

865th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
494TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 903

704.

10 APRIL 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

To: Commanding General, FEAF, APO 925

Transmittal herewith Supplemental Missing Air Crew Report, dated 15
August 1945

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER

//s//

HARLEN R. IRELAND
Captain, Air Corps
Adjutant

2 Incls:

Incl 1 – Missing Air Crew Report

Incl 2 - Statements of Survivors

AG 319.1 GA
HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST AIR FORCES, APO 925

1st Ind

To: Commanding General, AAF, Washington, 25, D.C.
Att AFPPA-8

2 Incls: n/c

14864

MACR 14864 2nd Ind AFPPA-8

Hq AAF, Washington, 25, D.C. 24 September 1945

To: Commanding General, Far East Air Forces, APO925

Incl #2 did not arrive this headquarters. Request duplicate
Copy Statements of Survivors be forwarded as soon as practicable.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL
CC: Com Gen POA Attn: Casualty Branch
CC: Co CPW Attn: PAO

704 1st Ind PER/5/bgg
HQ, PACIFIC DIVISION, AAF, AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND,
APO 953. 14 April 1945

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25 D.C.
ATTN: Statistical Control Division.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

//s//
N.W. REED
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Section
Personnel Affairs Branch
Personnel Services Division

1 Incl: Copy Missing Air Crew report

AG 319.1 GA 3d Ind
HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST AIR FORCES, APO 925
To: Commanding General, AAF, Washington, 25, D.C.
Att: AFPPA-8

2d Indorsement complied with

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

//s//
G.W. McCLUGHAN
Major, AGD
Asst. Air Adj

7 Incls:
Incl 1 - n/c
Incl 2 - 7 Statements of Survivors

Electronic Transcription of MACR 14864, Page 3

(REPORTING HEADQUARTERS)
SUPPLEMENTAL TO MAR dtd 18 July 45
MACR 14864

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by name APO #903; Command or Air Force 7th AF
Group 494th BG; Squadron 865th BS; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure APO #903; Course 268 degrees out/ 132 degrees return
Target of Intended Destination Chiangwan Type of Mission Combat Strike
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
10/10 Undercast, Visibility above undercast 15 miles
4. GIVE: (a) Day 17 Month 7 Year 1945; Time _____; and Location Chiangwan A/F, China
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (XX); Last contacted by radio ();
Forced down (XX); Seen to Crash (); or Information not available ()
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); Other circumstances as follows:
A bomb is believed to have exploded right after "Bombs Away"
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-24 J-175 CO; AAF Serial Number 44-40711
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any SITTIN'PRETTY
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-65 P&W; AAF SERIAL _____
Number (a) BP-434365; (b) BP-434604; (c) BP-453144; (d) BP-42-41-24
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);
(a) Browning Cal .50; (b) L/W 1202303; (c) L/W 1201773; (d) R 127551
(e) R/T 1000821; (f) R U/T 1202182; (g) R/B 1197346; (h) L 128042
(i) L/T 1000448; (j) L U/T 1203181; (k) L/B 1261085; (l) _____
(m) R/W 1202470; (n) R/W 1196704; (o) Cal. 30; (p) _____
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Nonbattle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 0; Total 10
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 11 persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. Pilot	<u>Eifler, Harold H.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>O-721673</u>	<u>Missing in Action</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Dively, Darwin R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>O-778744</u>	<u>Missing in Action</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Martin Jr., Wm. R.</u>	<u>2nd Lt</u>	<u>O-2065804</u>	<u>Missing in Action</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>Haws, Keith C.</u>	<u>F/O</u>	<u>T-5539</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
5. Engineer	<u>Lasko, Raymond P.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>42013853</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
6. Radio Operator	<u>Lee Jr., James R.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>34637383</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
7. T/G	<u>Stukas, John P.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>12045816</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
8. U/T	<u>Thackston Jr., Marion E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>15170273</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
9. B/T	<u>Hughes, Buford L.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>34918566</u>	<u>Duty BNC</u>
10. N/T	<u>Sellers, Clyde J.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>36871713</u>	<u>ALW</u>
11.				

