

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

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

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

Date MAR 15 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

9366

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Grafton-Underwood, England Command or Air Force VIII; Group 384th; Squadron 545th; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Grafton-Underwood, England; Course As Briefed  
Target or Intended Destination Magdeburg, Germany Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
9/10 cumulus tops 16,000, 2-3/10 cirrus above 16,000
- GIVE: (a) Day 28 Month SEP Year 1944; Time 1211; and Location 5206 N, 1139 E  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (x); 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: \_\_\_\_\_
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; AAF Serial Number 42-31222 ✓
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any None
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial Number (a) 43-55937; (b) SW-006404; (c) SW-003972; (d) SW-002035
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) See attached (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(e) sheet; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_; (j) \_\_\_\_\_; (k) \_\_\_\_\_; (l) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x  
or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
- 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
KIA	1. Pilot	Brodie, James Joseph	1st Lt	0-1012186	MIA
KIA	2. Co-Pilot	Vevle, Lloyd Oliver	2nd Lt	0-768760	MIA KIA
POW	3. Navigator	Hawkins, George Marshall, Jr.	2nd Lt.	0-719944	MIA RTD
KIA	4. Nose Gunner	Atkins, Byron Leverne	S/Sgt.	35416697	MIA KIA
KIA	5. Radio Oper.	Dooley, Donald William	T/Sgt.	15081700	MIA KIA
KIA	6. Top Turret	Crumpton, Robert Doyle	Sgt.	19056991	MIA KIA
KIA	7. Ball Turret	Henn, Gordon Eugene	Sgt.	16189148	MIA KIA
POW	8. Tail Gunner	Miller, Alfred Frank	Sgt.	36834864	MIA RTD
POW	9. Waist Gunner	Liniger, Harry Allen	Sgt.	34670187	MIA RTD
	10.				
	11.				

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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.	Booska, Maurice A.	Capt	O-799714		X		
2.	Gordon, Omar L, Jr.	S/Sgt	37535223		X		
3.	Nastrick, Henry P.	T/Sgt	13031304		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 6 October 1944

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

J. R. Wyatt  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
J. R. WYATT,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Ass't. Adjutant.

Incl 3



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## 9. INSTALLED WEAPONS

- a. 683894 Kelsay Hayes
- b. 683653 Kelsay Hayes
- c. 683843 Kelsay Hayes
- d. 674746 Kelsay Hayes
- e. 685382 Kelsay Hayes
- f. 683960 Kelsay Hayes
- g. 683338 Kelsay Hayes
- h. 683854 Kelsay Hayes
- i. 685566 Kelsay Hayes
- j. 685535 Kelsay Hayes
- k. 374155 Frigidaire
- l. 373939 Frigidaire

All guns were Cal .50 Aerial Machine Guns.

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C O N F I D E N T I A LS-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 # 0-31222 MISSION DATE 28-Sept-44

FIRST PILOT BRODIE, JAMES J. RANK 1st Lt. ASN 0-1012186 DESTINATION MAGDEBURG, Germany  
NAME RANK ASN

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

(a) By coordinates 52° 06' N. - 11° 39' E.

(b) Approximate altitude 27,000 feet

(c) Last noted heading 280° Mag.

(d) If out of formation, approximate distance from formation  
In formation.

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

NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

MODERATE AND ACCURATE FLAK AT THE TARGET.

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

AIRCRAFT BROKE UP NEAR TAIL ASSEMBLY AND WENT DOWN IN  
FLAMES.

4. If aircraft was out of control describe appearance:

AIRCRAFT WAS BURNING AND SLOWLY SPIRALING DOWN UNTIL IT  
DISAPPEARED IN THE CLOUDS.

5. If distressed aircraft was out of formation was it last seen with escort?  
---- If, so, give distinguishing markings of Fighter Group if noted (Group number, color and or fighter aircraft numbers, nicknames, etc.).

