

REF ID: A67156

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification changed

RESTRICTED

by R. H. BURNETT, Lt. Col., AG

by F. M. BURNETT, Capt., AG

DATE: MAR 15 1948

IMPORANT: 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 Decimomannu, Sardinia; Command or Air Force 12th Air Force
Group 320th; Squadron 441st; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Decimomannu, Sardinia; Course 102° 07'
Intended Destination Marzabotto, South; Type of Mission Precision Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

4. GIVE: (a) Date 10 Jul; Time 17:30; and Location Target
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

(b) Specify Whether () Last Sighted; () Last Contacted by Radio;
() Forced Down; (X) Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.

5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR WAS TO HAVE BEEN BELIEVED LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
() Enemy Aircraft: (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft: () Other circumstances as follows

6. AIRCRAFT: Model and Series B-26C-45; AAF Serial Number 42-107566
7. ENGINES: Model and Series 2800-43; AAF Serial Number (a) FT-060335
(c) FP-060340

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnished below make, Type and Serial Number

(a) 50 Cal 685191; (b) 50 Cal 685636; (c) 50 Cal 685638 (d) 50 Cal 685541 50 Cal 664598
(e) 50 Cal 685762; (f) 50 Cal 664598; (g) 50 Cal 695875 (h) 50 Cal 685460

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

10. NUMB. R. OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 6; Passengers 0
TOTAL 6

(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.)

Name in Full		Rank	Serial Number
Crew Position	(Last Name First)		
K/A Pilot <u>6</u>	X WIGGINTON, MURRY B. Jr.	1st Lt.	0-687724
K/A Co-Pilot <u>5</u>	WIGGINTON, WILLIAM E.	2nd Lt.	0-551061
K/A (EM) Bomb. <u>4</u>	MEADOR, NORFORD G.	P.F.C.	35211171
K/A Eng. Gunner <u>1</u>	CASEY, EARNEST D.	Sgt.	39275875

US - CONFIDENTIAL - EQUALLY - BRITISH - CONFIDENTIAL

ATTACH CONFIDENTIAL

16111233
13151981

Radio Gunner
Arm, Gunner

2

S/Sgt.

3

S/Sgt.

HOPPMAN, WESLEY B.
LANNOTA, PHILIP A.

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT,
AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE:

Check only one column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Serial Number	Contacted by radio	Lost Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
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1. SAUTER, R. C. S/Sgt. 35353474 Photographed Grippled A/C
2. COOK, WILLIAM Maj. 0-560824 Group Intelligence Interrogations.

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used No.; (b) Persons were seen walking away
from scene of crash No.; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)

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

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

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND
SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE

Date of Report 11 July, 1944

George A. Jackson

(Signature of Reporting Officer)
GEORGE A. JACKSON

1st. Lt. Air Corps,
Statistical Officer.

(2)

US CONFIDENTIAL-EQUALS-BRITISH-CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 650

11 July 1944.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I certify that B-26 #42-107566, Battle No. 06 was assigned with a formation to bomb Marzabotto RR Bridge South, Italy on 10 July, 1944. While flying in formation on an axis of 103° T, this A/C sustained a direct hit at 1720 hours over the target which tore off the left wing just outboard of the engine nacelle and the vertical stabilizer. At this A/C was in a wing position in a squadron which did not drop its bombs due to failure to identify the target, its bombs were still in its bombay when hit. It continued in flight for approximately 2 seconds and then spun to the ground crashing and exploding at 44° 19' N, 10° 02' E at 1721 hours. No chutes were seen to emerge from the A/C.

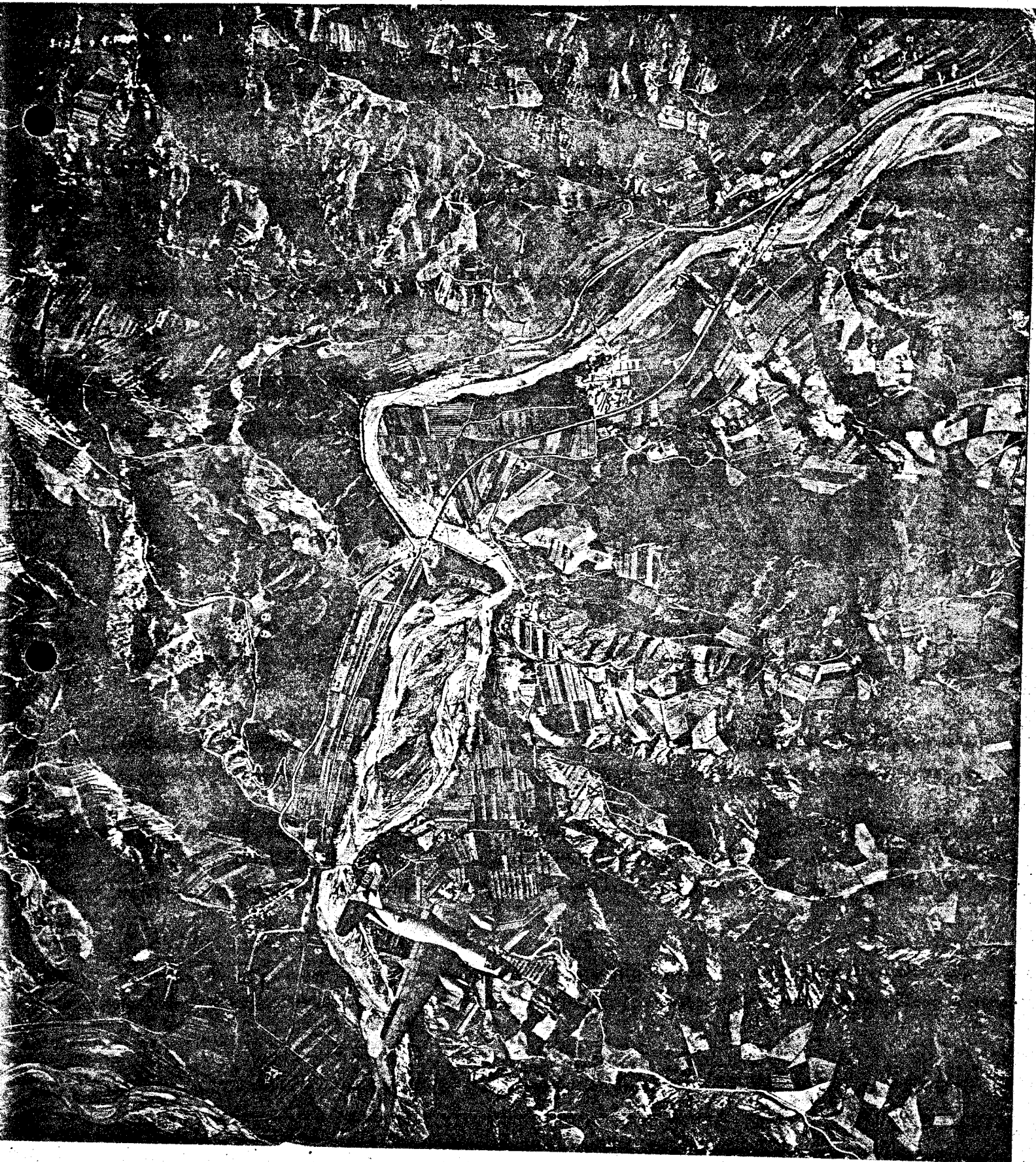
William Cook
WILLIAM COCK,
Major, Air Corps
Gp Intelligence O.

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying as Aerial Photographer Gunner in ship, battle No. 10, which was left wing man of the 2nd flight. Aircraft, battle No 06, was right wing man of second flight. Approximately at the bomb release point, 10,700 ft. , we made a left break away and ship No. 06 received a direct burst of flak in the left wing. 06 went into about a 60 deg. right bank and then leveled off and started to slip off on the left wing. Sliding off until 06 was below and behind #10. It continued to fish-tail, lose altitude slowly, lose speed gradually, and continue to slide to the left. After a considerable length of time, still fish-tailing, losing altitude and speed, 06 had lost approximately 5,000ft. or 6000ft. and until I lost sight of 06, no one had Bailed out. All during the descent, 06 was right side up, and fairly well under control.

