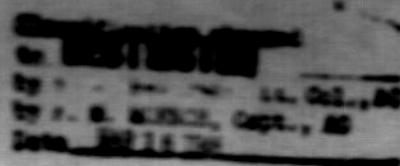


11686



CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

DISPONENT: This report will be compiled in sextuplet by each Eleventh Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name APO 4726; Command or Air Force Eleventh; Group 2nd Bomb; Squadron 77th Bomb; Detachment _____

SPECIFY: Place of Departure APO 4726; Course 257° T

Target or Intended Destination APC 4726; Type of Mission OC-Enavite

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST HEARD FROM: Scattered clouds except in a frontal zone from 360 mi from terminal to 100 mi from target. Ceiling and visibility near zero with radar to 150 ft; turbulence in frontal zone.

GIVE: (a) Day 29 Month 12 Year 1944; Time 1345H; and Location 51 35'N. 161 40'E.

of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

(b) Specify whether aircraft was 1st sighted (); last contacted by radio (x); forced down (); seen to crash (); or information not available ()
AIRCRAFT IS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A UNKNOWN CP: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); other circumstances as follows: Unknown

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-25-J; AAF Serial Number 43-36128

NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____

ENGINES: Type Model and Series R-2800-29; AF Serial 1

Number (a) 43-27840; (b) 43-23629; (c) _____; (d) _____

INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below, make, type and serial number): Brown Cal.50 Auto. Mch.

(a) 1291561; (b) 1281830; (c) 1291254; (d) 1282002 Guns

(e) 1284979; (f) 1291309; (g) 1291463; (h) 1282019

(i) 1281356; (j) 1281976; (k) 1285756; (l) 1281340

(m) 1285762; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____

THE PERSONS LISTED ARE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes

or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABORD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7; Passengers None; Total 7

(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	(Last Name First)	Name in Full		Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
		First	Last			
DED 1. Pilot	Bunker, Douglas Eugene	FIR	Q-677218	Missing in Action		
DED 2. Co-Pilot	Franks, John Hobson	FIR	Q-677632	" "		
DED 3. Bomb-Nav	Evans, Jack Boyd	FIR	Q-746801	" "		
DED 4. Engineer	Cathie, Archie Lorraine	Capt	Q-512440	" "		
DED 5. Rad-Obs-Snr	Foplin, Frank White	T/Sgt	34313745	" "		
DED 6. Asst Eng-Car	Spillane, Michael Patrick	S/Sgt	17055211	" "		
DED 7. Arm-Cnr	Travelbee, William Newton	Pfc	16084872	" "		
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LEFT THIS AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Contacted	Check Only one Column	Last Seen	Saw	Saw Forced Landing
1.	Huparsmith, Leonard	S1T	0-765264	X					
2.									
3.									

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER, YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) None

ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR CRASHED IN C.M.

ATTACH EVENTUAL DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT Search not conducted.

Date of Report 31 Dec 1944

Robert F. Ramer
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

ROBERT S. RAMER,
Major, Air Corps,
77th Bomb Sq (N)

REMARKS ON EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

31 December 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

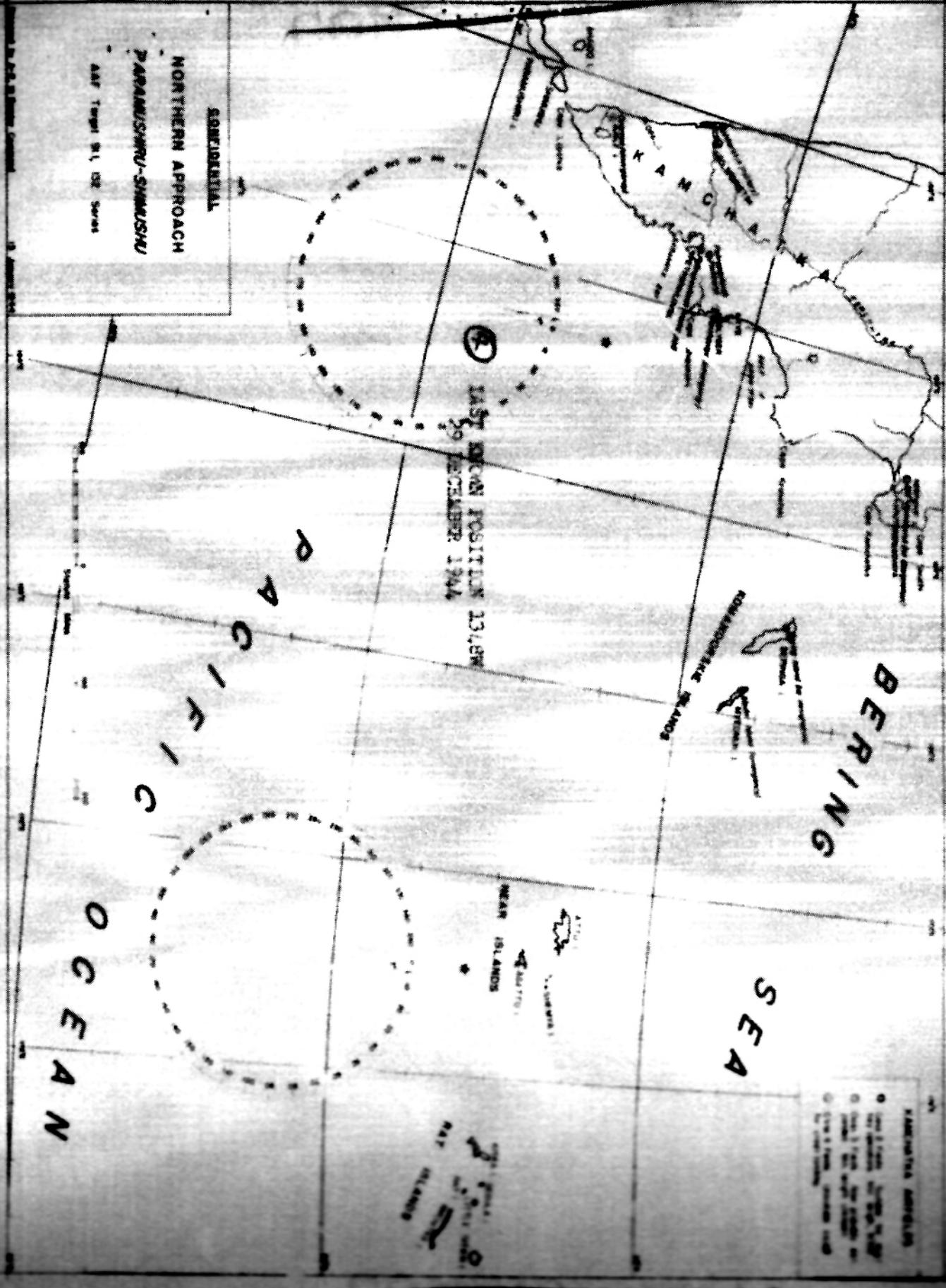
C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that on 29 December at 1348W, approximate position: $51^{\circ} 35'N$, $161^{\circ} 40'E$, I intercepted a message on VHF, "Dog" Channel, from Lt Collier calling Lt Bunker to inform him that he was making a 180° turn to the right. At this time apparently Lt Bunker's radio was out, but shortly before this interception, during an interval when visibility was better, I saw Lt Collier and Lt Bunker in close formation approximately one hundred yards to my right and two hundred feet above me. Immediately afterwards, I contacted Lt Collier and informed him that I was returning to Base. Lt Collier acknowledged and "Rogared" for the message. Although numerous attempts were then made to re-establish contact with the other planes, no further transmissions were received.

Leonard Kupersmith
LEONARD KUPERSMITH, O-765264,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
77th Bomb Squadron (M).

X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Banker
L

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED
MIA
6/1/45
BANKER
BASED: Ltr fr Sq 11th AF, dtd 16 Feb 1945, thru Comdg Gen, Als Dept, to
CG, AAF, subj: "Missing Air Crew Report."

704

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS ALASKAN DEPARTMENT, APO 942, c/o Postmaster, Seattle, Wn.

23 FEB 1945

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

1. Aircraft piloted by First Lieutenant Douglas E. Banker, 0677218, 77th Bombardment Squadron, was reported to The Adjutant General as missing by radio AX 15260, this Headquarters, dated 3 January 1945 (casualty message number 9).

2. Aircraft piloted by Second Lieutenant Bobby C. Collier, 0764951, 77th Bombardment Squadron, was reported to The Adjutant General as missing by radio AX 15261, this Headquarters, dated 3 January 1945 (casualty message number 10).

For the Commanding General

2 Inccls: n/c

H/C
F. S. LASKEVICH,
Major, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General

J. W. Jackson
Adjutant General
9681

APR 10 1945

per 7 Mar 45

Classification Required
Per authority CAS
Date 7 March 45
by
Philip M. Kornack
Captain, A.G.D.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 980, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

SC

In reply ✓
refer to: 704

16 February 1945

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

THRU : Commanding General, Alaskan Department, APO 942, U. S. Army
TO : Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
Attn: Chief, Statistical Control Division, Management Control.

In compliance with paragraph 5, WD AGO Letter 704 (5 July 44)
OB-S-AAF-M, dated 7 July 44, subject same as above, Missing Air Crew
Report of aircraft B-25-J AAF #43-36136, pilot 2nd Lt. Bobby Chaney
Collier, O-764951, 77th Bombardment Squadron and Missing Air Crew
Report of aircraft B-25-J AAF #43-36128, pilot 1st Lt. Douglas Eugene
Bunker, O-677216, 77th Bombardment Squadron is forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



3182
for

JAMES R. THORN,
Lt Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

2 incis:

Incl. 1 & 2 - Missing Air Crew Reports (in dup)
w/2 Incls thereto.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in quantity, i.e., by which Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name: APO #726; Command or Air Force Eleventh; Group 28th Bomb (C); Squadron 77th Bomb; Detachment ; Course 257°T

SPECIFY: Place of Departure APO #726; Target or Intended Destination APO #726; Type of Mission Offensive Sweep

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Scattered clouds, overcast, in W. Visibility zero with intermittent 10° Turbo turbulence in front of zone

GIVE: (a) Day 29 Month 12 Year 1944; (b) Time 1348W; (c) Locations 1036°W, 161°40°N; of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.

