

REPORT NO. 1

CONFIDENTIAL

MISSING AIRCRAFT REPORT

24th Bomb Squadron
UNIT

Original - Supplemental
(Cross out word not applicable)

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name Tinian, Marianas Is.; Command or Air Force XXI BC; Group 6th Bomb Gp; Squadron 24th Bomb Squadron Detachment
2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Tinian, Marianas Is.; Course Approx 20' to 130'; Target or Intended Destination Kyushu, Japan; Type of Mission Bombing
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: Slight cloudiness, Clear in vicinity of Airfield
4. CIVE: (a) Day 8 Month Apr Year 1945 Time 0305 and Location 2 miles east North Field, Tinian of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); Last contacted by radio (); Forced down (); Seen to Crash (); or Information not Available (x).
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: Crashed at sea within 2 miles off Tinian immediately after take-off.
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series B-29-31-WO-Ser 42; AAF Serial Number 42-45347
7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any Fortunes Follies
8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series Not applicable; AAF Serial Number (a) _____; (b) _____; (c) _____; (d) _____
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) Not applicable
(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 Battle Casualty or Non-Battle Casualty _____
11. MEMBERS OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers None
Total 11 (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	<u>Erston, Clark A.</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0408844</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>
2. Co-Pilot	<u>Goodwin, Donald T.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>0827641</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>
3. Navigator	<u>Binn, Lloyd E.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>0206039</u>	<u>Filled in action</u>
4. Bombardier	<u>Hekt, Albert N.</u>	<u>2d Lt</u>	<u>02041315</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>
5. Flight Engineer	<u>Arns, Eugene M.</u>	<u>T/Sgt</u>	<u>33187861</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>
6. Radio Operator	<u>Parker, Donald J.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>42000645</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>
7. Central Fire Cont Gnr	<u>Ford, William P. A.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>35903377</u>	<u>Sitly inj in act.</u>
8. Radar Gunner	<u>Birner, Edward E.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>3272414</u>	<u>Sitly inj in act.</u>
9. Right Blister Gunner	<u>Winneman, Thomas F.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>37624128</u>	<u>Sitly inj in act.</u>
10. Left Blister Gunner	<u>Douglas, John A. Jr.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>16176534</u>	<u>Sitly inj in act.</u>
11. Tail Gunner	<u>Duran, Marcos S.</u>	<u>Sgt</u>	<u>38257931</u>	<u>Missing in action</u>

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 Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Landing	Forced Down
1. <u>crashed at sea within 2 miles off shore of Tinian immediately after</u>							
2. <u>take-off. No information available as to who first discovered crash.</u>							
3. _____							

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Inclosure #4 to XXI Bomber Command Reg. 35-10
9 BG #3a.

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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 _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) Four survivors of a crew of eleven. They were thrown clear when ship exploded after hitting water.
14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
15. ATTACH WITNESS 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 Search was made by Navy search boat and other than that a thorough search was made. No other information available at this time.

DATE OF REPORT 10 April 1945

Edmund S. Steffler
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

17. REMARKS OR WITNESS STATEMENTS: EDMUND S STEFFLER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

NONE.

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

XII Bomber Command Casualty Form # 3.

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9 BG # 2b.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

REPORT NO. 1

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

24th Bomb Squadron
UNIT

ORIGINAL

15. Limited information obtained from survivors indicated that pilot had trouble with # 4 Engine after take-off. It was believed that the engine was feathered and that bomb bays were opened and bombs were jettisoned. Twelve bombs in forward bomb bay failed to release thus throwing center of gravity extremely forward. Thought they heard Co-Pilot remark " We are going to hit the water." Last they remembered until they were in the water. They clung to floating debris until they found a one-man life raft to which they all clung until rescued by crash boat. Crash boat then made a thorough search locating the dead body of 2nd Lt Rinne, Navigator.

Inclosure #2 to Missing Air Crew Report

Capt. Clark A. Preston

Mrs. Mary L. Preston (Wife)
514 Berkshire Street
San Antonio, Texas

2d Lt. Donald T. Goodwin

Mrs. Corinne W. Goodwin (Mother)
632 State Street
Adrian, Michigan

2d Lt. Albert W. Hett

Mr. Albert T. Hett (Father)
77 Crosby Avenue
Kenmore, New York

T/Sgt. Eugene H. Arms

Mrs. Sarah F. Arms (Mother)
20th and Fairview Sts.
Reading, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Donald J. Parker

Mrs. Nellie Parker (Mother)
29 South Main Street
Phillipsburg, New Jersey

371 Sgt. Marcos S. Duran

Mrs. Isabel S. Duran (Mother)
1440 Quarry Street
Eagle Pass, Texas