Aircraft with battle No. 06, referred to above, was B-26C45, No. 42-107566.

R. C. Sauter
R. C. SAUTER, 35353474
S/Sgt. Air Corps,
441st. Bomb Squadron,
320th Bomb Group.



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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 650 US ARMY

AG 319.11

11 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, 42nd Wing (US), APO 650, US Army.

1. Transmitted herewith is the Missing Air Crew Report on the following named personnel:

del 1-27 map

K/A 1st Lt. WIGINTON, MURRAY B. JR.	0-687724
K/A 2nd Lt. WIGGINTON, WILLIAM B.C.	0-551061
K/A Pfc. MEADOR, NORFORD G.	35211171
K/A Sgt. CASEY, EARNEST D.	39275875
K/A S/Sgt. HOFFMAN, WESLEY B.	16111233
K/A S/Sgt. IANNOTTA, PHILIP A.	13151981

2. Battle Casualty Report forwarded 11 July 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

Cleve O'Toole
CLEVE O'TOOLE,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

AG 319.11 1st Ind. C-3
HEADQUARTERS, 42ND BOMB WING (US), APO 650, US ARMY, 11 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, APO 650, US Army.

5 Incls Rec'd:

- Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew Report.
- Incl 2 - Statement of Major Cook.
- Incl 3 - Statement of S/Sgt. Sauter.
- Incl 4 - Sketch. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
- Incl 5 - Photograph.

F. J. G. Jr.

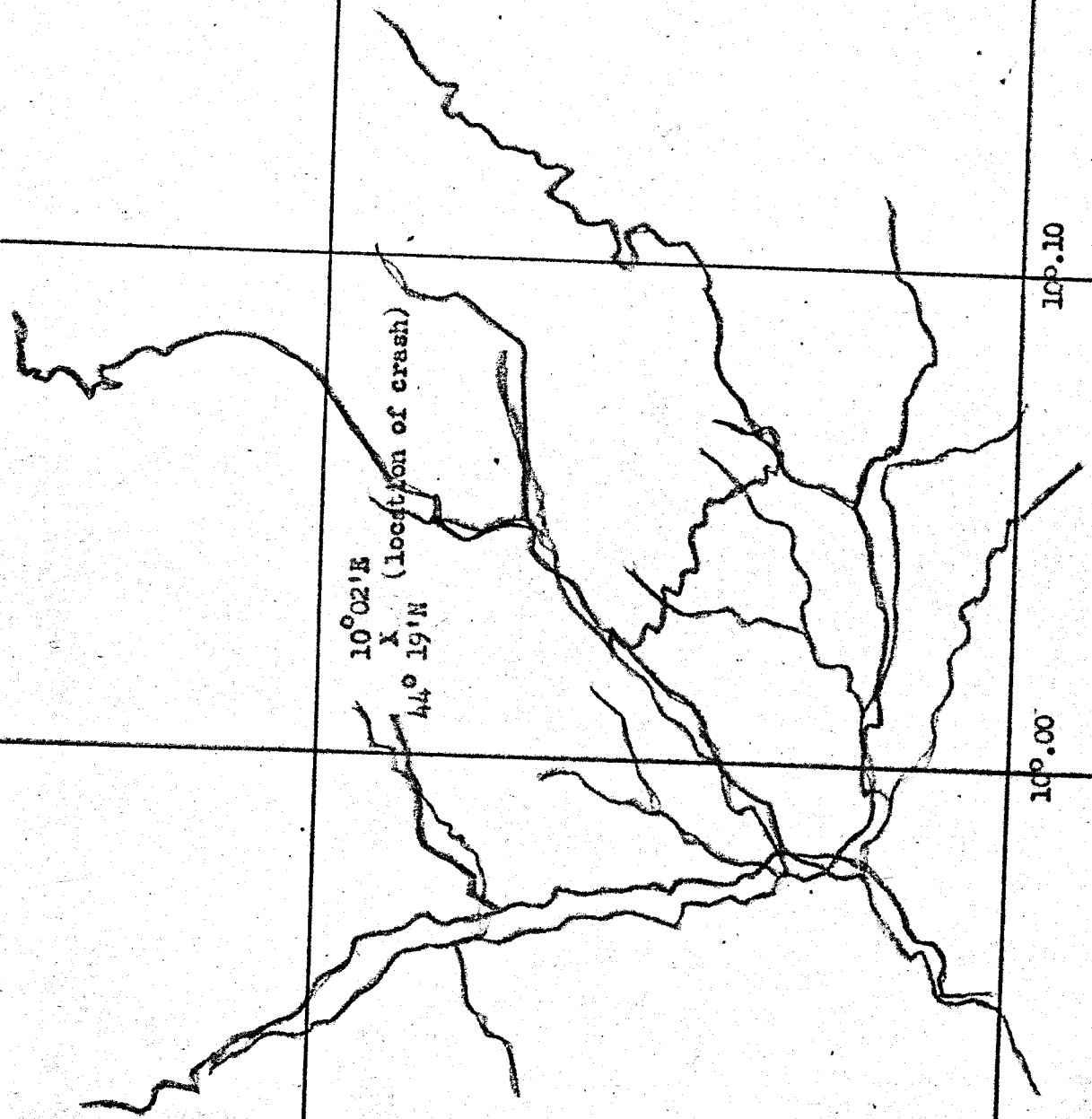
14° 00'

