u> KIA </u>	<u> 20 Mar '45 </u>				

E. A. _____

Remarks: _____

No casualty reported _____
 Is there a Casualty Branch file? No _____ Yes _____
 Form No. 43? No _____ Yes _____

Clerk furnishing report Per Mr. Edwards
 Date of report 2 Jan '46 Room No. _____ Group No. _____

VISI-CARD AND RECORD REPORT

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JOHN ANTHONY GUSSIN Rank S/SGT Serial No. 19129620
8th A/F
2. Organization 545 B/Co Commander MILTON Rank LT/CO Sqn CO UNKNOWN Rank _____
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, HAMBURG, target, OIL REFINERIES, target
 time, 4:30 P.M., altitude, 25,000 ft. route scheduled, North Sea,
Quider Zee, route flown LEAVING TARGET, HEADED NORTH
 (HIT ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER HITTING TAR-
5. Where were you when you left formation? (DET. BEEN FLYING NORTH.
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". NO KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING MEMBERS IN REAR OF SHIP. ORDER OF BAILING OUT THROUGH NOSE ESCAPE HATCH WAS: PILOT, NAVIGATOR, ENLISTED BOMBARDIER, ENGINEER, COPILOT.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? SEVERAL MILES NORTH OF PENNEBERG.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? XXXXX
12. What was their condition? XXXXX
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I HAD CONTACTED EVERY CREW MEMBER BY INTERPHONE A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE WE WERE HIT. ALL MEMBERS WERE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE STATION. HAD NOT ACTUALLY SEEN ANY MEMBERS FROM RADIO ROOM ON BACK SINCE TAKE-OFF.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO OTHER INFORMATION

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

H I C K S Gerald Warden

Rank:

1st LT

Serial number:

O - 781 158

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter):~~

Pilot

Did he bail out? YESWhere? PERNEBERG, GERMANY

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: PILOTINFORMED ME HE WOULD TURN HIMSELF OVER TO THE GERMANS (TO RECEIVE MEDICAL ATTENTION) AND THAT THE REST OF THE CREW WERE TO ATTEMPT ESCAPE.Was he injured? YESWhere was he when last seen? AS HE BAILED OUTAny hearsay information: NONE

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: PILOT ASSURED THE TWO CREW MEMBERS WHO ASSISTED HIM IN BAILING OUT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO OPEN HIS OWN CHUTE. HIS CHUTE MAY NOT HAVE OPENED. THE GERMAN OFFICERS IN WHOSE CUSTODY WE WERE PLACED AT PERNEBERG, REFUSED TO DIVULGE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST INFORMATION REGARDING THE PILOT. THE PILOT'S PERSONAL EFFECTS, WRIST WATCH, IDENTIFICATION PAPERS, ETC., WERE SEEN BY SEVERAL OF US AT THE TEMPORARY DETENTION PRISON AT PERNEBERG. OUR INQUIRIES THERE WERE IGNORED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: (19) NINETEEN

Date and destinations if possible: BETWEEN DATES OF FEBRUARY 15, ¹⁹⁴⁵ TO MARCH 20, 1945, INCLUSIVE. NO LIST OF EXACT DATES AND DESTINATIONS IS AVAILABLE. DESTINATIONS GIVEN FROM MEMORY ARE: HAMBURG (TWICE) ESSEN (TWICE) FRIEDERICHSHAUFEN (ON LAKE CONSTANCE) BERLIN, HANOVER, MUNICH (NOT CERTAIN), BAD OYERHAUSEN, ...

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

H I C K S Gerald Warden

Rank:

1st LT

Serial number:

O - 784 158

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flig~~ (Fighter):

Pilot

Did he bail out? YESWhere? APPROX. 9° E. - 53° 47' N. (GEN. AREA OF OTTERNDORF, NEUNHAUS, KADENBERGE, FREIBURG)

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: HICKS TOLD ME HE WOULD ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE TAKEN POW. DUE TO HIS INJURIES AND HE SAID FOR THE REST OF US TO ATTEMPT EVASION

Was he injured? YES. FLAK WOUND ON LEFT ARMWhere was he when last seen? AT NOSE HATCH PREP. TO JUMP

Any hearsay information: THE GERMANS WOULD TELL US NOTHING. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE ONE OF THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS SAW HIS WATCH LATER IN ONE OF THE GERMAN OFFICIAL'S OFFICE.

