

5807

CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr AG-360.33 (5-21-43)
-S-AF-M (For instructions -
5 AF Reg 35-45A)

SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

ORGANIZATION: Location AP0 713 UNIT 1 ; Command or Air Force V Bomber
Group 90th Bomb ; Squadron 320th Bomb ; Detachment
SPECIFY: Point of Departure Momote ; Course to Yap, on Mission
Intended Destination Hollandia after strike ; Type of Mission Strike
WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:

Weather at the last contact was not known

GIVE: (a) Date 14 June 44 Time 0912 ; and Location 04° 28'S 144° 15'E
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted, (X) Last Contacted by Radio;
() Forced Down; () Seen to Crash, or () Information not available.

AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only a
() Enemy aircraft; () Enemy anti-aircraft, (X) Other Circumstances as follows
Aircraft was believed to have been lost due to weather either on way to the
target or returning. It ran out of gas and was forced down.

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P.W. B-24J ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-73197

ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-1830-43 ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) CP-306849
(b) CP-300583 ; (c) CP-306941 ; (d) 42-40291

INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)

Br. (a) 932267 ; (b) 932457 ; (c) 931790 ; (d) 749603 ;
50Cal (e) 931770 ; (f) 932666 ; (g) 332065 ; (h) 332065 ;

THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non Battle Casualty

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 Numb.
1. Pilot	<u>Mettes, Joseph D.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-378469 DED</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Zuehlscorff, Marilyn A.</u>	<u>1st Lt.</u>	<u>0-737929 DED</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Keen, Eugene M.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-690444 DED</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>Dounce, Roger E.</u>	<u>2nd Lt.</u>	<u>0-688940 DED</u>
5. Engineer	<u>Clayman, Benjamin</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>35424132 DED</u>
6. Radio	<u>Burns, John E.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>12185460 DED</u>
7. Gunner	<u>Nort, Robert L.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>36068556 DED</u>
8. Gunner	<u>Granacki, Henry A.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>35363704 DED</u>
9. Gunner	<u>Miller, Arthur F.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>35436013 DED</u>
10. Gunner	<u>Bonavita, Felix R.</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>12040940 DED</u>
11.			

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check only One Column Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Fore- Land
1. <u>Gillas, Manuel</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>39091844</u>	<u>X</u>			
2.						
3.						

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATE-
MENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene
of crash ; or (c) any other reason (Specify) No Knowledge of personnel
ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE
AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

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 () Enemy aircraft; () Enemy anti-aircraft; (X) Other Circumstances as follows
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ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE
 AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

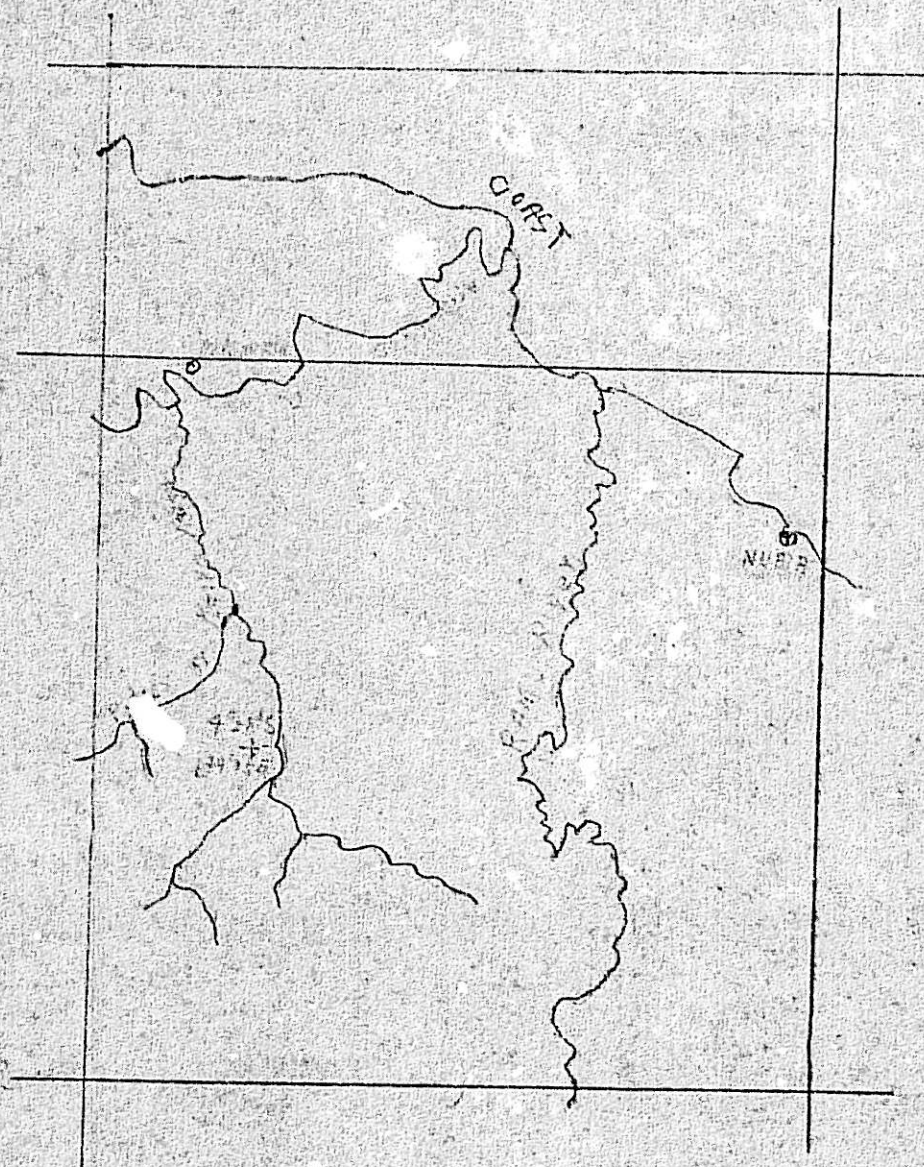
ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING
 TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL
 NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE John W. Kline, O-662570, Captain, A.C.

