

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF NND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982. |

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~~RESTRICTED~~ changed

By E. A. BRAUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

By E. M. MURPHY, Capt., AC

Date MAR 1946

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12840

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by S. S. [illegible], Lt. Col., 40

by S. S. [illegible], Capt., 48

date **1 MAR 1945**

WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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

- Site A-78
1. ORGANIZATION: Location VO-8086 Command or Air Force IX TAC
Group 474 Ftr Gp Squadron 428 Ftr Detachment
 2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure VO 8086 (map coordinate) Mag heading 80 deg
Intended Destination G-185422 (map coordinate of mission) D/E strating
 3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST good
REPORTED 10/10 clouds, with breaks between 3000 and 9000 ft, visib
 4. GIVE: (a) Date 2 Mar 1945 Time 1005 and Location F-998228
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane.
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last contacted by Radio;
() Forced down; (X) Seen to crash; or () Information not available.
 5. AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF:
(Check only one) () Enemy Airplane; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ()
Other circumstances as follows: _____
 6. AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series P-38J15; A.A.F. Serial No. 42-104333
 7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1710; A.A.F. Serial No. (a) A-035403
(b) A-035811 (c) _____
 8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial No.)
(a) 20mm 124471 (b) 50cal 610908 (c) 50cal 1074005 50cal 1074168
(e) 50cal 612194 (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
 9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
 10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew 1 Passengers 0 Total 1
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more
than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on
separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1.	Pilot	Strong, Robert H.	2nd Lt.	0-800072
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

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Inc. 12'

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Last Sighted	Saw	
			By Radio			Crash	Force Landing
1. Connley, C. R., 1 Lt.		0-742965				X	
2. Hanson, Robert D.							
3. Capt.		0-755935				X	

12. 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

13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE.

15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE None made.

Date of Report 4 March 1945

R. H. Brownawell
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
R. H. BROWNAWELL,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Assistant Adjutant.

3 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Statement of Lt Connley.
- Incl 2 - Statement of Capt Hanson.
- Incl 3 - Sketch of area.

APR 16 1945



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428TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (TE)
474TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 595, US ARMY

3 March 1945.

S T A T E M E N T

On 2 March 1945, Mission Y-21-7, I was flying Yellow two and 2d Lt. Robert H. Strong was flying Red four. We were under an overcast (10/10) and the visibility was approximately 4 to 6 miles. We had spotted the target and Red flight was to strafe while Yellow flight covered them. As Red flight made their run I was in position to watch them all. When Red four was strafing light flak opened up with a fairly short burst from the woods to his left. As he pulled off the target I could see his right wing smoking and from the angle the flak came from Lt. Strong must have also been hit in the cockpit. As he pulled up I heard, who I thought was Yellow leader, call telling Lt. Strong to bail out. He pulled up to about 1,000 feet, half-rolled and went into the ground. The plane exploded and burned when it hit. Lt. Strong did not bail out.

/s/ C. R. Connley
/t/ C. R. CONNLEY,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
428th Ftr Sq.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Frederick D. Patterson
FREDERICK D. PATTERSON,
Major, Air Corps.

425TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (TS)
474TH FIGHTER GROUP AAF
APO 195, US ARMY

3 March 1945.

STATEMENT

Mission No Y 21-7, 3 March 1945.
Cyber Squadron Leader - Capt. R. D. Hanson.

We came down through a hole in a ten-thousand overcast and found a locomotive and approximately 15 flat cars facing west on an east-west track. Starting a pass to the north I cautioned my flight that I was going to drop a bomb and to watch out for the bomb blast. After peeling up and making a 270 turn, I came in parallel with the track heading east. I dropped another bomb and again peeled up to the left. After having completed approximately 135 of turn, I looked around and saw a streak of flame shoot across the ground and explode. It was Red Two, 2d Lt. George W. Alge. He must have hit the blast of my second bomb. Vicinity - G-0116; Time - Approx. 0930.

We peeled off in loose string formation after a locomotive slowly moving south at Y-998223 at approximately 1005. I made my pass and peeled up to the left, Red three peeled up, and then I watched Red four, Lt. Robert H. Strong, come across the target, as soon as he pulled up I could see he was on fire. He banked to the right and started climbing, but before he reached a thousand feet, he leveled off. Then his nose dropped and he hit the ground about a mile west of the target. He was called twice between the time he left the target and the time he hit the ground, but no reply was received. Light flash was seen by Yellow Flight.