14° 00'

10° 02' E
X (location of crash)
44° 19' N

100.00

100.10



DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

CASEY, EARNEST D.

GRADE

SGT

PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER

37275875

ORGANIZATION

71ST BOMB SQ
320TH BOMB GP

RACE

CREED

FORMER SERIAL NUMBER
(If Applicable)

WHITE PROTESTANT

DATE OF DEATH/WWA

10 JUL 44

CAUSE OF DEATH

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

DATE OF FOD

KILLED IN ACTION EUROPEAN AREA

HEIGHT

68"

WEIGHT

143

COLOR EYES

BROWN

COLOR HAIR

BLACK

SHOE SIZE

8 1/2-D

DENTAL CHART 9 JAN 43

UPPER RIGHT

8 7 6 5 4 3 ② 1

UPPER LEFT

① ② 3 4 5 6 7 8

LOWER RIGHT

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

LOWER LEFT

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

X = Extracted

O = Cavious

1 = Cavious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

NONE

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CREW MEMBER OF B-26 SHOT DOWN AT
44°19'N. 10°2'E. IN EUROPEAN AREA.
21 YRS. OLD.

HAVE PHOTOSTAT MADE OF ATTACHED DENTAL CHART.

✓
11/27/44
1st Lt. Murray B. Wiginton, Jr.

✓
2nd Lt. William E. Wigginton

✓
P.F.C. Norford G. Mendor

✓
Sgt. Earnest D. Casey

✓
S/Sgt. Wesley H. Hoffman

✓
S/Sgt. Phillip A. Iannotta.

Mrs. Rita T. Wiginton, (mother)
808 West Eleven Street,
Austin, Texas.

Mrs. Gladys Wigginton, (wife)
Rural Free Delivery Number Three,
Stamping Ground, Kentucky.

Mrs. Mary G. Mendor, (mother)
1511 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Charleston, West Virginia.

Mrs. Irene I. Davidson, (sister)
1102 North Spurgeon Street,
Santa Ana, California.

Mrs. Floessy Hoffman, (mother)
11729 Merriman Road,
Plymouth, Michigan.

Mrs. Mary Iannotta, (mother)
717 Wynnewood Road,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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AG 360.33
HQ, TWELFTH AF, APO 650, US Army, 16 July 1944.

2nd Ind

XAG-LHG-ms-26

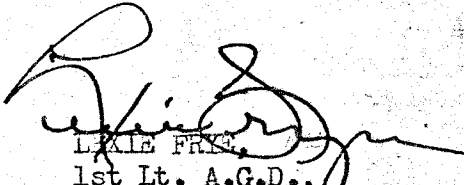
TO: CG, NATOUSA, APO 534, US Army. Att: Battle Cas Section.

6454

1. Attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Battle Casualty Report (B-204) forwarded your hq. 14 July 1944.

For the Commanding General:

5. Incls: n/c


LEXIE FRIES
1st Lt. A.G.D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INCL #2