

of WD Ltr AG-360.33 (1-21-45)
BeS-AE-M (For instructions -
see 5 AF Reg 35-45)

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

- ORGANIZATION: Location APC # 719; Command or Air Force 13th
Group 307th; Squadron 424th; Detachment
SPECIFY: Point of Departure APC # 719; Course 1300
Intended Destination Alicante A/D, P.I.; Type of Mission Combat
WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Good; 6 Cumulus tops at 7,000 feet.
Gives: (a) Date 24 Nov 44; Time 1024 Y; and Location 15 Mi. S.E. of Alicante A/D.
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether (X) Last Sighted; () 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 one)
(X) Enemy Aircraft; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstances as follows

- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-24J; A.A.F. Serial Number 44-41381
ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-183065A; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) BP-445129
(b) BP 444933; (c) BP 444657; (d) BP 445170
INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, type, and Serial Number)
(a) RV. 392910; (b) LV. 1539275; (c) RT. 392766; (d) LT. 640488
(e) RB. 390408; (f) LB. 390043; (g) RV. 640406; (h) LW. 392467
THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 0; Total 11
(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
1. Pilot	Junter, William B. Jr.	1st. Lt.	[REDACTED]
2. Co-pilot	Jenkins, Robert D. Jr.	2nd. Lt.	[REDACTED]
3. Navigator	MaGee, Willard W.	1st. Lt.	[REDACTED]
4. Bombardier	Keen, Pat E.	1st. Lt.	[REDACTED]
5. Engineer	Witham, Charles J.	2/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
6. Asst. Engineer	Posiacki, Eugene C.	3/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
7. Radio Operator	Seyer, David H. L.	2/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
8. Asst. Radio Opr.	Reard, Richard E.	3/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
9. Gunner	Vilson, Merle E.	3/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
10. Gunner	Augaberger, Max C.	3/Sgt.	[REDACTED]
11. Photo	Gleason, Peter F.	Sgt.	37166037

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Check only one Column		
			Contacted By Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Force Crash Landing
1. Youngmark, Don E.	2nd. Lt.	[REDACTED]		X	
2. Rodgers, William A.	2nd. Lt.	[REDACTED]		X	
3.					

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS (a) Parachutes were used X; (b) PERSONS WERE SEEN WALKING AWAY FROM SCENE OF CRASH; or (c) ANY OTHER REASON (Specify)
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 A. Vandercroft, Major 0-426707

* RT. 1539090
LT. 1539423

Attachment # 5

Date of Report: 24 Nov 44
Edmund J. [Signature]
(Signature of [Name])

A/C # 381 (Lt. Hunter, pilot) flying in A-1 (#2 in Group) was shot down by enemy aircraft when fifteen miles S.E. of Alicante A/D, over land, on Negros Island, P.I. when four minutes away from target. An U/I enemy aircraft made a high, skidding, pass from 1 o'clock firing continuously. Just outboard of, or in, # 4 engine a sudden burst of flame appeared, and plane dropped slowly down, away, to the right of formation. # 4 engine was feathered and ship was under control when four chutes were seen to leave the camera hatch, two making delayed jumps and two opening almost immediately. Almost at the same instant four chutes came from the bomb bay, one of which was on fire and dropped straight down. At this point the right wing buckled upwards at # 4 engine and plane fell off into a spin. One more chute was seen to leave either through the bomb bay or the nose escape hatch at this point. A total of nine of the eleven men aboard this plane are believed to have parachuted, but the chute of one was afire and useless. Two enemy planes circled the chutes but it is not definitely known whether or not any strafing was done.

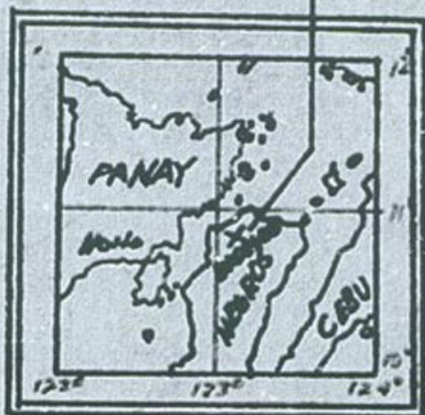
William A. Rodgers

WILLIAM A. RODGERS
2nd. Lt., Air Corps,

Don E. Youngmark

DON E. YOUNGMARK
2nd. Lt., Air Corps.

Men bailed out here.



84TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H) AAF
10TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF

AFPO # 719
9 November 1944

SUBJECT: Extent of Search - (A/C #351, Lt. Hunter, pilot),

TO : Commanding General, HMAF, AFPO # 925
(THRU CHANNELS)

1. No specific searches by individual aircraft were conducted for this crew, due to the extreme possibility of enemy interception over the area where aircraft was last reported. All crew members of aircraft on subsequent missions were briefed to watch carefully for any indication of the fate of the lost aircraft or crew members.

Edmund G. Gennane
EDMUND G. GENNANE
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

C O P Y

Extract from MACR #10461

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Witham, Charles N. File 10461
 Rank T/Sgt
 Serial number [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew Engineer

Did he bail out? yes

Where? Same as last paragraph and through the left bombay.

Was he injured? Yes-Bombadier told me he was.

Where was he when last seen? On Flight deck before going to gun position, then when he bailed out the bomb bay - I saw him jump.

Any heresay information: Bombadier said he bailed out near him and enemy plane hit him with the wing and then returned and flew over the top of his parachute ripping same open and then he went to the ground. (approx 5000 feet).

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I saw his grave where he and the pilot were buried, his watch and parachute with blood on it.

Statement from one of the crew members, name not given.

Lt. Hunter and T/Sgt Witham were buried in the same grave on the 8 Nov. 44 at 18:30. A native Numeriano T. Villalba handled all the details of the burial; both Christian and Military.

The grave is about five miles due east of the town of Talisay in Occidental Negros, P. I.

I inspected T/Sgt. Witham's body before he was buried. There were no bullet wounds only a compound fracture just above the knee and scratches on his face. I believe he was killed by internal injuries caused when he hit the ground.

Numeriano T. Villalba had T/Sgt. Witham's personal effects in his possession. He said he would turn them over to a graves registration crew when we invaded the island.

Another statement by crew member, name not shown.

He bailed out 2nd after I left, and was seen in his chute before a Jap plane cut him down.

I viewed his body just after the Philipinos had found it. His face was badly bruised and was very blue, supposedly from the shrouds as the chute opened. His legs had compound fractures. That same evening I attended his burial and that of the body found in the bomb bay (supposedly that of Lt. Hunter). Both bodies were put in the same grave.

C O P Y

Extract from MACR 10461

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Hunter, William R., Jr.
 Rank: 1st Lt.
 Serial number: [REDACTED]
 Position: Crew Pilot

Did he bail out? No

If not, why not? Do not know

Any hearsay information: From Navigator understand he was following him to bail out but wing came off plane and Pilot never bailed out. His body was found in the bomb bay, however, I never saw it. It was burned too along with the co-pilot. He was buried with the Top Turret Gunner Witham.

Another statement by crew member - not signed.

Where was he last seen? Heading for front bomb bay doors.

Hearsay information: The wing burned off just as I jumped and Hunter probably could not get out of plane because the plane begin to spin.

Lt. Hunter and T/Sgt. Witham were buried in the same grave on the 8 Nov. 44 at 18:30. A native, Numeriano T. Villalba handled all the details of the burial; both Christian and military.

The grave is about 5 miles due west of the town of Talisay in Occidental Negros, P.I. Numeriano T. Villalba was the Municipal Mayor of Free Talisay during the war. I am quite sure he will cooperate with our army on this matter.

Another statement by crew member - not signed.

He did not bail out because ship went out of control and he couldn't get out.

Where last seen: Standing beside the auxiliary power unit.

Hearsay information: He was the last one, able to attempt to bail out. He was waiting to bail out and practically in a position to do so.

Source: Navigator's conversation.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: Several members of our crew found a man's mangled body in the wreckage of our ship. As the ship went out of control it is supposed Lt. Hunter was churned around inside and died in that manner.

Statement by crew member not signed.

It is my opinion that Lt. Hunter chose to fly the plane on course long enough to allow his crew to bail out before he himself attempted to bail out. The plane fell in a "spin". The navigator had said that as he jumped, Lt. Hunter was right behind him on the catwalk also ready to jump, but that the wing burned off putting plane in a spin thus preventing him from getting out safely. Upon visiting the scene of the crash and burning plane I saw a charred body in the bomb bay, thought to be that of Lt. Hunter.

