

2931

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED**  
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
Date MAR 15 1946

*Plan...  
Completed*  
*AS4-233*  
*18*  
*8/30/23-3*

| Date        | ... ..          | T... About                        |
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| <i>7/19</i> | <i>Planning</i> | <i>Hitler<br/>Evans<br/>Dunne</i> |
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**GERMAN RECORDS  
COMPLETED**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2931

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

Classification changed  
**RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Date MAR 15 1946

**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 Ridgeveell, England ; Command or Air Force VIII B.C. ; Group 381st Bomb (H) Squadron 535th Bomb (H).
2. SPECIFY: point of departure Ridgeveell ; Course To destination  
Intended Destination Oschersleben, Germany ; Type of Mission Combat.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Good.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 22 February 1944 Time 1345 and Location 51° 48' N  
8° 55' E. of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether (  ) last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio; ( ) forced down; ( ) seen to crash; or ( ) information unavailable.
5. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G ; AAF Serial No. 42-31533
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-1820-97 ; AAF Serial No. SW-004760  
(b) SW-005087 (c) SW-004721 (d) SW-005369
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type & Serial Number)  
13 Cal .50 Machine Guns: Buffalo Arms - 889221; 889506; 888047; 889536;  
888134; 682675; 683101; 683288; 682752; Frisidaire - 974392; 974598;  
650663; 974468.
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty  
Missing in Action or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_.
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; passengers 0  
(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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank    | Number<br>Serial      |        |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| KIA | a. Pilot              | Downey, Charles H.                | 2nd Lt. | 0-671354              | DEAD ✓ |
| KIA | b. Co-pilot           | Herdlicka, Donald E.              | 2nd Lt. | 0-686244              | DEAD ✓ |
| KIA | c. Navigator          | Hicks, John D.                    | 2nd Lt. | 0-809606              | DEAD ✓ |
| KIA | d. Bombardier         | Evans, James C.                   | 2nd Lt. | 0-747001              | DEAD ✓ |
| KIA | e. Engineer           | Chauvin, Miller P.                | S/Sgt.  | DEAD 38199866-383098A |        |
| EUS | f. Radio Operator     | Matheson, _____                   | S/Sgt.  | 37503879              | RTD ✓  |
| KIA | g. Ball Turret Gunner | Schiek, Earl B.                   | Sgt.    | DEAD 37185357         |        |
| EUS | h. Right waist gunner | Phillips, Norman E.               | S/Sgt.  | 18120456              | RTD ✓  |
| EUS | i. Left waist gunner  | Carini, Adolph V.                 | S/Sgt.  | 32608929              | RTD ✓  |
| KIA | j. Tail Gunner        | Sorbino, Joseph G.                | S/Sgt.  | DEAD 32766617         |        |
|     | k.                    |                                   |         |                       |        |

(over)

Incl 9'

11. 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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank   | Serial Number | Contacted |              | Saw Crash | Saw Forced Landing |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
|                                   |        |               | by Radio  | last sighted |           |                    |
| Bosato, Ralph R.                  | S/Sgt. | 12155222      |           |              |           | X                  |
| Smith, Emmett                     | S/Sgt. | 34433071      |           |              |           | 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)
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SIGHTED.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE

DATE OF REPORT - 24 February 1944.

APR 5 1944



RECEIVED  
Air A. G.

*Seth A. Armistead Jr.*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer) J.S.I  
/S/ SETH A. ARMSTEAD JR., O-737323  
Squad Captain, Air Corps,  
Group 535th Bomb Sq (H)  
381st Bomb Gp (H)

✓ *Kia*  
2nd Lt. Charles H. Downey ✓

✓ *Kia*  
2nd Lt. Donald E. Nordlich ✓

✓ *Kia*  
2nd Lt. John D. Hicks ✓

✓ *Kia*  
2nd Lt. James G. Evans ✓

✓ *Kia*  
S/Sgt. Miller P. Chauvin ✓

*Pow*  
S/Sgt. Karl E. Matheson

✓ *Kia*  
Sgt. Earl B. Schick ✓

*Pow*  
S/Sgt. Norman E. Phillips

*Pow*  
S/Sgt. Adolph V. Carini

✓ *Kia*  
S/Sgt. Joseph G. Sorbino ✓

Mr. William Downey, (Father)  
Putnam, Illinois.

