

WAR DEPARTMENT,
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in 24 hours by each Army Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: LOCATION: _____ SQUADRON OR AIR FORCE: _____
SERIAL: 307th Bomb (W) SQUADRON 370th Bomb DETACHMENT
2. SPECIFIC POINT OF DISAPPEARANCE: _____ POINT: _____
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____ TYPE OF WEATHER: _____
4. DATE: 13 JUL 44 TIME: _____ ALTITUDE OF LAST POSITION: _____
DIRECTION OF WINDS: APPROX. 125°/K ABOUT 73 MI NW OF X
TYPE OF WEATHER AT LAST POSITION: _____
TYPE OF WEATHER AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: CHECK ONE
CHECK ONE: BOMBING OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES BY: _____
6. AIRCRAFT TYPE: BOMBING AIRCRAFT: B-24J TYPE: _____ SERIAL NO.: 44-40639
7. EQUIPMENT: TYPE: _____ SERIAL NO.: _____
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: _____
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) BATTLE CASUALTY _____
(b) NON-BATTLE CASUALTY _____
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: CREW: 10 PASSENGERS: 10
(Include all who could be rescued or recovered. Exclude those 10 persons who were reported as battle casualties.)

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	STATUS	DATE
BALL, WALTER E.	2 nd LT	0-690310	R/A	13 Jul 44
VAUGHN, DOUGLAS J.	2 nd LT	0-765362	R/A	25 Jul 44
NAV. MERRILL, WILLIAM L.	F/O	*124445	R/A	25 Jul 44
ASS. ENG. MORRISON, RICHARD A.	S/Sgt	39462130	R/A	13 Aug 44
Radio OP. HAYES, BERT T.	S/Sgt	20547444	R/A	28 Sep 44
BOMBARDIER SIMPSON, WAYNE K.	2 nd LT	0-765558	R/A	13 Jul 44
ENG. ZELTMANN, SYMOND J.	S/Sgt	3277314	R/A	13 Jul 44
ASST. RAD. OP. CORLEY, THOMAS W.	Sgt	34221157	R/A	13 Jul 44
ARMORER GUNNER CLEGGENEN, MILTON R.	Sgt	35535026	R/A	13 Jul 44
ARMORER GUNNER CLARK, HERBERT A.	Sgt	39543170	R/A	13 Jul 44

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST SEEN WHILE ON AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR STATUS:

NAME IN FULL	SERIAL	CONTACTED BY	LAST SEEN	LAST SEEN BY	DATE FORGED
LAST NAME FIRST	PHONE	ADDRESS	DATE	NAME	DATE

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: (a) AIRCRAFT WAS RECOVERED _____ (b) PERSONS WERE RECOVERED _____ (c) AIRCRAFT WAS RECOVERED AND PERSONS WERE RECOVERED _____
13. ATTACH EXPLANATION OF REASON FOR CRASH, WHETHER LANDING OR OTHER, INCLUDING PERTINENT TO INCIDENT DETAILS.
14. ATTACH ALL PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS, CHARTS, OR OTHER SKETCHES SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, GRADE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE.

SEARCHED BY: _____ INDEXED BY: _____ FILED BY: _____
 # OFF NUMBER OF MERRILL, changed to 01686453
 * Saol Island

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 18, 1944

SUBJECT: Second Lieutenant Walter E. Ball, 0696310,
370th Bomb Squadron,
Missing in Action 13 July 1944,
Later reported Killed in Action 13 July 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force, A.P.O. 719,
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for details concerning the circumstances under which the subject named was reported ~~missing~~ (in action) on the date shown.
killed

2. A search of the records of this headquarters indicates that a Missing Air Crew Report, as required by A.G.O. letter, 23 May 1943, (AG 360.33 (5-21-43)CB-S-AF-W), has not been received to date in this case. It is requested that this report be forwarded with the least practicable delay.

For the Commanding General:

E. A. Bradunas

E. A. BRADUNAS,
Major, A. G. D.,
Chief, Notification Branch,
Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief Air Staff, Personnel.

