

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

2496

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 544th; 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:
5/10 Cumulus
4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 Feb 44 Time 1048; and Location 49°57'N-04°20'E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forces Down; () Seen to Crash; or (X) 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 Unknown
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51D; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-39784
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 41-57020
(b) 43-64454; (c) 43-65137; (d) 43-64512
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).

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	Pilot	Covington, Royston Truitt, Jr.	1st Lt	0-679049
2.	Co-Pilot	Geary, James Eugene	2nd Lt	0-748624
3.	Navigator	Ohlson, Floyd Henry	2nd Lt	0-683297
4.	Bombardier	McGuinn, Thomas Patrick	2nd Lt	0-674786
5.	Radio Operator	Christian, Kenneth Paul Charles	T/Sgt	17129189
6.	Top Turret	Yunker, John Joseph	T/Sgt	31135578
7.	Ball Turret	Onstad, William Walter	S/Sgt	19145947
8.	Tail Gunner	Wasilewski, Aleck Michael	S/Sgt	31148585
9.	Right Flexible Gun	Whitney, Stanley Clifford	S/Sgt	39902707
10.	Left Flexible Gun	Caine, William Charles	Cpl	35415325

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				Check Only One Column	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing		
1.								
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) 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 _____

Classification changed
to restricted

Date of Report 10 February 1944

Incl 1 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date 15 Oct 45

J. R. Wyatt
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

J. R. WYATT,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 5

First Lieutenant Rayton T. Covington, Jr.

Mr. Rayton T. Covington, (Father)
425 Drury Lane,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Captain William G. Coine

Mrs. William G. Coine, (Wife)
2866 Findlay Avenue,
Columbus, Ohio.

Staff Sergeant Stanley G. Whitely

Mrs. Edith M. Whitely, (Wife)
Mountain View, Idaho.

Technical Sergeant Kenneth P. C. Christian

Mrs. Kenneth P. C. Christian, (Wife)
4120 Cleveland Avenue,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Second Lieutenant James E. Geary

Mrs. Alice Geary, (Mother)
1501 North Francis,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Second Lieutenant Thomas P. McGuinn

Mrs. Gloria M. McGuinn, (Wife)
6712 Karnel Street,
Houston, Texas.

Mr. William M. McGuinn, (Father)
General Delivery,
Moultrie, Georgia.

Technical Sergeant John J. Younker

Mrs. Mary B. Younker, (Mother)
95 Prospect Street,
Salem, Massachusetts.

Staff Sergeant William K. Onstad

Mrs. Laura M. Onstad, (Mother)
Route Three, Box 428,
Bremerton, Washington.

Staff Sergeant Aleck M. Wasilewski

Mrs. Josephine Wasilewski, (Mother)
125 Terrace Avenue,
Granston, Rhode Island.

Second Lieutenant Floyd H. Ohlsen

Mrs. Helen M. Ohlsen, (Mother)
188 Morris Avenue,
Summit, New Jersey.

FD 817

Field-Air Corps-Command
WESTERN FRANCE
Staff-Section 10/Liaison-Officer

File No.: 7050/XII

Subject: Report on capture of member of enemy Airforce.

To: Interrogation-Center West, OBERURSEL

On March 28, 1944 about 10.30 the American Aviator
William C. CAINE, Serial-No.: 35 41 53 25
was captured by Field-Police-Squad 709, VALOGNES, at Ferme La Megnerie
near AMFREVILLE, 15 km south-east of VALOGNES.

The information given by the P.O.W., that he bailed out of a Fortress
on February 9, 1944, is doubtful, because no downing of such an Aircraft
happened in the District of Field-Air Corps-Command Western France on that day.

By Order of
Chief of General-Staff

Signature
(illegible)
1st Lt.

KU 817

Officers Identification-Card

No.: 70 80 48

Name : Gail Cosand BALLARD

Grade : 2nd Lieutenant

Arm : A C

Ser.-No. : O-66 53 73

Date of Birth: September 22, 1919

KV 817

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE **LPCU** File No.: **0480**

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER:

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE: **March 31, 1944**

THROUGH:

TIME: **11.20**

ROLL:

FROM: **LPPM**

THROUGH: **illegible**

REMARKS:

S E C R E T

SSD LLTH March 28, 16.45

To: Dulag-Luft OBERURSEL.

Distributor:

- 1) Field-Air Corps-Command
Western France, Staff-Section Ic
- 2) Airbase District Command CAEN
- 3) Dulag-Luft Oberursel

On March 28, 1944 about 10.30 an American Aviator was captured by Field-Police-Squad 709, VALOGNES, at Ferme La Moignerie near AMPREVILLE, ca. 15 km south-east VALOGNES.

The P.O.W. belonged to the 385th Bomb.-Group. He bailed out of a BOEING B-17 on Februar 9, 1944.

Name: CAINE, William, C.; born: December 22, 1920 in DELAN R, Ohio;

Serial-No.: 35 41 53 25 T 42-43.

Transfer on March 27, 1944 at 06.40 from CHERBOURG to Dulag-Luft OBERURSEL, by Sgt. BUCHHOLZ.

Airbase Headquarters (E) 15/XI

File No.: 422144 **SECRET**

UR 2496

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

SOURCE: ROYSTON T COVINGTON, Jr, 1st Lt, O-679049

FILE #743 DATE: 15 June 1944
MIA: 8 February 1944

UNIT: 544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW.

