

**DECLASSIFIED**

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**STATEMENT**

8 June 1944.

I was flying 1st Lt. White three on June 5, 1944 and Lt. Schneider was flying white two. On our approach to the target, Major Stewart, who was white leader, took his element in on the east side and I took the west, as a result, I lost him for awhile. When I rejoined the flight, I discovered Lt. Schneider had received hits in the engine of his aircraft. (When he was hit, I do not know.) Major Stewart received several fixes from the controller and we shepherded Lt. Schneider until his engine quit. He bailed out, apparently uninjured, as we buzzed him after his chute opened and he waved back. According to the last fix we had, we had just made landfall out of the enemy coast.

*Clarence E. Van Cott*  
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