

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6182

Classification changed  
 to **RESTRICTED**  
 BY E. A. [unclear] [unclear]

AIR BRANCH ST  
 HEADQUARTERS AND AIR FORCE  
 WASHINGTON

REPORT ON AIRCRAFT MISSING

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an airplane is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location Wethersfield, Essex. Command ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ IX Bomber Group 416th Bomb (L) Squadron 66th Bomb Detachment XXXXXXXXXX
2. SPECIFY: POINT OF DEPARTURE Wethersfield, Essex. Course See Incl No 1  
 Intended destination St Hilaire to Vitra. Type of mission tactical
3. AIRMAN'S OFFICIAL AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST NOTED: 8/10 to 10/10 Cloud cover. Base 35,000 feet. Visibility 6 miles.
4. DATE: ( ) 29 June 1944 ( ) 1940 and location NE St Lo, Fr.  
 (a) Last known whereabouts of missing airman  
 (b) Specify whether ( ) Last sighted, ( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) Parachuted down, (X) Seen to crash, or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LAST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LAST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) ( ) Enemy Airplane; (X) Enemy Anti-aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows Acrft hit by flak over target area. Left engine was set afire. Acrft stalled and slipped down to the left. Kept burning after crash but did not explode.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series A200-30 A.A.F. Serial Number 439684
7. ENGINE(S): Type, Model and Series R2600-23 A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-82883  
 (b) 42-175217
8. INSTALLATION(S) (Furnish below make, type and serial number)  
 (a) 946617 Fixed (b) 946550 Fixed (c) 946292 Fixed (d) 652382 Fixed  
 (e) 946833 Fixed (f) 608256 Fixed (g) 606829 Fixed (h) 652742 Fixed
9. ARE PERSONS LISTED BELOW RECORDED AS: (a) MIA Casualty Yes
- 8 (i) 291408 Flex All ( ) is, Machine, or (b) non-Battle Casualty  
Browning, Cal. .50
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS BOARDING AIRCRAFT: Crew 3 Passengers 0; Total 3  
 (State, with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list in later parts here on separate sheet and refer to this form.)

Crew position	Rank in full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number
1. Pilot	1022 BAXTER, BRUCE E.	F/O AC	T-2090
2. AM-Gunner	748 Potter, Harold A.	Sgt	16119390 RTD
3. Arm-Gunner	612 Ernstrom, Reed L.	Sgt	19171760
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

11. IDENTIFY SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND ANSWER TO ABOVE QUESTION REGARDING OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE STATUS OF AIRCRAFT.

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*Serial 15*

AD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report

- | Name in Full<br>(Last Name first) | Rank       | Serial<br>Number | Contacted<br>by<br>Radio | List<br>Sighted | Saw<br>Crash | SW<br>Forced<br>Landing |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <u>Hornbeck, Kenneth E.</u>    | <u>S S</u> | <u>12040278</u>  |                          |                 | <u>X</u>     |                         |
| 2. <u>Judd, Earl R. Jr.</u>       | <u>S S</u> | <u>39318083</u>  |                          |                 | <u>X</u>     |                         |
| 3. <u>Fejes, John A. Jr.</u>      | <u>S S</u> | <u>13039715</u>  |                          |                 | <u>X</u>     |                         |
12. IF REASONED AND ADVISED BY SW'S ANSWERS, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used X, (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash \_\_\_\_\_, or (c) Any other reason (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
13. ATTACH FLIGHT INFORMATION, MAP, CHART, OR POSITION, SIGNIFY APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH BREVITIOUS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCES INVOLVED, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, HOW LONG, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE. SEE None

Date of report 2 July 1944

*George Schenkein*  
 (Signature of Reporting Officer)

GEORGE SCHENKEIN,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Adjutant.

- 2 Incls:  
 Incl No 1 Diagram  
 Incl No 2 Consolidated Eye witness Statement



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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA/abs/10/25/44.

F/O Bruce E. Baxter

Mrs. Vera G. Baxter, (Mother)  
743 South Bronson,  
Los Angeles, California.

Sgt Harold A. Potter

Mr. Lawrence Potter, (Father)  
1520 South Jefferson Street,  
Hastings, Michigan.