(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (X); 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) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-Aircraft (); other circumstances as follows: Unknown

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-25-J; AF Serial Number 43-38128
NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any

ENGINES: Type Model and Series R-2600-29; AF Serial
Number (a) 43-27540; (b) 43-23629; (c) _____; (d) _____

INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number): Brown Cal. .50 Auto Mch GUNS
(a) 1291561; (b) 1281880; (c) 1291254; (d) 1282002
(e) 1284979; (f) 1291309; (g) 1291463; (h) 1282019
(i) 1281356; (j) 1281876; (k) 1285753; (l) 1281340
(m) 1285762; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____

THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WAS REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
or (b) Non Battle Casualty

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7; Passengers None; Total 7
(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	Current Status
1. Pilot	Bunker, Douglas Eugene	1st Lt	O-677218	Missing in Action
2. Co-Pilot	Franks, John Hobson	1st Lt	O-677632	
3. Bomb-Nav	Evans, Jack Boyd	1st Lt	O-746801	
4. Engineer	Cathie, Archie Lorraine	Capt	O-512440	
5. Rad-Corp-Car	Poplin, Frank White	T/Sgt	34313745	
6. Asst-Rad-Car	Spillane, Michael Patrick	S/Sgt	17055211	
7. Arm-Car	Travelbee, William Newton	Pfc	16084872	
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

(Over)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONNEL WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	By Radio	Contacted	Check Only one Column
Emerson, Leonard S.A.	Sgt	0-765264	X	Last Sighted	Saw Crash
					Forced Landing

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER, YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ____; or (c) any other reason (Specify) None.

ATTACH A FALM WINDSONG, M.P., CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

ATTACH EVIDENCELESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT Search not conducted.

Date of Report 1 Dec 1944

/s/ Robert S. Hanby
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
/t/ ROBERT S. HANBY,
 Major, Air Corps,
 77th Bomb Sq (N)

THIS IS A TRUE COPY

C.W. Bibler
 C. W. BIBLER,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 27th SCU.

CONFIDE TLL

31 December 1944

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that on 29 December at 1348W, approximate position: 31° 35'N, 161° 40'E, I intercepted a message on VHF, "Dog" Channel, from Lt Collier calling Lt Bunker to inform him that he was making a 180° turn to the right. At this time apparently Lt Bunker's radio was out, but shortly before this interception, during an interval when visibility was better, I saw Lt Collier and Lt. Bunker in close formation approximately one hundred yards to my right and two hundred feet above me. Immediately afterwards, I contacted Lt Collier and informed him that I was returning to Base. Lt Collier acknowledged and "Rogered" for the message. Although numerous attempts were then made to re-establish contact with the other planes, no further transmissions were received.

/s/ Leonard KuperSmith,
/t/ LEONARD KUPERSMITH, O-765264,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
77th Bomb Squadron (M).

THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

C W Bibler
C. W. BIBLER,
Captain, Air Corps,
27th SCU.

O C E A N

3

4

◆

8

卷之三

卷之三

NORTHERN APPROACH

卷之三

NOTES ON THE
HABITS OF THE
BROWN SPOTTED
WREN

53

BERING

CONTINUATION

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING IN GREY PAPER

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in ~~print~~ typical by each division Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name APO 4726; Commander Air Force Major General
Group 28th Bomb (C); Squadron 77th Bomb; Detachment

SPECIFY: Place of Departure APO #726; Course 220°; Target or Intended Destination APO #726; Type of Mission Ornitive Sharp
WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF PUNCH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED Scattered
GIVE: (a) Day 29 Month 1 Year 1945; Time 11:00 AM; and Location N 35°H 161°40'W
of last known position.

(b) Specify whether aircraft was 1st sighted (); last contacted by radio (X); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not available ()
AIRCRAFT WAS LOCATED OR IS RELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AS A RESULT OF: (Check
only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy anti-aircraft (); other circumstances
as follows: Unknown

AIRChnFT: Type, Model and Series X-25-J; AAF Serial Number 44-8128
NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any

ENGINES: Type Model and Series A-2600-29; A.F. Serial _____
 Number (a) 42-27440; (b) 42-22629; (c) _____; (d) _____
 INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number); Known CANNON Auto Wea
 (a) 1291561; (b) 1281880; (c) 1291464; (d) 12812092
 (e) 1284979; (f) 1291809; (g) 1291463; (h) 12812019
 (i) 1281356; (j) 1281876; (k) 1285765; (l) 1281340
 (m) 1285762; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____;

THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty Yes
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty No

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: 10 OF (1) NOT INVOLVED CASUALTY: 0

(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).

