

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

Classification changed to ~~RESTRICTED~~  
 by S. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AG  
 by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG  
 Date Oct 16 1968

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

*Sheffield, C.F. Jr*  
 11522

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 : ~~XXXXXX~~ or Air Force 8th  
 Group 20th Fighter : Squadron 77th Fighter : Detachment SE
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Kingscliffe : Course SE  
 Target or Intended Destination Bonn, Germany : Type of Mission Fighter Patrol
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
Solid overcast at 12,000 feet.
4. GIVE: (a) Day 3 Month Jan. Year 1945: Time 0955 : and Location 18 miles N.E. of Ostend, 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: Coolant trouble - pilot said plane was on fire and that he was bailing out.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51D5NA : AAF Serial Number 44-13748 ✓
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any \_\_\_\_\_
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-321809 : AAF Serial Number (a) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
 (a) RO - 1268515 ; (b) LO - 1267180 ; (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) RC - 1267429 ; (e) LC - 1267126 ; (f) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (g) RI - 1267003 ; (h) LI - 1267330 ; (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	CHARLES E. SHEFFIELD JR.	F70	T-62737	M.I.A.
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					

*met 2'*

*met 1*

**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:

Check Only One Column

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Contacted		Saw	
			Serial Number	by Radio	Last Sighted	Forced Crash Landing
1.	Kerns, Leo H.	2nd Lt.	0-825/3	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 Flight of four took off at 1430 and patrolled area in vicinity of Ostend, Belgium over channel for one hour at 0-590 feet alt.

Date of Report January 4, 1945

*Joseph R. Genest*

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

JOSEPH R. GENEST,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Intelligence Officer

17. REMARKS:

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FFR 91 1945



RECEIVED

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

S T A T E M E N T

"On January 3, 1945, I was flying Glory White 3 position with F/O Sheffield flying #4. At 0940 at 17,000 feet F/O Sheffield, who had been lagging on and off since setting course, had dropped out of formation and was lost to my sight. He called Glory Leader soon after that and said he was aborting, but cause was not understood by me. Later I found out that he had said that his coolant had popped. Ground controller fixed him as being 5 miles off Ostend and advised him to fly his briefed course. Walnut told him his course home. Ground controller called him again and asked if he was landing on Continent or returning to base and F/O Sheffield replied that he was heading home. That was the last I heard from him on R/T.

At 0955 F/O Sheffield gave a Mayday saying that his plane was on fire and that he was bailing out. His position was fixed as 18 miles NW of Ostend, Belgium over the English Channel."

*Leo H. Kerns*  
LEO H. KERNS,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

*end 3*

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Missing Air Crew Report

S-2 SUMMARY OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

20th Lighter Group

77th Fighter Squadron

DATE January 3, 1945

MISSION Fighter Patrol

Pilot: <u>Charles E. Sheffield Jr.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-62737</u>
(Name)	(Rank)	(ASN)
Aircraft <u>P-51D NA</u>	<u>44-13748</u>	<u>LC-K</u>
(Type)	(Serial No.)	(Markings)

1. Position of missing A/C when last sighted or contacted.
  - a. Polar Coordinates: 5124 N - 0237 E.
  - b. Altitude: 17,000 feet.
  - c. Last noted heading: 330°
  - d. If out of formation, approximate distance from formation: -----
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.  
Plane developed coolant trouble; pilot heard to say that plane had caught on fire and that he was bailing out.
4. If A/C was out of control, describe.  
Nil.
5. Not Applicable. -----
6. If pilot bailed out: Describe jump, including altitude of bailout, opening of chute, landing of pilot on ground.  
Pilot was heard to say he was bailing out. He was not seen.
7. Other remarks, not covered above. If additional space is required, use back of form. Plane developed coolant trouble and pilot was heard to say he was heading back for home. At that time he was only 5 miles off Ostend on the Belgium Coast. He was later fixed as 16 miles NW of Ostend when he gave a Mayday saying his plane was on fire and that he was bailing out.
8. Date of Report: January 4, 1945.

<u>Eye Witnesses:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>A/C No.</u>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Interrogating Officer: Joseph R. Senest

1st Lt., Air Corps  
Intelligence Officer,  
77th Fighter Squadron.

*Final 2*