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



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

NONE

7. Any other remarks not covered by above:

NONE

8. Date of report 28 September, 1944

<u>EYE-WITNESSES:</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C #</u>
1.	BOOSKA, MAURICE A.	Capt.	O-799714	542
2.	GORDON, OMAR L., JR.	S/Sgt.	37535223	542
3.	NASTRICK, HENRY P.	T/Sgt.	13031304	542
4.	CASPER, DELMAR R.	S/Sgt.	19158191	542

INTERROGATING OFFICER (Sign Original and one copy):

<i>John F. Meeth</i>			
<u>MEETH, JOHN F.</u>	<u>1st. Lt.</u>	<u>O-874876</u>	<u>S-2 Off.</u>
<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>DUTY</u>

NOTE: Supplemental information developing subsequent to this account will be forwarded in manner prescribed in par 6, letter WD, AG, 704 (5 July 44) OB-3-AAF-M, subject "Missing Air Crew Report", 7 July 1944.

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1st Lt. James J. Brodie

Mrs. Mary E. Brodie, (wife) ✓  
4436 North Kostner Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

2nd Lt. Lloyd O. Vevie

Mr. Oliver R. Vevie, (father) ✓  
240 Sixth Avenue, North,  
Fort Dodge, Iowa.

2nd Lt. George H. Hawkins, Jr.

Mr. George H. Hawkins, Sr., (father) ✓  
52 Birchard Street,  
Fords, New Jersey.

T/Sgt. Donald W. Dooley

Mr. Guy T. Dooley, (father) ✓  
711 South Rogers Street,  
Bloomington, Indiana.

S/Sgt. Byron L. Atkins

Mr. Verne Atkins, (father) ✓  
Route Number Two,  
Lebanon, Indiana.

Sgt. Robert D. Crampton

Mrs. Stella M. Parks, (mother)  
Route Number One,  
Harris, Texas.

Sgt. Gordon E. Hetu

Mr. Raymond J. Hetu, (father) ✓  
3821 Webb Street,  
Detroit, Michigan.

S/Sgt. Wilfred F. Miller

Mrs. Mary Miller, (mother)  
Rural Free Delivery Number One,  
Norton, Wisconsin.

S/Sgt. Harry A. Liniger

Mrs. Estelle P. Liniger, (mother)  
Box Number 251,  
Gatesville, North Carolina.



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **B R O D I E , James Joseph**  
Rank: **1st/Lt.**  
Serial number: **O-1012186**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: **Pilot**

Did he bail out? No

Where? \*\*\*

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? At his position

Any hearsay information: None

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

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

Read rear of page one

Total number of missions of above crew member: (21) twenty-one

Dates and destinations if possible: (over)



Missions

1. ?	?
2. ?	?
3. Dugny, France	8-7-44
4. Bretteville Sur Laize, France	8-8-44
5. Permiansens, Germany	8-9-44
6. Brest, France	8-11-44
7. Delitzsch, Germany	8-16-44
8. Merseburg, Germany	8-24-44
9. Gelsenkirchen, Germany	8-26-44
10. Crepieul, France	8-30-44
11. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-5-44
12. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-8-44
13. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-9-44
14. Sindelfingen, Germany	9-10-44
15. Eisnach, Germany	9-11-44
16. Merseburg, Germany	9-13-44
17. Hamm, Germany	9-19-44
18. Mainz, Germany	9-21-44
19. Frankfort, Germany	9-25-44
20. Osnabruck, Germany	9-26-44
21. Magdeburg, Germany	9-28-44



## INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: V R V L E , Lloyd Oliver  
Rank: 2nd/Lt.  
Serial number: 0-768760  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~ Co Pilot

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? at his position

Any hearsay information: none

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

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

Read rear of page one

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: (over)



