

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

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WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

Classification changed
 to **RESTRICTED**
 by **T. A. BRADY**, Lt. Col., AO
 by **P. M. MURPHY**, Capt., AO
 Date **SEP 16 1964**

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 the KINGSCLIFFE : Command or Air Force 8TH AF
 Group 20TH FTR : Squadron 7TH FTR : Detachment ---
2. SPECIFY: Place of departure KINGSCLIFFE : Course SE
 Target or Intended Destination OBR, LABSTEIN : Type of Mission BOMBER ESCORT
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
6-8/10 CLOUDS VISIBILITY UP TO 2 MILES
4. GIVE: (a) Day 2 Month DEC Year 1944 : Time 1215 : and Location
DYKDE, BELGIUM of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft
 (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted () ; Last contacted
 by radio (X) ; 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: UNKNOWN
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series --- : AAF Serial Number 44-13824
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any ---
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series --- : AAF Serial V-323797
 Number (a) --- ; (b) --- ; (c) --- ; (d) ---
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below --- and Serial Number):
 (a) RO 1267201 Frig ; (b) RI 1267201 Frig ; (c) IC 1267194 Frig
 (d) RC 1267131 Frig ; (e) IO 1267131 Frig ; (f) LI 1267116 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.)

Serial Number	Current Status	Rank	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Gray Position
1.	MIA	2ND LT.	JOSEPH MESSIA	Pilot
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 SALE:

Check Only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Forced Landing
			by Radio				
1. <u>HERBERT, JAMES H. CAPT</u>	<u>O-388006</u>	<u>X</u>					
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) Believed he landed safely on the Continent
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 December 1944

E. G. Finley

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

E. G. FINLEY
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

17. REMARKS:

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Missing Air Crew Report

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

20th Liaison Group

77th Fighter Squadron

DATE 2 DECEMBER 1944 MISSION BOMBER ESCORT
Pilot: JOSEPH, MERLE P. 2ND LIEUT. 0-825447
(Name) (Rank) (ASN)
Aircraft P-51-D5 44-13824 LC-2
(Type) (Serial No.) (Markings)

1. Position of missing A/C when last sighted or contacted.
 - a. Polar Coordinates: 5103-0252E
 - b. Altitude: 20,000 FEET.
 - c. Last noted heading: EAST.
 - d. If out of formation, approximate distance from formation: NIL.
2. Enemy opposition: flak, type, intensity; enemy aircraft, type, number, method of attack etc., with particular reference to missing A/C.
HAD NOT CROSSED INTO ENEMY HELD TERRITORY.

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.

NIL.

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

LT. JOSEPH WAS ACTING AS ESCORT TO LT. HALL WHO HAD COOLANT TROUBLE. LT. JOSEPH WAS HEARD ON RT ASKING FOR A HOMING TO VALENCIENNES, FRANCE.

8. Date of Report. 5 DECEMBER 1944.

<u>Eye Witness No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.	<u>HERBERT, JAMES H.</u>	<u>CAPTAIN</u>	<u>0-388006</u>	<u>44-13687</u>
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Interrogating Officer: Joseph R. Genest

JOSEPH R. GENEST, 1ST LT., P.C.,
Intelligence Officer,
77th Fighter Squadron.

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