

**Crash of American Thunderbolt pilot
Ray Christian
26th October 1944, Eimersdorf**

**Combat report
by 2nd Lt. Ernest R. Johnson (1944)**

“On 26 October 1944, I was flying No. 4 in Lt. Christian’s wing in Yellow flight on a dive-bombing mission in the Metz area. As we approached our target, Yellow flight descended through the overcast and began looking for a target to drop our bombs on. In orbiting before the bomb run Lt. Christian called by radio and stated that his aircraft had been hit in the engine by flak. In spite of the fact that his plane was hit, Lt. Christian made a successful bomb run, dropped his bombs on a railroad track, and the flight was reforming when Lt. Christian called and stated that he was bailing out. This was approximately 12.30. I watched his plane climb into the overcast, the base of which was approximately 500 - 600 feet above the ground. When last seen he was flying a course of about 270 degrees, in vicinity of Thionville. I made two more orbits in the area in which he was last seen, but was unable to locate either the plane or parachute.”