

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

Henslee, L.K.
4062

Classification changed to _____
 by E. A. FREEMAN, Lt. Col., AC
 by F. M. MOEN, B. Capt., AC
 Date: MAR 28 1946

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE FORCES
 WASHINGTON
 AIRMAIL 21 APR 1946

IMPORTANT: This report will be equally as applicable by each Army Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORIGINATOR: Location AAF Sta F-368; Command or Air Force VIII F. Command Group; 20th Fighter Group; Squadron 55th F Sq.; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Point of departure AAF Station F-368; Course 79 degrees; Intended Destination Oranienburg; Type of Mission Bomber escort
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF LOSS (GIVE IN METRIC UNITS):
CAVU
4. GIVE: () Loss 18 Apr 44; Time 1600; and Location 25 mi off Holland coast at IJmuiden
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 () Specify whether: (x) Lost sighted; () Lost contact by radio; () Forced Down; () Seen to crash; or () Inferred from available info.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IDENTIFIED, ON: () Day; () Night; () Day or Night: (Check only one) () Exact altitude; () Estimated altitude; (x) Other circumstances as follows: reason unknown

6. AIRCRAFT TYPE, Model and Serial P-38J-1010; Serial Number 42-68126 X
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Serial V-1710-91; Serial Number _____
 () A-035189; () V-1710-91; () A-037820
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Specify make, type, and quantity)
 (a) 50 cal Sav.; (b) LL 929869; (c) UL 929297; (d) UR 929836
 (e) LR 929548; (f) 20mm Int. Har.; (g) 124496; (h) _____
9. DID WEAPONS TEST WORKING AT TIME OF LOSS? (a) Not definitely yes
 (b) Non-usable no

10. NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1
 (Starting with pilot, describe the full complement of crew members and their positions and where aboard aircraft, list all their particular assignments and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position Name in full (Last name first) Rank Social Number
 Pilot Henslee, Leland Kenneth 2nd Lt. 0-756572

81/40328

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

11. IDENTIFY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE ALL PERSONS WHO SAW OR HEARD THE AIRCRAFT, OR WHICH OF THEM, BEFORE IT WAS IDENTIFIED OR LOCATED:

| Name in full | Rank | Serial Number | Contracted | Saw | Forecast |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------|----------|
| (Last name first) | | | by | Initials | Initials |
| 1. <u>Hallberg, Chester A.</u> | <u>1st Lt.</u> | <u>0-716096</u> | | <u>x</u> | |
| 2. _____ | | | | | |

Jul 3'



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Missing Air Crew Report

12. IF PERSONNEL WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used yes; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) unknown
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE INCIDENT OCCURRED.
14. ATTACH EXHIBITS AND COPIES OF CHARTS, MAPS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO INCIDENT.
15. ATTACH NAMES, GRADES, OR RANKS OF PERSONS, IF ANY, WHO WERE NOTIFIED, AND AIR RESCUE LAUNCHES WERE NOTIFIED AND two A/S Rescue launches were seen going in the direction of Lt. Henslee.

Date of Report 21 April 1944

Charles F. Salter

(Signature of Reporting Officer)

CHARLES F. SALTER
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

Revised Form VIII FC
G-3-2 26 June 1943

MAY 19 1944



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55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 20TH FIGHTER GROUP
A.P.O. NO. 637, U.S. ARMY

CWL/S1

18 APRIL, 1944

C E R T I F I C A T E

1. I CERTIFY THAT I, CHESTER A. HALLBERG, 1ST LT., AIR CORPS, HAD VISUAL CONTACT WITH LELAND K. HENSLEE, 2ND LT., AIR CORPS, SERIAL NO. 0-756572, IN P-51-10-LO ON 18 APRIL, 1944 IN NORTH SEA ABOUT 15 OR 20 MILES OFF THE ENEMY COAST AT IJMUIDEN.

2. WHEN RETURNING FROM AN ESCORT MISSION DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY LT. HENSLEE WAS FORCED TO BAIL OUT. I OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH LT. HENSLEE WHILE I WAS FLYING WITH THIS SQUADRON IN THE RED THREE POSITION.

AS WE CROSSED THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE ZUIDER ZEE AT ABOUT 20,000 FT. LT. HENSLEE CALLED THAT HIS RIGHT ENGINE WAS ON FIRE. HIS TRANSMISSION WAS INTERMITTENT. WE TOLD HIM TO "FEATHER UP" WHICH HE DID IMMEDIATELY. THE ENGINE CONTINUED TO SMOKE, HOWEVER, AND HE CONTINUED ON COURSE IN THE HOPE OF EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE.

WHEN WE CROSSED THE DUTCH COAST AT IJMUIDEN I PULLED UP BESIDE HIM TO SEE HOW BAD THE FIRE WAS. FLAMES WERE BEGINNING TO COME OUT AROUND THE COWLING AND BEGAN TO EAT INTO THE WING. I KEPT A CLOSE WATCH ON HIM AND WHEN HE WAS APPARENTLY HAVING DIFFICULTY CONTROLLING THE PLANE I TOLD HIM TO BAIL OUT. AT THAT MOMENT THE BURNING ENGINE DROPPED OUT AND THE PLANE WHIPPED OVER IN A SPIN TO THE LEFT.

LT. HENSLEE THEN BAILED OUT. THIS WAS DIRECTLY WEST OF IJMUIDEN, HOLLAND. I THEN SAW AN ODD OBJECT DESCENDING NEAR LT. HENSLEE, SO I FLEW OVER CLOSER TO HIM AND SAW WHAT APPEARED TO ME TO BE CLOTHING AFIRE. IT LOOKED ALSO LIKE SHREDS OF CLOTHING WERE HANGING FROM LT. HENSLEE. HE HAD ONE LEG DRAWN UP AND HIS HEAD WAS HANGING ON HIS CHEST. HE DID NOT WAVE OR ACKNOWLEDGE MY PRESENCE.

WHEN LT. HENSLEE STRUCK THE WATER I LOST SIGHT OF HIM AND HIS CHUTE. ALL THIS TIME LT. RIEMENSNIJDER WAS CIRCLING AT ALTITUDE GIVING "MAYDAYS". AFTER GETTING A GOOD FIX, LT. RIEMENSNIJDER JOINED ME AND WE SEARCHED FOR A DINGHY. WE WERE SOON JOINED BY ABOUT SIX P-51'S. AFTER AN HOUR'S SEARCH WE WERE FORCED TO LEAVE FOR LACK OF FUEL. THE P-51'S SAID THEY COULD STAY FOR ANOTHER HOUR. LT. RIEMENSNIJDER AND I MET TWO A/S RESCUE LAUNCHES ABOUT FIFTEEN MILES WEST OF THE SPOT WE LAST SAW LT. HENSLEE. THEY WERE HEADED FOR THAT SPOT.

THE CEILING AND VISIBILITY WERE UNLIMITED AND WINDS WERE VERY LIGHT.

Chester A. Hallberg
CHESTER A. HALLBERG
1ST LT. AIR CORPS
55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON