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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1949
P. O. BOX 37, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540
MAY 15 1949

Capt John M. Baker

Mrs. Mary C. Baker, (Wife)
1620 Northwest 17th Street,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. ✓

1st Lt J. J. K. Krossenberg

Mrs. Sadie E. Krossenberg, (Mother)
1309 East Seventh Street,
Tomball, Texas. ✓

1st Lt Sally P. Herold

Mrs. Helen S. Herold, (Mother)
Route One, Box 337,
Duluth, Minnesota. ✓

1st Lt Richard T. Gorton, Jr.

Mrs. Helen I. Gorton, (Wife)
1815 Park Street,
Columbus, South Carolina. ✓

T/Sgt Roy A. Johnson

Mr. Ernest G. Johnson, (Father)
3919 North Linden Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois. ✓

T/Sgt Jerome G. Fields

Mrs. Edith B. Fields, (Wife)
1752 West Hills Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ✓

S/Sgt William H. Wilson

Mrs. Gladys Wilson, (Mother)
General Delivery,
Violet, Louisiana. ✓

S/Sgt Michael A. Runno

Mrs. Oulasta Runno, (Mother)
3821 Greer Street,
Duluth, Minnesota. ✓

S/Sgt Leonard B. Harrison

Mrs. Sarah E. Harrison, (Mother)
431 South 7th Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah. ✓

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

7383

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 131; Command or Air Force 8th Air Force
Group 398th Bomb Hq; Squadron 600th Bomb Hq; Detachment None
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 131 Course per atchd track chart
Intended Destination Target Area & Return Type of Mission Operational
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Ceiling and visibility unlimited except for haze.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 8 August 1944, Time Approx 1259; and Location Hr 4855N-0034W
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted, () Last Contacted by Radio,
() Forced Down, () 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 () Enemy Aircraft, () Enemy Anti-Aircraft, () Other Circumstances as Follows _____

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-17G; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-97399
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1820-97; A.A.F. Serial Number
(a) SW-103209; (b) SW-102834; (c) SW-103066; (d) SW-103024
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

<u>MAKE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
(a) Kelsey Hayes Wheel	.50 cal A/C mach gun	135994
(b) Savage Arms	.50 cal A/C mach gun	907845
(c) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A / C mach gun	972339
(d) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 Cal A/C mach gun	638697
(e) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	77988
(f) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	89768
(g) Savage Arms	.50 cal A/C mach gun	907416
(h) H1-Standard	.50 cal A/C mach gun	174772
(i) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	648042
(j) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	633512
(k) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	548432
(l) Frig. Div. General Motors	.50 cal A/C mach gun	647812
(m)		
(n)		
(o)		
(p)		
(q)		
(r)		
(s)		
(t)		

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty MIA
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____

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10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0

CREW POSITION	NAME IF FULL		RANK	SERIAL NUMBER
	(Last Name First)			
1. Pilot	BAKER, JOHN M	Captain	0-24755	
2. Co-Pilot	OSTEEN, RICHARD T., JR.	1st Lt	0-414388	
3. Navigator	HEROLD, SELBY P	1st Lt	0-757485	RTO
4. Bombardier	KRESSEBERG, JOHN K	1st Lt	0-752859	
5. Eng Turret Gunner	Fields, Jerome G	T Sgt	1602137	RTO
6. Radio Gunner	Johnson, Roy A	T Sgt	16170429	
7. Tail Gunner	Harrison, Leonard D	S Sgt	39904206	
8. Right Waist Gunner	Romano, Michael A	S Sgt	17164702	
9. Ball Turret Gunner	Wilson, William H	S Sgt	38381201	
10.				
11.				
12.				

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)

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw	
					Crash	Forced Landing
1. REBILLOT, ROBERT N	2nd Lt	0-772075		X		
2. WOODCOCK, WILLIAM H JR	2nd Lt	0-772104		X		
3. ROBERTS, JOHN R JR	2nd Lt	0-772075		X		
SCHATZ, GEORGE E	2nd Lt	0-757043		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) _____

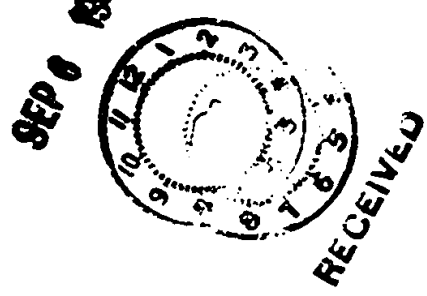
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT:

(Eye Witness Statements Attached)

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE No knowledge of search being made.

