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HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

## MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

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

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: AFPO 713, Unit #1 Command or Air Force 5th Bomber  
GROUP 2nd Bomb (L); SQUADRON 13th Bomb (L); DETACHMENT 309th B. Wing (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Nadiak, N. I.; Course 30 degrees  
Intended Destination Kawlang, New Ireland; Type of Mission C
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
CAVU
4. GIVE: (a) Date 2-15-44 Time 1000/L; And Location of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft 35 miles SSW of Kawlang, N.I.  
(b) Specify whether ( ) Last sighted; ( ) last contacted by radio;  
( ) Forced down; ( ) Seen to Crash; or ( ) Information not available.
5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF (Check only one: ( ) Enemy Aircraft; (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_)
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series A-20A-20-10 A/P Serial No. 42-86616
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-2600-23; A/P Serial No. (a) 42-154119  
(b) 42-154180 (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
8. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number) No record  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_
9. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X  
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 2; Passengers 0; Total 2  
(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<br>(Last Name First) | Rank    | Serial Number |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. Pilot                  | Pearson, William T.               | 1st Lt. | 0-795443      |
| 2. <del>Co</del> Observer | Gamage, Donald E.                 | Sgt.    | 11050806      |
| 3.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 4.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 5.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 6.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 7.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 8.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 9.                        |                                   |         |               |
| 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:

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C6-80491, AF

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WD, Hq AAF, Washington, Missing Air Crew Report.

|    | Name in Full<br>(Last name first) | Rank    | Serial<br>Number | Contacted<br>by<br>Radio | Last<br>Sighted | Saw<br>Crash | Saw<br>Forced<br>Landing |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Walker, Richard L.                | 1st Lt. | O-664278         |                          |                 | X            |                          |
| 2. | Krayenbuhl, Craig J.              | 1st Lt. | O-796309         |                          |                 | X            |                          |
| 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 \_\_\_\_\_; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT'S LAST SEEN.

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

16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVEN NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE. No search being made.

Date of Report 15 February 1944

/s/ RICHARD L. WALKER, 1st Lt., Air Corps.  
(Signature of Preparing Officer)

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ON  
PENTAGON LIAISON  
MEM. DIV.  
06-80495-AF

C-O-P-Y

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
Office of the Squadron Commander

TGF/jm

APO 713, Unit 1,  
16 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Casualty Report.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 925.

1. State Battle or Non-Battle Casualty: Battle.
2. Name, Grade, Army Serial No., and Race: Pearson, William T.,  
1st Lt., O-795445; white.
3. Organization: 13th Bombardment Squadron (L).
4. Duty Assignment: 2ND
5. Type and degree of casualty, and where and how incurred: Killed  
in Action. Plane crashed approximately 30 miles southwest of Kavieng, New  
Ireland, ten minutes from target with right engine on fire from damage  
caused by bursting bomb dropped over the target by preceding plane. The  
plane broke into three pieces when making water landing, sank, with no  
apparent survivors when other planes circled the second time.
6. Date of casualty: 15 February 1944.
7. Airplane No. and Type, if applicable: 42-86616, type A-20G
8. Line of Duty: Yes.
9. Misconduct Status: No.
10. Flying Status and Aeronautical Rating: Yes, Pilot.
11. Award Pay (if any): None.
12. Name, Relationship, and address of Emergency Addressee:

Miss Clara L. Pearson (Sister)  
2420 146th Street,  
Whitestone,  
Long Island, New York

/s/ THEODORE G. FITCH,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

C-O-P-Y

033/100

100TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
2ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

