

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

*Loetscher, E.A.*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

10442 -1

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 KINGSCLIFFE : Command or Air Force 8 AF  
 Group 20th Fighter : Squadron 55th Fighter: Detachment -- --
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure KINGSCLIFFE : Course 123 Degrees  
 Target or Intended Destination Heidelberg : Type of Mission Ftr/Bomber
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Clear on Deck - Overcast at 5-6,000 Feet
4. GIVE: (a) Day 9 Month Nov Year 1944 : Time 0955 : and Location  
4943-0912E Miltenberg of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft  
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ) ; Last contacted  
 by radio ( ) ; Forced down ( x ) ; 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: Loss of Control by Pilot due to Belly  
 Tank Falling Off.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51-D-5NA : AAF Serial Number 44-13715 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any: ---
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7 : AAF Serial  
 Number (a) V-322897 ; (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
 (a) 1267371 Frigd. (b) 1268649 Frigd. ; (c) 1268737 Frigd.  
 (d) 1267452 " ; (e) 1267120 " ; (f) 1267154 "  
 (g) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (h) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (j) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (k) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (m) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (n) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (o) \_\_\_\_\_
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes  
 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	LOETSCHER, EDWARD ARTHUR	2nd Lt	0-825466	MLA <i>Loetscher</i>
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					

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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	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Crash	Forced Landing
1. <u>Freuchtenicht, Richard Williams</u>						
2. <u>2nd Lt 0-701749</u>						X
2.2 <u>Freedman, David Louis 2nd Lt 0-810346</u>						X

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) \_\_\_\_\_
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 11 Nov 1944

*C. H. English*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)

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

17. REMARKS:

JAN 9 1945



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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Missing Air Crew Report

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

10442-3

55th Fighter Group

55th Fighter Squadron

DATE 9 NOVEMBER 1944 MISSION DIVE-BOMBING  
Pilot: LOETSCHER, EDWARD ARTHUR 2ND LT. 0-825466  
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)  
Aircraft P-51-D-5-NA 44-13715 KI-K  
(Type) (Serial No.) (Markings)

1. Position of missing A/C when last sighted or contacted.
  - a. Polar Coordinates: 4943-0912E
  - b. Altitude: CRASHED INTO THE GROUND
  - c. Last noted heading: -----
  - d. If out of formation, approximate distance from formation:  
NOT APPLICABLE
2. Enemy opposition: Flak, type, intensity; Enemy aircraft, type, number, method of attack etc., with particular reference to missing A/C.  
NIL

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

NONE SEEN

4. If A/C was out of control, describe. FLIGHT WAS MAKING A TURN TO THE RIGHT WHEN LT. LOETSCHER'S BELLY TANK FELL OFF. HE IMMEDIATELY FLIPPED OVER ON HIS BACK AND CRASHED INTO THE GROUND. THE PLANE BURST INTO FLAMES.

5. Not Applicable.

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

NO ONE SEEN TO LEAVE THE SHIP

7. Other remarks, not covered above. If additional space is required, use back of form.

8. Date of Report. 9 NOVEMBER 1944

Eye Witnesses:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>FREUCHTENICHT, RICHARD W.</u>	<u>2ND LT.</u>	<u>0-701749</u>	<u>KI-D</u>
2.	<u>FREEDMAN, DAVID L.</u>	<u>2ND LT.</u>	<u>0-810346</u>	<u>KI-I</u>
3.				
4.				
5.				

Interrogating Officer: Clifford W. Long WMAJ

Intelligence Officer,  
55th Fighter Squadron.