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14900

REPORT NO. 1(One) (Last

Previous No. 11)

874th Bomb Sq 498th

UNIT

By Wm. L. THOMAS, 1st Lt. AO

Date MAR 1 1945

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

Original - ~~305510000~~
(Cross out one)

- ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Saipan; Commander Air Force 20th
Group 498th Squadron 874th Detachment
- SPECIFY: Place of Departure Saipan; Course Unknown
Target or Intended Destination Tokyo - Nagoya Area, Japan.
Type of Mission POW Supply
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Overcast
- GIVE: (a) Day 4 Month Sept Year 1945 Time Unknown and Location of last
known whereabouts of missing aircraft 37°1'N - 140°52'E
(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-29; AAF Serial No 42-65345
- NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if Any:
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R3350-23A; AAF Serial Nos
(a) DW-205444 (b) DW-205387 (c) DW-200186 (d) DW-202157
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number):
Make: Information not available; Type:
(a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
(e) _____; (f) _____; (g) _____; (h) _____
(i) _____; (j) _____; (k) _____; (l) _____
(m) _____; (n) _____; (o) _____; (p) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty X
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 3; Total 14
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars:

Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Current Status
1. A/C	Sompayrac, Harry A	Capt	0433205	MNG
2. P	Lusk, Henry K	2d Lt	02067058	MNG
3. N	Russell, William H	2d Lt	02079489	MNG
4. B	Beton, Solomon S	Capt	0728448	MNG
5. V	Miller, John S	2d Lt	0933505	MNG
6. FE	Ingram, Morris A	1st Lt	0815487	MNG
7. ROM	Garofalo, Richard	Cpl	39119050	MNG
8. CFC	Dolliver, Robert C	Sgt	31432044	MNG
9. LG	Hood, Thomas M Jr	Sgt	38542454	MNG
10. RG	Bavowsky, Walter M	Cpl	12102098	MNG
11. TG	Scherpellz, Irvin W	Cpl	16197585	MNG
12. Pass	Belachi, Albert P	Sgt	11091755	MNG
13. Pass	Manriquez, Guillermo	Pfc	38439712	MNG
14. Pass	Van Malsen, Jack V	Sgt	36400833	MNG

(323 Air Engr Sq, 91st Sv Gp)

- 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	ASN	Contacted Last by Radio	Saw Sighted	Saw Forced Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. Black, Andrew A	Capt	0790781	X			
2.						
3.						
4.						

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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) _____
Unknown
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: _____

DATE OF REPORT 7 September 1945

Rodger B Cotter
RODGER B. COTTER Capt AC Asst Adj
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Prisoner of War Mission No. 8 was flown on 4 September 1945 to the Japanese mainland. Captain Sompayrac and crew were in T-21. The Tokyo and Nagoya areas were flown over in an effort to locate a POW camp sufficiently in the clear to drop the supplies, to no avail. Captain Sompayrac then proceeded down the coast to coordinates 37°1' N - 140°52'E, where he was joined by Captain Black in T-7 and T-3 of the 873rd Bomb Squadron. Inter-plane radio contact was established and Captain Sompayrac advised the other two aircraft to remain out over the water and circle and further advised that he was going to try and get under the undercast and locate a POW camp known to be in this vicinity. The ceiling over the bay was estimated at 600 feet, and over land at 300 feet. Peaks on the mainland could be clearly seen over the undercast. In the last radio message received from Captain Sompayrac he stated that he was following a railroad track which according to his maps would lead them to the POW camp. He also stated that maneuvering space was extremely limited. Captain Black estimated that T-21 was approximately ten miles inland at the time of the reception of this message. T-7 and T-3 continued to circle for approximately 30 minutes, but no further contact was established with T-21. T-3 radioed Iwo Jima, advising them of the situation and asked for instructions. Since no instructions were forthcoming, and since the computed fuel reserve was such that further sustained flight was out of the question, both aircraft returned to base.

Note: On Supplemental reports it is not necessary to repeat answers to questions previously answered, except questions 1 and 2. Additional statements may be attached hereto.

XXI BC Casualty Form #3.

