

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed to RESTRICTED

by E. M. ... Capt., AC

WAR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

5516

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an airplane is officially reported missing.

- 1. ORGANIZATION: Location: Station F-373 Command or Air Force 8th AF
Group 357th Fighter; Squadron 364th; Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Station F-373 Course 204
Intended Destination Brest Peninsula; Type of Mission Area Support
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
9/10 Overcast @ 4000'---Visibility, Air to Ground, Poor.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 7 June 1944 Time 1415; Location Plancoet, France
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane.

- (b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted; () Last contacted by radio; () Forced Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one () Enemy Airplane; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows:

- 6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series 51B10-NA-a; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-106652 X

- 7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-3 A.A.F. Serial Number (A) 43-49253 (b) (c) (d)

- 8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) Make Kelsey-Hayes Type Cal. .50 Auto Serial No. 687981
(b) Make Colt Type Cal. .50 Auto Serial No. 782179
(c) Make Savage-Arms Type Cal. .50 Auto Serial No. 1183537
(d) Make Savage-Arms Type Cal. .50 auto Serial No. 1183284

- 9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty 1 (b) Non Battle Casualty

- 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 1; Passengers; Total 1
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars; if more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).

45596

KIA

Table with columns: Crew Position, Name in Full (Last Name First), Rank, Serial Number. Row 1: Pilot, DENESHA, JOHN N., 2nd Lt., 0-701735

Table with columns: Name in full, Rank, Serial Number, Contacted by, Last Sighted, Saw Crash, Saw Landing. Row 1: STORCH, JOHN A., Major, 0-362181, Radio, x

- 12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; (c) any other reason (Specify)

CONFIDENTIAL

364TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
357TH FIGHTER GROUP, ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 637 U. S. ARMY

STATEMENT

I WAS LEADING GREENHOUSE BLUE FLIGHT WITH LT. DENESHA ON MY WING. WE WERE FLYING ON THE DECK LOOKING FOR GROUND TARGETS TO ATTACK. WE APPROACHED A SMALL TOWN WHICH I TURNED TO AVOID. THIS TOWN WAS PLANCOET, WHICH IS NW. OF DINAN, FRANCE.

SUDDENLY INTENSE LIGHT FLAK SHOT UP AT US WHEN WE WERE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE OUT OF TOWN. I CALLED LT. DENESHA AND TOLD HIM TO BREAK LEFT. HE TOOK NO ACTION AND I CALLED HIM AGAIN AND TOLD HIM TO BREAK LEFT HARD. AT THIS TIME I BROKE LEFT AND LT. DENESHA WHO AT THE TIME WAS SLIGHTLY AHEAD AND TO MY LEFT WAS STILL FLYING STRAIGHT AND LEVEL, AND AS I BROKE HE PASSED OUT OF MY RANGE OF VISION DUE TO THE NOSE OF MY SHIP OBSCURING HIM. AS SOON AS I STRAIGHTENED OUT ON THE DECK AFTER BREAKING I LOOKED BACK OVER MY RIGHT SHOULDER AND SAW A BIG FIRE IN AN OPEN FIELD ON LT. DENESHA'S LINE OF FLIGHT. I ASSUME THIS WAS HIS PLANE.

THIS TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 1415 ON 7 JUNE, 1944, UNDER FIELD ORDER 375. //

John A. Storch
JOHN A. STORCH,
ASN. 362181,
MAJOR, AIR CORPS,
PILOT.

CONFIDENTIAL

49.

WHERE LT. DENESHA
WAS LAST SEEN



map # 5516
97.

CONFIDENTIAL

69