

10955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADON Lt. Col., AC
by F. W. HURN Capt., AC
Date OCT 10 1949

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

10955

21 Dec 41

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be completed in quadruplicate 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 Chengkung; Command or Air Force 14th AF
Group 25th Fighter; Squadron 118th; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Sulchwai, China Course _____
Target or Intended Destination Canton; Type of Mission Strafe
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CAVU
4. GIVE: (a) Day 22 Month 12 Year 41; Time 11:00; and Location near Tangtang
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ; 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: _____
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51C-10; AAF Serial Number 43-24950
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, IF ANY _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7; AAF Serial
Number (a) V-523128; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) Not available; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
(i) (See par 17); (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers _____; 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.)

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1.	Pilot Keller, Elerton S.	1st Lt.	O-882855	P. RMC 6/1/45
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAIZ: Check Only One Column

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Check Only One Column	
						Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	Williams, Russell D.	1st Lt.	O-815798		XX		
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 Yes; or (c) Any other reasons (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 Dec. 1944

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

(Signature of Commanding Officer)

WALTER P. WENSKA,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Weather Forecast: Unknown
Weather Encountered: CAVU

Reference par 9: Serial number of pilot's .45 cal.
pistol: 1374761



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S E C R E T

Supplementary
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HEADQUARTERS
TWENTY THIRD FIGHTER GROUP
Office of the Commanding Officer

WPA/DFG/h

A.P.O. 430,
New York, N.Y.,
27 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, 14th Air Force, APO 627,
New York, N.Y. ATTN: 24th Statistical
Control Unit.

1. Transmitted herewith in compliance with
Memorandum 60-14, Hq 14th Air Force, dated 28 August
1944, additional information on 1st Lt. Blanton S.
Keller, O-692655, 118th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
in plane P-51C-10 AAF serial number 45-24950:

- a. Reference par 2: Course 200°
- b. Reference par 4: Location: Near Tangtang, 30
miles North of Canton.
- c. Reference par 12: Jackson, Claude S., 2nd Lt.,
O-705546, Last Sighted.
- d. Reference par 17: Two eyewitness statements
attached.

14 AF
2/1/45



For the Commanding Officer:

Walter P. Mendra
WALTER P. MENDEA,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

- 2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Statement of Lt. Jackson (trip)
Incl 2 - Statement of Lt. Williams (trip)

Incl # 8

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STATEMENT

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SECRET
By Authority of
The Commanding General
20th Air Force Group

27 Dec 44

UW
Date

23 December 1944

December 22, 1944 Capt. Meyer, Lt. Keller Lt. Williams and myself were briefed to strafe Tien Ho Airfield. We made our first run and my guns went out and I pulled out of the pattern. The other three made three or four passes then I heard Lt. Keller say that he had been hit. Lt. Williams followed him about seven to eight minutes at twenty to thirty degrees and Lt. Keller bailed out.

Claude S. Jackson

CLAUDE S. JACKSON
2nd Lt., Air Corps

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By Authority of
The Commanding Officer
23rd Fighter Group

STATEMENT

27 Dec 44 WU
23 December 1944

December 22, 1944 Capt. Meyer, Lt. Keller Lt. Jackson and myself were briefed to strafe Tien Ho Airfield. On about our fifth pass on the field, I observed that Lt. Keller had been hit in the coolant by ground fire. I gave him a call on the radio and told him to head out on a course of 20 degrees and to open his coolant shutters manually to full open. Then I called Capt. Meyers and told him that I was leaving the target area to cover Lt. Keller, as enemy aircraft were airborne in the vicinity. I followed Lt. Keller for 8 minutes on course, when his engine stopped and he had to bail out. He bailed out in friendly territory in the vicinity of Tsungfa. Seeing that he was in friendly territory I went lower to see if he was alright and he waved as I went by him.

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Russell D. Williams

RUSSELL D. WILLIAMS
1st Lt., Air Corps

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DH

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INDIVIDUAL REPORT OF DOWNED AIRCRAFT

(To be forwarded to A.G.A.S. immediately after incident)

Plane No. 43-24957 Type P-51 Unit Unknown.

Date Lost 22 December 1944. Position, Lat. & Long. or other orientation
if known, enemy or friendly territory if known.

Canton area. Enemy territory.

Bail-out, crash, forced-landing, shot down or Missing; and any other
known circumstances surrounding the incident.

Seen to bail-out. Hit by enemy A/A.

Condition of crew when ship abandoned, if known.

Unknown.

PARTICULARS OF PERSONNEL.

<u>NAME</u> (First & last with middle initial)	<u>RANK</u>	A.S.N.	<u>DESIGNATION.</u>
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Only information given is that the Pilot's name is Kealer.

SOURCE: Radio from Luliang.

Handwritten number 337

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Walt

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SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ON DOWNED AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL.

(To be sent to A.G.A.S. immediately additional information received)

Plane No. 43-24950

Type P-51C-10

Unit 118 Tact. Ren. Sq.

Date Lost 22 December 1944.

The following additional information regarding plane and/or personnel has been received:

Previously reported as Keeler corrected to read:

Blanton S. Keller 1st Lt. O-682655
pilot Hit by enemy A/A. Seen to bail-out and seen walking away from scene of crash.
Last seen near Tangtang.

SOURCE: Missing Air Crew Report.

SECRET

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. ... WRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AG
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AG
Date ~~OCT-15-1945~~

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By Authority of:
C. G. 14th A.F.

139-951 400
10/15/45

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ON DOWNED AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL.

(To be sent to A.G.A.S. immediately additional information received)

Plane.No. 43-24950

Type P-51C-10

Unit. 118 Tact. Fcn. Sq.

Date lost. 22 December 1944.

The following additional information regarding this and/or its personnel has been received:

Blanton S. Keller 1st Lt. O-682655 Pilot:

Returned at Nanyung, China to Duty on

6 January 1945.

SOURCE: Supplemental Battle Casualty Report.

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