

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

12705 *Smith, H.B.*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

Classification changed  
 to **RESTRICTED**  
 by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC  
 by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC  
 Date OCT. 15. 1945

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 KINGS CLIFFE; Command or Air Force RTM, Group 20TH FIGHTER; Squadron 55TH FIGHTER; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure KINGS CLIFFE; Course 100°  
 Target or Intended Destination MAGDEBURG AREA Type of Mission STRAFFLING
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
HAZY
4. GIVE: (a) Day 25 Month FEB Year 1945; Time 1150; and Location \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 MI. N.E. OF NULMEGEN (5201-0621) (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ); Last contacted by radio ( ); Forced down ( ); Seen to Crash (X); 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 (X); Other Circumstances as Follows: \_\_\_\_\_
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51D-20-NA; AAF Serial Number 44-63808
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any \_\_\_\_\_
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7; AAF Serial Number (a) V-328421; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
 (a) BROWN IPECHAPIN (b) 1763897; (c) BROWN IPECHAPIN 1764962  
 (d) " " " ; (e) 1765039; (f) " " " 1764122  
 (g) " " " ; (h) 1764151; (i) " " " 1763760  
 (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	SMITH, HORACE BLESSING	2ND LT.	0-830560	MIA
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					

*Jul 3 1945*

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGED 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 by		Last Sighted	Saw	
			Radio	Radio		Crash	Landing
1. KLER, EDWARD LEROY	1ST LT.	G-724	27			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) \_\_\_\_\_
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 26 FEBRUARY 1945

Clifford W. Long  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

CLIFFORD W. LONG  
1ST LT., AIR CORPS  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

17. REMARKS:

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

MISSING AIRCRAFT  
C-2 SUMMARY OF EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

20th Fighter Group

55th Fighter Squadron

DATE 25 FEBRUARY 1945

MISSION STRAFING

Pilot: SMITH, HORACE BLESSING  
(Name)

2ND LT.  
(Rank)

O-820560  
(ASN)

Aircraft P-51D-20-NA  
(Type)

44-62800  
(Serial No.)

KI-M  
(Markings)

1. Position of missing A/C when last sighted or contacted.
  - a. Polar Coordinates: N5201-0621 W
  - b. Altitude: ON GROUND
  - c. Last noted heading: NOT APPLICABLE
  - 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.

FLAK - LIGHT - VERY INTENSE. A/C WAS IN A TURN AT 1,000 FEET, ATTEMPTING TO PINPOINT LOCATION. FLAK GUNNERS SURROUNDING A HOSPITAL OPENED FIRE IMMEDIATELY.

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

FIRE FROM RIGHT SIDE OF A/C NEAR SCOOP

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

WAS LAST SEEN AS IT HIT THE GROUND.

5. Not Applicable.

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

NO CHUTE SEEN.

7. Other remarks, not covered above. If additional space is required, use back of form. LT. KIER SAW FIRE BREAK OUT ON LT. SMITH'S A/C. HE PREPARED TO WARN HIM ON R/T JUST AS LT. SMITH JETTISONED HIS CANOPY. IN ORDER TO AVOID THE VERY INTENSE FLAK LT. KIER DROVE FOR THE DECK. HE THEN LOOKED FOR LT. SMITH A/C AND SAW IT JUST AS IT HIT THE GROUND.
8. Date of Report.

26 FEBRUARY 1945  
Eye Witnesses: Name Rank ASN A/C No.  
1. KIER, EDWARD LEROY 1ST LT. O-721427 KI-F  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.

Interrogating Officer: Edmond W. Long

1st Lt. Long  
Intelligence Officer,  
55th Fighter Squadron.