

# 8<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE



406

MACR No.	13394	Service No.	Rank	Name	Duty	
Date 11:47 hours	12 March 1945	0-887744	Major	Mc Farlane, John D.	Pilot	ESC.
Type of Aircraft	P-51-D-10-NA					
Serial No.	44 - 14350					
Group/Squadron	4 FG/356 FS					
Code Letters/Markings						
Mission/No.	Escort					
Intended destination	Swinemunde					
AF Station 356	Debden, Essex					
Location of Crash: Soelsted on the						
Island of Laaland, Denm. (54°48'N/11°17'E)						
Statement:						
		Special Remarks:				

Statement:

Becky group led by John D. McFarlane, Major, A.C., O-887744, was on bomber escort mission to Swinemunde, on 12 March 1945. I was flying Becky White Two to Major McFarlane. A short while after we had passed over the Danish Island of Moen (Borre) Major McFarlane said that he was turning back and directed me to accompany him. We broke formation and started back when I noticed a lot of white vapor trailing his airplane. When I flew in close I could see that coolant was coming out of the sides and the bottom of his engine. Very shortly after Major McFarlane said that he would bail out as soon as the engine quit. He put his airplane into a glide from 17,000 feet to about 10,000 feet, maintaining a speed of about 150 M.P.H.; then dove for speed, pulled up and rolled the airplane over on its back and bailed out. It looked very certain that he fell clear, encountering no injuries. The parachute opened very soon and the airplane went into a starboard turn, on its back and broke up when it crashed.

I went down to 3,500 feet and saw Major McFarlane running for cover very soon after he hit the ground. The cloud cover was at 3,500 feet with four-tenths to five-tenths sun. No one was seen to approach Major McFarlane. The time was 11:47 hours. I then set course for home.

Donald P. Baugh,  
F/O, Air Corps,  
Pilot.

Statement:

Takeoff Time, Mission:

Takeoff at approximately 09:00 hours 12 March 1945. Departed coast of England approximately 09:15 hours at Lowestoft, altitude 8,000 ft., heading approximately 70°. Crossed enemy coast approximately 10:35 hours over the Island of Nordstrand, 54°30'N-08°50'E. Mission in support of 2d Division, B-24s to Swinemunde, were to rendezvous at point where enemy coast was crossed.

Cause of Landing in Enemy Territory:

Rendezvous with bomber formation was accomplished on time. Over Island of Laaland, Denm. aircraft developed internal glycol leak and engine went out. Was in lead position of group. Shut engine off completely at about 15,000 feet; engine was burning at that time. Went down with plane to 6,000 ft. and then bailed out. Observed aircraft crash at Soellested, 54°48'N - 11°17'E on Island of Laaland; aircraft did not burn, but was completely destroyed upon crashing. I landed about 100 yards from same village. Carried no classified equipment or material aboard. No. 2 man came with me and came down to about 3,000 feet; presume he went back after I bailed out.

Chas. E. Rayens, Colonel, G.S.C.  
Acting Military Attache,  
Legation of the United States,  
Stockholm, Sweden.