

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, WESTERN PACIFIC

GMR/jst/lgv

GSARP 704 (25 Feb 46)

AFPO 707,
25 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Changing Status of Personnel.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

1. On 15 July 1944, while flying in a tight formation, on a bombing raid to Yap Island, two B-24J's crashed together in mid-air, exploded and fell burning. Air crews of the two planes, missing since the mid-air collision are as follows:

Air crew of B-24J, AAF serial number 42-73119

Pilot	Diederich, Anthony F.	2nd Lt	0 697 342
Co-Pilot	Pomeroy, Robert W.	2nd Lt	0 768 215
Navigator	Garrett, Eugene W.	2nd Lt	0 708 251
Bombardier	Sekanics, Andrew	2nd Lt	0 703 402
Engineer	Seller, Kenneth W.	S/Lt	32 762 907
Engineer	Hundley, Clint D.	Cpl	38 135 303
Radio Oper.	Jacobs, Robert F.	S/Sgt	33 733 013
Radio Oper.	Reynolds, Charles F.	Cpl	37 676 896
Gunner	Dunbar, John G. Jr.	Cpl	37 540 207
Gunner	Crowley, William E.	Sgt	16 004 052
Photo	Moore, William E.	Sgt	36 647 606

Air Crew of B-24J, AAF serial number 44-40555

Pilot	Gylor, Ulna H.	1st Lt	0 803 306
Co-Pilot	Camp, Sam J.	2nd Lt	0 696 746
Navigator	Principe, Joseph B.	1st Lt	0 689 581
Bombardier	Rowan, Walter C.	1st Lt	0 673 904
Engineer	Vetrecin, Michael G. Jr.	T/Sgt	15 320 307
Engineer	Miller, Ruben O.	S/Sgt	15 323 660
Radio Oper.	Keefe, Francis R.	T/Sgt	11 116 730
Radio Oper.	Waters, William W. Jr.	S/Sgt	18 168 122
Gunner	Hitchcock, James M.	S/Sgt	39 256 020
Gunner	Dickerson, Clarence W.	S/Sgt	35 442 185
Observer	Harder, Charles J.	F/O	T 124 507

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OSARP 704 (25 Feb 46) Diederich, Anthony F. 2nd Lt Subj:
Changing Status of Personnel.

The following information is submitted relative to
changing the status of the two air crews:

a. The attached eyewitness account by Cpl. George W.
Arum, 39 005 084, describes the collision.

b. No search was made immediately because of enemy
opposition, but since the incident occurred, waters in that
area have been thoroughly searched.

c. Naturally, the possibility of survival is very
slight and the opinion of the reviewing officer, 2d Lt Robert
S. Wood, as expressed on "Review of Missing Aircrew Data" sub-
mitted by the 13th Air Force Headquarters, is that both air
crews are "dead".

2. Therefore, in view of the above information and
attached inclosure, it is recommended that the two aircrews
be found dead, under provisions of the Missing Persons Act,
as amended.

For the Commanding General:

JAMES A. CALLENDER
Major, A. G. D.
Assistant Adjutant General

1 Incl-

1. Eyewitness description of crash.

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P6-2(1)/tmc
Serial: 98

USN MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNIT, YAP
NAVY #3014, c/o
POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

13 March 1947.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: Headquarters United States Army Forces,
Middle Pacific, APO-958.
Via: (1) Island Commander, Peleliu, Navy #3252.
(2) Commander Marianas.
Subject: Casualty Information.
Reference: (a) Ltr. Hq. AGSAC. Pacific Theater, GSMM 7045,
Subj/ Casualty Information, 1 Nov. 1946.
(b) MFM 293 (1 Nov. 1946) 3rd Ed. (S-15 Feb. 47).
Enclosure: (A) Your letter and endorsements quoted in Ref. (a) and (b).

1. In accordance with your request in references (a) and (b) a thorough search has been conducted for information concerning the bodies of the missing air crewmen and the search was negative.

2. All known graves of American fliers on this island have recently been exhumed, complete data and identification collected and the remains forwarded for burial to Peleliu.

3. In addition to this there has been conducted a thorough inquiry of natives who might have information in regard to this specific case and this also has produced no evidence.