Date of Report 10 August 1944



Wallis L Campbell
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
 WALLIS L CAMPBELL
 1st Lt, Air Corps
 Statistical Officer

398th Bombardment Group Hq
Bretteville le Rabet, France Mission 8 August 1944

Lead Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

B-8
HOPKINS
WAGNER
7223-A

B-7
Lehner
7138-T

B-2
Kaufman
Davidson
7982-K

B-5
Fisher
7078-U

B-7
Newman
7053-M

B-3
Maenan
2562-G

B-2
Engel
7789-H

B-4
Rehme
7825-J

B-6
Moore
7977-R

F-5
Hunter
Indrud

F-4
Clark
7183-J

F-8
Driscoll
7810-S

Low Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

D-7
Dalton
Frazier
7874-W

D-10
Farnsworth
2607-F

D-1
Heintzelman-Simeral
7080-S

D-6
Davis, JA
2565-M

D-6
Brown
2596-N

D
Fairbanks
7190-L

D-10
Stallcup
7385-X

D-3
Cucco
7401-T

F-8
Turner
7337-R

D-5
Blackwell
7394*P

F-2
Rudow
2543-B

F-3
Doerr
2593-C

High Group 1st "B" CBW Formation Over IP

C-9
RICE
LOWE, JD
7846-T

C-7
Baker
7399-H

C-1
Elwood
2536-C

D-8
ARMOR
7338-C

C-8
Lowe, DE
2519-A

F-9
Rogers
2610-Y

D-2
Johnson
7889-B

F-12
Hann
7188-G

B-5
Reed
6083-Y

F-4
Cobb
7150-K

F-6
Boehme
7387-H

F-7
Link
7374-X

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97399, Pilot, Captain John M Baker, O-24753, 600th Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville, le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

Captain Baker's ship was in the lead element that I was toggling my bombs on. The flak was intense and suddenly a fire broke out between the number one and two engines of Captain Baker's ship and the wing broke off almost instantly. The ship went into a tight spin. I couldn't follow it all the way down. I didn't see anybody come out of the ship.

Robert M. Rebillot

ROBERT M REBILLOT, O-772076
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Bombardier, B17G 42-102610-Y

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97399, Pilot, Captain John M. Baker, O-24753, 600th Bomb Squadron, 39~~00~~th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville le Babet, France 8 August 1944.

Our ship was number three high squadron, high group. Captain Baker's was number two lead element. About two minutes before bombs away, Captain Baker's ship was hit by flak. At that time we were slightly behind and to the rear.

The left wing was hit between number one and two engines-- fire broke out and the wing broke off almost immediately.

The plane went down in an almost verticle spin--to the best of my knowledge there was no further indication of fire.

I followed the ship down about six thousand feet and could see no chutes. I did not see the ship crash.

William H. Woodcock Jr.

WILLIAM H WOODCOCK JR, O-772104
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Bombardier, B17G 42-37889

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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97399, Pilot, Captain
John M Baker, O-24753, 600th Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat
Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

Just before bombs went away (1303) Captain Baker's left wing was
hit by flak and burst into flame. The wing burnt off between numbers one
and two engines. Almost immediately the wing came off and the ship flipped
over and went into a tight spin. I saw no one get out and about two
thousand feet from the ground the whole plane seemed to explode. I saw
no chutes.

John R. Roberts Jr.
JOHN R ROBERTS JR, O-172078
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Bombardier, B17G 42-97338-C


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Eye Witness Description of Missing Aircraft B17G 42-97399, Pilot, Captain John M Baker, O-24753, 600th Bomb Squadron, 398th Bomb Group on Combat Mission to Bretteville le Rabet, France 8 August 1944.

Captain Baker was flying as deputy lead in the high group. We (Lt Elwood's crew) were flying just above and to the right of his ship, leading the high squadron of the high group. A burst of flak hit close to Captain Baker's number three engine in the wing causing sudden heavy fire, resulting in the almost immediate loss of that right wing, and the ship went into a spin. I saw him spin over three or four times in about ten seconds.

