

Crash of American Thunderbolt pilot Robert Van Zandt
17th November 1944, Lisdorf

Combat report
by 1st Lt. James G. Richardson (1944)

“We were returning from a dive bomb mission; I was leading Green Flight. There was a heavy haze with numerous light stratus clouds, which made a maximum of 1 1/2 miles visibility and a minimum of about 400 yards. I could not see the other flights and tried to climb above the weather. At 12,000 ft. Lt. Van Zandt (Green # 2) said his engine was cutting out. I told him to check his intercooler and gas tanks and call Ripsaw # 5 on D-channel. By that time he had hit a particularly bad spot of weather. On D-channel he told Ripsaw his engine had quit cold. When Ripsaw called back they could not contact Van Zandt but they fixed him as being over friendly territory east of the Moselle River.”