

9750

CONFIDENTIAL

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CLASSIFICATION: 1 : 01 : 00  
EXEMPT FROM GDS: 001 001 : 00  
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION: 001 001 : 00

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30th Bomb Group (H)  
REPORT NO. 17

302ND BOMB SQUADRON (H)  
APO #244

9750

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

H1AAPP1A  
#9

INFORMATION: 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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by name Saipan Island; Command or Air Force VII Bomd Comd Group 30th Bomb (H); Squadron 302nd Bomb (H) Detachment
- SPECIFIC: Place of Departure Saipan, Island; Course 352-350  
Target or Intended Destination Iwo Jima; Type of Mission Bombing strike
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: CAVU
- GIVE: (a) Day 21 Month 10 Year 1944; Time 1155L; and Location 3 miles offshore of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Iwo Jima  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ) ; Last contacted by radio ( ) ; Forced down ( ) ; Seen to Crash (X) ; or Information not Available ( )
- AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (check only one) Enemy aircraft (X) ; Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) ; Other Circumstances as Follows: Two witnesses state that enemy fighter crashed into A/P. Tail portion of B-24 was cut off and A/P was seen to crash into ocean. No parachutes opened
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24D; AAF Serial Number 44-24057
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If any "Miss Pitt"
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series \_\_\_\_\_; AAF Serial Number (a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number);  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_; (j) \_\_\_\_\_; (k) \_\_\_\_\_; (l) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Nonbattle 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 Number	Current Status
1.	Pilot	Barnesley, Robert L.	KIA	2nd Lt 0753247	MIA
2.	Co-Pilot	Kennedy, Richard B.	KIA	2nd Lt 0754116	MIA
3.	Nav	Hillier, Donald T.	KIA	2nd Lt 0747550	MIA
4.	Engineer	Schrock, Henry	KIA	2nd Lt 0753880	MIA
5.	Eng	Hillier, Harold E.	KIA	S/Sgt 0753880	MIA
6.	Asst Eng	Pokumba, Anthony	KIA	S/Sgt 0752757	MIA
7.	Radio Op	Hudson, Thomas V.	KIA	S/Sgt 1566300	MIA
8.	Armman	Ellis, William	KIA	S/Sgt 0752026	MIA
9.	Armman	Sloan, Harold A.	KIA	S/Sgt 0752026	MIA
10.	Armman	Harlock, Maurice E.	KIA	S/Sgt 1715511	MIA

12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE 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	Seen	Forced Landing	Other
1. Barnesley, Robert L.	1st Lt	0753247	X			
2. Kennedy, Richard B.	2nd Lt	0754116	X			
3. Hillier, Selvin	S/Sgt	0747550	X			

Transmitted to \_\_\_\_\_  
by B. A. [unclear], Lt. Col., AF  
By C. E. [unclear], 1st Lt., AF  
September 5, 1948

(Over)



RECEIVED

7526

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

- 15. ATTACH BYWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
16. GIVE NAME, GRADE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT OF SEARCH

For the Commanding Officer: Date of Report 22 October 1944

2 Incls: Photographs

Signature of P. Brown, Captain, A.C., Adjutant (Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR BYWITNESS STATEMENTS:

1. Bywitness statement by 1st Lt ROBERT L. WILSON, Pilot A/P #42-72956, 392nd Bomb Sq (H). 'I certify that the following account is true: A single engine Jap fighter painted black came down making an overhead pass. He was diving almost straight down and while coming down was fired upon by a few top turrets, including my own. Upon going by A/P #42-4057 piloted by Lt Barnsley, the fighter's left wing sheared off the bomber's entire tail end part of the fuselage to a point approximately two feet from the camera hatch, leaving a gaping hole. The parts of the tail section flew back past the left wing together with a fairly large portion of the fighter's wing. The fighter kept going down and disappeared from my view. Lt Barnsley's plane fell out of formation in a gentle spiral to the right and disappeared under my plane and out of sight. However, a few minutes later Lt Bertow, Bombardier on my airplane, observed him tumbling end over end.'

Signature of Robert L. Wilson, Pilot A/P #42-72956

2. Bywitness statement by 2nd Lt RALPH B. KENNEDY, Pilot A/P #42-73030, 392nd Bomb Sq (H). 'I certify that the following account is true: I was flying position #2 in 4B flight. A/P #42-4057 was almost directly in my line of sight through my left side window. I first saw the fighter about 150-200 feet above our flight, coming in at about a 700 dive from about 1 o'clock. My first thought was that he intended to fly through the formation. It is my belief that either the engine or the root of the right wing of the fighter struck the right vertical stabilizer just about where the vertical stabilizer joins. The fighter seemed to break up very quickly but did not appear to explode. The tail of the B-24 seemed to break off rather cleanly somewhere around, or just past, the camera hatch. The B-24 flew straight for a brief second and then nosed straight down. I did not observe any bodies or persons falling out. I did not see the wreckage hit the water.'

