

15069

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUEKCH, Capt., AC  
Date OCT 15 1948

PERMANENT RECORDS  
COMPLETED

Date	Writer	Rec'd About
5-23-46	M. FULLTON	NICISIA
		BAUER
		EYSTER
		LAYWARD
		SHANKS
		DANNAN
		(6)

*Refer to Capt. Shanks*

CONFIDENTIAL



RESTRICTED  
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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Command or Air Force 8th AF  
GROUP 303 Bomb; SQUADRON 359th Bomb; DETACHMENT \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure \_\_\_\_\_; Course \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Destination Paris; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Good-Scattered clouds and excellent visibility.
4. GIVE: (a) Date Apr 43 Time 1430 hours; And Location of Last  
known whereabouts of missing aircraft Northwest of Paris  
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio;  
( ) Forced down; (x) 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: (x) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances  
as follows \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_: AAF Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial No. (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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:	Eyster, Eric E. <i>Vetus</i>	1st Lt.	0-135758 L-3-47
2. CP	Hayward, Fred H. <i>Vetus</i>	2nd Lt.	0-790834 L-3-45
3. Nav. Bomb	Shanks, John D. <i>Vetus</i>	2nd Lt.	0-794063 L-3-53
4. Top Turret Gunner	Dunham, Harold J. <i>Vetus</i>	T/Sgt.	20637002 L-3-48
5. Lef Waist Gunner	Morton, George T.	EW8 Sgt.	14065992
6.	Altizer, Robert C.	EVSS/Sgt	
7.	Bauer, Floyd E. <i>Vetus</i>	S/Sgt	38142338 L-3-46
8.	Nicosia, Eugene A.B. <i>Vetus</i>	Sgt	180394 07/1-1-1
9.	Thornton, Edmund R.	RMC Sgt	
10.	Davis, Marcus	EVSS S/Sgt	
11.			

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



RESTRICTED

WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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 GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

2  
RESTRICTED

C6-8049S,AF



1st Lt. Erroll F. Ryster *in*

Mrs. Dottie L. Ryster, (Wife)  
R. F. D. #1,  
Miamiburg, Ohio.

2nd Lt. John D. Shanks *in*

Mrs. Louise R. Shanks, (Wife)  
19 Decatur Street,  
Chattahoochee, Florida.

2nd Lt. Fred H. Hayward *in*

Mrs. James L. Hayward, (Mother)  
439 Chandler Street,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

T/Sgt. Harold J. Dunham *in*

Mrs. Harold J. Dunham, (Wife)  
14394 Cruse Avenue,  
Detroit, Michigan.

S/Sgt. Robert C. Altizer *in*

Mrs. Florence L. Altizer, (Mother)  
1124 Chicago Street,  
Caldwell, Idaho.

S/Sgt. Floyd E. Bauer *in*

Mrs. Ma Della H. Bauer, (Mother)  
2325 Julian Street,  
Denver, Colorado.

Sgt. Eugene A. B. Nicosia *Chg. E. A. B.*

Mrs. Carmela L. Nicosia, (Mother)  
1013 W. 5th Street,  
Waco, Texas.

Sgt. Edmund R. Thornton *in*

Mr. Horace C. Thornton, (Father)  
Copley Square Hotel,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Sgt. George F. Merton *in*

Mrs. Connie E. Couch, (Mother)  
Nashville, Georgia.

S/Sgt. Marcus E. Davis *in*

Mrs. Bertha M. Davis, (Mother)  
Legion Park,  
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.



CONFIDENTIAL

HO. D. B. P.  
84 MAR 1944

CLASSIFIED BY 111111

Ltr (Hq, AAF Washington, Subj: Missing Aircrew Personnel, dtd 22 Dec, 1943).

f. Sgt. Edmund R. Thornton, 11927478, Radio Operator - P/W (Official W.D. Press Release of 17 July 1943). *AFD*

g. S/Sgt. Robert C. Altizer, 20957241, Right Waist Gunner - Wounded and Recovered. (Letter from P/W Camp 8 Sept. 1943.) *AFD*

h. Sgt. Eugene A.B. Nicosia, 18039407, Ball Turret Gunner - KIA - *AFD*  
Vestres Cemetery - Grave #761 (1st Bomb Division).

