

C A S U A L T Y R E P O R T U.S. AIR FORCES.

Date : 18 October 1944 Time : 1330 h
Aircraft : B-24J 42 - 50596 8th AF.
Codes : WQ - O ' FLAK MAGNET '
Group/Squadron : 44 BG -H- 68 BS
Base : Shipdham, Norfolk
Details of loss : flak batteries shot off the tail of the B-24 which
crashed near the casemates at Buttinge, 3 km W. of
Middelburg on Walcheren Island, Holland.
On return the formation broke its integrity near Brussels where a cloud layer,
building up to 28.000 ft, was encountered.
Target : Leverkusen, Germany.

All of the crew were killed : reinterred in

* Luxembourg
** Netherlands) initial plot numbers between
*** Ardennes brackets

* P	: LEHNHAUSEN Edward C., 1/Lt.	0-764355	ILL Luxembourg B-7-11
** CP	: DOLAN Charles Jr., 2/Lt. Buried in General Cemetery at Middelburg in October 1944. (00-7-172 on 7.8.45)	0-825804	MASS Netherlands B-3-32
*** N	: WITKIN Leonard, 2/Lt.	0-701359	U.S.A., N Y.
** NG	: DAVIS Byron C., Sgt. Found in water near Buttinge on 12.4.45, buried in General Cemetery at Grijskerke. (MM-8-278 on 19.9.45)	34248774	FLA Netherlands M-5-3
** RO	: FUXA Ernest C., S/Sgt. Buried 19.12.44 in General Cemetery at Middelburg (MM-8-197 on 7.8.45)	18194853	OKLA Netherlands B-12-12
* E	: HAYNAM Richard D., S/Sgt.	35610332	OHIO Luxembourg I-7-10
* RWG	: YOUNG William C., Sgt.	36743059	U.S.A., ILL.
* LWG	: ADAMS Carl E., Sgt.	34735355	U.S.A., TENN.
* TG	: GUNTER Noah, Sgt.	14195404	U.S.A., S C.

Note: most of the burial places are not recorded in the MACR nor in archives of Dutch communities. It is therefore presumed that f.i. the 5 airmen who were reinterred in Luxembourg were only recovered after the war as the area where the plane crashed was inaccessible due to inundations at that time.

Sources: MACR. 9654 Archives Middelburg and Grijskerke.

Details collected by: J.A. H e y - A.v.d.Leeuwstraat 12 - 7552 HS Hengelo, Holland.

The following information was received from Mr. Will Lundy, historian of the 44th BG, in February 2002.

The Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Lt. Lehnhausen includes a sketch of the crash-site on which the position of the wreckage and of the dead crew members is shown.

On page 1 of this Casualty Report the airmen Lehnhausen, Haynam, Young, Adams and Gunter have been recorded as buried in Luxemburg. The sketch and other documents prove that these crew members of ship # 596 were recovered from the crash-site at Buttinge in approx. February/March 1946.

Dolan, Davis and Fuxa had already been recovered and buried in the cemeteries of Grijpskerke and Middelburg in 1944 and 1945.

The only then remaining crew member Witkin was (re)interred in Ardennes. It is not known where and when he was recovered and buried at the time.

It is remarkable that on the sketch two unidentified casualties marked X-3456 and X-3457 are shown. The first one was found close to Young, the second one in the vicinity of Gunter.

As all casualties of this crew are accounted for, it is presumed that these X-numbers are for body parts. The matter will require additional investigations.

The IDPF includes a statement of the Burgomaster of Grijpskerke, Mr. H.W. Bouwman.

He thought that this plane may have been hit by flak guns near Flushing because he had heard gunfire from that direction shortly before he saw the bomber that missed a section of the right wing and was losing altitude rapidly. It made a turn back from north to south, seemingly to find a place to land, but control was lost and it spun nose down into the ground about 1000 yards SSW of Buttinge. This spot was 5 to 6 feet under the water level.