Both of these missions were flown beneath the overcast which was approximately at 2,500 feet. Visibility 5 to 6 miles. Neither of the pilots was seen to bail out.

/s/Robert D. Hanson
/s/ROBERT D. HANSON,
Captain, Air Corps,
425th Fighter Sq.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

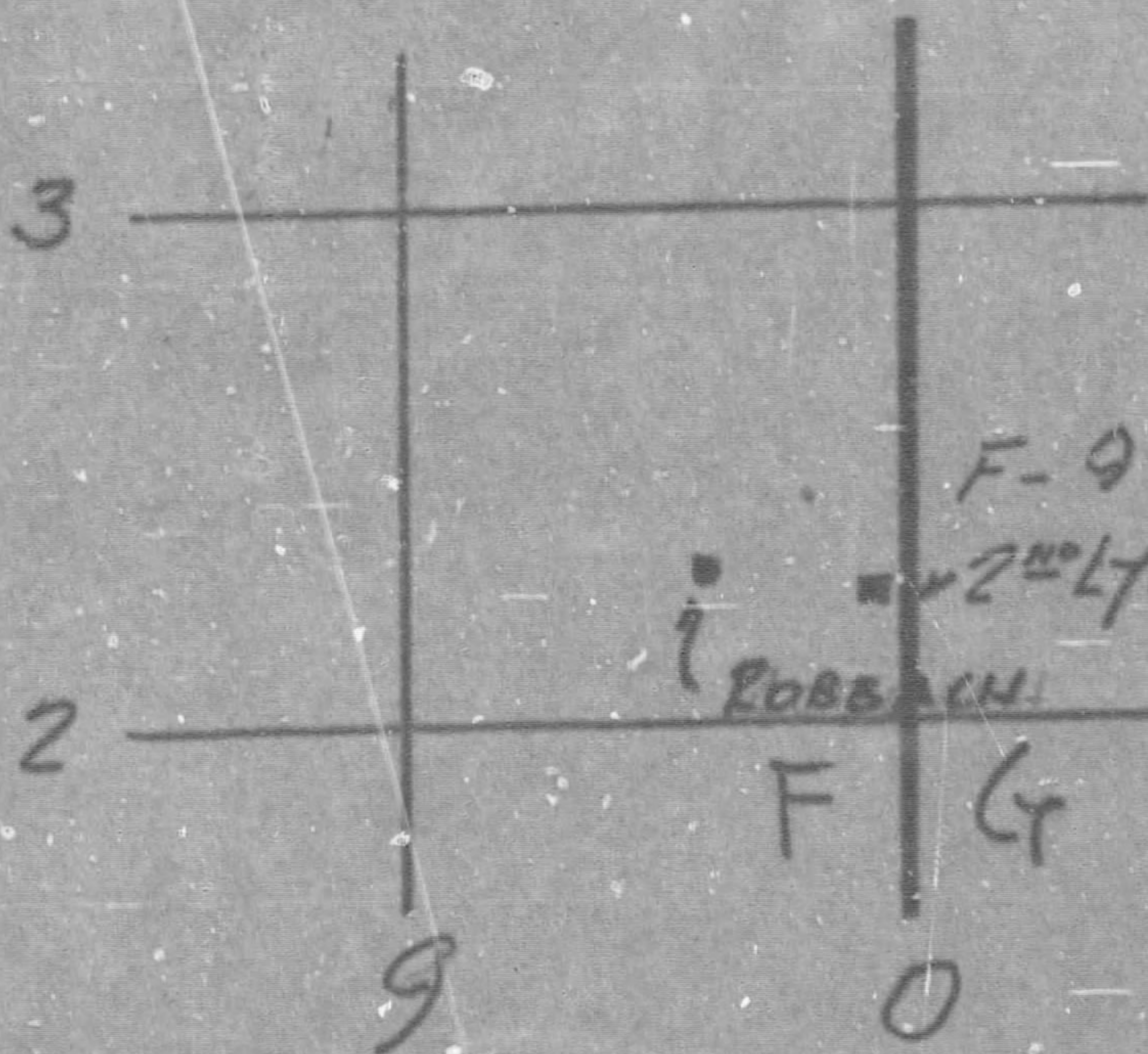
Fredrick D. Patterson
FREDERICK D. PATTERSON,
Major, Air Corps.

2 MARCH 1945

F.O.#357

(Y-2-7)

MAG. NORTH



(MASTER GRID)

F"

6645-9346

SHEET NO. - K51

1:250,000

4th MARCH 1945

By Cpl. K.V.B. BA