

Classification changed
to **CONFIDENTIAL**
by E. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUNICH, Capt., AO
Date 15 AUG 44

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF F-369; Command or Air Force 8TH AF.; Group 356TH FIGHTER; Squadron 359TH FTR Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF STA F-369; Course 196 DEGREES
Intended Destination AREA S OF REIMS; Type of Mission FIGHTER-BOMBER
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CLEAR, VISIBILITY WAS GOOD, HAZE UP TO 8,000 FT.
4. GIVE: (a) Date 14 AUG 44; Time 0557; and Location L/E IN AT LE TREPORT
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (X) Last Sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forced Down; () Seen to Crash; or () Information not Available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) () Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-aircraft; () Other Circumstances
as follows FRIENDLY AA IN VICINITY OF AVRANCHES
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-47D-5 RE A.A.F. Serial Number 42-8491
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-63; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-6908
(b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
RIGHT (a) 403680 (FRIG); (b) 296265 (COLT); (c) 751871 (COLT); (d) 751728 (COLT)
LEFT (e) 741104 (COLT); (f) 751584 (COLT); (g) 752230 (COLT); (h) 741170 (COLT)
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers _____; Total 1
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form).
Crew Position Name in Full (Last Name, First) Rank Serial Number
1. Pilot ALPHONSE, LOUIS G. 1ST LT. 0-73769 Kife
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:
Check Only One Column
Name in Full (Last Name, First) Rank Number Serial By Last Saw Forced
Radio Sighted Crash Landing
1. RANN, RICHARD A. CAPT 0-886030 X
2. BRUNER, FREDERICK W. 1ST LT. 0-42980 X
3. _____
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 _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) UNKNOWN
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE NO SEARCH MADE.

Date of Report 15 AUG 44.

Reproduced at Hq VIII F O
G-D-2 21 June 1943

Richard A. Rann
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
RICHARD A. RANN
CAPT, AIR CORPS
OPERATIONS OFFICER.

CONFIDENTIAL

359th Fighter Squadron
Office of the Operations Officer
AAF Station F-369 APO 637

15 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report, 1st Lt Louis G. Alphonse.

TO : Commanding General, VIII Air Force, APO 633, U. S. Army,
ATTN: Statistical Control.

1. Missing air crew report on 1st Lt Louis G. Alphonse, 14 August 1944, is herewith submitted.

2. I was leading an eight plane squadron with Lt Bruner leading White flight in which Lt Alphonse was flying number four position.

3. The squadron was in excellent formation when we crossed out the English coast. White flight was flying about 100 ft below and at 6 o'clock to me. Just before we crossed in the French coast at le Treport the group leader had us switch off our wing lights but we left our tail lights on. At about the same time he also gave us battle formation.

4. As soon as we crossed the coast we turned to our new heading of 120 degrees and since it was still quite dark at 0550 it is at this point where we think we lost Lt Alphonse.

5. He gave no calls that we heard on "A" channel but he was heard calling for headings on "D" channel and the last fix, being only a one line fix, was received at 0646.

~~leader, Lt Tucker, who wasn't sure since it was so dark. Lt Tucker believes he might have been thrown off on the turn to the new heading.~~
leader, Lt Tucker, who wasn't sure since it was so dark. Lt Tucker believes he might have been thrown off on the turn to the new heading.

7. Lt Alphonse had been a flying instructor and was a good pilot.

6969
3 incls:
Incl 1 - Missing Air Crew
Report (in quin)
Incl 2 - Pilot Statement Lt.
Bruner (in quin)
Incl 3 - Map Overlay (in quin)

Richard A. Rann
RICHARD A. RANN
Capt, Air Corps
Operations Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

359TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
OFFICE OF THE OPERATIONS OF IOWA
APO 937 AAF STATION F-3.9

17 August 1944

This is the statement of 1st Lt. FREDERICK W. BRUNER, O-442980, 359th Fighter Squadron, on the mission 14 August 1944, F.O. 513, from which Lt. Alphonse did not return. Lt. Alphonse being reported missing in action.

I was leading Farmhorse White flight on the first mission of August 14th. Lt. Alphonse was my number 4 man, and he was in his assigned position on close formation from shortly after takeoff until the order to take battle formation was given over the R/T. The climb out to the French coast was on a course of 190 degrees, and I kept white flight slightly below and to the right of red flight, led by Capt. Mann.

About five minutes before change of course to make landfall in at Le-Treport, the Group leader gave the order to take battle formation. As my flight spread out, I noticed that Lt. Alphonse began to drop far behind, and because it was very dark to our right, I lost sight of him. The leader of my second element (Lt. Tucker) also dropped slightly behind, and since I could hardly see him either, I did not think it necessary to call the No. 4 man to get up in formation. Almost immediately after spreading out, the Group leader called for a change of course to 120 degrees. All planes had the wing lights off as we crossed in, but tail lights were on. On the turn, my second element leader and wingman did not cross, but Lt. Tucker closed up in trail and was in sight on my right as we set out on the new course.

I did not see the No. 4 man again. Since he was straggling before the turn, and since the turn was away from him, it is easy to believe that in the darkness he lost sight of the Squadron. I heard no call from him on "A" channel.

