

**DECLASSIFIED**

**Authority:** NND 735001

**By:** NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

11318

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
by E. A. BRUNDAGE, Lt. Col., AO  
by F. W. WOODSON, Capt., AC  
Date MAR 15 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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

11318

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 airplane is officially reported missing.

Orleans.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location France Command or Air Force IX Tr Carr Comd.  
Group 440th Tr Carr Co. Squadron 5th Troop Carrier Squadron.
2. SPECIFY: Point of departure Chateaudun, France \*See below.  
Intended Destination Bastogne, Belgium Type of Mission Glider Tow (1116)
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Visibility fair 2 to 4 miles, cloud base, 1000 feet.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 27 Dec 44 Time 1230 hours and Location Northeast of Sibert, Belgium  
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane. Sibert  
(b) Specify whether (X) Last sighted; ( ) Last contacted by radio;  
( ) Forced down; ( ) Seen to crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF:  
(Check only one) ( ) Enemy Airplane; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( )  
Other circumstances as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series C-47A ; A.A.F. Serial No. 42-100904
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-92 A.A.F. Serial No. (a) Left P-134001  
(b) Right P-134105 (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial No) None  
(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 AIRPLANE: Crew 5 Passengers 0 Total 5  
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	
✓1.	Pilot	<u>KIA</u> <u>Smith, Wilton C.</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>0737488</u>	<u>MIA</u>
✓2.	Co-Pilot	<u>KIA</u> <u>Calderwood, Arthur A.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0887905</u>	<u>MIA</u>
✓3.	Navigator	<u>POW</u> <u>Whitfield, Michael E.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0809470</u>	<u>MIA</u> <u>RTD</u>
✓4.	Crew Chief	<u>KIA</u> <u>McConnel, Floyd E.</u>	<u>T Sgt.</u>	<u>36408511</u>	<u>MIA</u> <u>KIA</u>
✓5.	Radio operator	<u>KIA</u> <u>Piraine, Anthony T.</u>	<u>S Sgt.</u>	<u>36433970</u>	<u>MIA</u>
6.					
7.					
8.					

\*Montmedy, Neufchatueau, Sibert, Bastogne & return.

CONFIDENTIAL



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

9.

10.

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>Rideout, Harvey L.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0757283</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 walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (specify) None

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

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

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None

IDENTIFYING MARKS ON NOSE OF SHIP: 9X

OTHER: The word "BETTS" was printed on the nose of the plane in yellow letters. on the Pilot's side of the plane, under his window was printed the word "SMITTY" also in yellow paint.

Date of Report

29 December 1944.

/s/ Peter Pignatelli,

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

/t/ PETER PIGNATELLI,

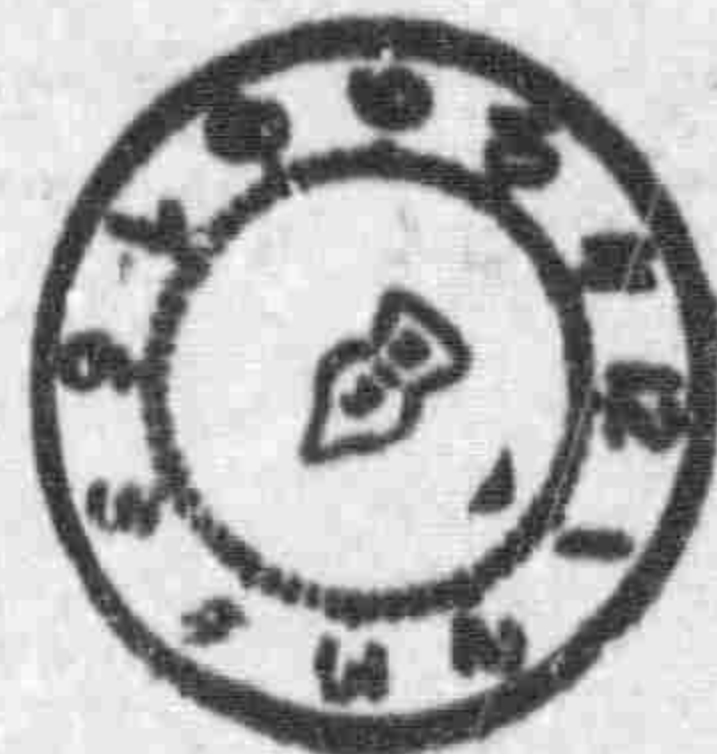
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Personnel Officer.

