

**Crash of American Thunderbolt pilot
Jack D.Conatser
*27th September 1944, Kerlingen/Ihn***

**Combat report
by 1st Lt. Robert J. Claes (1944)**

“On 27 September 1944 I was flying No. 3 in Blue Flight, Lt. Conatser was leading. We had just reformed after strafing a convoy of armored cars and were heading out, when suddenly Lt. Conatser did a wing over and started down on some vehicles. I believe his radio man may have been out because he did not call in the attack.

No. 2 man was out of ammunition, so I followed Lt. Conatser down. I saw him strafe and pull up. I then strafed, and when I pulled up I saw Lt. Conatser’s plane burning in the belly. He was at about 500 feet then. I called and told him his plane was on fire and to get out of it but received no answer. I saw the plane slide off on a wing and head down. It looked as though at the last minute he tried to pull out of it but he stalled and snap rolled into the ground. The plane exploded. I saw no parachute.”