

RE: Bailing out of  
pilots from burning plane-

Heinkenszand July 18 1945-  
To the mayor of the municipi-  
pality of Heinkenszand.

*Verslag van  
het onderzoek  
van het neigving*

REPORT.

in compliance with your order to make a report about the plane (in the report it says to be of English nationality, but this should be of American nationality) which came down burning, I beg you to inform the following details:

On September 18 1944, about half past five I was in the municipality of 's Heer Arendskerke and saw a <sup>Vermeulen</sup> plane of English (this should be American) nationality coming from an eastern direction.

By the sound of the engines and the quick coming down I supposed that the plane had already been damaged before it came over the municipality of 's Heer Arendskerke, while I heard some flak from the before mentioned direction just before.

After that the plane had flown over this municipality and then came again within reach of German ac-ac and this post too fired at the plane. After some shots I saw that a flame started under the plane and that some eight pilots bailed out, after which no more shots were fired. Immediately after the pilots had left the plane I saw that the plane came fast down with a curve and crashed burning in the polder of "De Roel". As I was on duty I could not go to the place where it had come down. In connection with above the following persons were witnesses and gave evidence:

Witness 1 Frans Blik, old 18 years, profession: blacksmith, living at Heinkenszand, B 76, declared:

In the afternoon of September 18 1944, about half past five, I was in front of my house. At that moment I saw a plane of English (this must be American) nationality coming down burning. Moreover I saw ~~some persons who bailed out by means of a parachute. When these persons were coming down from the plane, I saw that one man came down without a parachute with turning movements and that in this his vicinity one opened parachute, to which no person was attached was sailing in another direction. After the aforesaid persons had left the plane the German flak fired no longer. I have not seen if this aforesaid man without parachute was attached to a parachute, but I suppose so. Aforesaid pilot came down thereupon in a meadow opposite my house. After he had come down on the ground he over-~~ turned once more as far as a yard from the ground. After that I went immediately up to him and saw that he gave no sign of life and that a thin blood-stream ran along his nose. Further bruises were not visible. On a disc which he wore round his arm I saw that his name was: Eugenie Kieras, old 20 years. When the pilot had come down the Germans were not long in arriving and we were compelled to leave the spot. Before I had to leave I saw that some soldiers immediately searched his pockets and took away the cigarettes which they smoked together. After they thoroughly examined him they put the corpse on a wheel-barrow and covered it with some gunny sacks. Two days later the dead body was interred together with the half-burned body which remained in the plane (that of priv. Yensho) in the cemetery at Heinkenszand.

By order of the Germans it had to take place quietly and unobtrusively.

Witness 2 Jacob Koole, sergeant of the Royal Mounted Police. at Heinkenszand. He declares:

from On September 18 about half past 5 I saw some pilots who bailed out a burning plane over the municipality of Heinkenszand. One of the pilots I saw coming down without a parachute and one open parachute sailing away. As it happened at a considerable height I could not see if the aforesaid person had been attached to that parachute.

Moreover I saw that the plane, after having made a great turn came down and crashed in the polder called "The Poel". After this I immediately betook myself to the place where the aforesaid pilot had fallen down which proved to be in a meadow in the municipality of Heinkenszand. As shortly after the Germans were in that meadow, I was not allowed to see the pilot. At about 11. p.m. of the same day a German soldier informed me that the dead body was handed over and I went to the place where the dead body was, being in the barn of the farmer LOKERSE, where I found the body in a sitting attitude on a wheelbarrow and covered with some gunny sacks. After that the body was taken with the help of the local R.A.P. on a stretcher to a suitable room and washed and dressed in a sheet and placed upon a bier, after which in my presence, it was placed in a coffin. From a disc, on the body of the pilot, I saw that his name was: EUGENIE KIERAS, old 20 years, mechanic. Moreover I attached from his body 2 small pencils, a chain and a lock of hair was cut by me to give them later to his relatives. These articles were later taken to the municipal Hall at Heinkenszand. The same day, 18 September, 1944, I also went to the place where the plane had crashed. At the place I saw that the plane was completely burned out and that one person charred was in the plane.

This person, who proved to be EDWARD JENSEN (later it was found that his name was EDWARD YENSHO), expert in loading and unloading was also taken to Heinkenszand and put in a sheet and placed in a coffin. On his body nothing could be salvaged because everything had been stolen by the Germans. I also saw that some German soldiers took the money from the wallet and divided it among each other.

On September 20 at half past 9 a.m. both were buried in the cemetery of Heinkenszand. By order of the Germans everything had to occur quietly and every ceremony was forbidden. Therefore the burial took place silently and without any ceremony. The Germans had forbidden that the civil population should enter the cemetery. Furthermore I, sergeant of the R.M.P. gathered from several witnesses that they were under the impression that the flier Yensho whose burned body was in the plane, had wanted to prevent that that the burning plane should fall on the village, which, being a bomber, and in this way he succeeded in doing this.

In connection with this he would not leave his plane quick enough and in this way he found his death.

I enclose herewith the hairlock, chain, 2 pencils and some photos of Kieras. These will be closed in an envelope and send together with this report. The identity-disc of Kieras has been deposited at the office of CIVIL AFFAIRS at Goes after the liberation. Further is enclosed a topographical drawing of the municipality of Heinkenszand with marked places where the plane crashed, where the pilot Kieras came down and the cemetery where they are both buried.

A Mr. W. Abeleven a skilled artist will be so kind to make 3 original sketches of these 3 marked places.

Of which report by me, sergeant of the R.M.P. personally has been made on oath, signed and closed at Heinkenszand.

Heinkenszand, 2 August, 1945-

Sergeant  
Post-Commander.  
Vermeulen.