


STATEMENT

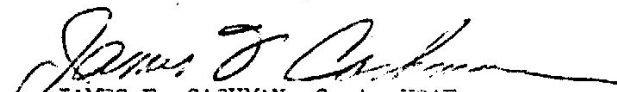
UNCLASSIFIED

26 Dec 72

The date was 21 Dec and I was lead gunner on A/C 490, Call sign Spectre 17 and we were working in Steel Tiger East. At the time of the incident we were engaged with ~~the~~ trying to knock out 3 trucks that were located by our sensor equipment. We blew the first truck when we received accurate 37 mm AAA fire. We then proceeded in blowing the second truck and then tried to silence the AAA site when we were hit by at least 2 gun sites. We immediately started back for home station with a very bad fuel leak that saturated the cargo compartment. Ten minutes after being hit there was an explosion and the whole cargo area filled with fire and the aircraft started into a hard left bank. At the time I was located on the extreme cargo ramp as close to the edge as possible. Next to me were the two IO's and a gunner and a person unknown behind me. I managed to kick myself out with some difficulty and before my chute even opened up the whole sky lit up like ~~was~~ there was another explosion but my back was turned and I did not see it. I had a good chute and after looking around did not see any other para-chutes. On the way down I heard a muffled explosion which I thought was the aircraft hitting the ground. I then noticed 3 fires on the ground. Upon landing I headed north for a few minutes, got on my radio and hear Spectre 17 call sign India come up and I then followed ~~with~~ with my call sign Juliet. I did not hear or see anyone on the ground except for India on the radio. I was on the ground for two hours before being rescued by Jolly 32 and was taken to NMP.

RICHARD M. WILLIAMS  
 TSgt 

This is to certify that this is a true and correct copy.

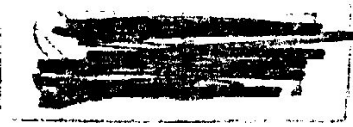
  
 JAMES F. CASHMAN, Capt, USAF  
 Chief, Career Control Section

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification canceled (changed to  
 by authority of S2001R, 1-401  
 by James F. Cashman 31 Dec 74 ~~16 Dec 74~~

CLASSIFIED BY 16508 OPS OFF  
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
 YEAR INTERVALS  
 UNCLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER, 1980

DOWNGRADE TO:  
 SECRET ON NA  
 CONFIDENTIAL ON 31 Dec 74  
 DECLASSIFY ON 31 Dec 80  
 CLASSIFIED BY 16505 OPS OFF



UNCLASSIFIED

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