<u>Crew Position</u>	<u>Name in Full (Last Name First)</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
DED 1. Pilot	Barker, Douglas Luciano	PLT	0-677218	Missing in Action
DED 2. Co-Pilot	Franks, John Robson	PLT	0-677632	
DED 3. Bomb-Nav	Evans, Jack Boyd	PLT	0-746801	
DED 4. Engineer	Gathie, Archie Lorraine	Capt	0-512440	
DED 5. Radio-Man	Poplin, Frank White	T/Sgt	34313746	
DED 6. Anti-Arc-Gun	Sullivan, Michael Patrick	S/Sgt	17058211	
DED 7. Arm-Gnr	Travolino, William Newton	Pfc	16094672	
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

(Over)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

IDENTITY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMNS TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME.

	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	by Radio	Contacted	Check Only one Column
					Last Sighted	Saw Crash
					Forced Landing	
1.	Supersmith, Leonard	SLT	0-760264			
2.						
3.						

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER, YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used ____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash ____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) None
ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, M.P. CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT. Search not conducted.

Date of Report 31 Dec 1944

/s/ Robert S. Hamby
 (Signature of Preparing Officer)
 /t/ ROBERT S. HAMBY,
 Major, Air Corps,
 77th Bomb Sq (H)

REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

C. W. BIELER
 C. W. BIELER,
 Captain, Air Corps,
 27th SCU.

CONFIDENTIAL

31 December 1944

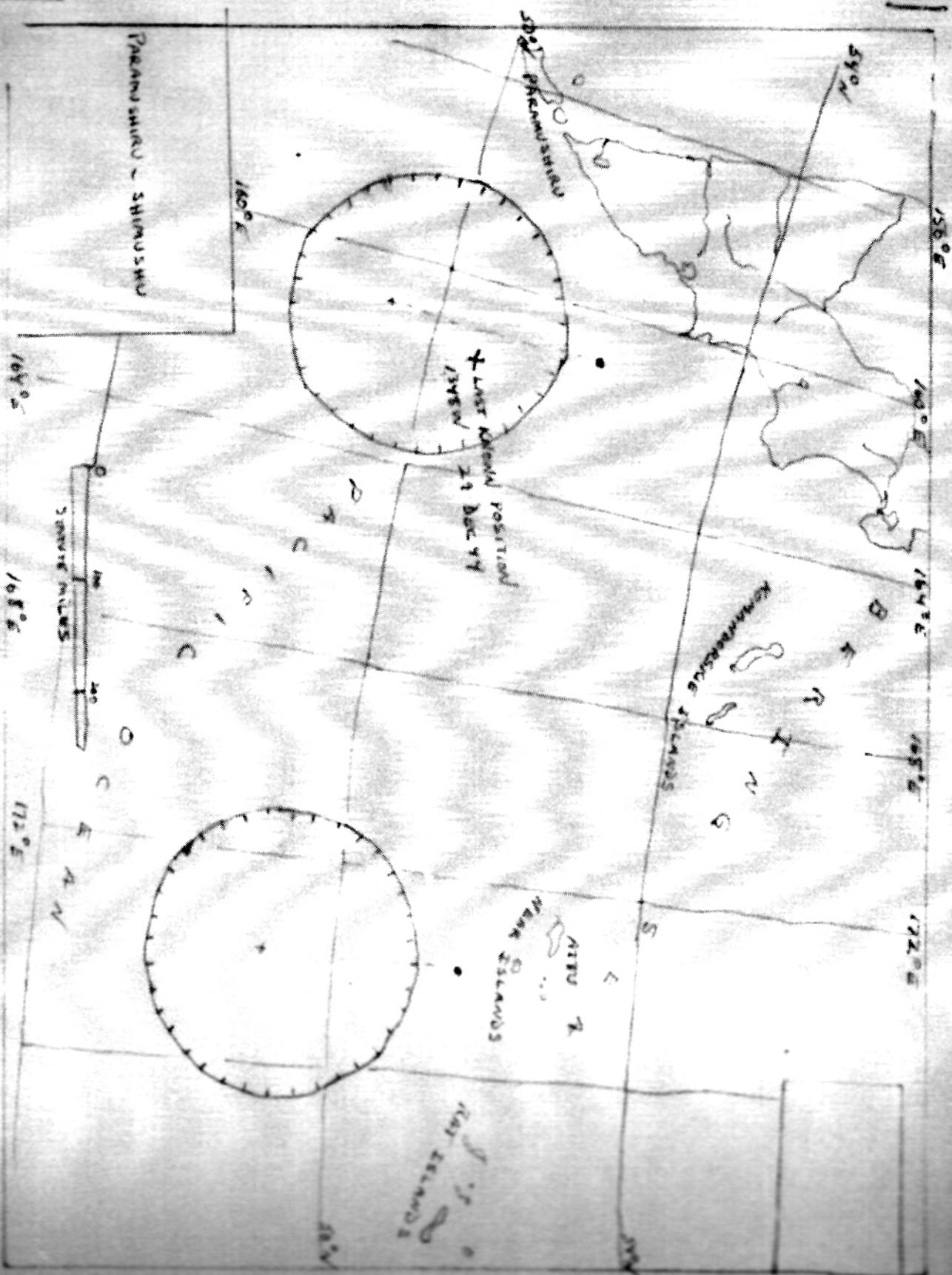
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This is to certify that on 29 December at 1348V, approximate position: 31° 35'N, 161° 40'E, I intercepted a message on VHF, "Dog" Channel, from Lt Collier calling Lt Bunker to inform him that he was making a 180° turn to the right. At this time apparently Lt Bunker's radio was out, but shortly before this interception, during an interval when visibility was better, I saw Lt Collier and Lt Bunker in close formation approximately one hundred yards to my right and two hundred feet above me. Immediately afterwards, I contacted Lt Collier and informed him that I was returning to Base. Lt Collier acknowledged and "Dog-red" for the message. Although numerous attempts were then made to re-establish contact with the other planes, no further transmissions were received.