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME

Check only one Column

(Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Talbott, Harold B.	2nd Lt	O-597788		XX		
2. Siegel, Merle R.	Sgt	37729052		XX		
3. Luke, Rolland E.	2nd Lt	O-706067		XX		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used XX; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

16. GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT None

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

See attached sheet.

Date of Report 15 August 45

(Signature of Preparing Officer)
EARL M. RICHARDS
Captain, Air Corps
Operations Officer

STATEMENT OF SURVIVOR

Ref: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, Hq 865th B Sq, 494th B Gp (H), A/C 44-40711, dd 18 July 45.

I, F/O KEITH C. HAWS, T5539, believe it was a direct hit from flak which caused the accident. All crew members bailed out and were not injured from flak burst prior to bailout. Six (6) of the crew members were brought out of China by the Chinese Guerrillas. According to the Guerrillas, one (1) Officer was shot, evading capture, and the other two (2) Officers, along with the nose gunner, were taken prisoner.

//s//

KEITH C. HAWS,
F/O, Air Corps
T5539

STATEMENT OF SURVIVOR

Ref: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, Hq 865th B Sq, 494th B Gp (H), A/C 44-40711, dd 18 July 45.

I, Sgt BUFORD L. HUGHES, 34918566, believe our plane received a direct flak hit that lead to all crew members bailing out. Definitely no one in the waist of the plane was hit by flak, except a very minor hit received by Sgt Thackston. All crew members bailed out to safety. Six crew members were picked up and brought our of China to safety by Chinese Guerrillas. The other four crew members were captured by the Japs. The Chinese reported that one of the four men was killed by their Jap guards.

//s//

BUFORD L. HUGHES,
Sgt., Air Corps
34918566

STATEMENT OF SURVIVOR

Ref: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, Hq 865th B Sq, 494th B Gp (H), A/C 44-40711, dd 18 July 45.

Just after "Bombs Away" we were hit by flak. Number 1 engine was feathered and we began to lose altitude, and gas started coming back through the waist. The bomb bays were opened and I saw the crew start bailing out of the front. Then the four of us in the waist went out. Everyone bailed out of the ship of which six (6) were rescued by the Gurrillas and the other four (4) captured, one of whom was shot.

//s//

JAMES R. LEE, JR.
Sgt., Air Corps
34637383

STATEMENT OF SURVIVOR

Ref: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, Hq 865th B Sq, 494th B Gp (H), A/C 44-40711, dd 18 July 45.

Just before "Bombs Away" I looked over to my left and was waiting for "Bombs Away". About 10 seconds after I saw our bombs drop there was a terrific blast. I saw a flash and a column of brown smoke just under our ship, and before I knew what happened, my tail guns were knocked back into my lap, the top of the two gun sights being sheared off by the piece of flak. Pieces of the gun sight scraped my face. I ran to the waist where I was informed that the crew was bailing out. So the four (4) of us in the waist bailed out of the escape hatch. I only saw three (3) of our men bail out, but later at the Chinese Headquarters the crew told me that all had bailed out. Four of our men were captured by the Japs. And the Chinese reported that one of the four men was shot.

Before bailing out, I noticed some of the damage to our ship; the #1 engine was completely out, one of the trim tabs control cables was sliced, gasoline was coming into the waist like heavy rain, and the escape hatch was flown up with a flak hole in it. The plane was losing altitude. After I bailed out, I saw the plane go into a steady dive and crash on one of the islands. Six of our men, including myself were rescued by the Chinese Guerillas. We were taken to the guerrillas Headquarters where we stayed three (3) days and then taken by a Chinese Junk to the American forces where we were picked up by a PBM and flown back to our base.

//s//

JOHN P. STUKAS
Sgt., Air Corps
12045816

STATEMENT OF SURVIVOR

Ref: Supplement to Missing Air Crew Report, Hq 865th B Sq, 494th B Gp (H), A/C 44-40711, dd 18 July 45.

I, Sgt Marion E. Thackston, Jr., believe, a direct hit by flak caused our accident. All of our crew members bailed out, none being injured from flak to the extent it would endanger their getting out of the plane. Six (6) of us were brought out of China by the Chinese Guerrillas. And according to these same Guerrillas, of the remaining four of our crew members, three were taken prisoners and one was shot while trying to evade capture.

//s//

MARION E. THACKSTON, JR,
Sgt., Air Corps
15170273