

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG,
By WM. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AG
Date MAR 15 1945

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Station 106 ; Command or Air Force VIII
Group 384th ; Squadron 547th ; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: POINT of Departure AAF Station 106 ; Course As Briefed
Intended Destination Frankfurt, Germany ; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
10/10 Overcast
4. GIVE: (a) Date 11 Feb 44 Time 1345 ; and Location 0050 N 0125 E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces 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; (x) Other Circumstances as follows Went into steep spiral out of control and into dive at 10,000 feet.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17-G A.A.F. Serial Number 42-39962
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____ ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 43-63870
(b) 43-65763 ; (c) 43-65767 (d) 43-65775
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____ ; (b) _____ ; (c) _____ ; (d) _____
(e) _____ ; (f) _____ ; (g) _____ ; (h) _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty x
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 10
(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).

KC 559A
KW 859

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	
1.	Pilot	Widener, Seth Grenell, Jr.	2nd Lt	0-803326	RTD
2.	Co-Pilot	Said, Harvey William	POW 2nd Lt	0-684113	RTD
3.	Navigator	Wickman, Alfred Louis	POW 2nd Lt	0-690325	RTD
4.	Bombardier	Garber, Leonard (NMI)	POW 2nd Lt	0-684523	RTD
5.	Radio Operator	Smith, William Edward	POW T/Sgt	3846567	LTA/N
6.	Top Turret	Cifelli, George Emil	T/Sgt	32459370	10-KIA
7.	Rail Turret	Mosbey, James Willard	POW S/Sgt	14083946	RTD
8.	Tail Gunner	Misa, Walter Alvast, Jr.	POW S/Sgt	34684088	RTD
9.	Right Flexible Gunner	Santosuosco, John Peter	POW S/Sgt	15354167	RTD
10.	Left Flexible Gunner	Boon, Howard Goodall, Jr.	POW Sgt	33314812	RTD

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Check Only One Column Saw Saw Forced Crash Landing	
1. Markow, Henry Victor	2nd Lt	0-799421		x		
2. Stropak, George Vincent	T/Sgt	18202002		x		

12. 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) Unknown

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 _____

Date of Report 12 February 1944

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

J. R. WYATT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Ass't. Adjutant.

Incl 2

Incl 10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

lp/10/27/44

2nd Lt. Seth G. Widener Jr.

Mrs. Marjorie E. Widener, (Wife)
3811 Union Street,
Chili, New York. ✓

2nd Lt. Harvey V. Reid

Mrs. Pearl V. Reid, (Mother)
659 Florence Avenue,
Dunsmuir, California. ✓

2nd Lt. Alfred L. Wickman

Mrs. Helen F. Wickman, (Wife)
4 Corners South Road,
Poughkeepsie, New York. ✓

2nd Lt. Leonard Gerber

Mr. Sal Gerber, (Father)
717 Syracuse Avenue,
University City, Missouri. ✓

T/Sgt. William E. Smith

Mrs. Hela P. Smith, (Mother)
821 North 85th,
Vaco, Texas. ✓

T/Sgt. George R. Cifelli

Marie A. Cifelli,
528 27th Street,
Union City, New Jersey. ✓

S/Sgt. James M. Mosby

Mrs. J. L. Mosby, (Mother)
Box Number 247,
Wapakoneta, Ohio. ✓

S/Sgt. Walter A. Hise Jr.

Mr. Walter A. Hise Sr., (Father)
198 Hilbert Street,
Athens, Georgia. ✓

S/Sgt. John P. Santocussano

Mr. Michael Santocussano, (Father)
3164 Fulton Road,
Cleveland, Ohio. ✓

Sgt. Howard G. Boon Jr.

Mrs. Ella R. Boon, (Mother)
7037 Saybrook Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. ✓

End

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **CIFELLI, George Emil**
 Rank: **T./Sgt.**
 Serial number: **32499370**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Bomber)~~: **Top Turret**

Did he bail out? To the best of my knowledge he did

Where? Between 10 to 40 miles North East of Dieppe France.