Signature of Ralph B. Kennedy, 2nd Lt, A.C., Pilot A/P #42-73030

3. Affidavit by S/Sgt Melvin Miller, 38405699, 392nd Bomb Sq (H), Tail Gunner, A/P #42-72995. Before me appeared the above named person who, being duly sworn, deposed and says: 'About three miles west of airfield No. 1 on Iwo Jima, A/P #42-4057, piloted by Lt Barnsley, was struck by a Jap fighter. The fighter's wing caught the fuselage of the B-24 about three feet behind the waist windows cutting the B-24 in two pieces. The slipstream immediately caught the tail, lifting it up and back. That was the last I saw of the tail section as I was keeping my eyes on the rest of the airplane. The B-24 lunged forward in the air for a moment and then nosed straight down. About eight 1500 feet it made a complete roll, coming upright at the end of each roll. Equipment fell out of the fuselage on each roll. At about 2000 feet over the water, I observed three items fall out of the fuselage but no clothes opened. The airplane crashed off shore west of Iwo Jima, with landing on contact.'

Signature of Melvin Miller, S/Sgt, 38405699

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of October 1944

Signature of Notary Public

CONFIDENTIAL

30th Bomb Group (H)

392ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)

REPORT NO. 17

APC 4 244

22 October 1944

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

H4AAPP0A  
# 9

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.

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by name Subic Island; Command or Air Force VII Bomb Gnd  
Group 30th Bomb (H); Squadron 392nd Bomb (H) Detachment \_\_\_\_\_
- SPONSOR: Place of Departure Subic Island; Course SEA-SEA  
Target or Intended Destination SEA-SEA; Type of Mission Weather Stripes
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_
- GIVE: (a) Day 21 Month 10 Year 1944 Time 11:00 and Location 3 miles offshore  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. SEA-SEA  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ); Last contacted by radio ( ); Forced down ( ); Seen to Crash (X); 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: Weather stripes that enemy fighter crashed into A/P. Tail portion of A/P was cut off and A/P was seen to crash into water. No parachutes opened.
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-24D; AAF Serial Number 44-10927
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If Any: Wagon 711
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Serial  
Number (a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_; (b) \_\_\_\_\_; (c) \_\_\_\_\_; (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_; (f) \_\_\_\_\_; (g) \_\_\_\_\_; (h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_; (j) \_\_\_\_\_; (k) \_\_\_\_\_; (l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_; (n) \_\_\_\_\_; (o) \_\_\_\_\_; (p) \_\_\_\_\_
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Nonbattle 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.)

	Job Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1.	Pilot	McDonald, Robert L.	2nd Lt	0856312	MIA
2.	Co-Pilot	Kirgason, Richard E.	2nd Lt	0856310	MIA
3.	Navigator	Thomson, Daniel V.	2nd Lt	0856308	MIA
4.	Radio	Johnson, Harry	2nd Lt	0856307	MIA
5.	Eng	Allen, Harold E.	1st Sgt	3438000	MIA
6.	Asst Eng	Palumbo, Anthony	1st Sgt	3438001	MIA
7.	Radio Op	Johnson, Thomas V.	1st Sgt	3438002	MIA
8.	Asst-Eng	Flath, William	1st Sgt	3438003	MIA
9.	Asst-Eng	Walt, Harold A.	1st Sgt	3438004	MIA
10.	Asst-Eng	Reynolds, George F.	1st Sgt	3438005	MIA
11.					

- 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

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted			
				by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.	McDonald, Robert L.	2nd Lt	0856312			X	
2.	Kirgason, Richard E.	2nd Lt	0856310			X	
3.	Johnson, Daniel V.	2nd Lt	0856308			X	

(Over)

13. 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) \_\_\_\_\_
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH WITNESS 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 By Search

For the Commanding Officer

Date of Report 22 October 1944

2 Inset Photographs

*Robert E. Knecht*  
 ROBERT E. KNECHT, Captain, A.C., Assistant  
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. WITNESS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

1. Eyewitness statement by 1st Lt ROBERT E. KNECHT, Pilot A/F 944-72328, 392nd Bomb Sq (H).  
 "I certify that the following account is true: A single engine Jap fighter piloted [unclear] came down making an overhead pass. He was diving almost straight down and while passing [unclear] was fired upon by a few top turrets, including my own. Upon going by A/F 944-40557 piloted by Lt Barnsley, the fighter's left wing sheared off the bomber's entire tail and part of the fuselage to a point approximately two feet from the camera hatch, leaving a jagged hole. The parts of the tail section flew back past my left wing together with a fairly large portion of the fighter's wing. The fighter kept going down and disappeared from my view. Lt Barnsley's plane fell out of formation in a gentle spiral to the right and disappeared under my plane and out of sight. However, a few minutes later Lt Barlow, bombardier on my airplane, observed him tumbling and over end."

