

(MANCHE)
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Following is a statement of George E. Colli dated 22 January 1946 concerning the disappearance of Major Johnston (file AG 201 Johnston, Charles D.):

Manche
"On D-Day, Major Johnston jumped with his Battalion Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion. As you may have been informed, a few planes of ours landed around twenty-two miles from our D-Z. Major Johnston was among us. The place we landed was a small town called Graignes, France, around six miles south of Carenton. On the night of June 12th we were attacked by a large number of the enemy, and we were all forced to split up in small groups. I was along with Major Johnston, also two other officers and another enlisted man. Major Johnston wanted to cross a bridge so he could contact some friendly forces. We were ~~xxxx~~ informed of the bridge being guarded by S. S. Troopers, but he insisted we cross the bridge anyway. We walked through the back of some woods and came upon the road leading to the bridge. So we kept in single file and stayed on the road. At the curve just before the bridge, some guards jumped out and halted us, and being swampland on both sides of the road, we all jumped in. I saw around three guards some running down the bank and shooting about that time one of the officers ~~xx~~ was hit, so Major Johnston was trying to have them stop shooting by offering to surrender, and when they heard him they turned all their guns in his direction and another officer, Lieutenant Maxwell was shot through the stomach I believe. Finally I saw them call Major Johnston up to the bank followed by another man, which I thought may be the other enlisted man. I ducked under water and pulled myself quite away before I came up, and that's all I can tell you."

An examination of the files of the subject officer in Casualty Branch and Officers Branch, AGO, and the index in Prisoner of War Information Bureau, PMGO, does not reveal any further information relevant to this review.