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758TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
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S T A T E M E N T

I, Robert J. Huber, Staff Sergeant, 35269727, 758th Bombardment Squadron (Hv) AAF, 459th Bombardment Group (Hv) AAF, state that on 26 June 1944 I was flying as Tail Gunner on a B-24 type aircraft, piloted by First Lieutenant MENGES, of the 758th Bombardment Squadron (Hv) AAF, 459th Bombardment Group (Hv) AAF, in Number 2 position of "D" Flight. Lieutenant Stodden of the 758th Bombardment Squadron (Hv) AAF, 459th Bombardment Group (Hv) AAF, was flying in Number 5 position of "D" Flight, to the direct rear of our ship, and slightly lower. We were all flying in good formation when about five (5) minutes before the target, about 20 German Fighters came roaring in formation, past the rear of our formation. Immediately after, Number 3 engine of Lieutenant Stodden's ship started to smoke quite badly. About two minutes later Lieutenant Stodden feathered the propeller on that engine and began to fall behind the rest of the formation. The enemy fighters did not return, for they were being engaged by the P-51 escorts. Lieutenant Stodden continued on his bomb run and when he dropped his bombs he was about one (1) mile to the rear of the formation. We rallied left, making a wide turn, and I saw Lieutenant Stodden make a sharp left rally, quite a way off the prescribed rally course and parallel to it. That was the last I saw of him. We had experienced intense rocket flak prior to and over the target (An oil refinery approximately 25 miles West of Vienna, Austria) but I am sure it was the enemy fighters that caused Lieutenant Stodden's disappearance. That is all I know of this occurrence."

Robert J. Huber
ROBERT J. HUBER, S Sgt
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R. Huber
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