Missions

1. Dugny, France	8-7-44
2. Bretteville Sur Laize, France	8-8-44
3. Permansens, Germany	8-9-44
4. Brest, France	8-11-44
5. Delitzsch, Germany	8-16-44
6. Merseburg, Germany	8-24-44
7. Gelsenkirchen, Germany	8-26-44
8. Crepieul, France	8-30-44
9. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-5-44
10. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-8-44
11. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-9-44
12. Sindelfingen, Germany	9-10-44
13. Eismach, Germany	9-11-44
14. Merseburg, Germany	9-13-44
15. Hamm, Germany	9-19-44
16. Mainz, Germany	9-21-44
17. Frankfurt, Germany	9-25-44
18. Osnabruck, Germany	9-26-44
19. Magdeburg, Germany	9-28-44



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **C R U M P T O N , Robert Doyle**  
Rank: **Sgt.**  
Serial number: **19056991**  
Position: Crew (Bombardier) or ~~Engineer~~: **Top Turret**

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? At his position

Any hearsay information: No

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

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

Read rear of page one

Total number of missions of above crew member: 19

Dates and destinations if possible: (over)



Missions

1. Dugny, France	8-7-44
2. Bretteville Sur Laize, France	8-8-44
3. Permanseus, Germany	8-9-44
4. Brest, France	8-11-44
5. Delitzsch, Germany	8-16-44
6. Merseburg, Germany	8-24-44
7. Gelsenkirchen, Germany	8-26-44
8. Crepieul, France	8-30-44
9. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-5-44
10. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-8-44
11. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-9-44
12. Sindelfingen, Germany	9-10-44
13. Elmach, Germany	9-11-44
14. Merseburg, Germany	9-13-44
15. Hamm, Germany	9-19-44
16. Mainz, Germany	9-21-44
17. Frankfort, Germany	9-25-44
18. Osnabruck, Germany	9-26-44
19. Magdeburg, Germany	9-28-44



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **H E T U , Gordon Eugene**  
Rank: **Sgt.**  
Serial number: **Ball Turret 16189148**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or Flight (Fighter): **Ball Turret**

Did he bail out? **No**

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

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? **No**

Where was he when last seen? **At his position**

Any hearsay information: **None**

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

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

**Read rear of page one**

Total number of missions of above crew member: **19**

Dates and destinations if possible: **(over)**



Missions

1. Dugny, France	8-7-44
2. Bretteville Sur Laize, France	8-8-44
3. Permansens, Germany	8-9-44
4. Brest, France	8-11-44
5. Delitzsch, Germany	8-16-44
6. Merseburg, Germany	8-24-44
7. Gelsenkirchen, Germany	8-26-44
8. Crepieul, France	8-30-44
9. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-5-44
10. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-8-44
11. Ludwigshafen, Germany	9-9-44
12. Sindelfingen, Germany	9-10-44
13. Eisnach, Germany	9-11-44
14. Merseburg, Germany	9-13-44
15. Hamm, Germany	9-19-44
16. Mainz, Germany	9-21-44
17. Frankfort, Germany	9-25-44
18. Osnabruck, Germany	9-26-44
19. Magdeburg, Germany	9-26-44



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **D O O L E Y , Donald William**  
 Rank: **T/Sgt.**  
 Serial number: **150817 00**  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ **Radio Oper**

Did he bail out? **No**

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

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was he injured? **?**

Where was he when last seen? **At this position**

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: **1**

Dates and destinations if possible:  
**Sept. 28, 1944--Magdeburg, Germany**



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: A T K I N S , Byron Ieverne  
Rank: S/Sgt.  
Serial number: 35416697  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Observer~~: Nose Gunner

Did he bail out? No

Where? ?

If not, why not? He was carried from the plane with part of the nose section at the time of the collision.

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

Was he injured? ?

Where was he when last seen? At his position in the nose.

Any hearsay information: None

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

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: When the two ships

collided, the nose gunner was carried from the plane with part of the nose

section. Later while coming down in my chute, I saw an open, but empty

chute floating beneath me. Because of the time interval and the position

of the chute, I believe Atkins was either thrown from his chute or failed to  
have it properly buckled.

