

**Crash of American Lightning pilot
Jack G. Grossenbacher
21. July 1944, Oberarnbach**

American combat report (1944)

“Captain Grossenbacher and 2/Lt Richard G. Simpson were escorting back a crippled bomber when the former called that he was low on oxygen, so he let down to 9,000 ft. Flying over a small town both aircraft started weaving and Lt. Simpson saw what looked to be a direct flak hit in the nose nacelle. Captain Grossenbacher bailed out and apparently opened his chute too soon as it caught on the tail assembly.”

American post-war report, based on seized German files

“On 15th August 1944 the decomposed body of the pilot was found in a thorn-bush by workers at 19.45 h, about 300 m NW of the mountainroad from Landstuhl to Zesenberg/Wesenberg. His head had been partly torn off, the right leg was fractured several times. Large glass fragments were sticking in the left leg which seemingly were of a greenhouse. The pilot was fully clothed, the chute unopened. The aircraft had crashed 500 m W of the place where the pilot was found. It had been shot down by flak positioned at Kindsbach, 8 km from there. The site is about 15 km SW of Kaiserslautern, Germany.”