

6923

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

Classification changed
to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADY, Lt. Col., AO
by W. M. MURPHY, Capt., AO
date MAR 15 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F/O Charles J. Harder

Mrs. Ruth E. Harder, (Wife)
3136 West National Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

1st Lt Walter C. Rowan

Mrs. Grace M. Rowan, (Wife)
23819 Cayuga Street,
Hemel Park, Michigan.

1st Lt Joseph S. Principe

Mrs. Louise Principe, (Mother)
1432 28th Avenue,
Long Island City, New York.

1st Lt Ulma H. Syler

Mrs. Wilma L. Syler, (Wife)
Ossain Street,
Danville, New York.

2nd Lt Sam Camp, Jr.

Mrs. June M. Camp, (Wife)
414 West Grand Avenue,
Deatur, Illinois.

T/Sgt Francis R. Keefe

Mrs. Grace A. Keefe, (Mother)
451 Lexington Street,
Auburndale, Massachusetts.

T/Sgt Michael G. Vetrecin

Mrs. Susan B. Vetrecin, (Mother)
2605 Shirley,
Youngstown, Ohio.

S/Sgt Clarence W. Dickerson

Mrs. Nellie H. Dickerson, (Mother)
Box 23,
Oak Hill, West Virginia.

S/Sgt James M. Hitchcock

Mrs. Margaret F. Carter, (Sister)
1393 Elwood,
Pomona, California.

S/Sgt William W. Waters, Jr.

Mrs. Ferns L. Waters, (Mother)
321 Cherry Street,
Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

S/Sgt Ruben O. Miller

Mr. Zeno E. Miller, (Father)
111 Monroe Avenue Southeast,
Canton, Ohio.

Classification changed
to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. [redacted] Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. [redacted] 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 APC# 719 ; Command or Air Force 13th Air Force
Group 307th Bomb (H) ; Squadron 370th Bomb (H) ; Detachment None ;
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Mokerang Airdrome ; Course To YAP via SOROL and return
intended Destination Mokerang ; Type of Mission Combat ;
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
High overcast, alto stratus at 15,000, 2 Low cumulus, tops 3000', visibility 1-2 miles
4. GIVE: (a) Date 7-15-44 ; Time Approx. 1220K ; and Location 09° 08' N. -138° 17' E.
of last know 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 () Other Circum-
stances as Follows Collision between APC# 42-73119 and APC# 44-40555
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24J ; A.A.F. Serial No. 44-40555
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-183065A ; A.A.F. Serial No. (a) BP-440031
(b) BP-439965 ; (c) BP-439987 ; (d) BP-437737
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) 10-50 Cal. Browning (b) Machine Guns ; (c) (M-2) Serial number(s) unknown.
(e) ; (f) ; (g) ; (h)
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes.
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11 ; Passengers 0 ; 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
1. Pilot	SYLOR, ULNA H.	1st.Lt.	0-803306 MIA
2. Co-Pilot	CAMP, SAM JR. ✓	2nd.Lt.	0-696746 MIA
3. Navigator	PRINCIPE, JOSEPH S. ✓	1st.Lt.	0-689581 MIA
4. Bombardier	ROWAN, WALTER C. ✓	1st.Lt.	0-673904 MIA
5. Engineer	Vetrecin, Michael G. Jr. ✓	T/Sgt.	18320307 ✓ 15320307
6. Ass't Engineer	Miller, Ruben. O. ✓	S/Sgt.	15328660 MIA
7. Radio Operator	Keefe, Francis. R. ✓	T/Sgt.	11116730 MIA
8. Ass't Radio Operator	Waters, William W. Jr. ✓	S/Sgt.	18168122 MIA
9. Gunner	Hitchcock, James. M. ✓	S/Sgt.	39256020 MIA
10. Gunner	Dickerson, Clarence. W. ✓	S/Sgt.	35442185 MIA

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

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MISSING AIR CREW REPORT - (continued)

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Last Sighted	Check only One Column	
						Contacted	Saw Forced Landing
1.	HOBTETTER, JAMES P	1st.Lt.	O-661489			X	
2.	KRUM, GEORGE W.	Corp.	39605884			X	
3.	ALTIERI, RAYMOND R.	Corp.	32840591				

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes; (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 CIRCUMSTANCES 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 None

Date of Report 17 July, 1944.

Irving H. Waterman, Jr.
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
IRVING H. WATERMAN, JR.

REPRODUCED BY: 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (A) S-3 1st.Lt. Air Corps,
JULY 1, 1943 Operations Officer.

Ref WD Ltr AG-360,33 (5-21-43)
OB-S-AF-M (For instructions-
see FEAF Reg 35-45)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(71)

AG 360.33
(19 July 44)

3rd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST AIR FORCES (P), A.P.O. 925, 2 August 1944.