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He was holding his chute apparently putting it on

Was he injured? To my knowledge: No

Where was he when last seen? IN cockpit of plane

Any hearsay information: The first information I received was from a German officer at Frankfurt, Germany who informed me that Cifelli was dead. Here to fore I believed that all the crew were safe tho they may have been captured

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The only explanation I can offer is based entirely on supposition. He may have been overcome by flames and smoke, (the cockpit of the plane was all in flames and it was impossible to see for the smoke) OR his chute may have failed to open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: UNKNOWN

Dates and destinations if possible: This was not my regular crew but I did fly with it on one other mission to Frankfurt on the main on the 9th of Feb 1944

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name HARVEY W. REID Rank 2nd LT Serial No. 0689913
2. Organization 389th Gp Commander SMITH Rank Col. Sqn CO HORACE FRANK Rank MAJOR
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month February day 11th did you go down?
4. What was the mission, FRANKFURT, target, MARSHALLING YARDS, target time, Approx 11:30 AM., altitude, 25000 ft route scheduled, UNKNOWN NOW, route flown UNKNOWN
5. Where were you when you left formation? Approx 80 Miles from French coast
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 of the man in the waist and tail - Navigator, Bombardier and pilot all bailed out the front escape hatch. No Knowledge of when or where the Navigator & Pilot bailed out. Bombardier left the plane immediately before I did. He landed somewhere near Dieppe, France.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 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) To my knowledge None
11. Where were they in aircraft? NONE?
12. What was their condition? -
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Pilot - Frankfurt with a broken leg. Navigator Bombardier, Radioman Smith, Waist Gunner Beane all were in the same prison camp + in good health. Two other enlisted crew members were at Frankfurt prison camp but I do not remember their names
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE.

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: **GIPILLI, George Earl**
 Rank: **T./Sgt.**
 Serial number: **32499370**
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Engineer (Engineer)~~: **Top Turret**

Did he bail out? YES

Where? NEAR DIEPPE, FRANCE

If not, why not? _____

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

ORDER TO BAIL OUT-

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? GETTING OUT OF HIS TURRET

Any hearsay information: NO

Source: _____

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

I FELT SURE THAT HE HAD BAILED-OUT
SUCCESSFULLY


Total number of missions of above crew member: 8

Dates and destinations if possible: LAST MISSION FLOWN
TO FRANKFORT, GERMANY ON FEB. 11
1944

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name WIDENER, SETH G. Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-803326
2. Organization 374 Gp Commander SMITH Rank COL. Sqn CO FRINK Rank MAJ
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month FEB day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 8th, target, FRANKFORT, target time, 11:00 AM, altitude, 25,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? NEAR DIEPPE FRANCE
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". TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE ALL OF THE CREW BAILED OUT SUCCESSFULLY
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR DIEPPE FRANCE
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 THAT I KNOW OF
11. Where were they in aircraft? ~~ALL BAILED~~ NONE
12. What was their condition? NONE
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ON THE GROUND AS GERMAN PRISONERS ABOUT 11 KILOMETERS FROM DIEPPE, FRANCE. ALL IN FAIRLY GOOD CONDITION EXCEPT CIFELLI WHO WAS NOT THERE
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. NONE

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

OVER 

THERE WAS A RAGING FIRE IN THE BOMB BAY + ALL UP THE BACK OF THE PILOTS COMPARTMENT. IMPOSSIBLE TO EXTINGUISH THE BLAZE.