Mrs. Jane L. Nordlich, (Wife)  
1914 Clark Avenue,  
Canton, Ohio.

Mr. Drew H. Hicks, (Father)  
90 Bellmead Stone,  
Rock Castle, Virginia.

Mr. Ray H. Evans, (Brother)  
Farmington, Utah.

Mrs. Jeanne J. Chauvin, (Mother)  
Union, Louisiana.

Mrs. Virginia L. Matheson, (Wife)  
Columbus, Kansas.

Mr. Albert G. Schick, (Father)  
1516 Howard,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Mrs. Annie S. Phillips, (Wife)  
547 Sunset Road,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. Vincent Carini, (Father)  
85 Roe Avenue,  
Hartshorne, New Jersey.

Mrs. Margrete Sorbino, (Mother)  
93 South Ward Street,  
New Brunswick, New Jersey.

I was flying with Captain Hecker and Major Fitzgerald in the lead ship of the second high squadron as Tail Gunner (Observer) when in the middle of our attacks several FW 190's attacked Lt. Downey, who was flying B-17G A/C 42-31533, and cannon fire perforated the vertical stabilizer. After a little while, Lt. Downey put down his bomb bay doors and landing gear, and side-slipped to the left. He was flying on our left wing and as he pulled out of formation he was jumped by more FW 190's. When I last sighted Lt. Downey's ship it was losing altitude fast and dropping out of formation.

*S/Sgt. Ralph R. Rosato*

S/Sgt. RALPH R. ROSATO,

ASN 12155222

Tail Gunner.

532nd Bomb Sq (H)

381st Bomb Gp (H)

This statement is sworn to and subscribed to before me on this date, 24 February 1944.

*Seth A. Armstead Jr.*

SETH A. ARMSTEAD JR.,

Captain, Air Corps,

List of identification tags

MA CR 2931  
6/14

- ✓ Donald E. Herdlicka, O-646 244 T 43, B, P
- ✓ James C. Evans, O-747 001 T 43, A, P
- ✓ Charles H. Downey, O-681 354 T 42-43, O. P
- ✓ John D. Hicks, O-809 606 T 42-43 A. C
- ✓ Earl B. Schiek, 12100 B, Lynch St., St. Louis, IMO.
- ✓ Miller P. Chauvin, 381 998 66, T 42 -3 O. C.
- ✓ Mrs. Geo. Chauvin, Union, La.
- ✓ Joseph G. Sorbine 327 666 17, T 43, O. C.

1 leather stripe with following initials: M.P. Chauvin

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/ XI

Distributors: Dulag Luft

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29th of February, 1944

REGARDING: ~~xxxxxx~~ (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing Fortress B 17

AT: Hagen, 15 kms southsoutheastwards of Ka meln, in direction to Daspe, 22th of Feb., 1944, 14,00 o'clock

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

FIRST NAME: Hicks

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) John D., Rank unknown.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) 0 - 809 666 Found dead in plane

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERNMENT: Hagen, 26th of Feb., 1944.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/XI

Distributors Dulag Luft.

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29th of Feb., 1944.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing Fortress B 17 (Fortress2)~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

AT:

Hajen, 15 kms. southsoutheastwards Hameln, in direction to Daspe. Date: 22thFeb.44, 14.00 o'clock

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

FIRST NAME: EVANS

James C.

Rank: unknown.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA)

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURE) O - 717 001

Found dead in plane.

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Hajen, 26th of Feb., 1944.



REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/XI

Distributors: Dulag Luft.

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29th of Feb., 1944

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF. a Boeing B 17 (Fortress 2)~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AT: Hajen, 15 kms southsoutheastwards Hameln, in direction to Daspe. Date: 22.2.44.

