

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

353RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), AAF
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 520

E-1/rec

24 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Witnesses' Statements to Accompany Missing Air Crew Report on
B-17G A/C No. 42-97189.

TO : Commanding Officer, 301st Bombardment Group (H) AAF.

1. In compliance with Letter, Headquarters, 301st Bombardment Group
(H), AAF, dated 19 May 1944, Subject: Statements to Accompany Missing
Air Crew Reports, subject statements follow:

a. Witnesses' Statements:

(1) " The first I noticed was that #4 engine on 189 was smok-
ing--a light blue smoke. I called the bombardier and told
him about it. He said he'd make a note of it. I kept
on watching it from then on. It dropped back out of 21
position and fell back. Some one then called out fighters
coming in at 2 o'clock and as they passed toward the tail
I fired at the fighters. The next time I saw 189 it had
dropped back a little farther, #4 engine was still run-
ning but the fire was out. It gradually dropped farther
back but hadn't lost but a little altitude. Just before
the snip disappeared I saw planes in its vicinity in
what looked like a dog fight though it could have been
enemy fighters after 189. The distance at this time was
too great for me to identify the fighters. The last I
saw of 189 it was still coming along and didn't appear
to be in distress. "

Pvt. Francis J. Debski
Pvt. Francis J. Debski (637392)
Tail Gunner on A/C #42-3344,
Pilot, 2nd Lt. John C. Cameron Jr.,
Flying position 13.

(2) I saw 7189 for 15 minutes and he was dropping back all the
time. About 4 fighters made 2 passes at him when our escort
drove them off.

I lost sight of 189 as it became a small speck in the
sky and went down in the clouds.

I think he was at 14,000-16,000 feet and I never saw a
chute come out.

George E. Palmer
T/Sgt. George E. Palmer (31161301),
Engineer Gunner on A/C 42-31697,
Pilot, 1st Lt. Jack L. Russell,
Flying position 12.

CONFIDENTIAL