Date of Report June 18, 1944

Everett R. Taylor
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
 EVERETT R. TAYLOR
 2nd Lt. Air Corps
 Stat. Control Officer

SECRET



SECRET

S E C R E T

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO
AIRCRAFT MISSING 14 June 1944

SQUADRON: 320th Bomb (H)

16 June 1944

Group : 90th Bomb (H)

1. [16] This plane was believed to be lost on its way to the target at Yap. It is not known just where the plane was at the time it became lost and started trying to find a place to land. The first position of the plane was received at 0348, some where on the coast of New Guinea near Wewak. The last reported bearing at 0912/K was 0428S & 14415E. At this time the plane was almost out of gas and was looking for a place to make a landing. No eyewitness accounts of a crash in that vicinity have been received. There is no other information available as to the circumstances pertaining to the missing aircraft.] "


EVERETT R. TAYLOR
2nd Lt. Air Corps
Stat. Control Officer

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH FOR
AIRCRAFT MISSING 14 June 44

SQUADRON: 320th Bomb (H) 16 June 1944
GROUP : 90th Bomb (H)

1. Immediately upon receipt of the message that the plane was going down, Capt. John W. Kline, Commanding Officer of the 320th Bomb Squadron, took off in a B-24 and searched the area where the plane was reported. No sightings were reported.

2. June 15, one B-25 from the 823rd Squadron took off at 1015 and searched the area around Mt. Hagen, landing at 1220. No sightings. Lt. Dingee and Capt. Mills, both experienced pilots of the 320th Bomb Squadron took off in 2 B-24s at 0941 - 0952 to search the area for the missing plane. One plane conducted a parallel search at 1500 to 1800 ft of area bounded by Ammenberg-Burui, Ma prik-Sepik River mouth-Hansa Bay. The other plane conducted parallel search at 1500 to 2000 ft of area bounded by Astrolabe Bay-Adelbert Range-Angoram-Hansa Bay. . At 1340/K at 0431S 14427E (approx position) at 500 ft Lt. Dingee reported seeing a circular white object (possible parachute). Nil sign of activity in vicinity. No other sightings were reported.

3. Officer in charge at this Headquarters - John W. Kline, O-662570, Captain, Air Corps, Commanding.

Everett R. Taylor
EVERETT R. TAYLOR
2nd Lt. Air Corps
Stat. Control Officer

S E C R E T

SECRET

1st Ind.

Hqs, 90th Bomb. Gr. (H) AAF, APO 713, Unit #1, 19 June 1944.

C. O., Fifth Bomber Command, APO 713, Unit #1.

For the Group Commander:

Charles F. Horn
CHARLES F. HORN
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Actg. Adjutant.

AG 360.33 (16 Jun 44) 2nd Ind AG/JAH/sjb
HEADQUARTERS, V BOMBER COMMAND, APO 713, Unit 1, 19 June, 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 713, Unit 1.

For the Commanding Officer:

16145

1 Incl: MAC Rpt (in trip)

J. A. Holt
J. A. HOLT
Major, A.G.D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

88336

AG 360.33 (16 Jun 44) AG-Pers. 3rd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH AIR FORCE, APO 713, Unit 1, 20 June, 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Far East Air Forces (Prov), APO 925.

For the Commanding General:

A. M. Holdsworth
A. M. HOLDSWORTH,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Actg Asst Adj Gen.

1 Incl: n/c

002908

SECRET

S E C R E T

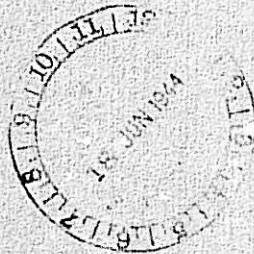
THREE HUNDRED TWENTIETH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) ~~ARMY~~ AIR FORCES
OFFICE OF THE STATISTICAL CONTROL OFFICER
APO 713 Unit 1

16 June 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Aircraft Report

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Bomber Command, APO 713 Unit 1

1. In compliance with Fifth Air Force Regulation 35-45A, dated 4th September, 1943, the attached Missing Aircraft Report is hereby submitted.



Everett R. Taylor
EVERETT R. TAYLOR
2nd Lt. Air Corps
Stat. Control Officer

4 Incls:

1. Missing Aircraft Report
2. Sketch showing last sighting of missing aircraft
3. Description of circumstances
4. Description of the extent of search

S E C R E T

SECRET

AG 360.33
(16 June 44)

4th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST AIR FORCES (P), A.P.O. 925, 26 June 1944.

TO: Commanding General, USAFFE, A.P.O. 501.

For the Commanding General:

5807

Herbert C. Wood
HERBERT C. WOOD,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

1 Incl:
Withdrawn: 1 Copy of Inclosure 1.

FEXC 360.33 (16 Jun 44)

5th Ind.

HQ UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST, A.P.O. 501, 27 June, 1944.
TO: Headquarters, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.
(ATTENTION: Statistical Control Division)

Forwarded in compliance with War Department letter dated 23 May, 1943, file AG 360.33 (5-21-43) OE-S-AF-M, subject: "Missing Air Crew Report".

For the Commanding General:

F. B. Russell
F. B. RUSSELL
Lieut Col AGD
Ass't Adj Gen.

✓ 1 Incl: n/c

SECRET

AC# BR-21407