*Robert E. Knecht*  
 ROBERT E. KNECHT, 1st Lt, A.C.,  
 Pilot A/F 944-72328

2. Eyewitness statement by 2nd Lt RALPH E. KENNEDY, pilot A/F 944-72328, 392nd Bomb Sq (H).  
 "I certify that the following account is true: I was flying position in the 392nd Bomb Sq. A/F 944-40557 was almost directly in my line of sight through my left side window. I first saw the fighter about 150-200 feet above our flight, coming in at about a 90° dive from about 1 o'clock. My first thought was that he intended to fly through the formation. It is my belief that either the engine or the right wing of the fighter struck the right vertical stabilizer just about where the vertical stabilizer joint. The fighter seemed to break up very quickly but did not appear to explode. The tail of the B-24 seemed to break off rather cleanly somewhere around, or just off, the camera hatch. The B-24 flew straight for a brief second and then nosed straight down. I did not observe any holes or persons falling out. I did not see the wreckage hit the water."

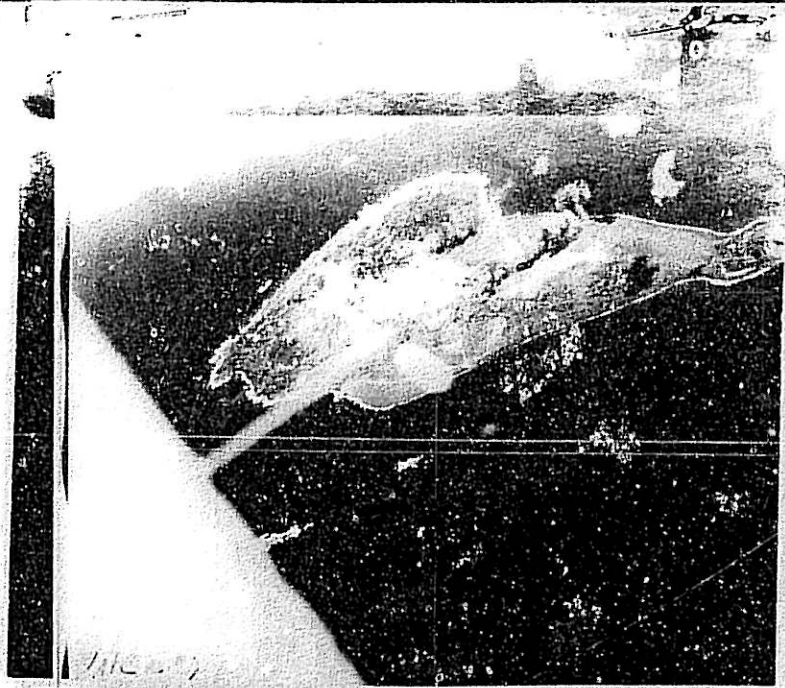
*Ralph E. Kennedy*  
 RALPH E. KENNEDY, 2nd Lt, A.C.,  
 Pilot A/F 944-72328

3. Affidavit by S/Sgt Melvin Miller, 32408699, 392nd Bomb Sq (H), Tail Gunner, A/F 944-72328.  
 Before me appeared the above named person who, being duly sworn, deposed and says:  
 "About three miles west of Iwo Jima, Iwo Jima, A/F 944-40557, piloted by Lt Barnsley, was struck by a Jap fighter. The fighter's wing caught the fuselage of the B-24 about three feet behind the waist window, cutting the B-24 in two pieces. The airstream immediately caught the tail, lifting it up and back. That was the last I saw of the tail section as I was keeping my eyes on the rest of the airplane. The B-24 hung poised in the air for a moment and then nosed straight down. About every 1500 feet it made a complete roll, coming upright at the end of each roll. Equipment fell out of the fuselage on each roll. At about 2000 feet over the water, I observed three items fall out of the fuselage but no chute opened. The airplane crashed offshore west of Iwo Jima, exploding on contact."