/s/ Leonard KuperSmith
t/ LEONARD KUPERSMITH, O-765264,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
77th Bomb Squadron (H).

THIS IS A DRAFT COPY:

C. W. Bibler
C. W. BIBLER,
Captain, Air Corps,
77th SCU.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: E. A. BRADNER, Lt. Col., AC
 by E. A. BRADNER, Lt. Col., AC
 by V. M. MURKIN, Capt., AC
 Date: 10-15-38

WAR DEPARTMENT
 HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
 WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in sextuplet by each Eleventh Air Force organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name APO #726; Command or Air Force Eleventh; Group 28th Bomb (G); Squadron 77th Bomb; Detachment

SPECIFY: Place of Departure APO #726; Course 257° T
 Target or Intended Destination APO #726; Type of Mission Offensive Bomb

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST CONTACTED: Scattered clouds except in E.W. frontal zone from 300 mi from terminal to 100 mi from target. Ceiling and visibility near zero with moderate icing & turbulence in frontal zone.

GIVE: (a) Day(s) Month(s) Year 1944; Time 1545 and Location 120°30' E, 41°40' N of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. (Last contact & position)

(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (), last contacted by radio (X); forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not available ()
 AIRCRAFT AS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Anti-aircraft (); other circumstances as follows: Unknown

AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-25 J; AAF Serial Number 44-34128

NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any

ENGINES: Type Model and Series R-2800-13; AAF Serial Number (a) 45-27540; (b) 45-23529; (c) _____; (d) _____

INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below): Name, Type and Serial Number: Brown Cal.50 Auto Web
 (a) 1291561; (b) 1291580; (c) 1291254; (d) 1292002 Duns
 (e) 1294979; (f) 1291509; (g) 1291463; (h) 1292016
 (i) 1291856; (j) 1291976; (k) 1293755; (l) 1291340
 (m) 1293762; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____

THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW ARE REPORTED AS: (c) Battle Casualty Yes
 or (b) Non-Battle Casualty

NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7; Passengers None; Total 7
 (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	Current Status
1. Pilot	Bunker, Douglas Burns	F/T	0-677212	Missing in Action
2. Co-Pilot	Franklin, John Hobson	F/T	0-677632	■ ■
3. Bomb-Air	Bryant, Jack Roy	F/T	0-745881	■ ■
4. Engineer	Cathie, Archie Lorraine	Capt	0-610640	■ ■
5. Rad-Sp-Op	Pennington, Frank White	T/Sgt	54415764	■ ■
6. Arm-Bar-Gun	Brilliana, Michael Patrick	S/Sgt	17038111	■ ■
7. Arm-Gun	Travellion, William Norton	F/Sgt	16994872	■ ■
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OCTOBER 1944

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

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Force Landing	Check Only one Column
I. Eversmith, Leonard	SIX	0-788204	X				
2.							
3.							

IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) Any other reason (Specify).

ATTACH ANY Aerial PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

ATTACH EVIDENCE OF CRASH, FORCE LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT Search not conducted.

Date of Report

21 Dec 1944

Robert S. Haney
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

ROBERT S. HANEY,
Major, Air Corps,
77th Bomb Sq (H)

REMARKS OR EVIDENCE STATEMENTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

31 December 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This is to certify that on 29 December at 1345W, approximate position: 51° 35'N, 161° 40'E, I intercepted a message on VHF, "Dog" Channel, from Lt Collier calling Lt Bunker to inform him that he was making a 180° turn to the right. At this time apparently Lt Bunker's radio was out, but shortly before this interception, during an interval when visibility was better, I saw Lt Collier and Lt Bunker in close formation approximately one hundred yards to my right and two hundred feet above me. Immediately afterwards, I contacted Lt Collier and informed him that I was returning to base. Lt Collier acknowledged and "Rogered" for the message. Although numerous attempts were then made to re-establish contact with the other planes, no further transmissions were received.

