

William D. Allen, 423rd navigator on Wilbur O'Brien's plane 15 Jun 44 on a mission to Nantes, France, bailed out of the stricken plane and landed safely near St. Herblein, France. Later, in trying to elude his German pursuers he was shot and killed.

The Missing Air Crew report for this crew makes no comment on Allen, while accounting for the other crew members, except for John Sutton, a waist gunner. Sutton was captured and was later returned to the US.

Recently the secretary was in receipt of a letter from Michel Lugez of St. Nazaire, France, inquiring about Allen and including a copy of the death certificate recorded in the townhall at St. Herblein on 16 June.

No 39

William Ellen

Le quinze juin mil neuf cent quarante-quatre, à _____ heures
est arrivé à Saint-Hermain le lieutenant aviateur
William Ellen, de nationalité américaine.

2001.22204.90

Dressé le seize juin mil neuf cent quarante-quatre, à _____ heures
sur la déclaration de Traumanns Biich âgé de vingt-sept ans,
soldat officier de nationalité allemande.

qui, lecture faite, a signé avec Nous, Pierre Blain, adjoint au Maire de
Saint-Hermain Officier de l'état civil, siégeant de Maire



William Ellen

P. Blain

22 July 1999

M. Michel Lugez
23 Rue de la Ville Etable
44600 Saint Nazaire, France

Dear Michel:

In answer to your letter of 12 July, there is no mystery surrounding my failure to report Wm. D. Allen as deceased on the mission of 15 June 1944. In fact, that was my first combat mission!

The Missing Aircrew Report for that date, and that plane, does not report anything on Allen, so I never reported him as deceased. In the preparation of my book, I never talked to anyone on that crew, and if I had, I might have learned of Allen's fate and of John Sutton's wounds.

Sutton has never been on our mailing list, as I have not been able to locate him.

Sutton is also without any data on the Missing Aircrew Report.

The failure of National Archives in Washington to obtain information from the Graves Registration people, and thus not record it, led to my error.

Sorry to have caused you any problems over this. If I were to redo the book, which I will NOT be doing, could correct this error. I will be publishing the information in the October issue of Echoes.

Sincerely yours,