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A/C # 381 (Lt. Hunter, pilot) flying in A-1 (#2 in Group) was shot down by enemy aircraft when fifteen miles S.E. of Alicante A/D, over land, on Negros Island, P. I. when four minutes away from target. An U/I enemy aircraft made a high, skidding, pass from 1 o'clock firing continuously. Just outboard of, or in, # 4 engine a sudden burst of flame appeared, and plane dropped slowly down, away, to the right of formation. # 4 engine was feathered and ship was under control when four chutes were seen to leave the camera hatch, two making delayed jumps and two opening almost immediately. Almost at the same instant four chutes came from the bomb bay, one of which was on fire and dropped straight down. At this point the right wing buckled upwards at # 4 engine and plane fell off into a spin. One more chute was seen to leave either through the bomb bay or the nose escape hatch at this point. A total of nine of the eleven men aboard this plane are believed to have parachuted, but the chute of one was afire and useless. Two enemy planes circled the chutes but it is not definitely known whether or not any strafing was done.

/S/ WILLIAM A. RODGERS
2nd Lt., Air Corps

/S/ DON E. YOUNGMARK
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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C O P Y

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Dawkins, Robert D. Jr.
Rank: 2nd Lt.
Serial number: [REDACTED]
Position: Crew Co-Pilot

Did he bail out? No

If not, why not? Previously 20mm had bursted in front of him and when pilot ordered him to bail out he didn't move-according to Navigator.

Where was he when last seen? Co-Pilot's seat. I saw him there about 9:00 AM.

Any hearsay information: I saw him at 9:00 AM or about that time when I and the other gunners went to our gun positions. What I know was told me by the Navigator, that is: A 20mm bursted in front of him and did not respond when the pilot told him to "bail out". Later in the plane wreckage (24 hrs. later) I saw part of what must have been his body and his, who wore only such type, scabbard and pistol belt. This was found in Co-Pilot's position in fuselage. He was buried with Nose Gunner Wilson I was told by the Bombadier.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: It is my supposition that he was injured or morso dazed and could not get out of his seat and went down with the plane.

Another statement by crew member not signed.

Did he bail out? No

If not, why not: I believe he was pinned in due to centrifugal force, caused by a spin.

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: I was the last man out of the ship. At that time he was in his seat assisting the pilot.

Was he injured: Possible flesh wounds from a 20mm. burst in the cockpit. I am not sure. he was killed in the crash.

Where was he when last seen? In the wreckage of the plane.

Any hearsay information: Numeriano T. Villalba promised me that Lt. Dawkins would be buried on 9 Nov 44 beside the grave of Lt. Hunter and T/Sgt. Witham.

Another statement by crew member

Reason why Dawkins did not bail out: Lt. Dawkins seemed to be in a dazed state, there did not appear to be any visual external injuries. He was almost unconscious.
Where last seen: Still in the Co-Pilot seat with his safety belt on.
Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: When I visited the wrecked and burning plane, a charred body supposedly that of Lt. Dawkins was seen in the co-pilot's side of the plane.

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: Wilson, Merle E.

Rank: S/Sgt.

Serial number [REDACTED]

Position crew Gunner

statement by [REDACTED]

Extract from/Crew Member, not signed

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I did see his body in his turred in the burned plane but could not tell if injured or not however was well mutilated but plainly recognized.

Another statement by crew member - not signed.

Any heresay information: Numeriano T. Villalba promised me that S/Sgt. Wilson would be buried on 9 Nov. 44 beside the grave of Lt. Hunter and T/Sgt. Witham.

Another statement by crew member - not signed.

Did he bail out? No

If not, why not? Believed to be hit while in gun turret.

Where was he when seen last? Nose Gun Turret.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: He was believed to be injured while in gun position as the bombardier opened his turret door and he never got out. (When the crash was examined he was still at his station and the top of his head was removed.)

Another statement by crew member - not signed

Did he bail out? No

If not, why not? It seemed apparent that he had been killed on the last attack on the plane.

Was he injured? At time of abandoning plane, it seemed that S/Sgt. Wilson was already dead.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: I visited the scene of the crash. The plane had burned, and I saw his charred body still in the nose turret.

C
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Classification changes
JAN 15 1945
by A. A. BRADONAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MURPHY, Capt., AG 461
Date

FEXC 360.33 (9 Nov 44)

4th Ind.

HQ UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST, A.F.O. 501, 27 December 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

(ATTENTION: Statistical Control Division)

1. Forwarded in compliance with War Department letter dated 23 May 1943, file AG 360.33 (5-21-43) CE-2-AF-M, subject: "Missing Air Crew Report".