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

1. Records at this headquarters are in disagreement with the attached Missing Air Crew Reports in the following instances:

a. Records at this headquarters indicate Flight Officer HARDER's middle initial to be J rather than A.

b. Records at this headquarters disclose that Technical Sergeant VETRECI's army serial number is, 15320307, instead of 13320307.

c. Records at this headquarters fail to show Second Lieutenant DIEDERICH to be a Junior.

d. Records at this headquarters reveal that Corporal DUNBAR is a Junior.

e. Records at this headquarters indicate the army serial number of Sergeant CROWLEY to be 15004052 rather than 16004052.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls: n/c.

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

013775

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

80029

BASIC: Ltr., 307th Bomb Group (H), APO #719, dtd 19 July 1944, Subject:
----- "Letter of Transmittal" -----

360.33 1st Ind. A-3/GLH/ans
HEADQUARTERS XIII BOMBER COMMAND, APO #719, 21 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force, APO #719.

Searches were not carried out for possible survivors of this dual
accident due to the location and intensity of the crash.

For the Commanding Officer:

W. H. Ingle
W. H. INGLE,
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Adjutant General.

2 Incls:
n/c

AG 704 2d Ind G/3/ejc
HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 719, 23 July 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Headquarters Far East Air Forces, APO 925.

For the Commanding General:

C. C. Haven
C. C. HAVEN,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst Adj Gen. (P)

2 Incls:
n/c

013775

- 2 -

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8029 RBC
1500 7-20

HEADQUARTERS 307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Commanding Officer

NW/elc

APC # 719,
19 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal.

TO : Commanding General, Headquarters Army Air Forces, Washington,
25, D.C. (THRU CHANNELS).

1. Transmitted herewith, Missing Air Crew Reports of Lieutenants
Diederich and Saylor and crews, missing in action on 15 July 1944:

For the Commanding Officer:

Ned White

NED WHITE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Asst. Adjutant.

2 Incl:

Incl #1 - Missing Air Crew Rpt,
re: Lt. Saylor, 370th Bomb Sq (H).

Incl #2 - Missing Air Crew Rpt,
re: Lt. Diederich, 372nd Bomb Sq (H).

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~~SECRET~~
FEXC 360.33 (19 Jul 44)

4th Ind.

HQ UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST, A.P.O. 501, 7 August, 1944.
TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
(ATTENTION: Statistical Control Division)

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

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls:
n/c.

D.F. Ross
D. F. ROSS
2d Lt, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

AUG 1 1944



RECEIVED

~~SECRET~~
ENC 400 19

ACT# BR-26253

CONFIDENTIAL

370TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO# 719

17 July, 1944.

1. Eyewitness description of crash, as the result of collision between AP42-73119, B-24J and AP# 44-40555, B-24J over the target of YAP on 15 July, 1944 at 1220K, as seen by Corporal Krum, George W., 39605884, 370th Bomb Squadron, flying A-1 in the 370th Squadron Formation.

"About three or four minutes prior to the collision I took note of the close formation immediately behind our plane and while I was then watching a green B-24 flying in C-3 position almost collided with C-1, probably as a result of prop wash, but the C-3 plane managed to right his plane into position again so I resumed watching the Zeros. I kept thinking about how close the planes (B-24's) were flying behind us and after a couple of minutes I swung the turret around to have another look, what I witnessed was this:

The B-24's were in even a closer formation and all at once the B-24 in C-3 position banked steeply to the right and up and struck the plane flying C-1 position, with the first contact being made by the props of C-3 plane against the bottom of the fuselage just behind the wing section of C-1 plane, as it began chewing its way through the fuselage proper. C-3 plane then began exploding from both wings and the planes both went to pieces.

The complete wing sections of both planes stuck together in sort of a "X" design and fell separately. The wing section of C-3 plane broke out in flames and exploded as soon as it hit C-1 plane-it fell fairly well in pieces as it descended. C-1's wing section fell in one piece in sort of a falling leaf pattern and seemed little hurt-being apparently intact from the nose section to just behind the wing and fuselage point where it had been chewed in two. Some turrets from both planes were thrown from their wells and were left to fall clear with other pieces of the wreckage. When we were at about a mile or so from where the accident occurred chutes began to open at about 8000'. I would say at least five of them puffed into view in quick succession. By then the Zeros were making passes at ours and surrounding B-24's as fast as they could so I left off watching the falling chutes to fight off the attacks being made on the bottom of our ship. Bombs were away at 1211K and the approximate time of the collision was at 1220K. I am the ball gunner on the crew of Lt. Gage and am reporting this as an eyewitness account of what I saw."

George W. Krum
GEORGE W. KRUM,
Corporal, Air Corps.

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370TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO# 719

17 July, 1944.

1. Eyewitness description of crash, as the result of collision between AP# 42-73119 and AP# 44-40555 both B-24J's over the target of YAP on 15 July, 1944 at 1220K or thereabouts, as seen by Corporal Raymond R. Altieri, tail gunner on AP# 42-110075 370th Bomb Squadron. (Lt. Gage's Crew).

"I didn't see the crash itself but I noticed the pieces flying by our tail. The wings were interlocked and were going down in flames, the biggest pieces I noticed was the tail end of the fuselage of the last ship. This piece extended from the waist window to the tail. I noticed four bodies tumbling down and one parachute open also and empty life raft. Most of the parts were burning when they hit the water and were pouring black smoke. After we were out of sight of the wreckage I saw a large column of gray smoke rise above some clouds."