Source: ONE OF THE OTHER CREW-MEMBERS (I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH ONE)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: HE HAD TROUBLE GETTING OUT OF PLANE AS HIS CHUTE HARNESS CAUGHT ON DOOR HANDLE (EMERG. RELEASE DID NOT WORK). HE MAY HAVE BEEN BLOWN BY SLIPSTREAM INTO A PORTION OF THE PLANE AND KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS. APPARENTLY HIS CHUTE NEVER OPENED.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ~~SEVENTEEN~~ 18

Dates and destinations if possible: FEB²⁰ 21-22-23-24-25. MAR. 1-2-3-7-8-9-11-14-17-18 (BERLIN)-19 (PLAUVEN)-20 (HAMBURG)

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HENDRICKS, JESSE WILLIAM Rank F/O Serial No. T-4919
2. Organization 384th Gp Commander Rank COL Sqn CO STRICKLAND Rank MAJ.
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 20th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, HAMBURGH, GER., target, RAILROAD, target time, APPROX. 1600, altitude, 23,000 ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? APROX. (30) THIRTY MILES WEST OF TARGET
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". TAIL, WAIST, BALL GUNNERS AND RADIO OPERATOR BAILED OUT OF REAR ESCAPE HATCH, NAVIGATER, ENGINEER, TOGGLIER, PILOT AND CO*PILOT BAILED OUT OF NOSE ESCAPE HATCH. ALL EXCEPT PILOT LEFT PLANE APPROX. SAME TIME AND WERE PICKED UP IN SAME TOWN.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? APPROX. (35) THIRTY FIVE MILES SOUTH WEST OF HAMBURGH, NAME OF TOWN UNKNOWN.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? LAST SAW PILOT AS HE WAS LEAVEING PLANE. HE WAS WOUNDED IN LEFT ARM & LEG AND WAS TAKEN TO NOSE OF PLANE FOR FIRST AID. I SENT HIM OUT FIRST AND THAT WAS THE LAST ANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREW SAW OR HEARD OF HIM. THE REST OF US WERE ALL CAPTURED AT THE SAME TOWN. IT WAS AROUND 1610 HRS. AND ABOUT (35) THIRTY FIVE MILES SOUTH WEST OF THE TARGET AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE CREW COULD ASSCERTAIN. THE PLACE OR NAME OF THE TOWN WAS NEVER KNOW BY ANY OF US.
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

13565

Name of crew member:

HICKS Gerald Warden

Rank:

1st LT

Serial number:

O - 784 158

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter):~~

Pilot

Did he bail out? YESWhere? APPROX. 35 MI. SOUTH WEST OF HAMBURGH, GERMANY.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: WHEN HE WASTAKEN TO NOSE OF PLANE APPROX. TEN (10) MINS. BEFORE BAILING OUT FOR FIRST AID.Was he injured? YES, RT LEFT ARM AND LEGWhere was he when last seen? AT NOSE EXCAPE HATCH AS HE BAILED OUT.Any hearsay information: I SPOKE TO GERMAN GUARD AT TOWN WE WERE CAPTURED AT AND WASTOLD LT. HICKS WAS DEAD. THIS I DID NOT BELIEVE AS HE HAD BAILED OUT AT LEAST (5) FIVEMINS. BEFORE THE REST OF THE CREW AND MUST HAVE REACHED THE GROUND SOME DISTANCE FROMTHIS TOWN.Source: GERMAN GUARDAny explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: BN NOT KNOWING THEEXTENT OR SERIOUSNESS OF HIS WOUNDS I CAN NOT SAY AS TO HOW LONG LT. HICKS MIGHT HAVELIVED WITH OUT MEDICAL AID. OTHER WISE THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE WAS NOT PICKEDUP BY THE GERMANS AS WERE THE REST OF THE CREWTotal number of missions of above crew member: (19) NINETEENDates and destinations if possible: DO NOT REMEMBER EXCEPT FOR LAST ONE

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WINNER, CHARLES H. Rank T/sgt. Serial No. 17133434
2. Organization 381 Gp Commander _____ Rank COL. Sqn CO STRICTLAND Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month MARCH day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, HAMBURG, target, NO KNOWLEDGE, target time, APPROX. 15:45, altitude, 25000? route scheduled, _____
NO KNOWLEDGE, route flown NO KNOWLEDGE
5. Where were you when you left formation? BETWEEN HAMBURG AND THE NORTH SEA
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". ALL BAILED OUT, EXCEPT THE PILOT, AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR A SMALL TOWN ABOUT 40 MILES WEST OF HAMBURG
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NONE
11. Where were they in aircraft? _____
12. What was their condition? _____
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? THE REST OF THE CREW IS ALL HOME SAFE.
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NO KNOWLEDGE

(Any additional information may be written on the back) *a-1*

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: H I C K S Gerald Warden
 Rank: 1st LT
 Serial number: O - 784 158
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or Flight (Fighter)~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? yes. He was helped out by the engineer

Where? Between Hamburg and the North Sea. We were approx. 15 min. from the N. Sea. ^{we were over land.}

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: over the inter-phone
About 5 minutes before we were hit, he told us, we had better keep our flack suites on
because there was flack up ahead.