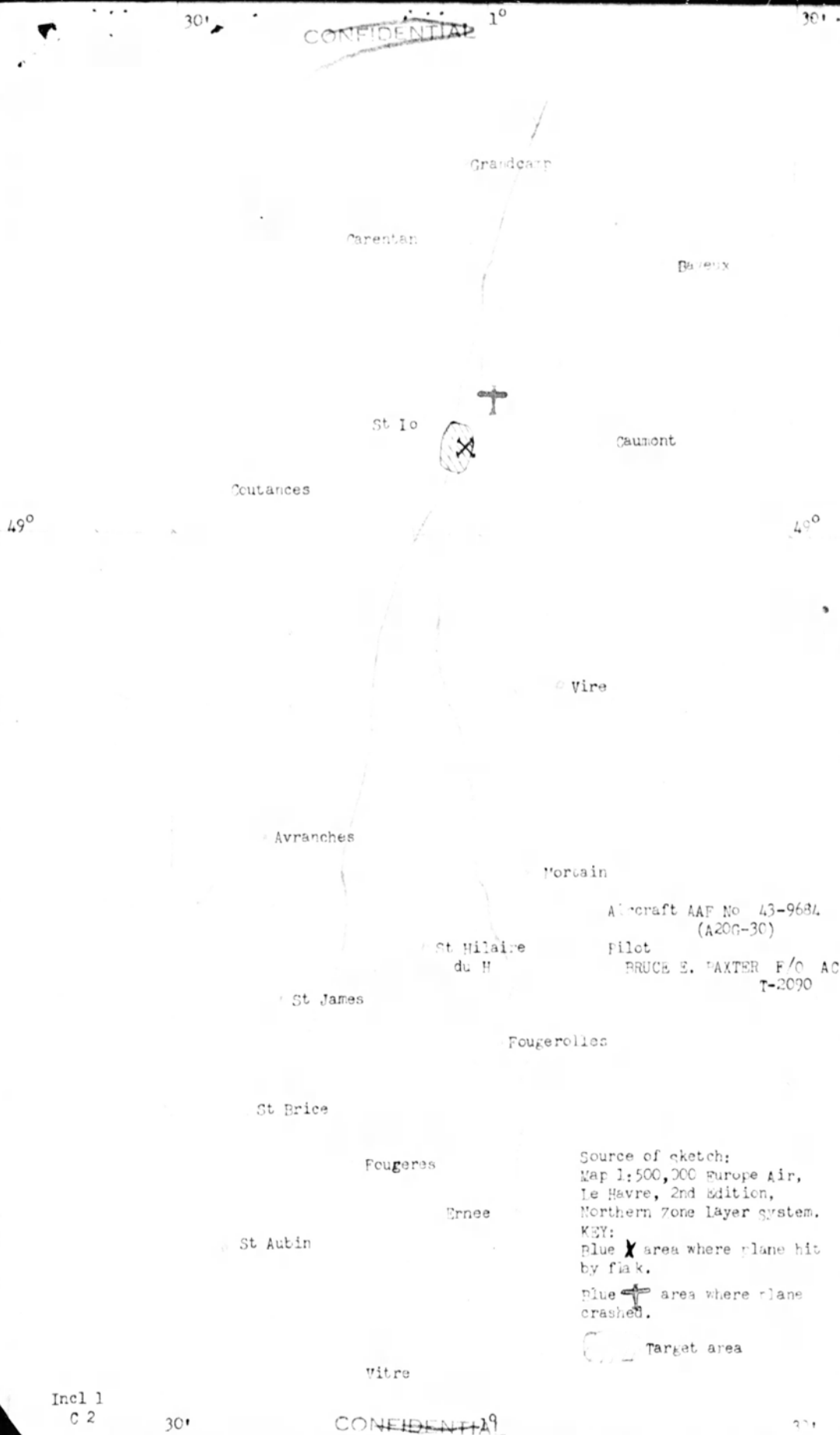
Sgt Reed L. Ernstrom

Mr. Carl Ernstrom, (Father)  
Draper, Utah.

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**Authority: NND 735001**

**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**



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Missing Air Crew Report--Airplane A20G-30 AAF Serial No 43-9684.

416th Bomb Gp (L), APO 140, U.A. Army.

Consolidated Eye Witness Statements of:

S Sgt	Kenneth E. Hornbeck	12040278
S Sgt	Earl R. Judd Jr	39318033
S Sgt	John A. Fejes Jr	13039715

Acrft hit by flak over target area. Left engine was set afire. Acrft stayed on level course. Pilot salvoed canopy. One person bailed out of tunnel and chute opened. The next person to bail out was spinning around fast as if he had hit the tail. When last seen chute had not opened. Shortly after third person bailed out. When last sighted his chute had not opened. Acrft stalled and slipped down to the left but did not spin. Ship hit and kept burning but did not explode.

Incl 2  
C 1

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AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ERNSTROM Reed L. File 6192  
Rank: Sgt.  
Serial number: 19171760  
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Arm Gunner

Did he bail out? I do not know. I did not see his parachute

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

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He was getting out of the turret. In preparation to bailout.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? \_\_\_\_\_

Any hearsay information: None

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is possible that he did not bail out. Although I do not definitely know. When I jumped the plane seemed to be floundering badly. A few seconds after I jumped I looked back at the plane, it was falling and out of control. It is possible he was shot while coming down in his parachute. The German intensity was firing at me as I was coming down in mine.

Total number of missions of above crew member: two

Dates and destinations if possible: Approximately June 25, 1944. June 29 1944

\_\_\_\_\_

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: BAXTER Bruce E. File 6192
Rank:
Serial number: F/C. T-2090
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~: Pilot

Did he bail out? I do not know. I did not see his parachute

Where?

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: He gave the order over the interphone to bail out

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen?

Any hearsay information: None

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is possible that he did not bail out. Although I do not definitely know. When I jumped the plane seemed to be floundering badly. A few seconds after I jumped I looked back at the plane it was falling and seemed out of control. If he did bail out it is possible that he was shot while coming down in his parachute. The German Infantry was firing at me as I was coming down in mine

Total number of missions of above crew member: One

Dates and destinations if possible: June 29, 1944

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Harold A. Potter Rank S/Sgt. Serial No. 16119390
2. Organization 416<sup>th</sup> Gp Commander Rank Col Sqn CO Price Rank Major  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month June day 27 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Bombing, target, Bridge, target  
 time, late afternoon, altitude, 2,000 route scheduled, Do not  
remember, route flown Do not remember
5. Where were you when you left formation? Near St. Lo France
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? I did not see their parachutes,  
but I did not have much time or space for observation  
I do not definitely know if they bailed out.
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
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near St. Lo
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 des-  
 cribed 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) over



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I am sorry that I can not give the exact location of where the plane  
went down. I was captured immediately on striking the ground.  
The Germans pointed out a column of smoke and told me that  
was the plane burning. All the information I was able to obtain  
from the Germans as to the location was, it was near Saint Lo.  
When I was moved back into ~~the~~ France it was at night and  
I was unable to read the road signs or the names of the towns.

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**Authority: NND 735001**

**By: NARA NARA Date: 1973**

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS  
1/4 and X Detachment  
Military Intelligence Service

REPORT FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE

Source: [Name], [Rank], [ASN], [Date]  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN) (Date)  
[Unit]

			<u>MEMBERS OF CREW</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
PILOT	T-002090	[Rank]	[Name]	MIA ✓
<del>COPILOT</del>				
<del>NAVIGATOR</del>				
<del>ENGINEER</del>				
<del>WINGMAN</del>				
TOP TURRET GUNNER	19181260	Sgt	[Name]	MIA ✓
<del>MID TURRET GUNNER</del>				
<del>REAR TURRET GUNNER</del>				
<del>WINGMAN</del>				
ENGINEER	16119090	Sgt	Harold [Name]	ED

Date, time and approximate location of plane crash or landing.  
29 June 1944; few miles S of St Lo; 1300 hours.

Nature and extent of damage to plane when source bailed out. Was it on fire, etc?  
Plane was in bad shape.

At approximately what altitude did source bail out? Not known.

Were any of the crew injured or killed before the plane crashed?  
Germans said both others were killed.

What members of the crew bailed out? Did their parachutes open?  
1 bailed out first; others unknown.

Did the plane explode on striking the ground? Unknown.

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 details furnished by him, informant and whether the informant was identified by name or otherwise.  
Germans said both others were killed.

Did source examine the wreckage of the plane? If so, what was its condition?  
No.

If the plane crashed in water how far was the plane from land and by what means was source rescued and what life rafts, wreckage, etc., remained on the surface that would have assisted others in reaching the ground to keep afloat.

What is source's opinion as to the fate of the other crew members and why? Give your opinion.  
Both believed dead.

6192

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Classification changeC  
to RESTRICTED  
by F. J. [unclear] 01.1.48  
by [unclear] [unclear] AG  
date [unclear] 1948

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