

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: NND 735001
 By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Classification changed
 to **RESTRICTED**
 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
 Date **MAR 15 1968**

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

VAN WOERT, R.L.
 10235

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 air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name AAF STA 367 : Command or Air Force 8TH
 Group 20TH FIR ; Squadron 77TH FIR : Detachment --
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure KINGSCLIFFE : Course EAST
 Target or Intended Destination MERSEBURG : Type of Mission BOMBER ESCORT
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
OVERCAST AT 20000 FEET
4. GIVE: (a) Day 2nd Month NOV Year 1944 : Time 1230 : and Location LEIPZIG, HALLE, MERSEBURG Triangle of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was 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: UNKNOW
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P 51 D : AAF Serial Number 44-13840 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any "VAN'S GAN"
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-322045 AAF Serial Number (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
 (a) BO 1267391 Frig.; (b) BI 1268887 Frig.; (c) LI 1205382 Frig.
 (d) RC 1267755 Frig.; (e) LO 1268474 Frig.; (f) LG 1268628 Frig.
 (g) _____; (h) _____; (i) _____
 (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
 (m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
 or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 1
 (Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 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	Current Status
1. Pilot	<u>VAN WOERT, RICHARD DENIS</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-820611</u>	<u>MIA KIA</u> <i>G.T.E</i>
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: NND 735001
 By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWN OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check Only One Column		Last Sighted	Forced Landing
				Contacted by Radio	Saw		
1.	JENNINGS, EDWIN C.	Capt.	O-661215			X	
2.							
3.							

13. 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

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT _____

Date of Report 6 NOVEMBER 1944

C. H. English

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

C. H. ENGLISH,
 Major, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

17. REMARKS:

JAN 1 1945

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL



RECEIVED

Incl # 1 41

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Missing Air Crew Report

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

20th Fighter Group

77th Fighter Squadron

DATE November 2, 1944 I ION Bomber Escort
Pilot: Van Woert, Richard L. 2nd Lt. O-620611
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
Aircraft P-51-D 44-13840 LC-U
(Type) (Serial No.) (Markings)

1. Position of missing A/C when last sighted or contacted.
 - a. Polar Coordinates: **Approximately: 5125N - 1205 E**
 - b. Altitude: **22000 feet.**
 - c. Last noted heading: **South**
 - d. If out of formation, approximate distance from formation: **1000 feet**
2. Enemy opposition: flak, type, intensity, Enemy aircraft, type, number, method of attack etc., with particular reference to missing A/C. **below.**
Many enemy aircraft were reported in the vicinity but while Lt. Van Woert was in sight we had no indication that he had been attacked.

3. Damage to Missing A/C: fires, explosions, where sustained, etc.
Unknown

4. If A/C was out of control, describe.
Unknown

5. Not Applicable.

6. If pilot bailed out: Describe jump, including altitude of bailout, opening of chute, landing of pilot on ground. **Unknown**

7. Other remarks, not covered above. If additional space is required, use back of form. **Lt. Van Woert was on Leader's left wing about 1000 feet below him. An attack was made on enemy aircraft and he was never seen after this. This was at approximately 1230.**

8. Date of Report. **November 3, 1944**

<u>Eye Witnesses:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	Edwin C. Jennings	Capt.	O-661215	44-13798
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Interrogating Officer: Joseph R. Gendst

**JOSEPH R. GENDST, 1ST LT. A.C.,
Intelligence Officer,
77th Fighter Squadron.**