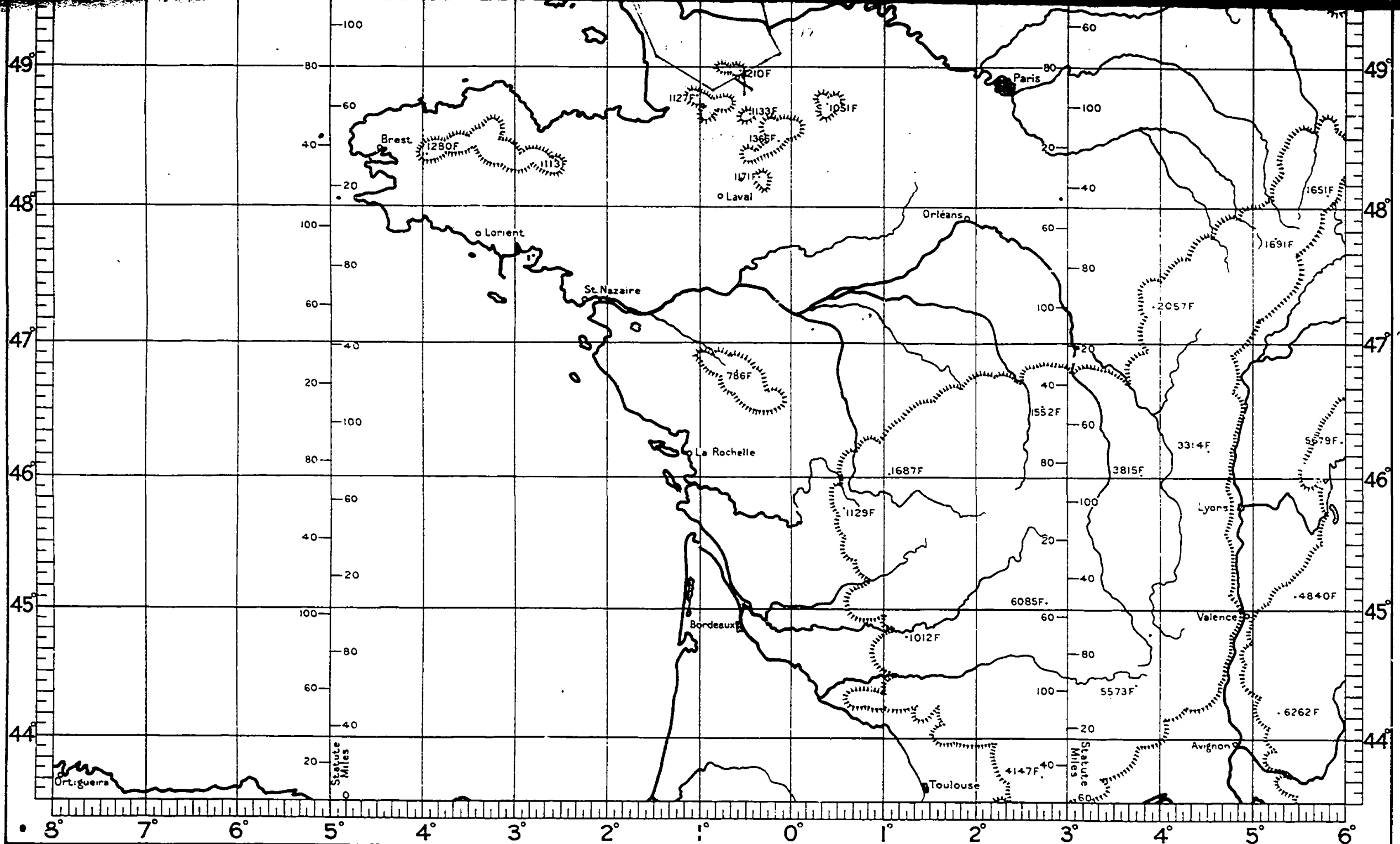
This occurred during the bomb run wherein I was acting as bombardier. My pilot, Lt Elwood, also observed the incident and on alerting the crew to watch the plane we did not see any parachuter while the plane was visible from our position. It is not impossible that parachutes could have been observed by planes to our rear.


GEORGE E SCHATZ, O-757043
2nd Lt, Air Corps
Bombardier, B17G 42-102536-C

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BAKER, John M.	0-24753	KIA	270
OSTEEN, Richard T., Jr.	0-414388	KIA	270
HARRISON, Leonard D.	39904206	ESS KIA	270
HEBEID, Selby P.	0-757488	POW	284098-1-U-19
ROMANO, Michael A.	17168702	KIA	270
WILSON, William H.	38381201	KIA	270
FIELDS, Jerome G.	16021317	POW	298150-U-1



OR 1373

HEIGHTS IN FEET

Compiled and drawn at HQ/GSGS, 1943

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Scale 1 : 2,890,000 (approx) at 56°N.