

CONFIDENTIAL

8150

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. [unclear], Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date **MAR 15 1946**

**GERMAN RECORDS
COMPLETED**

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

8150

Classification changed

RESTRICTED

By S. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG

by F. M. MUEKCH, Capt., AG

Date Mar 15 1948

MISSING AIR CRAFT 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: ALS #2 Command or Air Force: XIX TAC
 Group: 354th Ftr Gp : Squadron: 353rd F Sq Detachment: None
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure: ALS #2 : Course: 250°
 Intended Destination: Reims Area : Type of mission: Fighter Sweep
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Haze to 9,000 ft 3/10 cirrus at 20,000 visibility 3 miles.
4. GIVE: (a) Date: 9 Aug 44 : Time: 1220 Location: In vicinity of Reims, France
 (b) Specify weather: (X) Easy 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 P-51B1, A.A.F. Serial Number 43-123757. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7; A.A.F. Serial Number () V-320228

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

- (a) Make Browning Machine Type MG - M2 Serial no 566739
 (b) Make Gun Cal. .50 Type " Serial no 867561
 (c) Make " Type " Serial no 566597
 (d) Make " Type " Serial no 565920

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE KILLED AS: () Battle Casualty Yes
 (b) Non-Battle Casualty No10. 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>Beerbower, Don Merrill</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>0-730341</u>
2.			
3.			

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			
			by Radio	List Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. <u>Deeds, Frederick B</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>0748589</u>		<u>XXX</u>		
2. <u>Garr, Bruce W</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-61258</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 No; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash No; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) None

23

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING A PROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN. See Incl (Overlay).
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE. See Incl (Statements)
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE. No search conducted.

Date of Report. 16 Aug 44.

For the Group Commander:

L. C. Christianson

L. C. CHRISTIANSON,
CWO, USA,
Asst. Adjutant.

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

2 Incls:

Incl 1 - Overlay.

Incl 2 - Statements (Lt Deeds) and (F/O Carr)

SEP 9



RECEIVED

RECEIVED

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C o n f i d e n t i a l -

353rd Fighter Squadron
354th Fighter Group
APO 141, US Army

9 August 1944
1220 hours
4919N - 0402E

S T A T E M E N T

I was flying No. 2 man on wing of Major Don M. Beerbower who was leading 353rd Fighter Squadron on an armed reconnaissance mission. We went down to strafe an airfield north of Reims. Our first pass was from North to South, firing at twin-engine e/a in revetments. I noticed Major Beerbower got hits on an e/a. We came off the field, circled to the right and made a pass from East to West to knock out gun emplacements as Blue and Green flights made a pass at planes in revetments. As we came in range, in line-abreast formation, the guns opened fire on us and we returned the fire. Major Beerbower silenced one gun and pulled up straight as we left. I saw hits on his wing and the canopy was gone. The plane was climbing and it appeared that the Major was hit. The plane climbed until it partially stalled, half-rolled and nosed straight down in a dive, exploding when it hit the ground. The pilot fell free while it was in the vertical dive, but no apparent attempt was made to open his 'chute.

Frederick B. Deeds

FREDERICK B. DEEDS;
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Pilot.

