

MACR-2046 - 24-Jan '44

STATUS

Priest, Robert Lee, Capt. 0-885101-RTD

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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: AAF Station 150 U.K.; Command or Air Force IX FC 9th AF
Group 354th Fighter Gp; Squadron 353rd Ftr Sq Detachment None.
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station 150 U.K.; Course 126°;
Intended Destination AAF Station 150 U.K.; Type of Mission Target Support.
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Visibility slight good, cumulus cloud layer 3000' to 15,000' thin layer cirrus clouds/
25,000'
4. GIVS: (a) Date 24 January 1944; Time 1145; Location In vicinity of Ghent, France of last known whereabouts of missing airplane.
(b) Specify whether (x) Last Sighted; (x) 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: (x) Enemy Airplane; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows: _____

6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series P-51B-1; A.A.F. Serial Number 43-12180

7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-3; A.A.F. Serial Number (A) 43-49395
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

(a) Make Browning Machine Type AC M-2 Serial No 867471
(b) Make Gun Calibre 50 Type " " Serial No 566514
(c) Make " " Type " " Serial No 868354
(d) Make " " Type " " Serial No 565918

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
(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:	<u>Fraser, Robert Lee</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>O-885101</u>
2.	<u>(No other persons)</u>		
3.			

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 by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. <u>Cannon, James</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>O-738577</u>		<u>XXX</u>		<u>XXX</u>
2. <u>Land, Carl A</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>O-745429</u>		<u>XXX</u>		
3.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Unknown; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash No; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) None

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13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN. Overlay of plotting series (Third Edition) English Channel Sheet N.W. 48/4 Enclosed.
14. ATTACH BUSINESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE. Statements of Capt Cannon and 2nd Lt Lind.
15. ATTACH DESCRIPTION OF AIRCRAFT OF WHICH, IF ANY, AND GIVE MAKE, MAKE AND SERIAL NO. OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. No search conducted.

Date of report: 26 January 1944



WALLACE P. MAUE,
Lt. Colonel, Air Corps,
Executive Officer.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Overlay.
- Incl 2 - Statement, Capt Cannon.
- Incl 3 - Statement, Lt Lind.

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353RD FIGHTER SQUADRON
354TH FIGHTER GROUP
USAAF STATION 150
APO 638

STATEMENT

ON 24 JANUARY 1944, I WAS FLYING THE WING OF THE SECOND ELEMENT LEADER IN GREEN FLIGHT LED BY LT. DONNELL. GREEN FLIGHT WAS FLYING TO THE RIGHT OF WHITE FLIGHT, LED BY CAPTAIN CANNON, IN MUTUAL SUPPORT, PROVIDING ESCORT TO A BOX OF B-17'S ON THE WAY HOME. AT APPROXIMATELY 25,000 FEET AND 1145 HOURS IN THE AREA OF BRUSSELS, GHENT AND ANTWERP, FOUR FW-190'S WITH WHITE NOSES, CAME UP THROUGH THE OVERCAST AND FIRED ON CAPTAIN FRISER'S TWO-SHIP FLIGHT WHICH WAS FLYING TO THE RIGHT OF WHITE FLIGHT AT THAT TIME. WHITE FLIGHT BROKE INTO THE FW-190'S AND GREEN FLIGHT IMMEDIATELY. BROKE WITH THEM AS THE E/A'S SPLIT-S'D INTO THE OVERCAST. I DID NOT SEE CAPTAIN PRISER'S FLIGHT AFTER WE MADE THE BREAK INTO THE FW-190'S.

Carl A. Lind
CARL A. LIND,
2ND LT., AIR CORPS,
PILOT

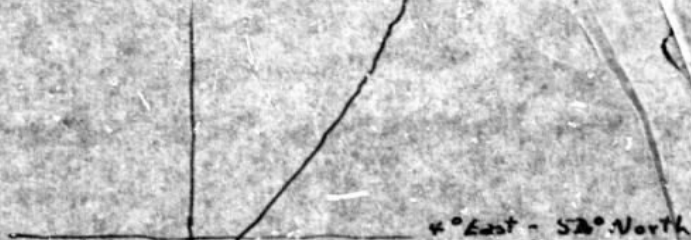
353RD FIGHTER SQUADRON
354TH FIGHTER GROUP
USAAF STATION 150
APO 638

STATEMENT

ON 24 JANUARY 1944, I WAS LEADING JACKNIFE WHITE FLIGHT OF FOUR IN MUTUAL SUPPORT, PROVIDING ESCORT TO A BOX OF FORTS ENROUTE HOME. CAPTAIN PRISER WITH CAPTAIN GILTNER OF THE 363RD FIGHTER SQUADRON ON HIS WING, WAS LEADING TWO MEMBERS OF RED FLIGHT, THE GREEN AND WHITE FLIGHTS, FLYING LINE ABREAST AND IN MUTUAL SUPPORT. HE WAS WEAVING BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE FORMATION. WE WERE FLYING JUST ABOVE THE CLOUD LEVEL, APPROXIMATELY 25,000 FEET, WHEN IN THE BRUSSELS, GHENT AND ANTWERP AREA, FOUR WHITE NOSED FW-190'S MADE AN ATTACK ON CAPTAIN PRISER'S TWO-SHIP FLIGHT FROM 4 O'CLOCK AND BELOW. AFTER A SHORT BURST FROM ONE OF THE E/A, THEY SPLIT-S'D BACK INTO THE OVERCAST AS MY FLIGHT TURNED INTO THEM. I SAW CAPTAIN PRISER AND HIS WING-MAN BREAK RIGHT AND DROP THEIR WING TANKS, BUT DID NOT SEE ANY STRIKES ON HIM. I LOST CAPTAIN PRISER WHEN I TURNED INTO THE FW-190'S AND BROKE OFF AS THEY WENT INTO THE OVERCAST. GREEN FLIGHT AND WHITE FLIGHT WITH THE TWO MEMBERS OF RED FLIGHT WENT IN A LUFTBERRY LOOKING FOR THE CAPTAIN AND THE E/A'S, BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. I, THEN BROUGHT MY FLIGHT HOME. THE ATTACK BY THE E/A'S WAS APPARENTLY WELL PLANNED AS THEY APPEARED SUDDENLY AND DISAPPEARED AS RAPIDLY.

James Cannon
JAMES CANNON,
CAPT., AIR COMPS,
FLIGHT COMMANDER

PLOTTING SERIES (THIRD EDITION STYLE)
ENGLISH CHANNEL SHEET N.W. 48/4



MERCATOR PROJECTION SCALE 1:1,000,000 AT 58° N
HEIGHTS SHOWN IN METRES