Total number of missions of above crew member: ?

Dates and destinations if possible: ?



CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name George M. Hawkins Jr. Rank Captain Serial No. 0-719,944
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Smith Rank Col. Sqn CO Stone Rank Captain  
545 Sqn. (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Sept. day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, oil, target, Magdeburg, Germany, target  
time, (approx) 1200, altitude, 28,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near Erxleben, Germany
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes, The waist(1) and tail gunners.
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".  
1. Sgt. Harry A. Liniger (waist Gunner) bailed out through waist door.  
2. Sgt. Wilford E. Miller (tail gunner) rode the tail down some distance  
following an explosion which severed the tail from the ship. He later  
bailed out of the tail section.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Erxleben, Germany
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should  
cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) To the best of my know-  
ledge, all men but the two mentioned above (8), Sgt. Byron L. Atkins (nose  
gunner), and I were still in the aircraft when it struck the ground.
11. Where were they in aircraft? At their positions.
12. What was their condition? \_\_\_\_\_
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already des-  
cribed above? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
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)

-over-



Following "Bombs away" at our target over Magdeburg, Germany, our B17-G and another ship in our formation collided. At the time of the accident our plane was in good condition with nothing more than light flak damage. As far as I know, all men on board were uninjured.

At the time of the collision, the front section of our nose was carried away, and with it, the nose gunner, S/Sgt Byron L. Atkins. The plane seemed to be flying straight and level for a very few seconds and then fell off into a spin. I managed to break out of the right side of the nose just behind the right nose gun.

Floating downward I saw an opened but empty chute. Leading me to believe that Atkins' chute was pulled open at the time of the accident or by him later. However, because of the position of the chute I think the chute must have been opened following a free fall of a few thousand feet and then, because of damage or faulty hook-up, failed to save its occupant.

Following my own free fall, our ship was circling above me. It was then in a flat spin, burning. It passed me and disappeared into the clouds below. When I next saw the ship it was on the ground. While floating downward, I saw one other chute below me.

I landed a mile or so from the town of Erxleben, Germany... west of Magdeburg. The plane landed within two or three miles of me. Many civilians and the military there saw the incident.

The following evening I met two members of the crew... the waist gunner, Sgt. Liniger, and the tail gunner, Sgt. Miller. Sgt. Liniger said he was attempting to escape through the waist door when an explosion threw him from the ship. At that time Sgt. Miller said the tail assembly left the ship and he later chuted from the tail section.

To the best of my knowledge, All other five members of the crew were at their positions on the plane and failed to leave the ship. All were uninjured up till the time of the collision.



AFPPA-12

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Your name Wilfred F. Miller Rank Sgt Serial No. 36834864
2. Organization 8 AF Gp Commander unknown Rank — Sqn CO — Rank —  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Sept day 28 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Magdeburg, target, Magdeburg, target  
time, 12:30, altitude, 22,000 route scheduled, —  
—, route flown —
5. Where were you when you left formation? About 4 minutes out of Flak area
6. Did you bail out? yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? The navigator and waist gunner
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
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No knowledge
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 knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? I think some were but don't know for sure
12. What was their condition? Unknown
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above?  
—  
—  
—  
—
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

Name of crew member: **ATKINS, Byron Leverne**  
Rank: **S/Sgt.**  
Serial number: **35416697**  
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~: **Nav Gunner**

Did he bail out? Don't think so

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

If not, why not? Heard he got knocked out without chute

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

unknown

Was he injured? Think he was killed

Where was he when last seen? in the plane by the navigator

Any hearsay information: \_\_\_\_\_

Heard the wing of the other plane knocked him out of the zone without a chute

Source: Navigator—George Hawkins

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

none

Total number of missions of above crew member: unknown

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_