GAVE THE ORDER TO BAIL OUT + ~~then~~ ^{then} CONCENTRATED ON FLYING FOR ~~A FEW~~ ^A FEW MINUTES. SAW CIFELLI COME DOWN OUT OF HIS TURRET AND ASSUMED HE WAS BAILING OUT. IN MEANTIME HAD TAKEN OFF MY OWN OXYGEN MASK + FLAK SUIT. FEATHERED THE TWO INBOARD ENGINES. SUDDENLY THINGS BEGAN TO GET HAZY + THEN IT BEGAN TO GET DARK + HAZY IN MY EYES. I REACHED OVER + PULLED MY CHUTE TOWARDS ME. THAT IS THE LAST THING I REMEMBER DOING IN THE PLANE. THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS FALLING THRU THE AIR. I CANNOT REMEMBER, SEEING ANYONE OR OF LEAVING THE PLANE, AFTER I REACHED FOR MY CHUTE MY MENTAL PROCESSES SEEM TO HAVE TEMPORARILY BLACKED OUT. THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS FALLING THRU SPACE. LANDED ON GROUND + BROKE LEFT LEG AS I STROOK. CAPTURED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY THE GERMANS. SAW OR HEARD OF SAFETY OF EVERYONE EXCEPT SGT. CIFELLI. THE LAST I REMEMBER OF CIFELLI WAS SEEING HIM GETTING OUT OF HIS TURRET IN GREAT HASTE.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File 2529

Name of crew member: CIFELLI, George Emil
 Rank: T./Sgt.
 Serial number: 32459370
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~on Flight (Fighter)~~: Top Turret

Did he bail out? I don't know

Where? —

If not, why not? I think he must have got knocked out.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: About 10 min. before ordered to bail out.

Was he injured? No Not then

Where was he when last seen? In Top turret

Any hearsay information: The Germans claimed they found his dog tag and that he was dead. Nobody saw him after plane went down

Source: German Captain of Jag Luft (Frankford)

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I don't know whether he was killed or not. I was in waist Gun position & he was Top Turret operator on B.17

Total number of missions of above crew member: 3

Dates and destinations if possible: Feb. 44, Frankford, Feb 44 Nancy, France. Feb. 11, 44 Frankford Germany

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Howard G. Boon Jr Rank S Sgt Serial No. 33314812
2. Organization 384 Gp Commander Smith Rank Col Sqn CO Frink Rank Capt
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Feb. day 11 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, 5, target, Frankford Cor., target time, 2.30 P.M., altitude, 23,000 Ft. route scheduled, _____, route flown _____
5. Where were you when you left formation? Deize, France
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes. 8 other members
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 of Pilot, Co-pilot, Bomb, Nav. & Eng. - I seen them later after we were taken prisoner. Pt. waist bailed out, Tail Gunner bailed out, First Radio man bailed out. Then Ma then ball turret man, Radio man + I helped ball turret man out.
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Around Deize France
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 think one The Engineer.
11. Where were they in aircraft? Top turret Engineer
12. What was their condition? Killed / Gross
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? I saw Pilot, Bomb, Copilot, Ball Turret man + Pt. waist + Gunner after we were taken prisoner. I saw The Nav. & Radio man in last Prison Camp. I was in. Their condition was good, The Copilot's back was bad and a few of the crew had minor injuries.
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)

MAR # 2524

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

SOURCE: WALTER A MIZE, JR, S/SGT, 34684088

REF #716

DATE: 2 June 1944

MIA: 11 February 1944

UNIT: 547 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW

FWIB RECORDS

PILOT	0-803326	2d Lt	Seth G WIDENER, JR		P/W
CO-PILOT	0-684413	2d Lt	Harvey W REID		P/W
NAVIGATOR	0-690525	2d Lt	Alfred L WICKMAN		MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-688523	2d Lt	Leonard GERRER		P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	38426567	T/Sgt	William E SMITH		MIA
TOP TURRET GUNNER	3245370	T/Sgt	George E CIPELLI		MIA
BALL TURRET GUNNER	14083946	S/Sgt	James M MOSBEY		P/W
WING GUNNER	33314812	Sgt	Howard G BOON, JR		P/W
WING GUNNER	15354167	S/Sgt	John P SANTOSUOSSO		P/W
TAIL GUNNER	34684088	S/Sgt	Walter A MIZE		RD

KNOWN INFORMATION:

Saw 4 other chutes.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

Helpers said all bailed out.