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

FIRST NAME:  Downey  
Charles H.SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 0 - 681 354, Rank: unknown.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) Found dead in plane.

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Hajen, 26th of Feb. 1944.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/ IX

Distributor: Dulag Luft.

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29th of Feb., 1944

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, a Boeing B 17 (Fortress, 2)AT: ~~54-1482154~~ Hajen, 15 kms southsoutheastwards of Hameln, in direction to Daspe. Date: 22.2.44.

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

FIRST NAME:  ChautixSERIAL NUMBER: (USA)  Miller P.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) 381 998 66

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

Found dead in plane.

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Hajen, 26th of Feb., 1944.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCESPOST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/XIDistributor: Dulag Luft.PLACE: HildesheimDATE: 29.2.44.REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF. Boeing B 17 (Fortress 2)AT: Hagen, 15 kms southsoutheastwards Hameln, in direction  
to Da spe. Date: 22.2.44.

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

HerdlickaFIRST NAME: Leonald E.SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 0 - 686 244, Rank: unknown.RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED) Found dead in plane.

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Daspe, 26th of Feb. 1944.

REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/XI

Distributor: Dulag Luft.

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29.2.44.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF, Boeing B 17 (Fortress 2)

~~Strasbourg~~

AT: Hagen, 15 kms south/southeastward Hameln, in direction to Daspe. Date: 22.2.44.

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

Schiek

FIRST NAME:

Earl B.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA)

371 853 57,

Rank: unknown.

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED)

Found dead in plane.

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT:

Daspe, 26.2.1944.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
REPORT ON CAPTURE OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 46/XI

Distributor: Dula; Luft

PLACE: Hildesheim

DATE: 29.2.44.

REGARDING: CRASH: (DOWNED) OF: Boeing B 17 (Fortress 2)~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ AT: Hajen, 15 kms. southsoutheastwards Hameln, in direction  
to Daspe. Date: 22.2.44.

NAME: (LAST OR SURNAME)

Sorbin

FIRST NAME: Joseph G.

SERIAL NUMBER: (USA) 327 666 17

RESULT: (DEAD OR CAPTURED)

Found dead in plane.

PLACE AND TIME OF CAPTURE:

NAME OF HOSPITAL:

PLACE, DATE AND TIME OF INTERMENT: Daspe, 26.2.44.

REPORT ON CAPTURED AIRCRAFT

POST: Airfield Headquarters A 40/XI

Distributor: Dulag Luft.

LOCATION: Hameln

DATE: 28.2.44.

DATE AND TIME: at 13,50, 22.2.44.  
AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWNPLACE OF CRASH: Hameln on the Weser, 12 kms southeast of Hameln/ Weser.  
(NEAREST TOWN)KIND OF CAPTURE: Trough fighter.  
(FLAK, HUNTER, NIGHT HUNTER,  
EMERGENCY LANDING)

TYPE OF AIRCRAFT: Boeing B 17 G

MARKINGS OF CRAFT: star M E  
(LETTERS, FRONT OR REAR OF INSIGNIA)