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HEADQUARTERS
498TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP
APO 237, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

313.3

7 September 1945

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Missing Air Crew Reports.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: AC/AS, Personnel Notification Branch.

Transmitted herewith Missing Air Crew Report No. 1, 873rd Bomb Squadron, this Group, and Missing Air Crew Report No. 1, 874th Bomb Squadron, this Group.

For the Commanding Officer:

Hodger B Cotter

HODGER B COTTER
Captain, Air Corps
Assistant Adjutant

- 2 Incls:
Incl 1: Missing Air Crew Report
No. 1, 873rd Bomb Squadron
Incl 2: Missing Air Crew Report
No. 1, 874th Bomb Squadron

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AGO Casualty files reveal the following information:

10 RUSSELL, WILLIAM H., 2nd Lt., O-2079489 KNB--4 Sept 45 East Pacific Ocean
874th B. Sq., 498th B. Gp.

Missing in flight at the following coordinates: 37 degrees 1 minute North and
140 degrees 53 minutes East. Body recovered and buried in USAF Cemetery,
Yokohama, Honshu, Japan. He was the navigator on B-29 (#42-65345). MACR#14900.

Others involved in this crash are as follows:

11 Sompayrac, Harry A., Captain, O-433205 (Pilot)	KNB--4 Sep 45
Beton, Solomon S., Capt., O-728448	"
12 Ingram, Morris A., 1st Lt., O-815487	"
13 Lusk, Henry K., 2nd Lt., O-2067058	"
14 Miller, John S., 2nd Lt., O-933505	"
15 Dolliver, Robert C., Sgt., 31432044	"
16 Hood, Thomas M., Jr., Sgt., 38542454	"
17 Belachi, Albert P., Sgt., 11091755	"
18 Van Malsen, Jack V., Sgt., 36400833	"
19 Garofalo, Richard, Cpl., 39119050	"
20 Bayowsky, Walter M., Cpl., 12102098	"
21 Scherpelz, Irvin W., Cpl., 16197585	"
22 Manriquez, Guillermo, Pfc, 38439712	"

There is no record of this crash in the AC Hist. files.

Capt. Harry A. Sompayrac

~~Mrs. Harry A. Sompayrac (Wife)~~
703 Kings Highway
Shreveport, Louisiana

DMC
11-9-45

Capt. Solomon S. Beton

Mrs. Lea A. Beton (Mother)
116 State Street
Montgomery, Alabama

1st Lt. Morris A. Ingram

Mr. Ivan A. Ingram (Father)
739 Goltra Avenue
Jacksonville, Illinois

2nd Lt. Henry K. Lusk

Mrs. Pauline K. Lahman (Mother)
1116 Reagan Terrace
Austin, Texas

2nd Lt. William H. Russell

Mrs. Mary S. Russell (Wife)
244-28 88th Road
Bellerose, Long Island, New York

2nd Lt. John S. Miller

Mr. Emery J. Miller (Father)
515 6th Avenue
Marion, Iowa

Sgt. Robert C. Dolliver

Mrs. Agnes T. Dolliver (Wife)
8 Buffum Street
Salem, Massachusetts

Sgt. Thomas M. Hood, Jr.

Mrs. Lavena B. Hood (Wife)
1909 22nd Street
Galveston, Texas

Sgt. Albert P. Belachi

Mrs. Elizabeth Belachi (Mother)
Edgewood Avenue
West Boylston, Massachusetts

Sgt. Jack V. Van Malsen

Mrs. Gladys Van Malsen (Mother)
Route Five Mrynard Road
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Cpl. Richard Garofalo

Mr. Samuel Garofalo (Father)
2 San Gabriel Avenue
San Francisco, California

Cpl. Walter M. Bayowsky

Mr. Michael Bayowsky (Father)
10 Lawrence Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey

Cpl. Irvin W. Scherpelz

Mr. Walter Scherpelz (Father)
4021 North Kenneth Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Pfc. Guillermo Manriquez

Mrs. Rosa G. Manriquez (Mother)
1011 Wyoming Street
El Paso, Texas

Mrs. Frances Manriquez (Wife)
746 Rock Creek Church Road
Washington 10, D. C.