

4358

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed  
to **RESTRICTED** ol., AO  
by P. M. KUEN B, sp1 : AO  
Date MAR 15 1946

Return to:  
Military Records Branch  
Army - Air Force - Defense Unit  
NSA R3 FRC, Building 12  
Franklin & Union Sts.  
Alexandria, Va.

A54-233

11/214

Brd 28

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ref WD Ltr AG-360.33 (5-21-43)  
 OR-S-AF-M (Per Instructions -  
 Per 5 AF Reg 35-45)  
 Classification changes

WAR DEPARTMENT  
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
 WASHINGTON

4358

to **RESTRICTED**  
 by H. M. MUEHLB., Lt. Col., AG  
 by H. M. MUEHLB., Capt., AG

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

- Date 18 April 1944
- ORGANIZATION: ABD 712 Unit; Command or Air Force Fifth Air Force  
 Group 8th Fighter; Squadron 36th Fighter; Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
  - SPECIFY: Point of Departure Nadsab; Course SE-Sank River Area to Nadsab  
 Intended Destination Nadsab; Type of Mission Escort
  - WEATHER CONDITIONS & VISIBILITY. TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED  
 Dense overcast down to 1000 feet with rain squalls. Visibility 300 feet.
  - GIVE: (a) Date 16 April; Time 1500K; and Location 12 mile N Yalu Point.  
 of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
 (b) Specify whether (  ) Last Sighted; ( ) Last contacted by Radio; ( )  
 Forced down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
  - AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check  
 only one) ( ) Enemy Aircraft; ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; (x) other circum-  
 stances as follows: Lost due to weather.
  - AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-38H-1; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-66666
  - ENGINES: Type, Model, and Series V-1710-89-91; A.A.F. Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 (a) 42-29763; (b) 42-93736; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
  - INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish Below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
 (a) Cannon 20 mm 58387 Oldsmobile (b) .50 cal 397629 Frigidaire  
 (c) .50 cal 397554 Frigidaire (d) .50 cal 376085 Frigidaire  
 (e) .50 cal 397604 Frigidaire (f) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (g) \_\_\_\_\_
  - THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
 or (b) Non Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
  - NUMBER PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers \_\_\_\_\_; Total 1  
 (Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 2  
 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	ASN
1. Pilot	<u>KROHN, ROBERT R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>O-754515</u>
2.			
  - IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSON WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIR-  
 CRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME: Chk 1 column  

NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	contacted by last Radio	Saw	Forced
			sighted	Crash	Landing
1. <u>ZIELINSKI, EUGENE A.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>O-662717</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
  - 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) Undetermined
  - ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION  
 WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN. See Incl 6.
  - ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES  
 PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. See Incl 7.
  - ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK  
 AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE Harold B. Graham, 2nd Lt. AC O-807380

DATE OF REPORT 18 April 1944

Donald J. Campbell  
 Sig. of preparing Officer.  
 DONALD J. CAMPBELL,  
 Captain, Air Corps,  
 Commanding.

Attachment # 5

~~SECRET~~

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

36TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
8TH FIGHTER GROUP  
APO 713 Unit 1

17 April 1944

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

On the 16 April, 1944, I was the flight leader of "Agate Special", our mission being to escort one B-25 on a searching mission in the Sepik River Area. We took off from Nadzab at 1020K, with weather up the valley and over the target area being overcast from 3,000 to 6,000 feet. We were over the target area from 1145K to 1330K and at 1330K I radioed the B-25, telling him I was returning with my flight to our base. I and my flight—2nd Lt. WALTER H. MIKUCKY, Wingman; 1st Lt. LAWRENCE REEVES, Element Leader and 2nd Lt. ROBERT R. KEOWN the Element—turned towards our base from Sepik River Area, flying approximately 50 miles inland. On our course, we encountered a heavy overcast about 15 miles south of Annenberg that had gotten down to 1,000 feet and rain squalls. At this point I changed our course and headed for Madang, with the intention of landing at Saidor. When we reached the coast at Yalu point the overcast was again down to 1,000 feet and a solid sheet of rain falling. With my flight still together we headed out to sea in an attempt to find an opening in the clouds. Off Yalu point we found a hole and circled for 20 minutes, and then I radioed my flight that I was turning to the left. My wingman, Lt. Mikucky, followed but element leader and his wingman turned to the right. This was at 1440K and the last I saw of the element. With my right engine already feathered, I radioed my wingman, telling him that I was bailing out and instructed him to do the same—it being impossible to get through the weather with a shortage of fuel. I bailed out off Yalu point from approximately 800 feet, landing in the water 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from shore. This occurred at 1500K. In a few minutes I was rescued by a barge and told that my wingman, Lt. Mikucky, had crashed into the sea and exploded about a mile away.

I remained at Saidor over night and returned to my squadron the 17th of April, with no further evidence concerning the element of my flight.

*Eugene A. Zielinski*  
EUGENE A. ZIELINSKI,  
1st Lt., Air Corps.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

~~SECRET~~

36TH FIGHTER SQUADRON  
8TH FIGHTER GROUP  
APO 713 Unit 1

18 April 1944

STATEMENT OF SQUADRON RESCUE OFFICER

On the 16 April, 1944, "Agate Special", a four-ship flight of P-38's was returning from escorting one B-25 on a search mission in the Sepik River area. As the flight, consisting of 1st Lt. EUGENE A. ZIELINSKI (Flight Leader), 2nd Lt. WALTER H. MIKUCKY (Wingman), 1st Lt. LAWRENCE REEVES (Element Leader) and 2nd Lt. ROBERT R. KEOWN (Element), turned toward the base it soon ran into very bad weather.

As soon as the fuel-time element had elapsed the 36th Fighter Squadron Operations notified Operations at Hqs. 8th Fighter Group, A-2 at V Fighter Command and the rescue squadron. This was done at approximately 1530K but nothing further could be done on the 16th because of weather.

On the 17 April, 1944, Catalina's and B-25's, escorted by fighters, searched the coast and inland from the sea from Saidor to Alexishafen. Three wrecks were sighted near Alexishafen but were not identified.

On the 18 April, 1944, no news of the missing pilots and planes has been received. The search is being continued.

Harold B. Graham.  
HAROLD B. GRAHAM,  
2nd Lt., Air Corps,  
Rescue Officer.

~~SECRET~~

Accl: 8'

5° 40' S Latitude

146° 40' E Longitude

Arnanberg

Madang

Astrakabe Bay

Long Is.

Element

Saidor

Last Sighted

Yalu Pt.

• Dumpu

NEW GUINEA



S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Handwritten scribble