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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Witnesses' Statements, 353rd Bomb Sq (H), AAF, 29 May 1944 (Cont'd)

- (3) The tail gunner called pilot and said that a ship in our second element was below us and going past, and that the bombardier would be able to see it. I looked about 300-400 yards ahead and saw three (3) chutes come out of the ship. Number two (2) engine was smoking badly, but no flames were visible. The ship banked slowly right, then left in about a 30° to 40° bank and started towards our left wing, about 1500 to 2000 feet below us- losing altitude rapidly. I saw a 4th 'chute open, then a 5th which did not ever open fully while it was visible to me to our left. Our ball turret and left waist gunners saw two (2) more chutes open before the ship (seemingly), exploded before crashing. The rough terrain made crash landing impossible. The ship was abandoned.

*Clinton G. Rogers*

CLINTON G. ROGERS,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Bombardier on ship  
42-97189 , low  
left -12 position.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Raymond W. Long*  
RAYMOND W. LONG,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

C O N F I D E N T I A L