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5-509,AF

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BASIC: Ltr, Hq AAF, Washington 25, D.C., 18 Oct 44, Subj: 2d Lt
Walter E. Ball 0696310, 370th Bomb Sq, Missing in Action 13
July 44. Later reported Killed in Action 13 July 44.

AG 201 - BALL, WALTER E. (O) 1st Ind. G/./wcb
HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 719, 9 December 1944.

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

1. Attention invited to copy of Casualty Report No. 59, Head-
quarters 307th Bombardment Group, 27 July 1944, (Inclosure #1), which
gives details concerning circumstances under which subject officer was
reported Killed in Action.

2. A missing Air Crew Report was not submitted in this case.

For the Commanding General:

A. Nevitt
PEYTON G. NEVITT
Colonel AGD
Adjutant General

1 Incl.
Casualty Report #59, Hq 307th Bomb Gp,
w/4 inclosures.

AG 201 - Ball, Walter E. (Off) 2d Ind
HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST AIR FORCES, APO 925, 13 DEC 1944

TO: Commanding General, USAFFE, APO 501.

For the Commanding General:

G. W. ...
G. W. ...
Capt. ...
Asst. Adj. Gen.

1 Incl: n/c

055-897

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

APO #719.
27 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Casualty Report Number 59. (Battle)

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

1. In compliance with Regulation Number 35-45, Headquarters, Far East Air Forces, APO 925, 21 June 1944, the following report is submitted:

a. The following named officers and enlisted men, previously reported on Battle Casualty Report Number 54, this headquarters, dated 14 July 1944 as missing in action on 13 July 1944, were rescued at approximately 1630, 14 July 1944 by a U. S. submarine and returned to military control at this base at approximately 1030, 25 July 1944. The two enlisted men were immediately admitted to the 58th Evacuation Hospital, APO #324:

(1) Name, grade, army serial number and race:

(a) VAUGHN, DOUGLAS J., 2nd Lt., O-765362, white.

(b) MERRILL, WILLIAM B., F/O, T-124445, white.

(c) Morrison, Richard A., S/Sgt. 3946213G, white.

(d) Hawes, Bert T., S/Sgt., 20547444, white.

(2) 370th Bombardment Squadron (H), 307th Bombardment Group (H).

(3) Duty assignment:

(a) Co-pilot (1092)

(b) Navigator (1034)

(c) Assistant Engineer Gunner (748)

(d) Radio Operator Gunner (757)

(4) Type and degree of casualty, and where and how incurred:

The above listed personnel, who were reported missing in action on 13 July 1944, were rescued and returned to military control on 25 July 1944. The following diagnoses were made by the Medical Officer, 58th Evacuation Hospital at the time patients were admitted. Bruises were sustained in water landing and sunburn and exposure are a result of the time spent in the life rafts:

(a) Not hospitalized, returned to duty immediately.

(b) Not hospitalized, returned to duty immediately.

(c) Lacerated wound of left hand; estimated hospitalization - fifteen (15) days.

(d) Multiple lacerations of right thigh, right leg, and left leg; estimated hospitalization - Thirty (30) days.

(5) Date of rescue: 14 July 1944.

(6) Airplane No. 44-40609; type: B-24J.

(7) Line of Duty: Yes.

(8) Misconduct status: No.

(9) Flying status and aeronautical rating:

(a) Yes - Pilot.

Ltr., Hq, 307th Bomb Gp (H), APO 719, subject: Casualty Report #59 (Battle), dated 27 July 1944. Contd.

- (b) Yes - Navigator.
- (c) Yes - None.
- (d) Yes - None.

(10) Award pay: None.

