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P.422473/2/44/P.4./503.3.

24th July, 1945.

Casualty Enquiry No. P. 38 S.

Halifax J.P. 164 was shot down in the sea off Saint Nazaire on 29th/30th August, 1944. Crew:-

62684 F/Lt. G.B. Eocles.	Captain.
45539 F/Lt. H. Lawson.	2nd Pilot.
AUS.420393 F/O. E.T. Leslie.	Navigator.
J/9878 F/Lt. R.B. Motz.	W.Op/Air.
157995 F/O. V.R. Robertson.	Air Gunner.
650890 W/O. D.A. Denton.	W.Op/Air.
950389 W/O. J.E. Hill.	W.Op/Air.
1166659 F/Sgt. R.P. Wardle.	W.Op/Air.
1684152 Sgt. K. Kay.	Flight Engineer.

2. W/O. Hill was taken prisoner but escaped. In his questionnaire he states that the aircraft was hit by flak and ditched 5 miles south-west of Saint Nazaire. He believed it broke in two when it hit the water.

3. The body of F/O. Robertson was washed ashore and identified by effects.

4. The French Red Cross reported on 28th June, 1945, to the B.R.C.S. to the following effect:

Unidentified English airmen:
 English airman buried 4th August, 1944, at 16 hours.
 English officer buried 4th September, 1944, at 12 hours.
 (Recovered on the Quai des Mares at Saint Nazaire 1st September, 1944). H.Lawson. No.45,539 R.A.F.

5. It appears from the above that only two bodies are referred to: (a) the airman buried on 4th August, 1944 and (b) the officer, H. Lawson, buried a month later. It might, however, be read to mean three individuals - the airman, the officer and H.Lawson.

6. Will you please

- ascertain exact burial place of F/Lt. Lawson with grave number, if available.
- obtain any effects available of Lawson's.
- ascertain, if possible, the identity of the airman said to have been buried on 4th August, 1944. It is possible that the date should be 4th September (same as Lawson's) and that the airman was one of the crew of Halifax J.P.164.
- find out all you can about the other members of the crew.

(Sgd). A.P. LHM. Sindenon.

Squadron Leader.
 Missing Research Section.
 P. 4. Cas.

Officer i/c No.1. Section (France),
 Missing Research & Enquiry Service,
 Royal Air Force,
 Paris, E.L.A.

Copies to:- P.4.Cas. (Can).
 R.A.A.F. Overseas H.Q.
 B.R.C.S. ref: PH/DW/RAF/1,15007 of 17.7.45.

*no action
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