2529
42-39962

(4)

Rus 4889

Kra 859 Feb. 11, 1944 Fortress

Reid, Harvey William, 2nd Lt.
Ident. Tag: 0-684 413
Taken prisoner

Morley, James Millard, S/Sgt. born Jan. 26, 1922
Ident. Tag: 14083 946
Taken prisoner

Herber, Leonard, 2nd Lt.
Ident. Tag: 0-688 523
Taken prisoner

Boon, Howard Goodall, Sgt.
Ident. Tag: 33 314 812
Taken prisoner

Santorosso, S/Sgt. born April 17, 1924
Ident. Tag: 15-354 167
Taken prisoner

Widener, Seth Grenell, 2nd Lt.
Ident. Tag: 0-803 326
Taken prisoner

= 2 =

Ku 859

Feb. 11, 1944

Fortress - Confirmation of P. No.
651/44, March 29, 1944

1671/bs

Mize, Jane Royce

1st Sgt.

Ident. Tag: 6 296 036

Taken prisoner

Burial Report in Casualty File shows
Cifelli died at HAUTOT-SUR-MER, FRANCE,
coordinates 4954 N. and 102 EAST and was buried
at VERTUS, FRANCE, coordinates 4854 N and
400 EAST, in ROW L, GRAVE 847

AV 707144

5) Downing of a Boeing
B 17 F, 30 Star D,
Licence No. 239962 D,
on 11 Feb. 44, Time 1415,
at St. Vaast d'Equiqueville,
18 km SE of Dieppe

Unknown

GEORGE E. CIFELLI, 32459370
See KV 859

ENG. MEM. CEM. NR.
= single grave DIEPPE
LES VERTUS No. 809

KIA

St. Vaast d'Equiqueville - 4949 N - 116 EAST

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFTPOST: **Airbase Headquarters E 2/1**LOCATION: **Paluel**DATE: **19 February 1944**DATE AND TIME: **11 February 1944; 1415.**
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWNPLACE OF CRASH: **3 km north-north-east of St. Vaast d'Equiqueville, 18 km south of Dieppe.**
(NEAREST TOWN)KIND OF CAPTURE:
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
EMERGENCY LANDING)TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: **Boeing F 17 F**MARKINGS OF CRAFT: **S O star D**
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)ADMITTANCE NO: **239962 (yellow)**

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: **destruction 95 per cent**DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR: **Interrogation Center Oborursel**
(DULOG - LUFT, ETC.)

Bombs could not be found
8 mm armor protection : at blisters
Cameras were not found

/s/ Reuss
Leader of Salvage Detail

MACR 2529

1

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Airbase Headquarters E 2/1

LOCATION: Baluel

DATE: 19 February 1944

DATE AND TIME: 11 February 1944; 1415.
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(NEAREST TOWN)KIND OF CAPTURE:
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing F 17 F

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: S O star D
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: 239962 (yellow)

EQUIPMENT:

F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: destruction 95 per cent

DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR: Interrogation Center Oberursel
(DULOG -LIFT, ETC.)Bombs could not be found
8 mm armor protection : at blisters
Cameras were not found/s/ Reusz
Leader of Salvage Detail

~~SECRET~~

By authority A. C. of S., G-2

~~TOP SECRET~~
Date 29 June 44 (RHS)

E & E CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

WALTER A MIZE, JR, S/SGT, 34684038

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

8 June 1944

(Date)

547 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

(Unit)

E&E #716

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

11 February 1944; 1530 hours; between DIEPPE and EU, about 2 miles inland.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.

Was it on fire, etc? **All I could see was the oxygen system out and there was some sort of fire. There was dense blue smoke in the waist.**

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **15,000 feet**

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?

No

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

I was the first man out; I counted 4 other chutes, but helpers said everyone got out.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **Yes**

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 detailed furnished by his informant and whether the other crew members were identified by name or otherwise.

Helpers said all bailed out and that all chute opened.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions?

No

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and 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?

I believe they were all captured. I saw no one and the Germans were searching the vicinity.