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STATEMENT

3 October 1943.

I was the tail gunner on Aircraft No. 42-30474, which occupied the right wing position of the last element of the first wave of our Group. At the start of the mission A/C No. 42-5856 was the lead ship of an element in the second wave. However, after a number of early returns, only five airplanes remained in the second wave, and it is doubtful as to what position 856 flew in then.

We had just executed a 180 degree turn heading for home almost directly due South--not having reached the target (AUGSBURG, GERMANY) due to a solid undercast. We had gone to about 50 miles of the target when we turned around. Twenty five to thirty enemy fighters hit aggressively at the turn and a running battle ensued for about 30 minutes thereafter.

At approximately 1215 I observed in the direction of 7 o'clock, fragments and pieces of a Fortress which had exploded in the air, probably as a result of enemy fighter fire inasmuch as the flak was negligible at that time and place. I saw no parachutes go down from the scene. On the same raid, about 10 minutes after the above took place, A/C No. 42-30126 was hit by fighters and seen by many others and myself to go down and crash into a mountain side. Its identity has been clearly established. We lost two on this mission; that would make the first one 856.

/s/ Leonard A. Farley,
/t/ LEONARD A. FARLEY,
12138223, S/Sgt, AAF.

A TRUE COPY:

Russell T. Jacobs
RUSSELL T. JACOBS,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Asst S-3, 99th BG.

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Year: 1943

Serial Number: 42-5856

Report Number: 795

Location: Approx. 50 Mi. S Of Augsburg

Point Of Departure: A P O 520, Natousa

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