FILE RECORDS

PILOT	O-679049	1st Lt	Royston T COVINGTON, JR	RD
CO PILOT	O-748624	2d Lt	James E CLEARY	RD
NAVIGATOR	O-683277	2d Lt	Floyd H OHLSON	P/W
BOMBARDIER	O-674786	2d Lt	Thomas P McGUINN	P/W
RADIO OPERATOR	17129289	T/Sgt	Kenneth P C CHRISTIAN	RD
TOP TURRET GUNNER	31135578	T/Sgt	John J WINKER	P/W
BALL TURRET GUNNER	19145747	S/Sgt	William W CANTAD	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	35902707	S/Sgt	Stanley C WHITNEY	P/W
WAIST GUNNER	35415325	Cpl	William C CAINE	P/W
TAIL GUNNER	31148585	S/Sgt	Aleck M WASILEWSKI	P/W

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All bailed out.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

None.

SECRET

By authorized SECRET of S. O-2

2 Dec 1944 R.H.
INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

WINSTON T COVINGTON, JR., 1st Lt., O-579049

(Name)

(Rank)

(ASN)

15 June 1944

(Date)

24 Bomb Squadron, 344 Bomb Group

(Unit)

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.
8 February 1944; 1315 hours; 5 miles SE of CHERBOURG (St. Thiel ?)

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out.
Was it on fire, etc? **Left wing on fire; engines acting up and controls shot away (partially). #2 Engine on fire.**

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? **800 feet**

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?
Uncertain of injuries but all alive when they bailed out.

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

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? **Exploded in air (Hearsay)**

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. **Heard that 7 were captured immediately (within 5 hours) and 1 - possibly tail gunner - 2 days later.**

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its conditions? **Saw wreckage on German truck and there was very little.**

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? **See above.**

REPORT FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

SOURCE: KENNETH P C CHRISTIAN, 1/SGT, 1729189

BAE #472 DATE: 18 March 1944
MIA: 8 February 1944

UNIT: 544 Bomb Squadron, 384 Bomb Group

MEMBERS OF CREW

FWIB RECORDS

PILOT	0-679049	1st Lt	Rayston T GOVINGTON, JR	MIA
CO-PILOT	0-746621	2d Lt	James E GEARY	MIA
NAVIGATOR	0-683297	2d Lt	Floyd H CHILSON	MIA
BOMBARDIER	0-674786	2d Lt	Thomas P McGUIRE	MIA
RADIO OPERATOR	17129189	T/Sgt	Kenneth P C CHRISTIAN	NO
TOP TURRET GUNNER	31135578	T/Sgt	John J YOUNGER	MIA
MID TURRET GUNNER	19145947	S/Sgt	William W ONSTAD	MIA
WHEEL GUNNER	39902707	S/Sgt	Stanley C WHITNEY	MIA
WING GUNNER	35415325	Cpl	William C GAINES	MIA
TAIL GUNNER	31148585	S/Sgt	Aleck M WASILEWSKI	MIA

KNOWN INFORMATION:

All six gunners cleared ship.

HEARD INFORMATION:

Heard that 7 chutes opened.

Ku 817

Feb. 8, 1944

Fortress.

Yunker, John Joseph, T/Sgt. born Aug. 31, 1921

Ident. Tag: 31 135 578

Submarine Prisoner.

Ku 817 Feb. 8, 1944 Fortress

Ohlson, Floyd Henry, 2nd Lt. born

July 4, 1917

Ident. tag: 0 - 683 297

Mc Guinn, Thomas Patrick, 2nd Lt.

0 - 674 780

Geary, James Eugene, 2nd Lt. taken prisoner
Ident. tag: 0 - 748 624

Whitney, Stanley Clifford, 2nd Lt. taken prisoner

Ident. tag: 37902307

Masilewski, Aleck Michael, 2nd Lt. taken prisoner
Ident. tag: 37902307

Run 3927

Onstad, William Walter, 2nd Lt.

born Aug. 10, 1922

Ident. tag: 19145-947

taken prisoner

Field-Air Corps-Command
WESTERN FRANCE
Staff-Section Ia, Liaison-Officer

File No.: WMQ/XII

Subject: Report on capture of member of enemy Airforce.

To: Interrogation-Center West, GERMANY.

On March 26, 1944 about 10.30 the American Aviator

William C. GAIER, Serial-No.: 35 41 53 75

was captured by Field-Police-Squad 709, VALOGNES, at Ferno la Nogerie near AMPREVILLE, 13 km south-east of VALOGNES.

The information given by the P.O.W., that he bailed out of a Fortress on February 9, 1944, is doubtful, because no downing of such an Aircraft happened in the District of Field-Air Corps-Command Western France on that day.

1/1/4

8 20.10.44

EUS

By Order of
Chief of General-Staff

Signature
(illegible)
1st Lt.

IN 817

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE LPOU File No.: 6880

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER:

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

TO:

DATE: March 31, 1944

THROUGH:

TIME: 11.20

ROLL:

FROM: LPTH

THROUGH: illegible

REMARKS:

SECRET

38D LPTH March 28, 16.45

To: Dulag-Left OBERURSEL.

Distributors:

- 1) Field-Air Corps-Command
Western France, Staff-Section Ia
- 2) Airbase District Command CAME
- 3) Dulag-Left Oberursel

On March 28, 1944 about 10.30 an American Aviator was captured by Field-Police-Squad 709, VALOGNES, at Ferme La Meignerie near ANFDEVILLE, ca. 15 km south-east VALOGNES.

The P.O.W. belonged to the 385th Bomb.-Group. He bailed out of a BOEING B-17 on Februar 9, 1944.

Name: CAINE, William, C.; born: December 22, 1920 in DELAWARE, Ohio;

Serial-No.: 35 41 53 25 T 42-43.

Transfer on March 27, 1944 at 06.40 from CHERBOURG to Dulag-Left OBERURSEL, by Sgt. RUCKHOLZ.

Airbase Headquarters (E) 15/XI

File No.: 422144 SECRET