

REPORT.COPY FOR OTTAWA *10*

FROM: No. 1 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit,
Royal Air Force, British Forces in France.

TO: Air Ministry (S.7 Cas.), 75-77 Oxford Street, London W.1.

COPIES TO: Air Ministry (Cascon.), 75-77 Oxford Street, London W.1.

DATE: 23rd August 1946.

YOUR FILE OR FOLDER REFERENCE: P.416143/44/MRA07.

YOUR CASUALTY ENQUIRY NUMBER: P.168. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

OUR REFERENCE: 1MREU/S.8/P.168/AIR. DEPARTMENT: Seine Inferieure.

NAME OF SEARCH OFFICER AND NUMBER OF SECTION: S/Ldr. G. Wood - No. 6 Section.

TARGET: Lens.

AIRCRAFT TYPE AND SERIAL NUMBER: Halifax III. LW.692.

DATE REPORTED MISSING: 20th April 1944.

PLACE OF CRASH: Fourville. MAP REFERENCE: BA/146.

PLACE OF BURIAL: St. Riquier es Plains. MAP REFERENCE: BA/196.

CREW: J.85859 P/O. R.G. LEONARD. 175807 P/O. C.J. WHELDHOUSE.
176005 P/O. A. WAUEN. 1652948 SGT. P.F. COUGH.
J.86417 P/O. H.G. WILSON. AND TWO P.O.W's.

RESULT OF INVESTIGATION AND FINDINGS:

In accordance with your instructions in your enquiries dated 25th September 1945 and 29th November 1945, enquiries have been made regarding the above casualties.

- The scene of the crash has been visited and found to be in a merely small river estuary at FOURVILLE. The village was evacuated during the war being situated on the coast and little information could be obtained locally. The Maire confirmed from records left by the Germans that two bodies were removed from the wreckage of the plane and were identified.
- From examination of the wreckage it would appear probable that the aircraft did explode in the air and I consider it impossible that any further human remains will ever be found as the estuary of the stream there is wide and consists of a large mud flat.
- A special report has been rendered on the cemetery at St. Riquier es Plains dated 23. 8. 46 and attached to report on Casualty Enquiry P.3323.
- The graves referred to in para. 4 of your letter dated 29th November 1945, viz. 52 and 53, no longer exist but it is considered probable that P/O. WILSON is in Grave No. 52 and P/O. WHELDHOUSE in Grave No. 33. Reasons for this assumption are that they were buried in the next graves to crew of Halifax LW.692 (Casualty Enquiry P.168) and on concentration being effected by the Americans and 57 C.C.U. the original order is presumed to have been preserved. Furthermore both these officers were presumed to be M.C.O's at the time of death. Your observations are awaited.

(Signed) G. WOOD. S/Ldr.

G. Wood
Wing Commander, Commanding,
No. 1 Missing Research and Enquiry Unit,
Royal Air Force.