i. S/Sgt. Marcus K. Davis, 33117714, Nose Gunner - KIA - This is not an authentic report. *AFD*

j. S/Sgt. Floyd E. Bauer, 38148338, Tail Gunner - KIA - Les Vestres Cemetery - Grave #763. (1st Bomb Division.) *AFD*

3. The information contained in the above paragraph is strictly unofficial except as otherwise noted.

4. Your attention is invited to War Department letter of 5 November 1943. Determination of Status of Casualties, Lts. Hayward, Eyster and the 5th and 11th indorsements therein.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Frank J. Doherty*  
FRANK J. DOHERTY,  
Major, AC  
Adjutant.

(Ltr, Hq, AAF Washington, Subj: Missing Aircrew Personnel, dtd Dec, 1943).  
AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.  
0435758 4th Ind. P-G-3

Hq, 1st Bomb Division, APO 634. 4 February 1944.

TO: CG, Eighth Air Force, AAF Station 101, APO 634.  
(Att: Statistical Control Section).

Paragraph 2, basic communication complied with.

For the Commanding General:

*Roberts P. Johnson, Jr.*  
ROBERTS P. JOHNSON, Jr.  
Lieut. Colonel, AGD.  
Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

R-8

(Ltr, Hq, AAF, Washington, D.C., Subj: "Missing Air Crew Personnel", 22 Dec 43)

AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.  
O-435758

5th Ind.

23 FEB 1944

INF

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U.S. Army:

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.  
(Thru: Commanding General, ETOUSA, APO 871, U.S. Army)



Basic communication complied with.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



A.M. 25 FEB 1944  
*Burnis Archer*  
BURNIS ARCHER,  
Capt., A.C.D.,  
Asst. Adjutant General  
A. G. O.  
Chas. Mac Car  
E.O. 12812 USA

AG 383.6  
Hq, ETOUSA, APO 871. 25 February 1944.

6th Ind.

PK/re

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C.  
Attention: Statistical Control Division.

*M.G.*  
M. G.