RAYMOND. R. ALTIERI,
Corporal, Air Corps

Cpl. Raymond R. Altieri

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370TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO# 719

17 July, 1944.

1. Eyewitness description of crash, as the result of collision between AP# 42-73119, B-24J and AP# 44-40555, B-24J over the target of YAP on 15 July, 1944 at approximately 1220K as seen by Lt. Hobstetter, James P., O-661489 Lt. Hobstetter was flying C-2, 370th Bomb Squadron at the time of the collision.

"The crash involving Lt. Sylor occurred shortly after our withdrawal from the target area, the exact distance from this area I cannot accurately say. The leader of our squadron was pulling up on the right of a seven ship formation lead by the group leader in an effort to present a group front to enemy interception. My position at the time was C-2; Lt. Sylor was approximately in a C-3 position with Lt. Diederich on his left wing.

I cannot expatiate further on the causes which resulted in the crash. I saw only the actual collision. The ship piloted by Lt. Diederich crashed into Lt. Sylor striking him behind the flight deck. The left wing of Lt. Diederich's plane was torn away and Lt. Sylor's ship was severed in half just back of the flight deck. Both planes burst immediately into flames and went down. Although reports indicate that several men bailed out of the burning planes no parachutes were observed by the members of my crew. As I have previously stated I cannot obviate the apparently enigmatic conditions which resulted in the collision. However, I can state that the crash did not occur from overrunning of the two squadrons represented in the group front."

James P. Hobstetter
JAMES P. HOBSTETTER,
1st. Lieutenant, Air Corps,
Pilot.

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370TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO# 719

17 July, 1944.

1. The presence of Flight Officer CHARLES A. HARDER, A.S.N. T-124507, on AP# 44-40555 on 15 July, 1944 is accounted for in the following manner.

"It has been the Squadron Policy to indoctrinate new combat Officers in this area by permitting them to fly as the eleventh man on a crew in the capacity of an Observer. This is the situation which obtained on 15 July, 1944 at 1220K when AP# 42-73119 and AP# 44-40555 which collided over the target of YAP ISLAND, necessitated this report."

Irving H. Waterman Jr
IRVING H. WATERMAN, JR.
1st. Lieutenant, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

<u>CREW POSITION</u>	<u>NAME IN FULL (LAST NAME FIRST)</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
Navigator	HARDER, CHARLES <i>CH</i>	F/O	T-124507

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

#6923
MACR

DUE, HOUR AND DATE

1 NO.	2 FROM-	3 TO-	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE																																	
1	Search Info Ident Branch OSTON	QM Pentagon Liaison	29 July 1948	<p>1., Request latest status & date of following personnel, MACR #6923</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Status</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sylor, Ulna H.</td> <td>0-803306</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camp, Sam Jr.</td> <td>0-696746</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Principe, Joseph S.</td> <td>0-689581</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rowan, Walter C.</td> <td>0-673904</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vetrecin, Michael G.</td> <td>15320307</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miller, Ruben O.</td> <td>15323660</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keefe, Francis R.</td> <td>11116730</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waters, William W.</td> <td>18168122</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hitchcock, James M.</td> <td>39256020</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dickerson, Clarence W.</td> <td>35442185</td> <td>DEP 30 Mar 46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Request check on correctness of serial number for Vetrecin, Michael G. as 15320307 ✓ OK</p>		Status	Date	Sylor, Ulna H.	0-803306	DEP 30 Mar 46	Camp, Sam Jr.	0-696746	DEP 30 Mar 46	Principe, Joseph S.	0-689581	DEP 30 Mar 46	Rowan, Walter C.	0-673904	DEP 30 Mar 46	Vetrecin, Michael G.	15320307	DEP 30 Mar 46	Miller, Ruben O.	15323660	DEP 30 Mar 46	Keefe, Francis R.	11116730	DEP 30 Mar 46	Waters, William W.	18168122	DEP 30 Mar 46	Hitchcock, James M.	39256020	DEP 30 Mar 46	Dickerson, Clarence W.	35442185	DEP 30 Mar 46
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Sullivan
72000

PILOTS REFERENCE STRIP
955-N

ADMIRALTY ISLANDS
TO
PALAU ISLANDS

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE: OFFICERS USING THIS MAP WILL
MARK HEREON CORRECTIONS AND
ADDITIONS WHICH COME TO THEIR
ATTENTION AND MAIL DIRECT TO
COMMANDING OFFICER, PHOTO WING, SOPAC

PREPARED AND REPRODUCED BY 955TH
ENGR TOPO CO 4TH PHOTO GROUP RCN,
13TH AIR FORCE, FOR PHOTO WING,
SOPAC, APR 1944 J-1419.

COORDINATES AND TRUE NORTH FROM
LONG RANGE AIR NAVIGATION CHARTS
(CAROLINE AND SOLOMON ISLANDS)