Was he injured? YES BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW BAD. I DIDN'T SEE HIM AT ALL.

Where was he when last seen? When the engineer helped him out the nose escape hatch

Any hearsay information: The rest of the crew was captured when we hit the ground. We asked
the German guard if he knew anything of our pilot. He ~~did~~ motioned with his hands
and said "Allus Kaput", and wouldn't tell us anymore. We took this to mean that he
had been killed. The Co-pilot knew a few words of German but couldn't find out
anyone of the pilot.

Source: _____

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

His chute didn't open or it did and when he landed the Germans killed him
or he died from his wounds. I don't know how bad he was wounded but the
engineer navigator gave him first aid. No one actually saw his chute open. He left
the plane about five minutes before the rest of us.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 18

Dates and destinations if possible: Started flying missions Feb. 19-45, shot down
20 March 45. He flew nearly every day except while grounded or on pass.

(over)

After we were hit, the interphone went dead and the crew members in back of the pilots compartment had no way of knowing what was going on up front. We bailed out when the wings started burning. We gathered our information about the pilot when we all got together on the ground. We didn't know he was leaving the ship. When the engineers helped him out, the pilot said, "Tell Bill to take her to 5000 feet and leave it. I'll have to turn myself in cause I am hit but you fellows will have a chance to get away." After he was helped from the escape hatch, no one saw him or his chute.

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name William L. Goodman Rank T/1st Lt Serial No. 37619572
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Rank _____ Sqn CO 545 Rank _____
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1945 month March day 20 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Hamburg, target, Marshling Yds., target time around 4 o'clock, altitude 25000 app., route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Coast of North Sea - Somers
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". gun front was Pilot, Navigator, Bomber, myself & co Pilot, and Ball gunner was first out of waist, tail gunner, ~~the~~ Radio man & waist gunner
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? just out of Pennsburg
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) no.
11. Where were they in aircraft? ✓
12. What was their condition? ✓
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? The Pilot was wounded and we had him in an. compartment and had him bandaged pretty well when he had to leave and he was in good spirits.
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) a-1,

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

F I C K S Gerald Warden

Rank:

1st LT

Serial number:

O - 724 158

Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter):

Pilot

Did he bail out? YesWhere? Somewhere near Penningburg

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I toldhim to bail out and ask him if he could pull the
Rip cord and he said he could.Was he injured? Yes in left arm & leg.Where was he when last seen? I saw him leave the planeAny hearsay information: Ball Gunner saw a chute hit
the ground when he left the waist door
and he was the first to leave from
the waist so was almost sure to be
the Pilot. (Lt. Hicks)Source: Ball Gunner Robert D. Grocki.Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He enjoyedflying very much and was the last
of thought of being shot down.Total number of missions of above crew member: Nineteen (19)Dates and destinations if possible: impossible

24. Reporter: S/Sgt John A. Gussin, ASN 19129620, 545 Bomb Squadron,
384 Bomb Group, 8th Air Force.

135637

- a. Gerald L. Hicks, 1st Lt, ASN unknown.
- b. Pilot.
- c. 545 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group, 8th Air Force.
- d. 20 March 1945.
- e. Hamburg, Germany.
- f. Plane was damaged by flak and caught fire. Orders were given to jump. Subject had been injured quite seriously and crew helped him bail out.
- g. It is not known definitely whether subject's chute open although Germans said it did not. It is reporter's opinion that subject was capable of pulling rip-cord!

25. Reporter: Sgt Vaughn E. Weir, ASN 33921350, 736 Bomb Squadron,
454 Bomb Group, 15th Air Force.

- a. (First name unknown) Faxon, 2nd Lt, ASN unknown.

FILM 8 VOL 1 132716

MACR 13565

20 March 1945, 1620 h

near Ramhausen near Eggelak

Type of plane : Boeing, 90 % wreckage

Crew : 8 prisoners, 1 corpse

D 3330 Bennett

MACR (8EUS, 17DD) down near Pannenburg, Ger.
13565- (Only B-17 with 9-man crew down 20/3/45)
132717