Leonard Supersmith
LEONARD SUPERSMITH, O-765264,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
77th Bomb Squadron (M).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11686

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW R. PORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Attn CC. AND O. AIR FORCE 11
Group 22 Bomb Squadron 77 Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Attn Course
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Cloudy weather till 161° 40'E Visibility and ceiling zero zero
4. GIVE: (a) Day 30 Month 12 Year 44 Time Location 51° 25'N
61° 40'E of last known whereabouts of missing A/C.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio(X); Forced down(); Seem to have crashed (); or other information not available();
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one) Enemy Aircraft (); Enemy Antiaircraft(); other Circumstances as follows: Equipment Failure
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-25 : AAF Serial Number
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, If any
8. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series AAF Serial Number
(a) (b) (c) (d)
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type & Serial Number)
(a) (b) (c) (d)
(e) (f) (g) (h)
(i) (j) (k) (l)
(m) (n) (o) (p)
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS (a) Battle Casualty
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 7 Passengers 1 Total 8
(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).

George E. Price
President Emeritus

			ORIGINAL NUMBER	CURRENT STATUS
1.	Pilot	Banker, Douglas E. 1st Lt.	0-6777018	MIA
2.	Co-pilot	Frank, John H. 1st Lt. KIA	0-677632	MIA
3.	Bombardier	Evans, Jack R. 1st Lt.	0-746801	MIA
4.	Engr. Officer	Cethin, Andrew J. Captain	0-632110	MIA
5.	Radio Op	Paulin, Frank A. S/2 Cpl. 47-20701	24057011	MIA
6.	Eng. Gunner	Willane, Michael P. S/cpl. 19056311		MIA
7.	Gunner	Travell, William M. Pfc.	16061809	MIA
8.	Gunner			
9.	Gunner			
10.	Gunner			

13. IDENTIFY CRASH SITE POSITION AND AREA BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST APPROXIMATE OF AIRCRAFT, AND CHECK AP-APPROXIMATE COORDS TO ESTIMATE BASED FOR SAME
TIME IN PAST. Serial No. _____ Date _____
Last Name First) Radio Number Radio Serial No.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

14. IF POSSIBLE, AND BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVOR, ANSWER TWO TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS : (a) Passengers heard _____, (b) Passengers were seen walking away from scene of crash _____, or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

15. ATTACH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, OR OTHER APPROXIMATE LOCATION FROM AIRPORT FAR EAST AREA OR CRASH SITE

16. ATTACH BRIEF BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CRASH POINTS LANDINGS, OR OTHER APPROXIMATE POSITIONING TO NEAREST AIRCRAFT

17. GIVE NAME, NAME, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF CRASH, IF ANY
INCL. NAME OF CAPTAIN AND CO-CAPTAIN

Books Received

SECRET

:
: SECRET :
: AUTH: CG 11th AF :
: DATE: 27 :
: 1945 :
: 27 :
: 1945 :
: 27 :
: 1945 :

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 980, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

R-
27
9 January 1945

In reply
refer to 373.2

SUBJECT: Missing Aircraft.

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

1. In accordance with our radio 88423 dated 7 January 1945, complete details pertaining to two (2) B-25 aircraft, missing since 29 December 1944, are herein submitted.

a. MISSION: (28th Bombardment Group (C) - No. 4M3969) Four B-25s of the 77th Bombardment Squadron (M), based on Attu, on a coordinated photographic mission with B-24s and Venturas, the B-25s to go within 20 miles of Surabachi and decoy fighters to the south-east.

<u>PLANE</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>TAKE OFF</u>	<u>LAND</u>
6148	Captain Fenker	1059 (W)	1410 (W)
6136	Lt. Collier	1100 (W)	Failed to return.
6128	Lt. Bunker	1100 (W)	Failed to return.
6147	Lt. Kupersmith	1101 (W)	1719 (W)

BOMBS: Each plane carried 4 x 300 lb. GP bombs, no nose fuse, 4 to 5 second delay tail fuse. Lt. Kupersmith returned his bombs to base. Capt. Fenker jettisoned his bombs on his turn back to base.

WEATHER: CAVU weather existed from base until 240 miles west of base where an east to west frontal activity began and lasted until at least as far as $161^{\circ} 40'E$. In the front, visibility and ceiling were zero-zero.