ADMITTANCE NO: 231 533

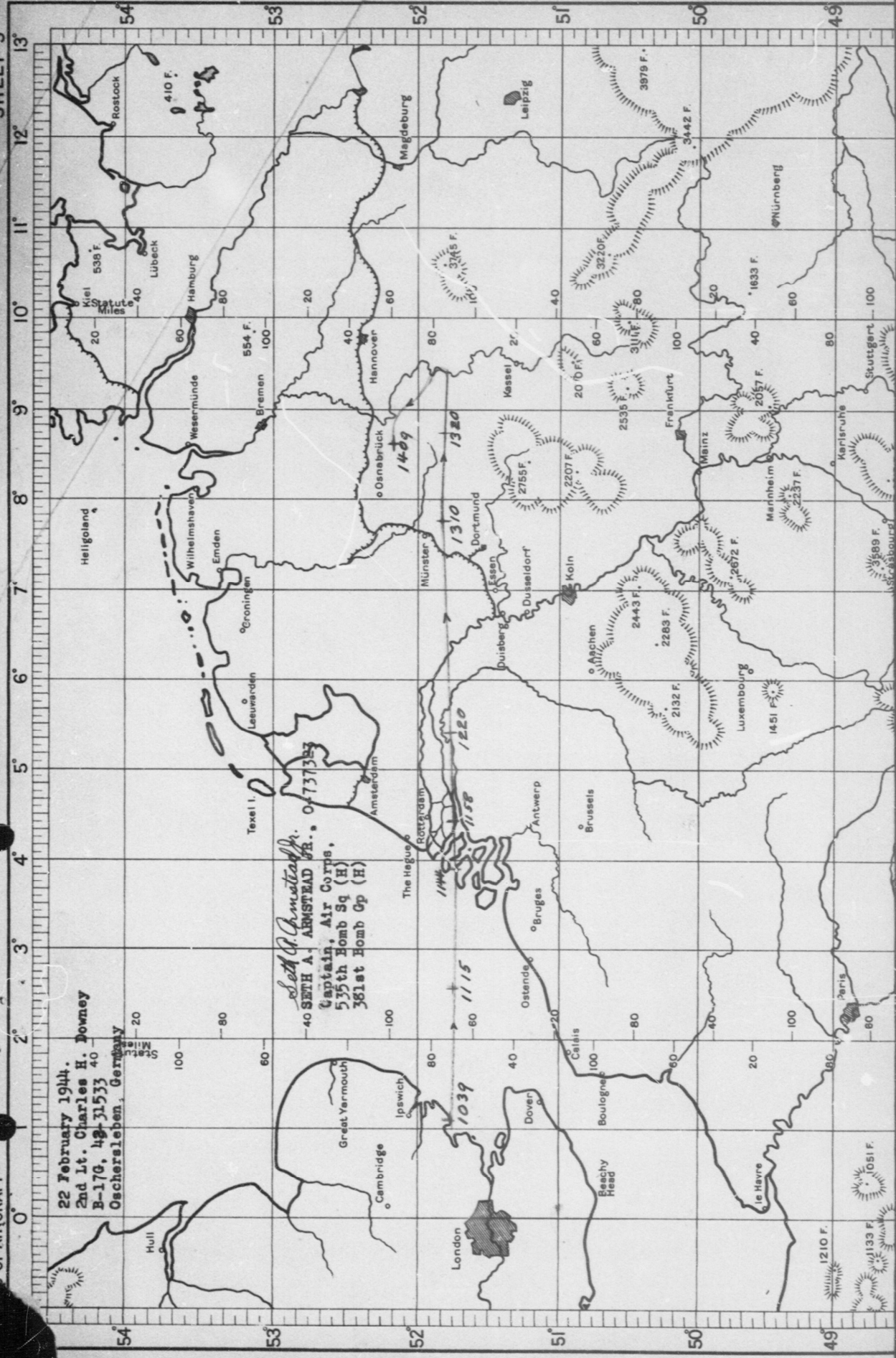
EQUIPMENT: Camera K 20 (5 x 4 inches) found severely damaged.