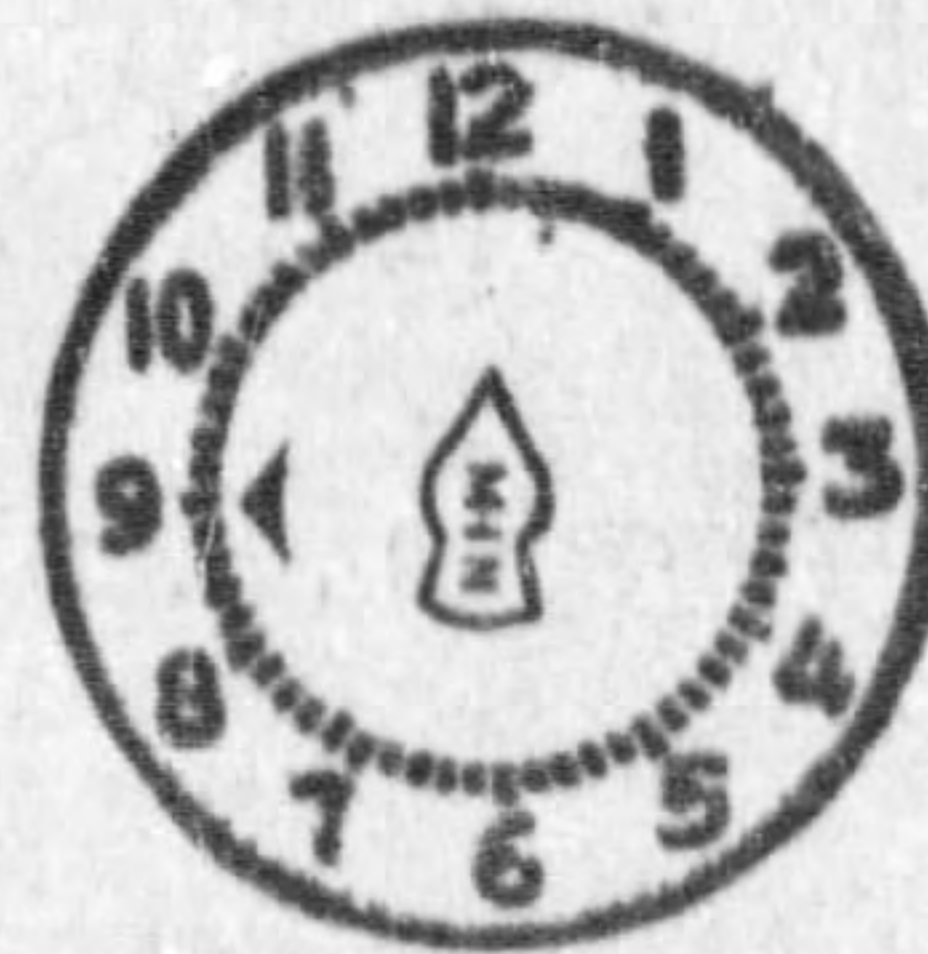
*MSC Security*

MAR 15 1944



RECEIVED  
Air A. G.,

MAR 9 1944



RECEIVED  
Air A. G.,

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
Date OCT 15 1945

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AC# 103611



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.  
O 435 758

22 December 1943.

Subject: Missing Air Crew Personnel.

To : Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, A.P.O. 633,  
c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for details concerning the circumstances under which First Lieutenant Ercil F. Eyster, O 435 758, 303rd Bomb Group, 359th Bomb Squadron, was first reported missing in action on 4 April 1943.

2. Request that, if available, this headquarters be furnished information, similar to that called for in the Missing Air Crew Report, upon which to base a reply to the next of kin of the above-named officer.

For the Commanding General:

H. H. HEWITT,  
Lt. Col., A. G. D.,  
Acting Air Adjutant General.

AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.

0435758

1st Ind.

P-A-1

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, APO 634, U. S. Army,

25 JAN 1944

TO: Commanding General, 1st Bombardment Division, APO 634, U.S. Army.

For compliance with basic communication through this Headquarters.

By command of Major General DOOLITTLE:

BURNIS ARCHER,  
Captain, AGD,  
Ass't Adj General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Confidential

(Ltr Hq, AF Washington, Subj: Missing Aircrew Personnel, dtd 22 Dec, 1943).

AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.  
0435758

2nd Ind.

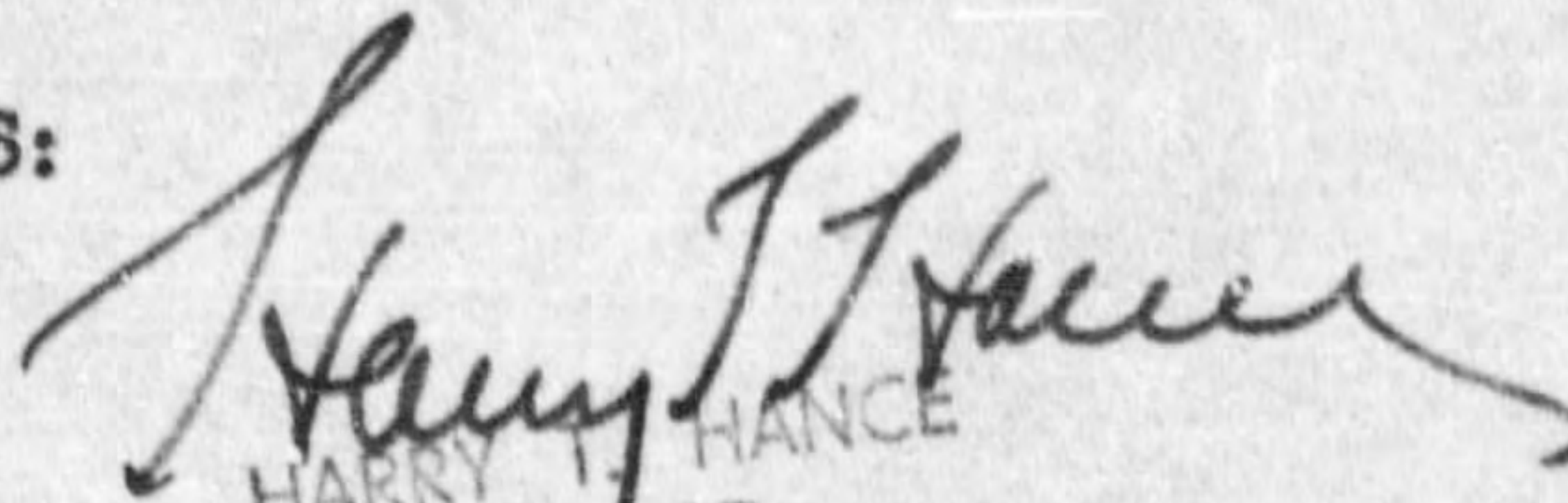
P-L-4

Hq, 1st Bomb Division, APO 634, 31 January, 1944.

TO: CO, Station 107, APO 634, (Att: Statistical Officer).

For compliance with basic communication through this Headquarters.

By command of Brigadier General WILLIAMS:

  
HARRY T. HANCE  
Captain, AGD.  
Asst. Adjutant General

AAF 201 - Eyster, Ercil F.  
0435758

3rd Ind.

Hq, 303rd Bomb Group (H), APO 634, U.S. Army, 2 February 1944.

TO: CG, 1st Bomb Division, APO 634, U.S. Army.

1. The following information is submitted as requested in basic communication.

a. Lt. Eyster's aircraft was reported to have gone down Northwest of Paris on the mission of 4 April, 1943 to Paris. A 20 millimeter shell penetrated the cockpit. There were 3 chutes seen coming out and then the aircraft blew up. The time was approximately 1430 hours.

b. The weather of the area was good with scattered clouds and excellent visibility.

c. It is believed that enemy aircraft opposition was responsible for the loss of this crew.

2. The following is a list of the crew members and the present status of each.

- a. 1st Lt. Ercil F. Eyster, O-435758, pilot-KIA- Reported buried ~~KIA~~ in English Cemetery at Les Vestres near Dieppe on 7 April 1943. Either grave #762 or #764 (1st Bomb Division).
- b. 2nd Lt. Fred H. Hayward, O-790834, Co-pilot-KIA-Reported buried ~~KIA~~ in Les Vestres Cemetery--Grave #765 (1st Bomb Division).
- c. 2nd Lt. John D. Shanks, O-794063, Nav. Bomb. - KIA - (FWLB report ~~KIA~~ #33, 25 June 1943 and 1st Bomb Division).
- d. T/Sgt. Harold J. Dunham, 20637002, Top Turret Gunner -KIA- Les ~~KIA~~ Vestres Cemetery - Grave #760 (1st Bomb Division.)
- e. Sgt. George T. Morton, 14065992, Left Waist gunner - P/W ~~KIA~~ Bomb Division.)



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2 Boeing Fortress F 17  
at Bocasse, 20 km north  
Rouen on 4 April 43

USA S/Sgt. Bauer,  
Floyd,  
ASN: 38148338 T 42

Grave No. 760  
Interred on 7 Apr 43  
in English Memorial  
Cem. Les Vertus near

3 " "

USA Dunkan, Harold J.  
ASN: 20637002 T 42

Grave No. 761  
Dieppe with military  
honours.

4 " "

USA Nicosia, Eugene A.  
ASN: 18039407 T 42

Grave No. 762

5 " "

USA Shanks, John D.  
ASN: 0-794062 T 42

Grave No. 763

6 " "

Unknown

Identification impossible,  
corpse completely charred.

Grave No. 764

7 " "

Unknown

Grave No. 765



The Reich Minister of Aviation and  
Commander in Chief of the Airforce  
Airforce-Personel-Office  
File Losses 25 No.101627/43(Chief-Section IID)

Berlin W 8, 8 April 43  
Leipsigerstr. 7  
Phone 1193

Subject: Report in Advance on English airmen.

To

Army High Command  
Armed Forces Information Center  
Section for Prisoners (V)

Berlin-Schoeneberg  
Badensche Str. 50/51

The office received the following reports on English, but  
presumably American airmen.:

15.) 4 April 43  
Stagng

6 men dead

- 1.) Bauer, Sgt.
- 2.) Dunham, Harold  
ASN: 20637002
- 3-6 .) Unknown , not to identify



France  
Section IV/2

AMERICANS , VIII  
Berlin, 1 June 43

Correction

The grave-location  
on the grave-card : Dunham, Harold , Boeing , Date of death: 4 Apr. 43  
is to change as follows:

Unit: NSAAF  
ASN: 20637002 T 42

Place of death: Boccassee, 20 km north Rouen, Department Seine, Arrond.  
Dieppe, Community Aubin, St. , Grave No. 761

The correction is reported by Airbase-Headquarters E 2/I,  
APO No. L 07201 Postmaster Brussels

to: Section VIII for correction.



France  
Section IV/2

AMERICANS  
Berlin, 1 June 43

Correction

The grave-location

on the grave-card: Bauer, (Plane Boeing) Sgt. Date of death: 4 Apr. 43

is to change as follows:

Unit: USAAF

ASN: 36148338 T 42

Place of death: Bécasse, 20 km north Rouen

Place of grave: Les Vertus, Memorial Cemetery  
Department Seine, District Dieppe,  
Community St. Aubin, Grave No. 760

Correction is reported by: Graves Registration Officer 15,  
Airbase-Headquarters E 2/1  
APO No. L 07201 Postmaster Brussels

To: Section VIII for correction.



4735

Telegrams

1072

1084

1452

Apr. 4, 1943 Fortress

Davis, Marcus Knig

Reported, Police Bulletin No. 101

698/43, dated May 5, 1943

S/Sgt., born June 8, 1920, Tog:

33 117 714, Prisoner



AV 176143

MAR  
4735

4 April 1943

Boeing

Fellow-up report to L.P.NO: 101 698/5  
fr. 5 May 43

ALTIZER, Robert Carl

S/S gt., born 5 April 1921,  
ASN: 20 957 242, captured



REMARKS:

} KU 1242



AV 80/43

4735 4 April 1943

Boeing

THORNTON, Edmund Robinson

S/Sgt., born 21 Aug. 1922, ASN. 11 027 478  
captured

MORTON, George T.

S/Sgt., ASN. 14 065 992, captured, wounded,  
disposition: in a field-hospital.

DUNHAM,

T/Sgt., ASN. 20 637 002, dead

NICOSA,

S/Sgt., " 18 039 407, "

SHANKS,

2nd Lt., dead

BAUER,

S/Sgt., ASN. 38 148 338, dead

EYSTER,

1st Lt., " 435 758, "

HAYWARD, Fred H.

2nd Lt., " 790 834, "

Dead buried 7 April 43 English Cemetery Les Vertus near Dieppe, Grave No. 760-765.



AV 87/43

4735 4 April 43  
Boeing

Horton, Georgetown, S/Sgt.  
ASN: 14065992  
born: 30 May 1914

captured, Dispos.: Dulag-Luft  
was reported with PHq.NO.  
101698/43 from 5 May 43 to be  
wounded in a fieldhospital.  
released,



The Reich Minister of Aviation and  
Commander in Chief of the Airforce  
Airforce-Personel-Office  
File Losses 25 No.101627/43(Chief-Section IID)

Berlin W 8, 8 April 43  
Leipsigerstr. 7  
Phone 1193

Subject: Report in Advance on English airmen.

To

Army High Command  
Armed Forces Information Center  
Section for Prisoners (V)

Berlin-Schöneberg  
Badensche Str. 50/51

The office received the following reports on English, but  
presumably American airmen.:

15.) 4 April 43  
Magng

6 men dead

- 1.) Bauer, Sgt.
- 2.) Dunham, Harold  
ASN: 20637002
- 3-6 .) Unknown, not to identify



France  
Section IV/2

AMERICANS, VIII  
Berlin, 1 June 43

Correction

The grave-location  
on the grave-card : Dunham, Harold , Boeing , Date of death: 4 Apr. 43  
is to change as follows:

Unit: HSAAP  
ASN: 20637002 T 42

Place of death: Becasse, 20 km north Heuen, Department Seine, Arrond.  
Dieppe, Community Aubin, St. , Grave No. 761

The correction is reported by Airbase-Headquarters E 2/I,  
APO No. L 07201 Postmaster Brussels

to: Section VIII for correction.



France  
Section IV/2

AMERICANS  
Berlin, 1 June 43

Correction

The grave-location  
on the grave-card: Bauer, (Plane Boeing) Sgt. Date of death: 4 Apr. 43  
is to change as follows:

Unit: USAAF  
ASN: 38148338 T 42  
Place of death: Bocasse, 20 km north Rouen  
Place of grave: Les Vertus, Memorial Cemetery  
Department Seine, District Dieppe,  
Community St. Aubin, Grave No. 760

Correction is reported by: Graves Registration Officer 18,  
Airbase-Headquarters E 2/I  
APO No. L 07201 Postmaster Brussels

To; Section VIII for correction.



Airfield Command E 2/I  
Post L 07201  
Air District Postal Office Brussels

11 May 1943

Subject : Casualty Report - Correction  
Reference : Airfield Command E 2/I, Casualty Report No.31  
To : Army Information Office

The unknown in above mentioned Casualty Report under No. 6 is:

Eric F. E Y S T E R O-435 758 T 42 buried Cemetery Les Vertus, grave 764.

The one buried in grave 765 is:

Fred H. H A Y W A R D O-790 334 T 42

The identification-tags were found later at the place of accident.

/s/ (name illegible)  
Captain and Officer for special Duties.



A.V. 1/43 - 2 -

Copy (Extract).

Reichs Minister of Aviation  
and Supreme Commander of the Air Force  
Air Force Personnel Office  
File Mark: Verl. 25 No. 101 673/43 (Chief Section IID)

Berlin W. 8, 30 April 1943  
Leipziger Str. 7  
House Call 1193

Subject: Provisional Report on English (probably American) Airmen  
To : High Command of the Army, Section POW (V), Berlin-Schoeneberg, Badensche Str.

We received the following reports about English (American) Airmen:

- 2.) 4 April 1943 Messing (Additional Report to L.P. No. 101 627/43 dated 7 April 1943 Point 15)  
from ( ) 4 unknown the following were identified
- 1) HAYWARD, Fred H. O - 790 834 T 42
  - 2) EYSTER, Eric F. O - 435 758 T 42



COPY

The Reich Minister of Aviation and  
 Commander in Chief of the Airforce  
 - Personnel Section -  
 File Verl. 28 No. 101633/43 (Chief-Section IID)

Berlin V 8 , 14 April 1943  
 Leipziger Strasse 7

Subject: Reports on English airmen, probably reported as Americans.

To: German High Command  
 Div for Prisoners of War -general- (V)  
 Berlin - Schöneberg  
 Indische Strasse 80/81

Following reports on English airmen, probably Americans,  
 have been received here:

14.) 4 April 1943 Repar. 17 (Addition to P. 533. No. 101627/43  
 dated 7 April 1943, par. 15)

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. A I L I N G E R , Robert G.<br>20157241 T 43 Sgt. | Captured, wounded |
| 2. T H E R T O N , Ronald<br>11017479 T 42 Sgt.      | Captured, wounded |
| 3. N O R T O N , George<br>14065098 T 42 Sgt.        | Captured, wounded |
| 4. F L O Y D , E.<br>33148338 T 42                   | Dead              |
| 5. D U N H A M , Harold J.<br>20037002 T 42          | Dead              |
| 6. N I C C O L I N , Eugene A.<br>18039407 T 42      | Dead              |
| 7. S H A N K S , John D.<br>0-734062 T 42            | Dead              |



Americana VIII

Berlin, 4 June 1943

Correction slip

On the file card of **H i c c i a , Eugene**

**18039407 T 43**

**Boeing B 17**

**Date of death: 4 April 1943**

AC

corrections and additions have to be made as follows:

**Place of death: Bessene, 30 km north of Rouen**

**Location of grave: Les Vertus Cemetery, Department Seine Aroundis  
Dieppe, Community St. Aubin, Grave No. 762.**

**The correction is reported by Graves Registration Officer 18, Airbase  
Headquarters E 2/I, Army Postal Unit L 07201 Brussels.**

4 Apr 43 M  
4 Apr 43 D.

4 June 1943 Initials