EXECUTION OF MISSION: Flying in formation on a course of 260° at 2200' altitude, the mission reached position of $51^{\circ} 56'N - 167^{\circ} 30'E$ where Capt. Fenker turned back to base at 1235 (W) due to instrument failure. The remaining three planes continued on, going into the frontal activity at 1240 (W). On instruments, Lt. Kupersmith became separated from Lt. Collier and Lt. Bunker, but remained in voice contact with Lt. Collier until 1348 (W). At this time, at the position of $51^{\circ} 35'N - 161^{\circ} 40'E$, Lt. Kupersmith turned back to base.

Lt. Bunker and Lt. Collier did not return from this mission, and contact with them was lost immediately after Lt. Kupersmith turned. Lt. Bunker's VHF transmitter was inoperative and the ground station was unable to make contact. Just before turning, Lt. Kupersmith heard Lt. Collier tell Lt. Bunker that he was going to make a 180° turn to the right and to rock his wings if he understood. Then Lt. Kupersmith told

SECRET RM#B-1661

SECRET

Lt. Collier that he would make a 120° left turn, to which Lt. Collier replied "Roger". After turning, Lt. SuperSmith tried to contact Lt. Collier again, but was unable to do so. Nothing further has been heard of these two planes.

OBSERVATIONS: At 1235 (E) while turning back, Capt. Funker heard the B-24, that was on a weather mission, say he was at 18,000' and was trying to penetrate the front.

At 1245 (E), Lt. SuperSmith at position 51° 55'N - 166° 51'E, 4200' altitude, saw the guardship 10 miles to the south. On the return route the guardship was again seen at 1500 (E) at position 51° 47'N - 165° 50'E. The guardship was circled and recognition signals were exchanged.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE: Plane No. 6148: Pressure altimeter, airspeed indicator, rate of climb indicator and radio altimeter inoperative.

The Engineering Officer reports the following:

Pitot-static lines blown out with compressed air and tested with Q-1 Test Set. All instruments and system checked satisfactory with slight evidence of moisture in static line directly back of head. Drain sumps were dry.

FUEL ON TAKE OFF AND LANDING PER A/C:

FLANE	IAS	TAKE OFF	LANDING
6148	180 mph.	1409 gallons.	876 gallons
6147	175 mph.	1409 gallons.	594 gallons

b. Due to no definite information as to the exact status of these missing aircraft, this headquarters by radio 310003Z (December) notified Commander, North Pacific Force that a value possibility existed of a landing in neutral territory. A subsequent radiogram was transmitted to Commerpac listing the complete missing crew members.

c. No additional information has been received from any source.

For the Commanding General:

James R. Thorn
JAMES R. THORN,
Lt. Col., AGD,
Adjutant General.

(2) Incls:

Incl #1 - Radio 300945Z
Incl #2 - Radio 310003

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
77TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)
OFFICE of the Commanding Officer
APO 9728, c/o Postmaster
Seattle, Washington

31 December 1944

704.

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, HQ Army Air Base, APO 728, U. S. Army.

1. Submitted in compliance with Memorandum 45-3, Headquarters Eleventh Air Force, date 15 November 1944 and Circular No. 145, Headquarters Alaskan Department, 2 November 1944, Missing Air Crew Report in connection with the loss of 1st Lt. Douglas L. Barker and crew, who failed to return from a combat mission departing this base on 29 December 1944.

2. In addition to the HQ Army Air Forces Missing Air Crew Report the following information is furnished in compliance with par. 1, f, (a), Circular No. 145, HQ Alaskan Department, 2 November 1944:

(a) No formal accident investigation is being conducted.

(b) Aircraft departed APO 728 at 1101W, 29 December 1944.

(c) Last known position of aircraft: $51^{\circ} 38' N$, $151^{\circ} 40' E$ at 1343, 29 December 1944. From interrogation of Lt. Leonard Kuperowith, pilot of another aircraft participating in the flight, it is revealed that radio contact with Lt. Barker was not established and that Lt. Barker was relying on visual observation to hold formation with Lt. Collier in the nearest element.

(d) Full contents of last message received from aircraft by bomber radio at 1314: "Received message number one". (Message "Number one" directed continuation of flight.)

(e) Pilot was thoroughly briefed prior to mission on anticipated weather, formation to be flown and tactics to be employed.

(f) Weather conditions over course of flight: Scattered clouds except in East-West frontal zone extending from 350 miles from terminal to 100 miles from target. Ceiling and visibility near zero with moderate icing and turbulence in frontal zone.

(g) Maximum flying time possible: 14 hours.

(h) The following life preserving equipment was available:

4 Type B-4 Life Vests; 3 Type B-3 Life Vests; 1 Type A-3 Life Raft, complete with rations; 6 Parachutes, Type QAC; 1 parachute Type S-1;

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Ltr, 77th Bomb Sq (C), APO 726, U.S. Army, dated 21 December 1944, subje: Missing Air Crew Report, cont'd.

1 box Emergency Rations; 1 Blanket; 6 First Aid Kits.

