

Mc AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Checked	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	Barausky, Peter P.	2d Lt	0-75457			X	
2.	Hall, Millard	Sgt	37355197			X	
3.	Wilson, Beverly R.	Sgt	3731699			X	

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER "YES" TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes; (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 AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYE WITNESS 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

DATE OF REPORT 5 August 1944

George Schenk
GEORGE SCHENK,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

- 2 Incls;
 Incl 1 - Diagram,
 Incl 2 - Consolidated Eye Witness Statement.

Approved for Release
 03/08/2013
 BY: [illegible]
 DATE: 03/08/2013

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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Missing Air Crew Report

Airplane A203-25 43-9987

316th Bomb Gp (L)

Consolidated Eye Witness Statement of:

2d Lt BRUCE R. MARSHALL

0-754857

Sgt Millard Hall

37252197

Sgt Beverly B. Wilson

32438699

Aircraft hit by flak, apparently in left engine. Last seen, on fire around left engine. About one or two minutes off target, plane started losing altitude and left formation. At about 5,000 feet, one chute was seen to leave plane. Plane was in flat spin at first, was still in spin when it crashed. Was seen to explode upon contact with ground. No observation noted of parachutist after a short time after leaving ship.

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47

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AFPA-

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: LaPointe, John H.
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: 32490064
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Arm Gunner~~ Arm Gunner

File 7872

Did he bail out? No

Where? _____

If not, why not? couldn't get out of turret as ship went into spin.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: None

Was he injured? Not before going down.

Where was he when last seen? In plane going down.

Any hearsay information: Just before spin pilot said, "Pilot to gunner, over" and that was all I heard until gunner answered, "Okay". French said at least one of the two was thrown clear of the ship. A ring and identification bracelet found and buried with them.

Source: French underground.

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

Total number of missions of above crew member: One

Dates and destinations if possible: August 6, 1944 from field 45 miles northeast of London, England straight to Caen, France.

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ATCPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Gerald Edward Hart Rank s/ser Serial No. 17169842
2. Organization 416 B. Co. 170 Bn GP Col. Mason Paratrooper Rank 1st Lt Sqn CO (Organization) (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month August day 6 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, first, target bridge on Seine river, target time Sunday, 7:15, altitude, 12,000 feet route scheduled, 45 miles N. of London straight to, route flown round about route behind enemy lines to target, Caen, France
5. Where were you when you left formation? Over target.
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". All went down but myself
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Two miles from target--one mile from Louviers, France.
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) pilot-1st Lt. Thomas Williams, Bakersfield, California and Air Gunner 2-Sgt. John H. LaPointe, Potsdam, New York
11. Where were they in aircraft? Pilot in cockpit and gunner in top turret.
12. What was their condition? Believed killed instantly, but not verified.
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see the 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. None

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

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German found and took parachute I discarded. Also strip of plane
of everything that could be scrapped. Complete story filed with war
department.

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HEADQUARTERS 10TH FIELD
AVENUE, CONRAD

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315 Munitions Building.

In compliance with your TIR APTIS 1909, 25 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

- a. Name of casualty Thomas W. Mc Manus, Jr.
b. Rank 2nd Lt. c. Crew position Pilot
d. Date last seen 6 Aug 44 e. Place last seen Louvier, France
f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Enemy anti-aircraft fire

g. Known information (eye witness only)

h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability)

The undersigned was shown the grave of Lt. Mc Manus in the cemetery at Louvier, France. The grave had St. Anne on marker. Some French people told the undersigned that Lt. Mc Manus's body was taken from the wreckage of the plane.

(Note: reverse side may be used if more space is needed in giving any information requested above.)

Sgt. Gerald E. Hart
S/Sgt. Gerald E. Hart

Rank and name of reporter

17169842, Sq. C, 37022 AAF BN, 10th AF, 10th AF, 10th AF
Unit 10th AF, 10th AF, 10th AF

cc: CG, APTIS
cc: Sub. Comd B.

Incl A1, TC Ltr 29-15, 23 Oct 45

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

HEADQUARTERS LOWRY FIELD
DENVER, COLORADO

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 4315 Junctions Building.

In compliance with your FIX APP'S 3909, 25 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

- a. Name of casualty John La Point
b. Rank Sgt c. Crew position Armorer-Gunner
d. Date last seen 6 Aug 44 e. Place last seen Louvier, France
f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Enemy anti-aircraft fire
g. Known information (eye witness only)

h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability)

The undersigned was shown the grave of Sgt. La Point in the cemetery at Louvier, France. The grave had full name on marker.

(Note: Reverse side may be used if more space is needed in giving any information requested above.)

Sgt. Gerald E. Hart
Sgt. Gerald E. Hart

Rank and name of reporter

17168242, Sq. 3, 79th AAF BU, Lowry Fld.,
Unit, Denver, Colo.

cc: CG, AFTRC
cc: Sub Comd Hq

Incl. #1, TC DAF 39-18, 23 Oct 45

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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13 December 1944

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Pursuant to request contained in telegram from AAF Rehabilitation Station No. 2, Miami Beach, Florida, this Office interrogated Sgt. Corallin Hart, ASN 1728734, regarding burial and site of burial of Lt. Thomas H. Bennett, Jr.

Sgt. Hart's story is as follows:

On 4 August 1944 the A-20 airplane of which Lt. Bennett was pilot and Sgt. Hart was copilot was sent on a mission to bomb a bridge on the Seine River near Louviers, France. It was the first mission for this crew since their arrival in the A-20. As they approached their target, in the first section of planes, they were met by a heavy concentration of flak. Sgt. Hart said that he noticed a great number of bursts in the immediate vicinity of the plane but he was not aware that any of the flak was actually hitting the plane. After they had passed the flak concentration for about thirty seconds, Sgt. Hart said he heard the pilot try to say something over the radio, but could not make it out. He thought he was trying to say "about five seconds after we heard Lt. Bennett's voice on the radio, the ship suddenly went into a spin from about 15,000 feet. There was no message over the intercom after the plane went into a spin. It was impossible for Sgt. Hart to see whether or not Lt. Bennett was dead at that time because of the confusion and because of the separation. Sgt. Hart managed to bail out of the plane at approximately 5,000 feet, but he was the only member of the crew to parachute to safety.

Sgt. Hart hit in a tree approximately eighty feet from where the plane crashed and remained in hiding in the woods for five days, during which time he was saved by the French Underground. The site of the crash was a small hill just outside the village of St. Jean about four miles from the city of Louviers. At the top of the crash this was about 100 miles inside the German lines.

Members of the French Underground who took care of Sgt. Hart told him that they had pulled the remains from the wreckage. He was dead at the time the Underground members reached him, but they managed to get the rest of the plane before it burned. It is Hart's opinion that Lt. Bennett was probably killed by flak since he gave no parachute order when the plane went out of control and was unable to leave the ship himself.

Members of the Underground buried Lt. Bennett in the Louviers church cemetery, and after the Allies had occupied the territory, Sgt. Hart saw the grave and took pictures of it. These pictures were taken on about 15 March 1944 and were left by Sgt. Hart with the French Underground leader who led him to the grave of him. Sgt. Hart said that the grave was a small, white grave with Lt. Bennett's name and burial number on it.

FRANCIS S. SMITH, Jr.
Captain, US Army
Military Intelligence Officer.

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*Original file
in [unclear]
to [unclear]
28/11/44
@ [unclear]*

*Eliminated
7872*

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KEESLER FIELD
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
KEESLER FIELD, MISSISSIPPI

14 December 1944

SUBJECT: GERALD S. HART, Sgt.,
ASN 17169984.

TO : Commanding Officer, AAF Redistribution Station No. 2,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Pursuant to request in telegram, your headquarters, 20
November 1944, Report of Interrogation re Subject inclosed herewith.

For the Commanding Officer:

WALTER S. BRADY,
Major, Air Corps,
Director of Intelligence.

Incl: Report of Interrogation (1 p.)

1st Incl.

1/14

Headquarters, AAF Redistribution Station No. 2, Miami Beach, Florida,
18 December 1944.

For Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

attention: AFSAF 8288

In compliance with telegram, your headquarters, 19 December 1944,
cite AFSAF 8288, the attached statement has been submitted by the Military
Intelligence Officer at Keesler Field, Mississippi. This statement was
secured from Sgt. Gerald S. Hart, ASN 17169984, regarding burial and site
of burial of Lt. Thomas F. Holland, 7.

For the Commanding Officer:

WALTER S. BRADY,
Major, Air Corps,
Chief, Intelligence & Security Div.

1 Incl. - Statement of Sgt.
Gerald S. Hart (in [unclear])

U.S. A.S.F.
Form No. 611-1
1 May 54

**HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
MEMO ROUTING SLIP**

To the following in order indicated:

	(Name or title)	(Organization)	(Building and room)	(Initials)
1				(Date)
2				
3				

From: (Name) (Organization) (Building and room) (Date)

(Initials)

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

28 Dec 44

Rec'd of Capt
Marshak confidential
the subject: Gerald
E. Hart NSN 17169984.
for action by this
Branch.

Katherine Hoyle
Casualty Branch
A.G.O.

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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

1972/44
Ex 4815, 11/3/4

Sgt Gerald M. Hall

Mrs. Marjorie Jane Campbell, (Friend)
Meal Free Delivery #1
Mason, Iowa.

Sgt John B. LaPointe

Mrs. Mary LaPointe, (Mother)
13 Francis Street,
Potomac, New York

1st Lt Thomas M. McKenna, Jr.

Mr. Thomas M. McKenna, (Father)
1701 Eye Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C.

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Sgt Gerald B. Hart

Miss Margerita Jane Campbell, (Friend)
Rural Free Delivery #1,
Haskwell, Iowa.

Sgt John R. LaPointe

Mrs. Mary LaPointe, (Mother)
12 Francis Street,
Putnam, New York.

2d Lt Thomas M. McKenna, Jr.

Mr. Thomas J. McKenna, (Father)
1700 Eye Street, Northeast,
Washington 6, D. C.



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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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RESTRICTED
TO: [illegible]
BY: [illegible]
DATE: [illegible]

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