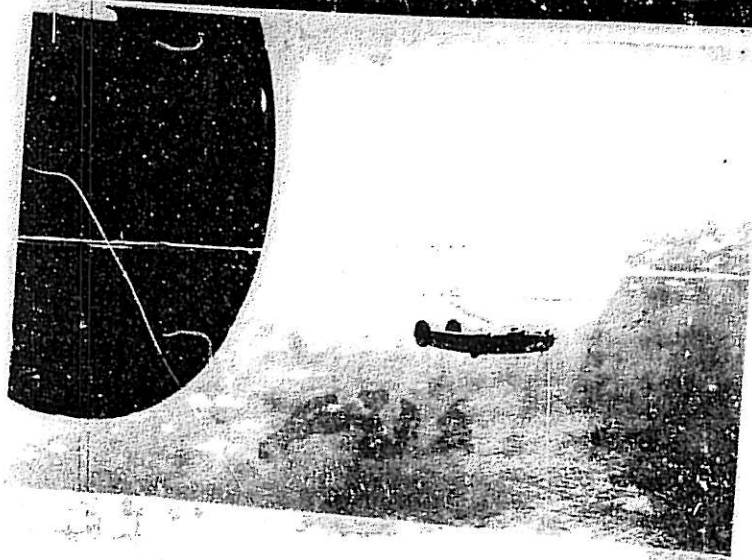
*Melvin Miller*  
 MELVIN MILLER, S/Sgt, 32408699

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of October 1944

*Robert E. Knecht*  
 ROBERT E. KNECHT, Captain, A.C., Assistant  
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)



2-B-998-392 BS-M30735-44-10-210231GCT-7"  
1900-IWO JIMA - NEST





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HEADQUARTERS 30TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO #244

05

704.

27 October 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, VII Bomber Command, APO 244.

In compliance with letter, Hq USAFOPA, APO 958, dtd 31 July 1944, "Instructions for submitting battle and non-battle casualty reports", the inclosed Missing Air Crew Report is submitted.

For the Commanding Officer:

*James W. Heath*  
HYLON T. PLUMB, Jr.,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

1 Incl:  
Missing Air Crew Report - Lt Barneley & Crew.

704. 1st Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS VII BOMBER COMMAND, APO #244, 2 November 1944.

ADJ-2

TO: Commanding General, Seventh Air Force, APO #953.

THRU: Commanding General, Army Garrison Forces, APO #244.

Attention is invited to basic communication.

For the Commanding General:

*Ross D. Thompson*  
ROSS D. THOMPSON,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Actg. Adjutant General.

1 Incl: n/c.

704 (A) 2d Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY GARRISON FORCE, APO 244, 9 Nov 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Central Pacific Base Command, APO 958.

THRU: Commanding General, AAFPOA, APO 953.

1 Incl-n/c

*L. L. H.*  
L. L. H.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

704

344

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

81800

BASIC: Ltr Hqs 50th Bomb. Gp (H) APO 244 Dated 27 Oct 44, Subj: Missing Air Crew Report.

AG 704 3rd Ind. AFAAP/3-JGM/rj/4110  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS APO 953, 13 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Central Pacific Base Command, APO 958.

ATTN: Casualty Division.

*H. J. Cole*  
H. J. COLE  
CAPTAIN, AGI  
ASST. ADJ. GENERAL

1 Incl:  
n/c

AG 704/1058 4th Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS CPEC, APO 958, 22 November 1944.

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.  
(Attention: Statistical Control Division).

*Paul E. Baker*  
PAUL E. BAKER  
2nd Lieut., A. G. D.,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

1 Incl: n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

S/Sgt. Harold A. Moss

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Moss (wife)  
4237 Oakland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

S/Sgt. Horace F. Rzehak

Mrs. Anna R. Rzehak (mother)  
Peru, Nebraska

T/Sgt. Harold R. Line

Mrs. Marie S. Line (mother)  
Division Street  
Markle, Indiana

T/Sgt. Thomas V. Hudson

Mrs. Catherine H. Hudson (wife)  
315 North 36th Street  
Richmond, Virginia

S/Sgt. Anthony Palumbo

Mr. John Palumbo (father)  
1401 K Street, West  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

S/Sgt. William Pluth

Mrs. Barbara Z. Pluth (mother)  
1017 Vine Street  
Joliet, Illinois

2nd Lt. Richard Francis Irigoyen

Mrs. Louise M. Irigoyen (mother)  
806 Edgewood Street  
Inglewood, California

2nd Lt. Robert L. Barnsley

Mr. Ulysses S. Barnsley (father)  
Ozone, Arkansas

2nd Lt. Harry Sniezek

Mrs. Caroline E. Sniezek (mother)  
5896 Chopin Street  
Detroit, Michigan

2nd Lt. Daniel Verley Teeters

Mrs. Grace V. Teeters (mother)  
3529 1/2 Fletcher Drive  
Los Angeles, California