A True Copy:

*Johnny M. Tucker*  
JOHNNY M. TUCKER,  
Major, Air Corps,  
440th Tr Carr Gp.  
S-1 officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED



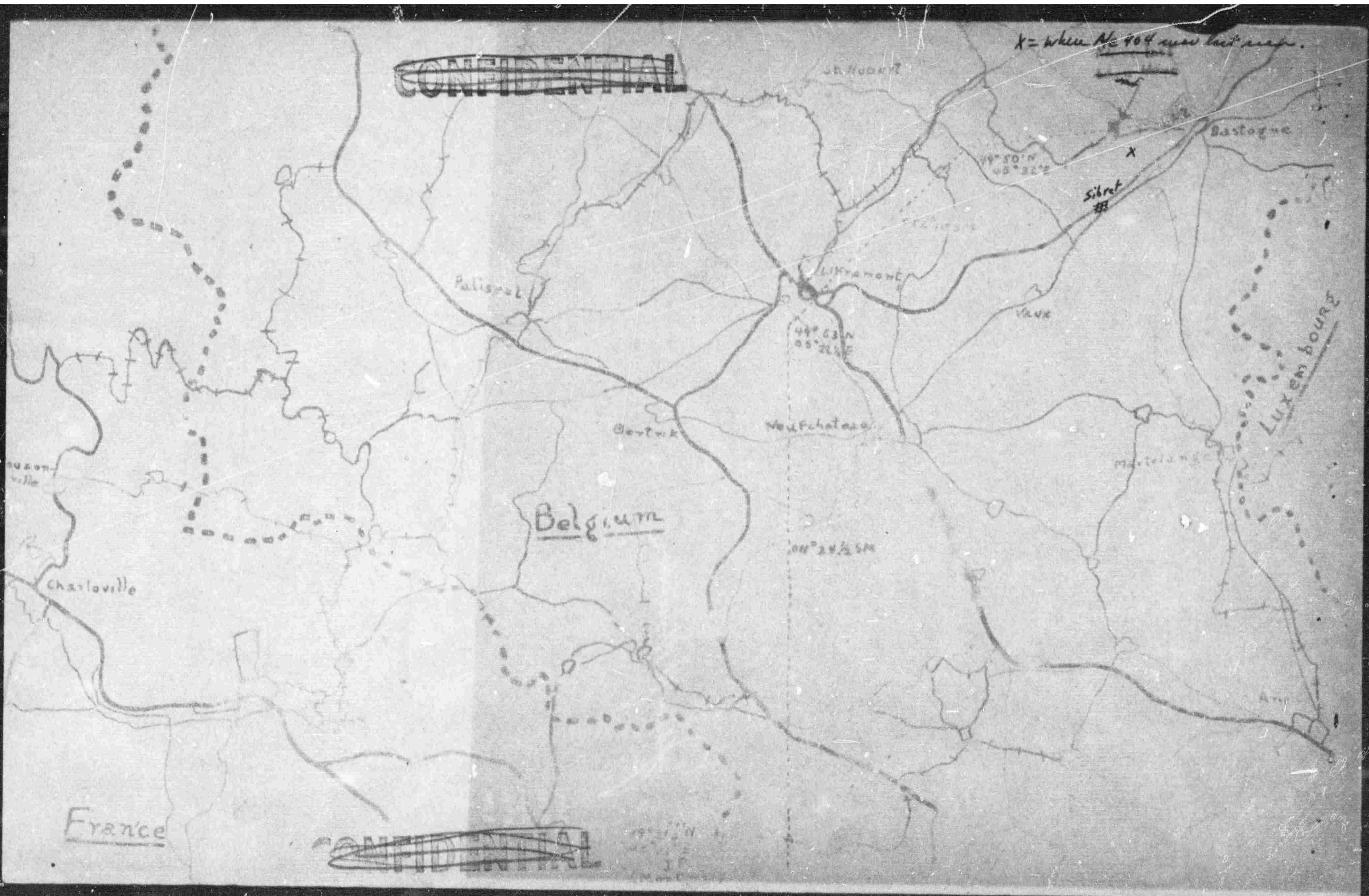
FEB 14 1945



**DECLASSIFIED**

**Authority:** NND 735001

**By:** NARA **NARA Date:** 1973





**DECLASSIFIED**

**Authority:** NND 735001

**By:** NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

30 December 1944

I the undersigned while flying in formation in an element of eight airplanes and gliders at about 2500 feet, saw the airplane which was being flown by Captain "ilton C. Smith, burst into flame and suddenly nose downward. The glider which he was towing immediately cut loose. I did not see the airplane crash, but believe it did, as it was close to the ground when I last saw it.