15 February 1944.

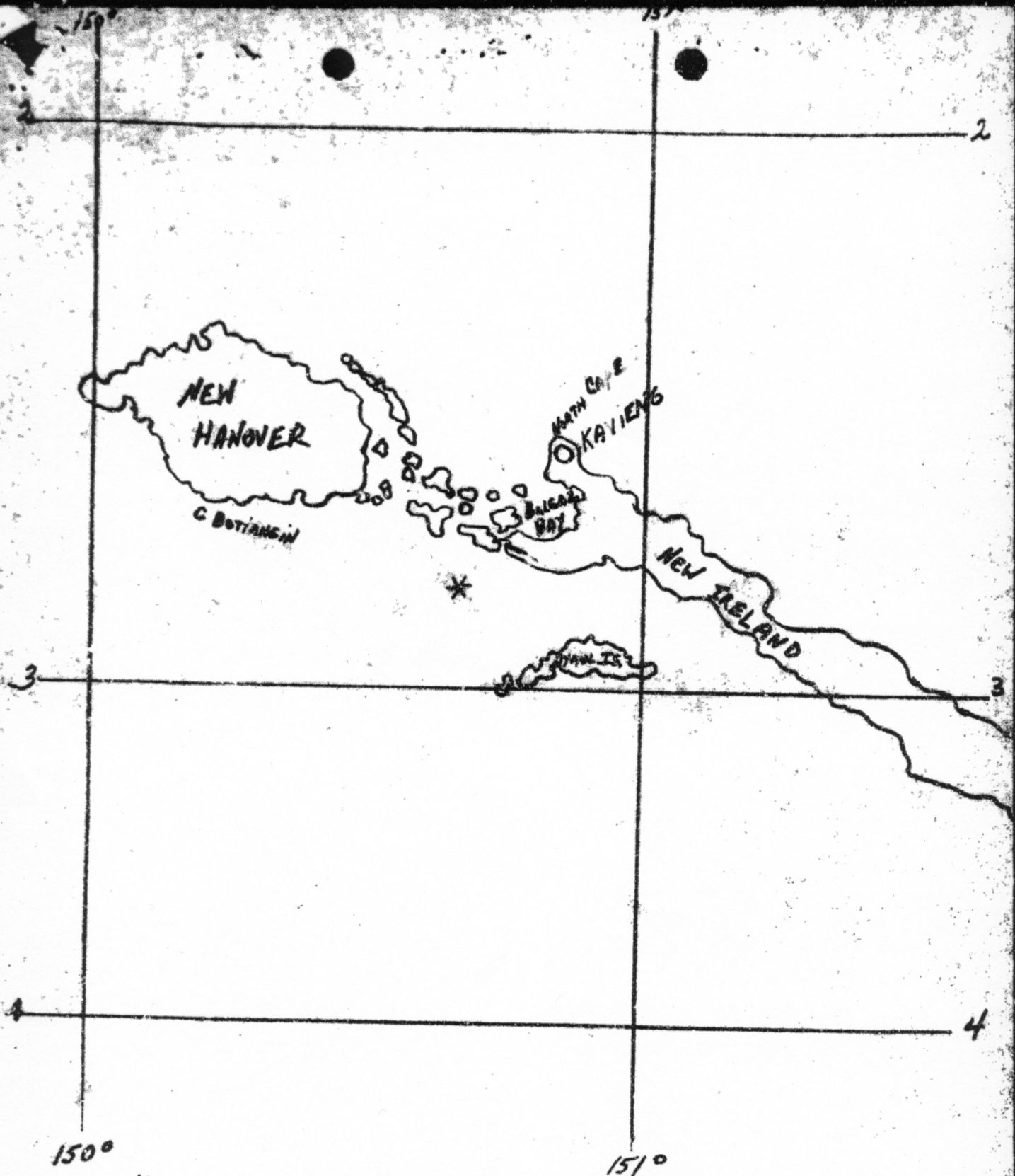
SUBJECT: Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-36618.

TO: All Concerned.

