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ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, 1532D AAF BASE UNIT
CENTRAL PACIFIC WING, PACIFIC DIVISION, ATC
APO 240

10 APRIL 1945

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report on B24M #44-42320

To: Commanding General
Pacific Division
Air Transport Command
APO 953
Attention: Personal Affairs Officer

1. In compliance with AG 704 5 July 1945 the enclosed Missing Air Crew report is submitted. Subject report is not complete due to inability of reporting officer to obtain necessary information from Los Negros, the station which conducted the search.

2. When additional information is obtained it will be sent as a supplement to original report.

//s//
WILLIAM E. BYERTS JR.
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

1 Incls:
Subj Rpt

CC: Com Gen POA Attn: Casulty Branch
CC: Co CPW Attn: PAO

704 1st Ind PER/5/bgg
HQ, PACIFIC DIVISION, AAF, AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND,
APO 953. 14 April 1945

To: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25 D.C.
ATTN: Statistical Control Division.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

CHARLES M. CHAPMAN
Captain, Air Corps

1 Incl: (2 copies w/d)

CC: CG ATC, Washington 25, D.C.
(1 copy report)

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

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 Tarawa; Command or Air Force ATC
Group PACD; Squadron 1532nd AAFBU; Detachment _____
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Tarawa; Course 267 degrees true
Target of Intended Destination Los Negros Type of Mission Ferry
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
CIGS 10,000, 5/10 Low Clouds 2000, VSBY over 10 mi. SFC Wind 7 MPH West
4. GIVE: (a) Day 6 Month Apr Year 1945; Time 0635Z; and Location 15 Mo. SE Los Negros
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (XX);
Forced down (); Seen to Crash (XX); or Information not available ()
5. 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:
Ran out of gas and crashed in sea.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Serial B-24 M; AAF Serial Number 44-42320
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any _____
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF SERIAL _____
Number (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type and 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) Nonbattle Casualty _____
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 9; Passengers 0; Total 9
(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	Schuler, John L. Jr.	2nd Lt	O-833819	No serious injury
2. Co-Pilot	Foss, Rudolph G.	2nd Lt	O-782513	No serious injury
3. Navigator	Brown, Raymond L.	2nd Lt	O-2076532	Dead
4. Bombardier	Wahl, Charles J.	2nd Lt	O-788119	Dead
5. Engineer	Kratochvil, George	Cpl	42013853	Dead
6. Radio Operator	Hamilton, Rex W.	Cpl	16196448	Dead
7. A Gunner	Fickert, Ronald D.	Sgt	18181409	Dead
8. AA Gunner	Montgomery, Robert P.	Cpl	34768223	No serious injury
9. A Gunner	Mezingo, William B.	Cpl	34950266	Dead
10.				
11.				

12. 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

(Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Unknown						
2.						
3.						

13. 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 _____; (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

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

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

16. GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT **Unknown**
Base Commander at Tacloban, Leyte, PI. No report has been received as of this date.

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Cpl Ronald D. Fickert 16196448, Ac who was seriously injured in crash died 0923Z, 12 April 1945 at JTNU number one Dispensary, Naval Hospital, Los Negros, Admiralty Islands. non-Battle, Final, AGUE. Disposition of remains to Navy Base Hospital number 15, Maus, Admiralty Islands for further transfer to Allied Armed Forces cemetery number two, Finschhafen, New Guinea.

Date of Report 10 April 1945

//s//

(Signature of Preparing Officer)
KEITH P. CRAWFORD
Captain, Air Corps
Personal Affairs Officer