L.M. REEDY
By Direction

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ISCOM/P6

Serial: 456

ISLAND COMMAND, PEARLUS
Navy 3252
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to
USMAGU, Yap ltr., Ser. 98
dtd 13 March 1947.

3 April 1947.

From: Island Commander, Peleliu.
To : Headquarters United States Army Forces, Middle Pacific,
APO-958.

Subject: Casualty Information.

1. Forwarded directly.

L. O. FOX.

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HEAD QUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE AREA COMAND
PACIFIC THEATER

JJ/hma²
APO 707
1 Nov 46
s: 1 Jan 47

GS-41. 704.5

SUBJECT: Casualty Information

TO : Quartermaster, United States Army Forces, Middle
Pacific, APO 958
Attn: MID-PAC Sector Graves Registration Officer

1. Your attention is invited to inclosure.

2. It is requested that records your headquarters be reviewed to determine whether the remains of subject aircrew are interred as knowns or possible unknowns in a cemetery under your jurisdiction and a report of findings be forwarded with return of this correspondence.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

A. L. McCLOSKEY
Major, U. S. A.
Executive Officer

1 Incl:

Cpy Ltr Hq AFMESPAC, APO 707, dtd 25
Feb 46, file GMRP 704, subj: Changing
Status of Personnel, re: Diederich,
Anthony F., 0697342 - Harder, Charles J.
T124507, w/1 Incl.

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Ltr, HQ, AGHSAAC, Pacific Theater, GSqM 704.5, Subj: Casualty Information, 1 Nov 46

REF: 293 (1 Nov 46)

1st Ind

29 Nov 1946

headquarters United States Army Forces, Middle Pacific, APO 958

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, APO 707

ATTENTION: Quartermaster (Gen GR Rec Br)

Search of records in this headquarters reveals no information pertaining to air crew of B-24J, AAF serial number 42-73119 and air crew of B-24J, AAF serial number 44-40555.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

H. S. TROTTER
Lt Colonel, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
n/c

JJ/vd#

GSqM 293

2nd Ind

S: 21 Feb 47

HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE AREA COMMAND
PACIFIC THEATER, APO 707, 21 December 1946

TO : Quartermaster, United States Army Forces Middle Pacific, APO 958
Attn: MIDPAC Sector Graves Registration Officer

1. It is requested that a search be conducted on Yap Island and vicinity for remains of subject air crews.

2. There is a possibility that remains washed up on beach in subject area and interrogation of the natives may reveal information which will aid in the location and recovery of remains.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

A. L. McCLOSKEY
Major, W. M. C.
Executive Officer

1 Incl: n/c

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Ltr, Hq, AGM&C, Pacific Theater, GS.M 704.5, Subj: Casualty
Information, 1 Nov. 46

REF M 293 (1 Nov 46)

3rd Ind

(S-15 Feb 47)

Headquarters United States Army Forces, Middle Pacific, APO 958

TO: Commander Western Carolines, Navy No. 3014.

For compliance with preceding indorsement and return of
correspondence to this Headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

W. A. ANDERSON
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl
n/c

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AOB/mmh/50836/8475

Subject: Determination of Status, Case #8475. 29 October 1947

AIR MAIL

To: Commander-in-Chief
Far East
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. The attached report of casualty information was received in this office, and is being forwarded to your command in the hope that it may be of assistance in determining the status of the following named Air Corps personnel, who departed from their base in the Admiralty Islands, on 15 July 1944, on a combat mission to Yap Island.

2. Missing Air Crew Report #6924, identifies the crew members of plane #44-40555 as follows:

2nd Lt	Anthony F. Diederich	0697342
2nd Lt	Robert W. Pomroy	0768215
2nd Lt	Eugene W. Garrett	0708251
2nd Lt	Andrew Sekanics	0703402
S Sgt	Kenneth W. Seiler	32762907
Cpl	Clint D. Lundley	38135303
S Sgt	Robert F. Jacobs	33738013
Cpl	Charles F. Reynolds	37676896
Cpl	John O. Durbar, Jr.	37540207
Sgt	William E. Crowley	16004052
Sgt	William E. Moores	36647606

Missing Air Crew Report #6923, identifies the crew members of plane #44-40555 as follows:

1st Lt	Ulna H. Saylor	0803306
2nd Lt	Sam Camp, Jr.	0696746
1st Lt	Joseph S. Principe	0689581
1st Lt	Walter C. Rowan	0673904
T Sgt	Michael G. Vetrecin, Jr.	15320307
S Sgt	Ruben O. Miller	15323660
T Sgt	Francis R. Keefe	11116730

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S Sgt .	William W. Waters, Jr.	13163122
S Sgt	James H. Hitchcock	39256020
S Sgt	Clarence W. Dickerson	35442185
Plt O	Charles J. Harder	T124507

3. Shortly after leaving the target area, Plane No. 42-73119 piloted by Lt Diederich and plane No. 44-40555 piloted by Lt Saylor, collided at the position of 09° 08' North, 138° 17' East, about 25 miles southeast of Yap Island. Lt Saylor's plane broke in half just behind the wing section and a wing fell off Lt. Diederich's plane. Both planes caught fire and fell into the water. One eyewitness reported seeing 5 parachutes open at about 8000 feet. Other persons on the mission saw bodies fall but no parachutes open.

4. The persons named listed above were reported missing in action over Yap Island by SWR no. 137, since 15 July 1944, and were presumed dead as of 30 March 1946, under the provisions of Section 5, Missing Persons Act.

5. If any additional information can be obtained in regard to the status of the persons listed in paragraph 2, it is desired that this office be advised.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

/s/ Sanford Coffin
Adjutant General

1 Incl.
Casualty Report

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BASIC: Ltr, TAGO, AGPO-OR 704 (29 Oct 47), 29 Oct 47, Subj: Determination of Status, Case #8475

AG 704 (29 Oct 47) AG-PE

1st Ind

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND, APO 500, 13 November 1947.

TO: Commanding General, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, APO 707

1. For compliance with basic communication and direct reply to The Adjutant General.

2. The records at General Headquarters, Far East Command, contain no pertinent information.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MCCARTHER:

1 Incl:n/c

s/t/ R.D. PIRNICK
Major, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

GS-11 704

2nd Ind

FRM/ng*

HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES-RYUKYUS COMMAND, APO 707

3 December 1947

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Ground Forces, Pacific, APO 958

1. It is requested that any information available in records your headquarters be furnished Headquarters, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, in order to help resolve casualty status of personnel listed on basic communication.

2. In the event atrocities were committed involving subjects, information is also desired as to proper action already instigated.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

L. E. CARRELL
Captain, AGD
Assistant Adjutant General

1 Incl:
n/c

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Ltr, Dept of the Army, TAGO, Wash 25, D. C., AGPO-CR 704 (29 Oct 47),
Subj: Determination of Status, Case #8475, 29 Oct 47

GPJ.C 293.9 (29 Oct 47) 3rd Ind

Headquarters, United States Army, Pacific, APO 958

TO: Commanding General, Philippines-Ryukyus Command, APO 707

1. Records this Headquarters reveal that on 15 July 1944, two (2) B-24's piloted by First Lieutenant Anthony F. Diederich, Serial Number 0697342, and First Lieutenant Ulna L. Saylor, Serial Number 0803306 crashed in mid-air at 09° 8' North, 138° 17' East, exploded and fell burning into the sea. The planes were reported flying in a tight formation while on bombing raid to Yap Island from Mokerang Airdrome, Los Negros Island, Admiralty Islands.

2. Statement made by a witness shows that four (4) bodies and one (1) life raft were seen tumbling from the wreckage. Most of the parts were burning when they hit the water and black smoke was pouring from the wreckage. Some turrets of both planes were seen thrown clear from their walls and fell with other pieces of wreckage. Another witness states that at least five (5) parachutes puffed into view in quick succession. No immediate search was conducted because of enemy opposition, but since the incident occurred, waters in the area have been thoroughly searched.

3. Inclosed herewith for your information are copies of Missing Air Crew Reports with attached statements relative to First Lieutenant Ulna L. Saylor and First Lieutenant Anthony F. Diederich and crews.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

3 Incls

1. N/c

Added 2 incls

2. Cy, LACR rel to air crew on
B-24J #44-40555 w/statements

3. Cy, LACR rel to air crew on
B-24J #42-73119 w/statements

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