

372ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (HV)  
307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV)  
APO #719

5 August 1945

Mrs Anne Plutchak  
2346 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley, California.

My dear Mrs Plutchak:

I regret to inform you that your son, Eugene, has been reported missing in action. On 1 August, returning from a bombing mission over Makassar Town, Celebes Islands, the B-24 on which your son was Radio Operator encountered difficulties. The Pilot ordered all crew members to parachute when the plane's position was about sixty miles south of Cape Flesko and Sergeant Batten's parachute was seen to open. Eight of the eleven-man crew have been rescued and you can rest assured every effort is being made to locate additional survivors but to date all results of our searches have been negative.

Your son had served as Radio Operator in this squadron for the past two months. By his unswerving loyalty he not only reflected the highest credit on himself and the armed forces, but by his example earned the respect and admiration of both his superior officers and subordinates. His professional ability and airmanship at all times was excellent and his attitude toward his duty was most admirable.

Please rest assured that you will be notified immediately of any further information we may receive. If there is any further assistance I can render please feel free to write.

Sincerely yours,

*Harry E. Stengele III*  
HARRY E. STENGELE III,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Commanding.