*Harvey L. Rideout*  
HARVEY L. RIDEOUT,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
95th TC Squadron.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

11318  
KIA 1230 A

Remarks:

\*\*\*\*\*

11318

KIA 1229 A

Remarks:

\*\*\*\*\*

KU 1229 A

One Officers identification Card No. 1085738

Michael E. Whitfield 2nd.Lt. 0-809470

one adress: Pfc. R.D.Alney 35484827 A/T Co 377th.Inf. APO#95

c/o Postmaster New York N.Y.

Backside of the card: Corona H.N. F/O  
Type: Liberator  
Squadron Nr. 725 H.Bo.Sq.  
Date of shot down: 11.Dec.1944 near Wien.  
Crew member : s.P/O. Strippen Jr. P.E.  
Me 2533



**DECLASSIFIED**

**Authority:** NND 735001

**By:** NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

mlw/3/3/45

Capt. Wilton G. Smith

Mrs. Betty J. Smith (wife)  
2415 Hayden Avenue  
East Cleveland, Ohio

1st. Lt. Michael B. Whitfield

Mr. James B. Whitfield (father)  
Route One  
Leitchfield, Kentucky

2nd. Lt. Arthur A. Calderwood

Mrs. Hilda Calderwood (mother)  
600 Crawford Avenue  
Altoona, Pennsylvania

T/Sgt. Floyd F. McConnell

Mrs. Leona F. McConnell (wife)  
1222 Burlingame  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

S/Sgt. Anthony T. Piraino

Mrs. Irene A. Piraino (wife)  
1372 Arroyo Road  
LaSalle, Illinois



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

File # 11318

Name of crew member: SMITH, Wilton C.  
Rank: Capt.  
Serial number: 0-737488  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? no

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

If not, why not? not time to don parachute

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: ordered crew to get out of plane

Was he injured? no

Where was he when last seen? Pilots Seat

Any hearsay information: Capt. Smith is buried in a cemetery in either France or Belgium

Source: old Squadron Intelligence report

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Normandy Invasion, Southern France Invasion - Holland Airborne Invasion.



**DECLASSIFIED**

**Authority:** NND 735001

**By:** NARA **NARA Date:** 1973

AFPPA-11

File # 11318

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: CALDERWOOD, A rthur A.  
Rank: 2nd Lt.  
Serial number: O-887905  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~COPILOT (PILOT)~~: Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No

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

If not, why not? Too little time to get parachute

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

pointing out location of enemy batteries at the time  
we were hit

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? In Co-pilot's seat.

Any hearsay information: Buried in same cemetery as Capt  
Smith - was mutilated by tank battle and  
was difficultly in being recognized

Source: 25<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Sq. Intelligence officer

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Normandy Invasion -

Southern France Invasion - Holland  
Airborne Invasion



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFFPA-11

File # 11318

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member:

PIRAINO, Anthony T.

Rank:

S/Sgt.

Serial number:

36433970

Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~ENGINEER~~:

Radio Operator

Did he bail out? NO

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

If not, why not? too little time to get to parachute

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

Pilot's orders to leave ship

Was he injured? NO

Where was he when last seen? in rear of ship putting on parachute

Any hearsay information: was mutilated by tank battle

and identified along with Lt. Caldwell

Source: 95th T.C. Sq. Intelligence officer

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: 10

Dates and destinations if possible: Normandy Invasion

Southern France Invasion - Holland

Airborne Invasion



DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

BPAS  
②

1. Your name WHITFIELD, MICHAEL E Rank 1st Lt Serial No. 0-809470
2. Organization 440 TC GP Gp Commander KREBS Rank Lt. Col Sqdn CO ANDERSON Rank Lt. Col  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Dec day 27 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, SUPPLY MISSION TO BASTOGNE, Belgium, target, 12:30, altitude, 600 ft, route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
time, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Did not leave
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? NO
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 actual knowledge
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? 2 miles north of Bastogne - Belgium
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) \_\_\_\_\_
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? \_\_\_\_\_
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



**Meldung über den Abschluß eines  
US-amerikanischen Flugzeuges**

**Abschuß-Nr.** KU 1229 A

**Abschußtag und Zeit:** 27.12.44.

**Abschußort:** Belgien

**Flugzeugtyp:** Douglas

**Meldende Dienststelle:** Limburg

**Besatzung:**

Name und Vornamen: Geburtstag und -ort:	Dienst- grad	Erk.- Marke:	Verbleib:	
			gef.: verw.: tot:	welches Lager Art d. Verwundung Grablage

WHITFIELD Michael E.  
7.1.20. Ky.

1/Lt. 0-809470 gef. Dulag-Luft West

**Bemerkungen:** .....

**DULAG-LUFT, den** 1.2.45. **V.S.**