(11) Name, relationship, and address of emergency addressees:

- (a) Mrs Erma B. Vaughn (Mother) 1634 Fourth Ave., Oakland, California.
- (b) Mrs Vera I. Merrill (Mother), Route #3, Roseville, Illinois.
- (c) Mrs Marguerite P. Stecker (Mother), Box #135, Lone, Washington.
- (d) Mrs Jean Hawes (Wife), Route #3, c/o Earl Kern, Logan, Ohio.

b. The following listed officers and enlisted men, the remaining members of original crew reported as missing in action on Battle Casualty Report Number 54; this headquarters, dated 14 July 1944, are changed to the status of killed in action as of 13 July 1944, because of the improbability of their still being alive, as substantiated by the attached statements obtained from the persons rescued:

(1) Name, grade, arm, serial number, and race:

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KIA
KIA
KIA
KIA
KIA
KIA

- (a) BALL, WALTER E., 2nd Lt., O-696310, white.
- (b) SIMPSON, WAYNE L., 2nd Lt., O-762558, white.
- (c) Zeltmann, Raymond J., 32798314, S/Sgt., white.
- (d) Corley, Thomas W., Sgt., 34671159, white.
- (e) Clendennen, Milton R., Sgt., 38555026, white.
- (f) Clark, Herbert A., Sgt., 39543170, white.

(2) 370th Bombardment Squadron (H), 307th Bombardment Group (H).

(3) Duty Assignment:

- (a) Pilot (1692)
- (b) Bombardier (1035)
- (c) Engineer Gunner (748)
- (d) Assistant Radio Operator Gunner (757)
- (e) Armorer Gunner (612)
- (f) Armorer Gunner (612)

(4) Type and degree of casualty, and where and how incurred:

Killed in action. (Casualty occurred at approximately 1255/K about 73 miles northwest of Sorol Island. Plane was returning from combat mission over Yap Island. Target was bombed at approximately 1227/K and at that time no trouble was encountered. Number 1 engine was hit by a 20 mm shell and this necessitated feathering of the propeller. Number 4 engine was hit by 7.7 fire and began to windmill. Then number 2 engine was shot out by 20 mm fire and the prop ran away. All electrical equipment was shot out with this hit. At this point, the plane began losing altitude at about 1000 feet per minute. A water landing was made at approximately 80 20'W - 139°13'E and the plane broke in half. The front part of the plane was standing on its nose, submerged up to the trailing edge of the wings, with the fuselage broken somewhere around the rear of the bomb bay or ball turret. The plane sank after about two minutes. Rescued personnel remained



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Ltr., Hq. 307th Bomb Gp (H), APO 719, subject: Casualty Report #59 (Battle),
dated 27 July 1944. Contd.

in the immediate vicinity of the scene of crash for about two hours and did not see any of the other personnel.) In view of the above circumstances, as substantiated by inclosed statements of rescued personnel, it is believed that no other logical conclusion than killed in action can be determined.

- (5) Date of casualty: 13 July 1944.
- (6) Airplane number 44-40609; type: B-24J.
- (7) Lins of Duty: Yes.
- (8) Misconduct status: No.
- (9) Flying status and aeronautical rating.
 - (a) Yes - Pilot.
 - (b) Yes - Bombardier.
 - (c) through (f) Yes - None.
- (10) Award pay: None.
- (11) Name, relationship and address of emergency addressees:
 - (a) Mr Walter E. Ball (Father), 525 Third Ave., Altoona, Pa.
 - (b) Mr William S. Simpson (Father), 207 Eight Ave., Altoona, Pa.
 - (c) Mrs Mary Zeltmann (Mother), 18 Jackson Place, Hicksville, New York.
 - (d) Mrs Mary M. Corley (Wife), Route #2, Box #218, Winterville, North Carolina.
 - (e) Mrs Kate Clendennen (Mother), 16 Chicon St., Austin, Texas.
 - (f) Mrs Rosa L. Clark (Wife), 3845 1/2 Grand St., Los Angeles, California.

For the Commanding Officer:

SAUL C. WEISLOW,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

- 4 Incls:
- Incl 1 - Statement, Lt Vaughn.
 - Incl 2 - Statement, F/O Merrill.
 - Incl 3 - Statement, S/Sgt Hawes.
 - Incl 4 - Statement, S/Sgt Morrison.

A TRUE COPY:

L. A. GILLIEN
L. A. GILLIEN,
Captain, A.C.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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STATEMENT

APC #719.

26 July 1944.

I was flying as Co-Pilot in airplane #44-40609, B-24J, on a mission over Yap Island, 13 July 1944. Our number 4 engine was hit by 7.7 fire and began to windmill; then number 1 engine was hit and broken up badly by 20 mm and was feathered. We began to lose altitude and fall behind the formation. Then number 2 engine was shot out by 20mm fire and the prop ran away. All electrical equipment was shot out with this hit. Immediately upon hitting the water, the ship broke in half.

After the crash I was caught in my seat for a short time, and after getting loose, I got out the top hatch. When I came to the surface I saw F/O Merrill in his life jacket and S/Sgt Morrison and S/Sgt Hawes, clinging to a partly inflated raft. The plane sank soon and to my knowledge, no one else appeared. We were picked up by a Navy submarine at about 1630K on 14 July 1944.

/s/Douglas J. Vaughn
/t/DOUGLAS J. VAUGHN
2nd Lt., Air Corps.,
Co-Pilot.

A TRUE COPY:

L. A. Gillitzer
L. A. GILLITZER
Captain, A.C.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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S T A T E M E N T

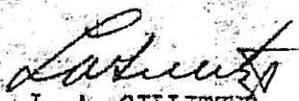
APC #719.
26 July 1944.

I had been busy up to about two minutes before we hit the water. At this time I realized that I still had my flak suit and parachute harness on. I had just slipped my harness off my shoulders and I could see that we were going to hit the water. I only had time to put my left arm against the armor plate behind the pilot as we hit. There was a blinding crash and I could feel the water around me. When the forward motion stopped I could feel myself free so I paddled and immediately came to the surface. I could not be sure how I got out but I assume that the canopy had been torn away and I was thrown out. I was about ~~ten~~ feet in front of the plane. The front part of the plane was standing on its nose, submerged up to the trailing edge of the wings, with the fuselage broken somewhere around the rear of the bomb bay or ball turret.

I had trouble inflating my Mae West as I had forgotten to unsafety the cords. However, after a few minutes I got them loosened. About ten seconds after I came up, the Co-Pilot came to the surface. The plane sank after about two minutes. The radio man and assistant engineer were clinging to a partially inflated raft which came out of the waist. I saw no other survivors among the wreckage and am certain the rest of the crew were killed.

/s/William L. Merrill
/t/WILLIAM L. MERRILL,
F/O, Air Corps.,
Navigator.

A TRUE COPY:


L. A. GILLITZER,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

S T A T E M E N T

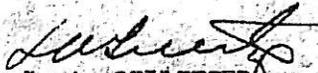
APC #719.
26 July 1944.

On 13 July 1944, I occupied my usual position during combat, of right waist gunner. About 15 minutes before the plane was ditched, I went to the flight deck to send a message. Failing in this, due to the fact that the antenna was shot off, I returned to my position after about ten minutes. The pilot, co-pilot, navigator and engineer were forward at that time. I never saw the pilot or the engineer again.

At the time of ditching, I was at my gun position. The tail turret gunner was in his turret and the bombardier, nose turret, ball turret, and left waist gunners were sitting on the step forward of the ball turret. Since I was rendered unconscious in the crash, I do not know what happened to them. The only one seen by me after that was the tail turret gunner who was in the water near me some fifty feet from the wrecked plane. The plane floated about two minutes. I do not know for certain what happened to the other six men but would judge they went down with the wreckage.

/s/Bert T. Hawes
/t/BERT T. HAWES,
S/Sgt, 20547444.

A TRUE COPY:


L. A. GILLITZER,
Captain, A.C.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

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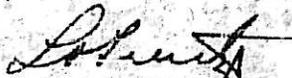
S T A T E M E N T

APD #719,
26 July 1944.

On 13 July 1944, I was in my turret and since the interphone was out I had no idea of the difficulties encountered by my plane. The first I knew we were in trouble was when we fell off on a wing and lost altitude. I was too busy trying to fix my turret to inquire about what was going on. We finally went into the water and the next thing I knew, I was struggling to stay up, having been thrown clear of the plane. The only man that I saw other than those rescued, was the ball turret gunner. He was holding on to the tail section and went down with it. It is impossible for me to account for any others on the crew.

/s/Richard A. Morrison
/t/RICHARD A. MORRISON,
S/Sgt. 39462130.

A TRUE COPY:


L. A. GILLITZER,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.