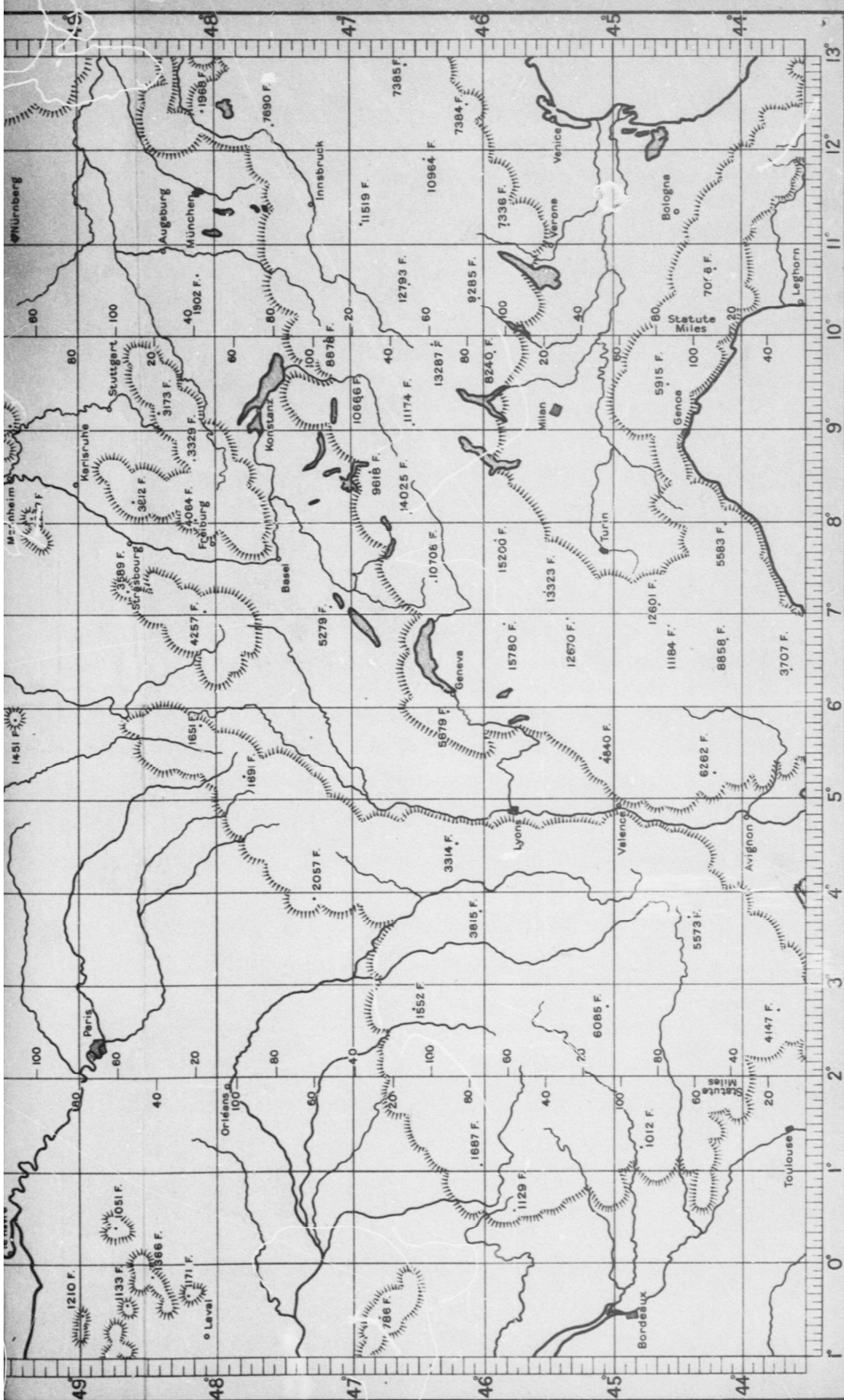
F.T. FREQUENCIES:

CONDITION OF AIRCRAFT: Probably exploded in the air, all parts severely damaged by  
crash.DELIVERED TO DISTRIBUTOR:  
(DULOG -LUFT, ETC.)The following radio sets were found: BG - 434 A  
R 1124 A  
Power Unit 142 - 24 V.Evaluation center West.  
Received 3.3.44.  
Clerk: Olda.

22 February 1944.  
 2nd Lt. Charles H. Downey  
 B-17G, 49-31533  
 Oschersleben, Germany

*Seth P. Armstrong*  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 535th Bomb Sq (H)  
 361st Bomb Gp (H)





Compiled and Drawn at H.Q./G.S.G.S., 1943



# HEIGHTS IN FEET

Scale - 1 : 2,890,000 (approx.) at 56° N.

O.R. 1373