~~C o n f i d e n t i a l~~

353rd Fighter Squadron
354th Fighter Group
APO 141, US Army

9 August 1944
1220 hours
4919N - 0402E

S T A T E M E N T

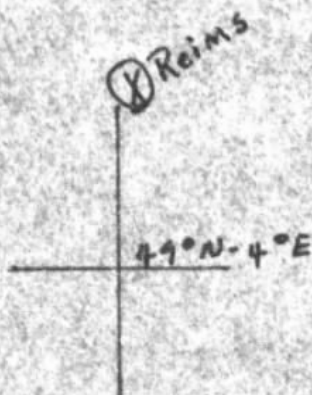
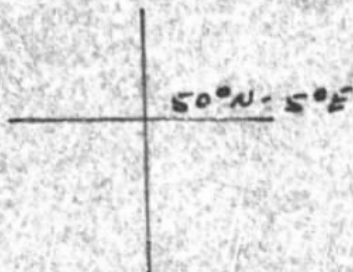
I was flying Red Three position, 353rd Fighter Squadron, on an armed reconnaissance mission. We went in and strafed the airdrome north of Reims. On the first pass, Major Don M. Beerbower, Squadron Leader, destroyed a Ju-88 in the revetments. He then called the Squadron and said he would go down on the flak emplacements while the rest of the Squadron strafed the field. He destroyed one flak emplacement and got a few hits on his plane; he swung over to knock out another emplacement and it got several hits on him. He then pulled up to about 1,000 feet, jettisoned his canopy and his ship seemed to stall out and fall off on its back. As its nose dropped through, Major Beerbower fell out the side of the airplane, struck the left side and draped over the left tail-plane. At about 400-500 feet he came loose and did not attempt to pull his rip-cord. The plane crashed and burned about 400 yards from where Major Beerbower hit.

Bruce W Carr
BRUCE W. CARR,
Flight Officer, Air Corps,
Pilot.

~~C o n f i d e n t i a l~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

August 8, 1944

12.30

Mustang
E T O ?

500 Meter south of St. Thierry, 10 Km north-west of Reims

Flak (A)

PW concentration Point Bruxelles Aug. 11

S/Ldr. Beerbrower, Don. M.

100 % destroyed
Pilot dead

KIA

TELEGRAM FORM

DISTANCE - MESSAGE

-OBERURSEL-

NAME OF DISTANCE-MESSAGE WRITER:

ACCEPTED:

DELIVERED:

RECEIVED:

DATE:-

TIME:

YO:

DATE: Aug. 12

THROUGH:

TIME: 11.30

ROLL:

FROM: L S E 9

THROUGH: Mickle

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

REMARKS:

Urgent LLLN 32 Aug. 9 23.35

To:-Evaluation Point West Oberursel.-

J-1893 I. On August 9 1944 at 12.30 downing of a Mustang P 51 by Flak 500 Meter south of St. Thierry (IM) 10 Km north-west of Reims) Identifications: R T, fire at crash 100 % destroyed.- FF:Squadron Leader Don. M. Beerbrower.-Identified:strip of leather bore Identifications, dead.

J-1896 II. On August 8, 1944, 15.15 crash of a Thunderbolt, Identifications: E A - star by markings A C Y- En Multien (40 km south-west of Soissons) fire at crash, 100 % damage. Kind of downing not determined. Pilot escaped.

Command of Airport Area 11/VI Laon, Ic.

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: Aifield Headqtrs.DISTRIBUTOR: PW Transit Camp Air
(berursel)OFFICE OR STATION: ReimsLOCATION: Date: August 10, 1944

OFFICE OR APPRAISAL-VALUES:

REGARDING: DOWNED)
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Mustang)
XXXXXX)DATE AND TIME: August 9, 1944 at 12.30AT: 500 Meter south 10 Km north-west of XXXXXX Reims
of St. Thierry

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

FAMILY NAME: SURNAME)
LAST NAME) BeerbrowerFIRST NAME: CHRISTIAN NAME)
GIVEN NAME) Don. M.RANK: MajorIDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERIAL
SERVICE not determinedNATIONALITY: U S A Air Corps

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE:

DATE OF CAPTURE:
EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE:
CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:

STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD:

DATE & TIME & PLACE OF RECOVERY: Aug. 9, 44.
CONDITION OF BODY: by wreckage, body
smashedTHE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM)DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG: above
HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD
ASCERTAINED? strip of leatherDATE AND TIME OF BURIAL: August 10, 1944
GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery West, ReimsPOSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE
G.F.P. OR S.D., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY
PATRONAGE OR FAVOR:Line III, grave No. 25HN *)Strip of leatherDELIVERED TO HOSPITAL:
DATE:Signature: None
M/Sgt. and leader of
undertaking detail.DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO
PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:

REMARKS.

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF XXXXXXXXXX DEAD: *)

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

STATEMENT ON CAPTURE OR RECOVERY OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

REPORT IS MADE THROUGH: Airfield Headquarters DISTRIBUTOR: PW Transit Camp Air Oberursel
 OFFICE OR STATION: Ruins
 LOCATION: Date: August 10, 1944 OFFICE OR APPRAISAL-VALUES:
 REGARDING: DOWNED)
EMERGENCY LANDINGS)
~~XXXXXX XXX XXXXX~~ Mustang DATE AND TIME: August 9, 1944 at 12.30
~~CRASH~~
~~XXXXX~~
 AT: 500 Meter south NEAR: 10 Km north-west of RHEINI Ruins
of St. Tuierry

PERSONAL RECORD OF MEMBERS OF ENEMY AIR FORCES

SURNAME)
 FAMILY NAME: LAST NAME) Eserbrower
CHRISTIAN NAME)
 FIRST NAME: GIVEN NAME) Don. M.
 RANK: Major
 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: SERIAL SERVICE not determined
 NATIONALITY: U S A Air Corps

MACR
8150

RIA

STATEMENTS MADE AT TIME OF CAPTURE: DATE OF CAPTURE: EXACT LOCATION OF CAPTURE: CAPTURE EFFECTED BY:
 STATEMENT MADE AT RECOVERY OF DEAD: DATE & TIME & PLAC OF RECOVERY: Aug. 9, 44.
 CONDITION OF BODY: by wreckage, body smashed
 THE PRISONER WORE (UNIFORM)
 DESCRIPTION OF IDENTIFICATION TAG: HOW WERE PERSONAL RECORDS OF DEAD ASCERTAINED? above strip of leather
 DATE AND TIME OF BURIAL: August 10, 1944
 GRAVE LOCATION: Cemetery East, Ruins
 POSSIBLE IMPUTATION (PLACING) UNDER SERVICE OF THE G.F.P. OR S.D., FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING ENEMY PATRONAGE OR FAVOR: Line III, grave No. 25
EM *) Strip of leather
 DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL: DATE: Signature: Kane
M/Sgt. and leader of undertaking detail.
 DATE AND TIME OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRISONER CONCENTRATION POINT:
 REMARKS:

(ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. PECULIARITIES IN BEHAVIOR OF PRISONER, ETC.)

INVENTORY OF SECURED, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF PRISONER OR DEAD: XXXXXXXXXX *)
 INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT OF PRISONER OR DEAD:

Air Field Command Reims
L 55 474 A,
Air Corps District Post Office Paris.

AV 1225 / 44

Extract (Copy).
CASUALTY REPORT ON U.S. AVIATORS.
NO. 14.

Report covers time: 1 - 12 Aug. 1944

NO:	PLACE AND DATE OF CASUALTY. TYPE OF AIRPLANE etc.:	NAME:	NATIONALITY:	RANK:	LOCATION OF GRAVE: DATE OF BURIAL:	REMARKS:
7	500 m South of St. Thierry, 10 km North-West of Reims, on 9 Aug. 1944 at 1230. Mustang shot down by Flak.	BEERBROWER, DON. H.	U.S.A.	Major	Western Cemetery at Reims, line no. III, no. 25 on 10 Aug. 1944	serial no. unknown

AV 1225/44
9 Aug 44

MACR
8150
P 51
1 man

Field 56

Page 3

Row 111

Grave No:25 American Major Don M. BEERSFLOWER,
killed 9 Aug.44, 590 m south of St.Thierry
10 km north-west of Reims. *AVI 5/44*
no identification-tag found

MACR 8150
see J 1893

9 Aug 44 *MIA*
9 Aug 44 *KIA*

Urgent LLLW 32 Aug. 9 23.35

To:-Evaluation Point West Oberursel.-

1. On August 9 1944 at 12.30 downing of a Mustang P 51 by Flak 500 Meter south of St. Thierry (12 1/2 Km north-west of Reims) Identifications: E T, fire at crash 100 % destroyed.- FF: Squadron Leader Don. M. Beerbrover.- Identified: strip of leather bore Identifications, dead.