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8 May 1944.

STATEMENT

On 5 May 1944, 1st Lieutenant FRANCIS M. BOYLE, took off on a mission against oil refineries in Rumania as pilot of aircraft #41-29239; he was flying lead ship of the second element of the lead flight. Directly over the target his plane was seen to suffer a direct from anti-aircraft, and to catch afire in the fuselage between the wings. The crew attempted to smother the flames while Lt. Boyle continued with the formation. But they were not successful, and parachutes were seen to open. The general opinion of others who flew was that eight or nine chutes opened before the wings folded up and the plane went down. The approximate position of the crash is 45°15N-23°50'E.

Clayton E. Evans
CLAYTON E. EVANS,
Major, Air Corps.

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