

5196

Classification changed to

~~RESTRICTED~~

by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AF

by F. M. MUNCH, Capt., AC

Date MAR 15 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location A.P.O. # 324; Command or Air Force 13th Air Task Force  
Group 307th Bomb (H); Squadron 372nd Bomb Sq (H); Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Mokorang Airfield; Course  
intended Destination Bisk Island; Type of Mission Combat
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_
4. GIVE: (a) Date 5-27-44; Time 0148K; and Location Mokorang Airfield  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.  
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last Sighted; ( ) Last Contacted by Radio;  
( ) Forced Down (X) 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 (X) Other Circumstances as Follows A/C crashed in water north of Mokorang Airfield during take-off.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24J; A.A.F. Serial No. 42-110106
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-1830-65A; A.A.F. Serial No. (a) BP-436568  
(b) BP-436440; (c) BP-436588; (d) BP-436472
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)  
(a) 8-Fixed Browning; (b) M-2 Machine Guns (c) Serial Number; (d) Unknown  
(e) 2-Flexible Browning (f) M-2 Machine Guns (g) Serial Number; (h) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10; Passengers 1; Total 11  
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: if more than 10 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
K/A 1. Pilot	4 SHAFER, Charles E.	2nd Lt	0-693415
K/A 2. Co-Pilot	4 BURSON, Paul D.	2nd Lt	0-760990
K/A 3. Navigator	7 RISING, Roland E.	2nd Lt	0-699246
K/A 4. Bombardier	2 FLANAGAN, Paul D.	2nd Lt	0-702030
K/A 5. Engineer	6 Kwak, Joseph	S/Sgt	32607516
K/A 6. Asst Engineer	12 Smith, Otto M.	Sgt	18232151
K/A 7. Radio Operator	7 Bailey, James E.	S/Sgt	36578708
K/A 8. Asst Radio Operator	8 Roberts, Richard E.	Sgt	19117027
K/A 9. Armorer/Gunner	1 Bagdon, Stanley	Sgt	35514719
K/A 10. Gunner	3 Bolton, Robert L.	Sgt	18225966
K/A 11. Passenger	11 Narvaez, Stafford F.	Sgt	19088550

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



MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

MAY 21 1944



Check only One Column

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
						_____
1. McFall, Veris F.	Capt.	O-379536		0149K	X	
2. Mackenzie, Warren West 1st Lt.	O-379537			0149K	X	
3. Quinney, Edward Jr.	1st Lt.	O-379538		0149K	X	

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ; or (c) Any other reason (Specify)
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE McFall, Veris F., Capt., O-379536.

Date of Report May 29, 1944

*Robert E. Beasley*  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)  
ROBERT E. BEASLEY, 1st Lt., Air Corps.

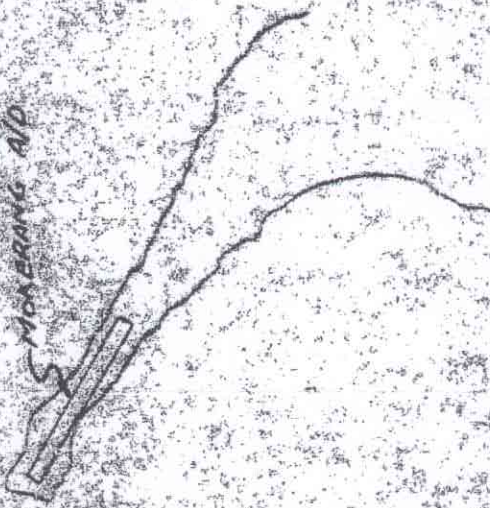
REPRODUCED BY: 30TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) S-3  
JULY 1, 1943



APPROX LOCATION OF CRASH

MOSERANG RD

SCALE





372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

A.P.O. # 324  
29 May 1944.

Eye-Witness Description of Crash

I was in front of the tower, watching the planes take off. Lt. Shaffer's plane seemed to take off O.K. and I followed the tail lights out with my eyes. The plane seemed to climb about 150 feet and then slowly sink to the water. There was a burst of fire followed by a large explosion.

*Edmund Quincy Jr.*  
2nd Lt. Edmund Quincy Jr.,  
372nd Bombardment Squadron (H).

372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

APD 324  
29 May 1944

EYE-WITNESS and EXTENT of SEARCH REPORT

The plane took off, reached an altitude of approximately 75 feet and got so far out that the recognition lights of the plane were no longer visible from the runway. Within a minute after the takeoff came what appeared to be a gasoline explosion, followed immediately by a huge explosion.

Lt. (SG) Boutell, on one of the mine sweepers, was convinced that the second explosion was caused by the detonation of the plane's bombs.

The area of the crash and surrounding vicinity for a distance of 5 miles was thoroughly searched by two United States mine sweepers and three crash boats from immediately after the time of the accident until an hour after day break. No traces of survivors were seen at any time. The plane sank in 168 feet of water and no traces of the wreckage were found that morning.

*Voris F. McFall*  
VORIS F. McFALL,  
Capt., Medical Corps,  
Flight Surgeon.



372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer

A.P.O. # 324  
29 May 1944.

Eye-Witness Description of Crash

I was the control tower officer at Mokerang Field on the night of the crash. Lt. Shaffer's plane took off smoothly and was flying normally, gaining altitude when it left the field. I then saw it lose altitude, striking the water about one half a mile north of the north end of the runway, and catch fire. The fire was followed quickly by a large explosion.

*Warren W. MacKenzie*  
1st Lt. Warren West MacKenzie,  
372nd Bombardment Squadron (H).