

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

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

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE
 WASHINGTON

Rollins, W.D.

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT 7765

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled and duplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location AAF Sta F-367; Command or Air Force VIII Fighter Group 20th Fighter; Squadron 77th Fighter Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure AAF Station F-367; Course Southeast
 Intended Destination Charente; Type of Mission Bombing & Strafing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Clear 3/10 clouds
4. GIVE: (a) Date 10 Aug 44; Time 11:30; and Location Somme Py, France of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
 (b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; (x) Last contacted by Radio; () 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 P51 D W 5; A.A.F. Serial Number 44-13811
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7; A.A.F. Serial Number 44-321901
 (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
 (a) R.O. 1267101 Frig (b) RC 1267351 Frig; (c) LD 1268902; (d) RI 1268793 Frig
 (e) IC 1266986; (f) LI 1267104; (g) _____; (h) _____

9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty yes
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 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
Pilot	<u>ROLLINS, WILLIAM DOBERT</u>	<u>2nd Lieut.</u>	<u>0-763356</u>
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SALES:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forc'd Landin
1. <u>GILBERTSON, MERIE JEROME</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>0-730451</u>	<u>x</u>			
2.						

SP/46673

[REDACTED] *9nd!*

July 9'

DECLASSIFIED

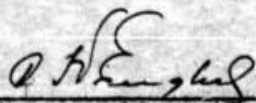
Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

Missing Air Crew Report cont'd.

12. IF PERSONNEL WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Unknown ^{see notes}; (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 AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND TIME MADE, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE _____

Date of Report 12 August 1944


(Signature of Preferring Officer)

C. H. ENGLISH
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

Reproduced at Hq VIII FC
C-D-2 26 June 1943

* Lt. Rollins called on radio saying he was going to bail out but was not seen after this.

SEP 18 1944



RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

STATEMENT

"Lt. Rollins was flying on my wing during the mission. In the vicinity of Somme Py, France, approximately 20 miles east of Reims, I saw a train and decided first to drop my belly tanks on it and then go down to strafe it. Lt. Rollins followed me down but he must have gone too near the ground because he was immediately heard to say that he was in trouble and was taking a safe course home. There were 8 ships in this same area but no one could see him and before anyone could find him to escort him home he was again heard on the radio saying he was bailing out. This was at approximately 1130 A.M. August 10, 1944. I never did see him after this but on my second pass on the train I noticed two marks presumably made by his plane as his tanks dragged on the ground."

Merle J. Gilbertson
MERLE J. GILBERTSON
Captain, Air Corps.

end 2

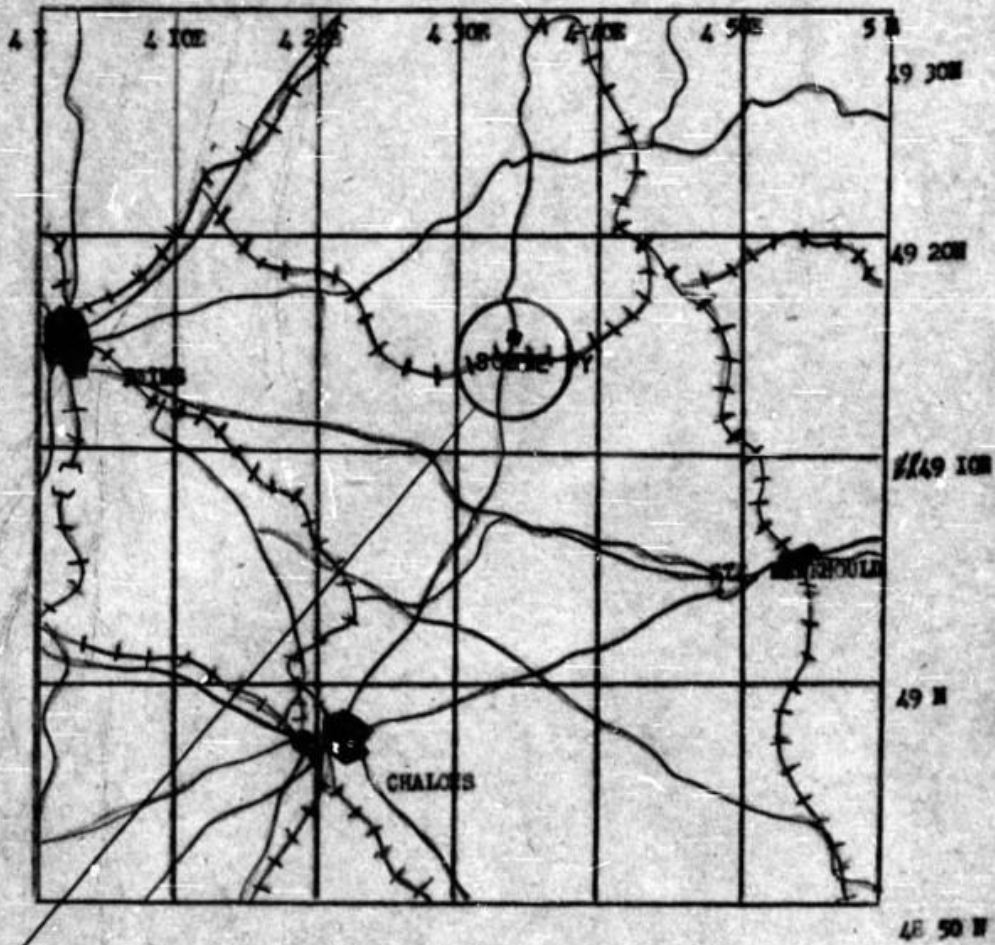
13

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL



LIT. PROBABLY LAST SEEN 11:30 AUGUST, 10, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

sub 3

24