

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

CONFIDENTIAL
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate. The organization within 48 hours of the time the aircraft is officially reported missing.

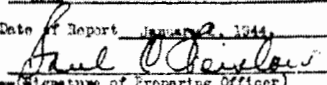
- ORGANIZATION: Location A.P.O. # 709 ; Command or Air Force 3d AIR FORCE
Group 307th Bomb. Sq., (M); Squadron 371st Bomb. Sq. ; Detachment
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Koli Field ; Course Reboul
Intended Destination Reboul Koli Field ; Type of Mission Combat
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
GOOD
- GIVE: (a) Date 1/1/44 ; Time 1730 L. ; and Location St. Georges Channel between of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. New Britain Is. and New Ireland Is.
(b) Specify whether () Last Sighted; () Last Contacted by Radio;
() Forced Down; (X) 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; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; () Other Circumstance as follows _____
- AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-24 D ; A.A.F. Serial Number 42-78823
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Serial 1850-43 ; A.A.F. Serial Number (a) 42-90508
(b) 42-90516 ; (c) 42-90164 ; (A) 42-90051
- INSTALLED EQUIPMENT furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number:
(a) _____ ; (b) _____ ; (c) _____ ; (d) _____
(e) _____ ; (f) _____ ; (g) _____ ; (h) _____
- THE PERSON LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers — ; Total 10
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 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	Houghton, Clyde A.	1st Lt.	0-578048
2. Co-Pilot	Delby, Verl E.	2nd Lt.	0-803961
3. Navigator	Grigas, Edward (M)	2nd Lt.	0-675148
4. Bombardier	Phillips, Martin (M)	2nd Lt.	0-678451
5. Engineer	Green, Jimmy W.	1st Sgt.	38539878
6. Asst. Engineer	Johnston, Delmar C.	1st Sgt.	37287707
7. Radio Operator	Truman, Arthur (M)	1st Sgt.	15829998
8. Asst. Radio Oper.	Pierce, Robert J.	1st Sgt.	39119442
9. Armorer	Johnson, Richard E.	1st Sgt.	32537161
10. Tail Gunner	Falter, Dennis S.	2nd Sgt.	11102791

- 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	Last Radio	Saw Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Landing
1. Montgomery, George F.	1st Lt.	0-788084				X	
2. Ogg, Charles H.	1st Lt.	0-788084			X		
3. Johnson, James L.	Capt.	0-781593				X	

- IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used Yes ; (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 NONE

Date of Report January 2, 1944

 Paul C. Henslow
 Captain, Air Corps. 3885

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By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

71st Bombardment Squadron (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer

A.P.O. # 700. **RESTRICTED**

2 January 1944.

SUBJECT: Description of Crash of Aircraft No. 42-72823, B-24 D.

TO : Operations, Headquarters, 307th Bombardment Group, (H).

1. Just prior to the bombing run over Lakunai Airbase the #1 engine of Lt. Houghton's plane, aircraft No. 42-72823, was observed to be smoking. As the formation was just about to leave the target, an enemy plane dropped a phosphorus aerial bomb which exploded very close to the element in which Lt. Houghton was flying. It is believed that the aerial bomb must have hit Lt. Houghton's plane for his #3 engine caught fire. Lt. Houghton's plane was straggling behind the formation and seven Zeros attacked. The wing of the plane then broke off at the #3 engine and the plane went into a wide spiral spin. Varying reports on the number of parachutes observed was reported - some crews reporting 2 or 3 chutes and one crew reporting 7 chutes. The enemy fighters strafed the parachutists but no observation could be made concerning the possible survival of the crew.

2. Under the circumstances and from the observations reported, the undersigned does not believe there were any survivors. It is doubtful that a Dumbo mission could successfully effect a rescue.

Saul C. Weislow

SAUL C. WEISLOW,
Captain, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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