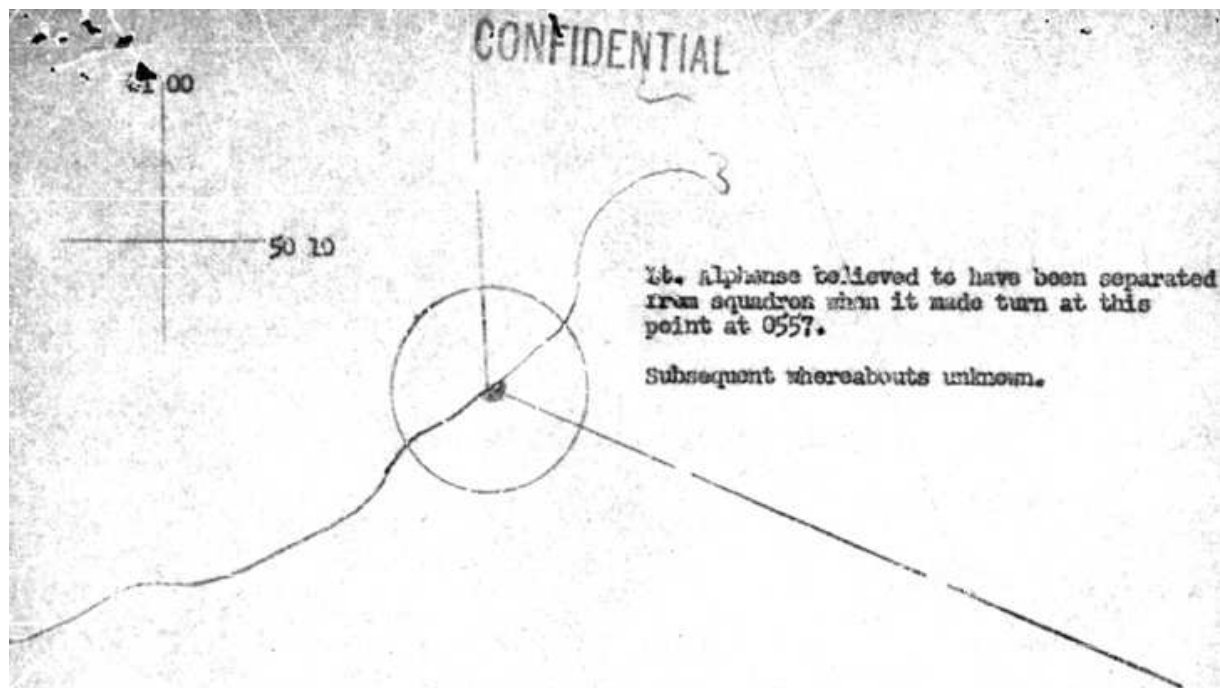
About a quarter of an hour after crossing in, a plane came in from behind and started flying in the No. 4 position. I assumed at the time that it was Lt. Alphonse. After we reached our assigned area, the Squadron orbited in search of targets, and in a mixup with another Group of P-47's, this No. 4 plane in my flight joined Capt. Mann's flight of 3 planes and flew in the No. 4 position of red flight. I still thought it was Lt. Alphonse, but red flight identified it as a plane from Winzag Squadron. Because of this intruding plane, I was not aware of the loss of Lt. Alphonse until I had landed at base with my remaining three planes.

I last saw Lt. Alphonse shortly before our change of course before landfall in at Op50. I heard no calls from him on "A" channel, and I have no first-hand knowledge of any of the events which led him to be shot down.

Fredrick W. Bruner

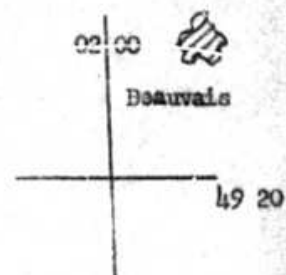
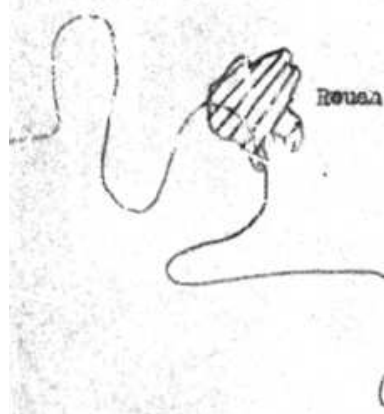
FREDERICK W. BRUNER,
1st Lt. Air Corps,
Pilot.

CONFIDENTIAL



Overlay to accompany missing air crew report
on 1st Lt. Louis G. Alphense. Missing in action
Aug. 14, 1944.

Map: 1/500,000, Europe (Air) Sheet No. N.W. 48/2
Le Havre. G.S.G.S. No. 4072.



Reel #31

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ. EIGHTH AIR FORCE

INCOMING MESSAGE
EDITED LITERAL TEXT

PRECEDENCE
URGENT
SECURITY

HQ. EIGHTH AIR FORCE

ACTION COPY TO: A-3

INFO COPIES TO: A-2, AGM, C/S

SIGNAL CENTER NO.

5204

REFERENCE NO. AND DATE: 9AF A-327-D 14 Aug 44

INTERNAL ADDRESS

FROM: 9th AF

Sgd: Vandenberg

TO: CG 8th AF

P-47 serial no 931098, Sq markings OC-C, strafed 3rd Army Hqs, 9th Tactical Air Command and U S motor convoy at 1407440B. Aircraft shot down after 2 attacks, crashed at Y613578. Pilot killed. Dog Tag and markings are of 1st Lt Louis G Alphonse, 0737694, 338 Fighter Group. Possibility of 2 aircraft involved. Unusual circumstances appear suspicious. Request immediate reply as to the time aircraft and pilot left base in UK and as to nature of mission. Also request check on Bomb-Line instructions to Eighth Fighter Command and of this incident