

9295

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRANTONAS, Lt. Col., SO
by F. M. WRENCH, Capt., AC
Date **2021 5 2016**

Return

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

9295

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Classification ~~SECRET~~
RESTRICTED
E. A. BRADNAS, Lt. Col., AO
F. M. MURCH, Capt., AO
MAR 15 1944

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AIG A-79 Command or Air Force 9th T.A.C.
Group 366th Fighter Squadron 389th Fighter Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AIG A-79 Course AIG
Intended Destination Wend Dusseldorf area Type of Mission Dive bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED 5/10's at 3500 feet, Visibility good
4. GIVE: (a) Date 2 October 1944 Time 1515 and Location 7 miles West Vertum Holland (A-7957)
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane.
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forced down; (x) Seen to crash; or () Information not available.
5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF:
(Check only one) () Enemy Airplane; (x) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ()
Other circumstances as follows: _____
6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series P-47 D-28 F.Serial No. 44-19728
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-59 A.A.F. Serial No. (a) FP-005355
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial No.)
(a) R-1 1044621 (b) R-2 1044615 (c) R-3 1044551 (d) R-4 1044665
(e) R-1 1044704 (f) R-2 1044650 (g) R-3 1044594 (h) R-4 1044682
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW ARE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty XXX
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 1 Passengers 0 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.)

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1.	Pilot	BRUNDS, WILLIAM RANDOLPH	1st Lt	8-809129
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Jul 25'

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRPLANE, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw Crash	Saw Force Landing
			By Radio	Last Sighted		
1.						
2.						
3.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachuted were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report 5 October, 1944

William J. Scanlon

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

WILLIAM J. SCANLON

First Lieutenant, Air Corps

Asst. Intelligence Officer

Scale 1:250,000
Sheet 2443A

- Road
- Waterways
- Wooded Areas
- Railways

ENH RM

NIJMEGEN

EA

Lt. Ground see 175
Crash near

ET 151

Crash

Yodun

Gorden

9
8
7
6
5
4
3

7

8

9

1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINTH FIGHTER SQUADRON
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO #595 - U. S. Army

3 October, 1944

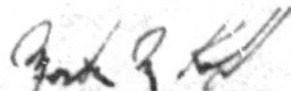
S T A T E M E N T

At 1400 hours on Monday, 2 October, 1944, the 389th Fighter Squadron took off on a routine combat mission. The twelve ship Squadron was led by First Lieutenant WILLIAM R. GROUNDS.

When we approached the target area, Lieutenant Grounds contacted the controller as briefed. This controller referred us to another who in turn requested the bombing of a target near Vortum, Holland.

Lieutenant Grounds led the Squadron to the target which we approached from the North. He made a 270 degree arc of a circle before peeling off to bomb from the East.

I was leading Blue flight as top cover so I observed everything. Lieutenant Grounds completed his run and scored a direct hit. Then, his plane seemed to execute a "vertical reverse" which ended in an inverted position. It never recovered and struck the ground in that manner, still heading in a Westerly direction.


HORTON M. KOFF
First Lieutenant
Air Corps

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~