(1) The following signal devices were available:

1 type M-3 Pyrotechnic Pistol; 4 M-11 Flares; 6 M-14 Flares;
4 type M-15 Flares; 4 M-16 Flares; 6 M-26 Flares; 2 M-8 Smoke Grenades;
1 M-3 Smoke Grenade; 2 M-1 Bronze Slicks; 1 SCR 578.

(2) Owing to weather conditions a search was not conducted.

(3) Further information relative to the flight and course traversed
is believed to be pertinent in an investigation of the airplane's dis-
appearance.

(4) No actual facts relative to the possibility of survival in addition
to the above are available.

For the Commanding Officer:

George F. Barnes
Captain, Air Corps
Executive.

3 Incls:

Incl #1 - Missing Air Crew Report.
Incl #2 - Certificate by Lt KuperSmith.
Incl #3 - Map.

1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR BASE, APO 726, U S Army, 5 January 1945.

B/chb

TO: Commanding General, Alaskan Dept, APO 942, U S Army.
(Thru: CO, 28th Bomb Gp (C), APO 729, U S Army & CO, Eleventh Air Force,
APO 980, U S Army)

Forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

Jack C. Shover
JACK C. SHOVER,
1st Lt., AC,
Adjutant.

3 Incls: n/c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

mf CONFIDENTIAL
BASIC: Ltr, 77th Bomb Sq (M), APO #726, US Army; To: CO, HQ Army Air Base, APO #726, US Army; Dated: 21 Dec 44; Sub: Missing Air Crew Report.

2d Ind. HTA/jjc
HEADQUARTERS 28TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (COMPOSITE), APO #729, U. S. Army,
11 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Eleventh Air Force, APO #980, U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

For the Commanding Officer:

Spencer T. Asheim
HELMER T. ASHEIM,
Major, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

3 Incls: n/c

704. 3d Ind. A-1-MISC
HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH AIR FORCE, APO #980, U. S. Army, 17 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Alaskan Department, APO #942, U. S. Army.

Forwarded in compliance with paragraph 6 (f) 2, Circular No. 146,
your Headquarters, dated 2 November 1944.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

3 Incls: n/c



James R. Thorn
JAMES R. THORN,
Lt. Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DAVID: Ltr 77th Bomb Sqdn, (N) APO 725, dtd 31 Dec 44 to CG, 8th AAF,
APO 726, USA, w/3 Ind., subj: Missing Air Crew Report.

704 (G-1/DIF)

8th Ind.

HEADQUARTERS ALASKAN DEPARTMENT, APO 942, c/o Postmaster, Seattle, Wash.
24 JAN 1945

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

Aircraft piloted by First Lieutenant Douglas V. Ranker, O-677218,
77th Bombardment Squadron, was reported to The Adjutant General as
missing by radio AX 15240, this Headquarters, dated 3 January 1945
(casualty message number 9).

For the Commanding General:

3 Inclet M/C

J. V. Lasowski

Adjt. Gen'l.

Adjt. Adjutant General

NO CLASSIFICATION
DATE 1945

4349

1/30/1945

AM 8:00

PC

11686

Classification removed
per authority TAG
Date 13 Feb 45
W7
Philip H. Morris
Captain, A. G. D.

8b/3/22/45

Capt. Archie Lorraine Rothie

Mrs. Ruby Marie Rothie (wife)
307 Paris Road
Greenville, South Carolina

1st Lt. Douglas Eugene Rucker

Mrs. Sophie V. Rucker (mother)
37-31 89th Street
Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York

1st Lt. John Hobson Evans

Mr. Charles H. Evans (father)
Route Hunter Five
Spotsylvania, South Carolina

1st Lt. Jack Boyd Evans

Mrs. Doris V. Evans (wife)
624 Headstreet Street
Detroit, Michigan

T/sgt. Frank W. Poplin

Mrs. Lillian J. Poplin (mother)
General Delivery
Mocksville, North Carolina

S/sgt. Michael P. Spillane

Mr. Mike S. Spillane (father)
254 North Grant
Casper, Wyoming

Pfc. William E. Travellino

Mrs. Jane L. Travellino (mother)
331 West Western Avenue
Washington, Michigan

Capt. Archie Lorraine Guthrie

Mrs. Ruby Marie Guthrie (wife)
307 Park Road
Greenville, South Carolina

1st Lt. Douglas Eugene Bunker

Mrs. Sophie V. Bunker (mother)
37-31 87th Street
Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York

1st Lt. John Hobson Franks

Mr. Charles H. Franks (father)
Route Number Five
Spotsylvania, South Carolina

1st Lt. Jack Boyd Evans

Mrs. Doris V. Evans (wife)
626 Meadowbrook Street
Detroit, Michigan

T/Sgt. Frank W. Paplin

Mrs. Lissy J. Paplin (mother)
General Delivery
Mocksville, North Carolina

S/Sgt. Michael R. Williams

Mr. Mike R. Williams (father)
234 North Grant
Casper, Wyoming

Pfc. William H.

Mrs. Jane L. Travilheas (mother)
331 West Western Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan