

**DECLASSIFIED**

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S T A T E M E N T

I, Paul F. Zeltner, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, Army Serial Number 13151473, state that on 18 May 1944, I was flying with Lieutenant Lilley of the 758th Bombardment Squadron (Hv) AAF 459th Bombardment Group (Hv) AAF, in Number 4 position of "C" Flight, as First Engineer, firing the top turret of a US Army aircraft, type B-24 J, Number 41-40326. Lieutenant Brownell's ship, of the 758th Bombardment Squadron (Hv) AAF 459th Bombardment Group (Hv) AAF, a B-24 K, Number 41-29576, was flying in Number 5 position of "C" Flight, to the right and slightly to the rear of our aircraft. We had just completed a successful bombing run and were just past the target, Poletsi, Rumania, when I saw the ship Lieutenant Brownell was flying, flutter a little and then peel off and dip under our ship. He was in no apparent trouble that I could ascertain inasmuch as all four engines were working and the ship seemed under control. The weather was bad, dense undercast, and from my position in the top turret, I could not see Lieutenant Brownell after he peeled off and went under our aircraft. We had experienced some flak and although I did not see any enemy fighters, there were some reported but were evidently being engaged by our escort of P-38 and P-51 fighters. That is all I know of this occurrence.

*Paul F. Zeltner*  
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