2. Reference Theater Casualty Card Shipment No. 281, 15 Dec 44 and Shipment No. 283, 17 Dec 44, present status of subject crew is as follows:

NAME	RANK	ASN	STATUS	
HUNTER, William R. Jr.	1st Lt	[REDACTED]	KILLED IN ACTION	8 Nov 44
DAWKINS, Robert D. Jr.	2d Lt	[REDACTED]	KILLED IN ACTION	8 Nov 44
MAGEE, Willard W.	1st Lt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44
PAHN, Ist N.	1st Lt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44
WITHE, Charles W.	T/Sgt	[REDACTED]	KILLED IN ACTION	8 Nov 44
POSLACKI, Eugene C.	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44
PEYER, David M.L.	T/Sgt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44
BEARD, Richard C.	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44
WILSON, Lerle E.	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	KILLED IN ACTION	8 Nov 44
AUGSEIDER, Maximilian C.	S/Sgt	[REDACTED]	MISSING IN ACTION	8 Nov 44
GJERTSON, Peter F.	Sgt	[REDACTED]	RET'D MILITARY CONTROL	12 Dec 44

For the Commanding General:

1 Incl:
n/c.

D. F. ROSS
1st Lt AGD
Asst Adj Gen

AR-HF-260

10461

HEADQUARTERS
Army Air Forces Pilot School (ATE)
Turner Field, Albany, Georgia

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Former Prisoners of War

TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
Attn: Personal Affairs Branch, Room 1315 Munitions Bldg.

1. In compliance with your TWX AFPPS 3909, 28 Sep 45, the following information is submitted:

- a. Name of casualty Chas. Witham
- b. Rank S/Sgt ; Crew position Engineer
- d. Date last seen 8 Nov 44 . Place last seen Nagros Is.
- f. Circumstances of loss of aircraft Shot down by German Fighters

g. Known information (eye witness only)

None

h. Hearsay information (all other information about above named casualty, with estimate of reliability)

I was present when body was buried

(Note: Reverse side may be used if more space is needed in giving information requested above.)

William W. Magee 1st Lt.
Rank and name of reporter

[Redacted]
ASN

3077460 (H) } 131A RRF
92474. Sgt (H) }
Unit

CASUALTY REPORT FOR AGO

Prepared by
MIS-X Section
CPM Branch

DATE: 22 Jan 45

NARRATOR	: MANN, Pat N., 1st Lt.	SQUADRON	: 424th Bn.
ARMY SERIAL NO.	: [REDACTED]	GROUP	: 307th Bn.
HOME ADDRESS	: Arlington, Texas	TYPE AIRCRAFT	: B-24
EX-REPORT NO.	: 527	MISSION DATE	: 8 Nov 44

POSITION	MEMBERS OF CREW	PWIB RECORDS
PILOT	1st Lt. William R. Hunter	KIA
CO-PILOT	2nd Lt. Robert D. Dawkins	KIA
NAVIGATOR	1st Lt. Willard W. Magee	RD US
BOMBARDIER	1st Lt. Pat N. Mann	Narrator
ENGINEER	S/Sgt. Charles N. Witham	KIA
ASS'T ENGINEER	S/Sgt. Eugene C. Dosiacki	RD US
RADIO OPERATOR	T/Sgt. David M. L. Beyer	RD US
ASS'T RADIO OPERATOR	S/Sgt. Richard E. Beard	RD US
ARMORER-GUNNER	S/Sgt. Merle E. Wilson	KIA
GUNNER	S/Sgt. (?) Augusberger	RD
CAMERAMAN	S/Sgt. Peter Gjertson	RD US

KNOWN INFORMATION: The bail-out order was given while over the northwestern part of Negros Island, P. I., on 8 November 1944. A fire started in the number one engine by enemy 20-mm. incendiaries and a few minutes later a fire started in the number four engine. Three crew members failed to jump: Lt. Dawkins, Lt. Hunter and S/Sgt. Wilson, and perished with the plane crash. Lt. Dawkins and S/Sgt. Wilson were wounded and could not leave the ship. S/Sgt. Witham was strafed on the way down and died when he hit the earth. A military funeral was held for all four dead crew members in the back yard of the mayor of Free Talissay, Negros, P.I. and S/Sgt. Witham and Lt. Hunter were buried in the same grave; a few feet away another grave held S/Sgt. Wilson and Lt. Dawkins. I saw the graves, but unlike the other surviving crew members, did not view the bodies.

HEARSAY INFORMATION:

DISTRIBUTION:

AGO -1
AC/AS (PERSONNEL) -1