

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7266

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AO
by F. M. MUECH, Capt., AO
Date MAR 15 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

Date _____
by V. M. WILSON, Capt., AC
by E. A. WILSON, Lt. Col., AC

5. Pilot was unable to let down through overcast over home base due to the possibility of hitting a mountain. Fuel supply was very low.



AUG 3 1945

MACR-7266

~~SECRET~~

INDIVIDUAL REPORT OF DOWNED AIRCRAFT
(To be forwarded to A.G.A.S. immediately after incident)

Plane No. 42-105901 Type P-40 Unit 118 Tact Rcn Sq.

Date lost 6 Aug. 1944 Position, Lat. & Long. or other orientation
if known, enemy or friendly territory if known.

Last contacted by radio in vicinity of Kweilin.

Bail-out, Crash, Forced-landing, Shot down or Missing; and any other known
circumstances surround the incident.

Unknown

Condition of crew when ship abandoned, if known.

Unknown

PARTICULARS OF PERSONNEL

<u>NAME (First & last with middle initial)</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A. S. N.</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
O'BRIEN, ROBERT G.	1st Lt.	0-798342	Pilot

Source: Battle Casualty Report.

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


Returned from mission and crashed. Area of Kweilin, killed in action

~~SECRET~~

STATEMENT

7 August 1964

I was leading a flight of seven P-40's in Kwilix through bad weather and at night. I was housed by the GAS Directional Finder. At 10000' I crossed over the field and told the flight to let down through the overcast, as the field was below us. I left it up to the individual as to whether he stayed in formation or went in trail. There were seven P-40's on top when I started down. One overcast was from 10000' to 8000', then another from 8000' to 5000'. I broke out over the city of Kwilix. I again called the flight to let down as the field was beneath them, and open. Four aircraft landed safely. The other three, (Capt. Geo. Lb. O'Brien and Lt. Swanson) aircraft, I did not see after my initial let through.


IRA B. JONES III
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding

STATEMENT

7 August 1944

On returning from a mission north of the Hengyang area on 6 August 1944, our position became uncertain due to darkness and weather.

A bearing was taken by CA-3 and we were told to fly a heading of 136 degrees. At this time the flight was being lead by Maj. Jones, Lt. Weston on his wing, Capt. Gee, Lt. Swanson flying second element slightly to the rear and right of Maj. Jones, Lt. O'Brien flying to the rear and left of Maj. Jones in the position of third element, and myself and Lt. Stutzman slightly to the rear and left of Capt. Gee in fourth element.

Upon hearing CA-3 say they were shooting flares over the field, a 180 degree turn was made and we let down through one layer of overcast. I then heard Maj. Jones say, "lets take a heading of 136 degrees again." We then started, what appeared to me, a descending turn to the left. At that time there were five ships ahead of me all in the aforementioned positions. Almost immediately after starting this descending left turn, we were in the lower layer of the overcast. I continued my descent and left turn, and from time to time would catch the dim glow of the light of two ships.

Upon coming out of the overcast, I was still in position on the wing of two ships, my airspeed indicator reading 300 mph, needle and ball indicating a three needle turn to the left, altimeter reading about 4000 feet. At this time I had a slight case of vertigo and called the two ships I could then see, thinking it was Capt. Gee, saying we were in a left spiral. I then went on instruments.

When I recovered, I could see no other ships in the area and upon looking around, I saw the field directly south of me, called CA-3 and landed.

Prior to heading for the field, I noticed a fire directly below me. A short time, one minute or so later, another fire started about a mile west of the first one. These were about 10 miles north of the field and 7 to 10 miles west of town. The fires were bright yellow and were both out in three or four minutes.

Raymond V. Darby Jr.

RAYMOND V. DARBY JR.
Captain, Air Corps.