1. After making an attack on shipping in Yawing Harbor at 0800/2/15, I saw an A-20 type aircraft, 43-36618, with the right engine nacelle on fire. The fire appeared to be in the oil tank. It was headed on a course of 300 deg. and appeared to be under control although the right propeller was feathered. My flight leader, Lt. Walker, and myself turned out of the formation and pulled up on either side of the crippled ship to give any assistance that we might be capable of giving under the circumstances. As we drew abreast of Lt. Pearson his right wing hit the water and the ship car-bombed wing over wing and broke into about three or four pieces. My flight leader and I circled the wreckage twice and saw no survivors. The aircraft sank in about three minutes. The crash took place at 1000/2/15.

/s/ GRACE J. BRAYNEHILL,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps.

SECRET



Approximate location of aircraft when last seen.

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CJE/bmt

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 715, Unit #1

15 February 1944.

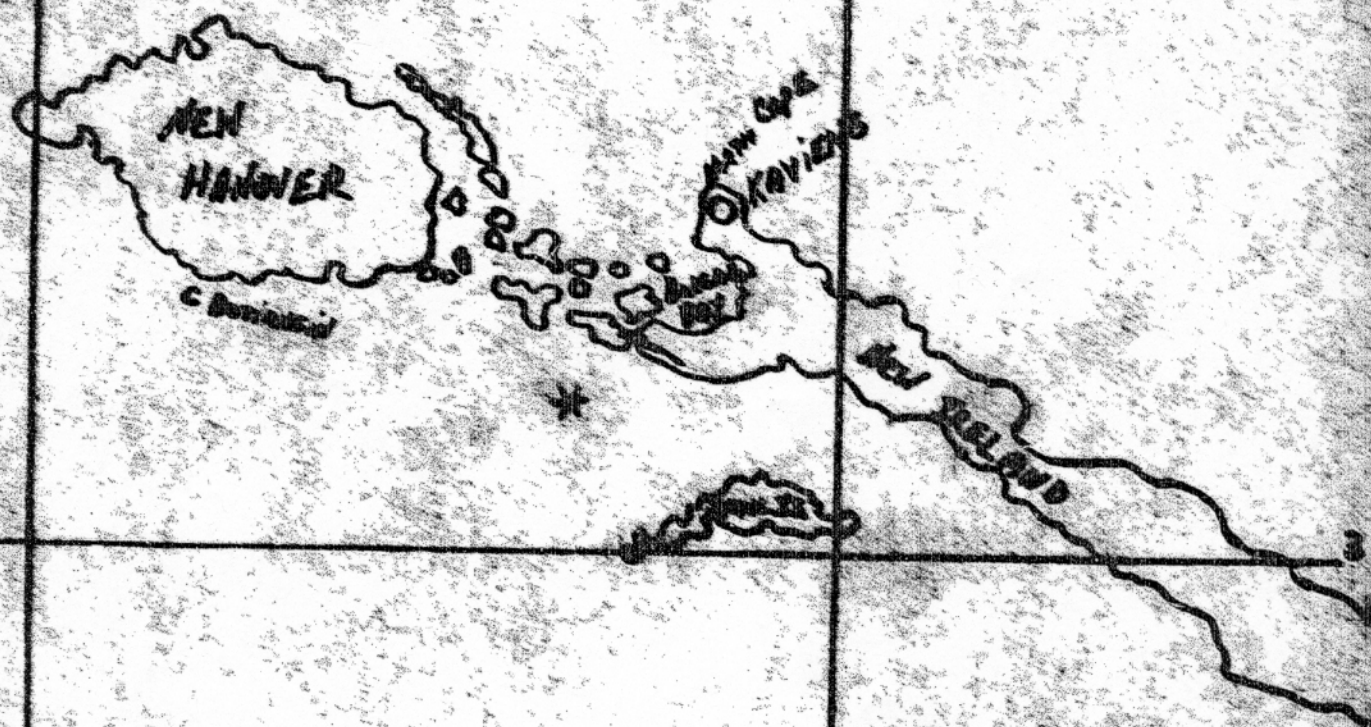
SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 42-86616.

TO: All Concerned.

1. After making an attack on shipping in Kavieng Harbor at 0950/L/15, I saw an A-20 type aircraft, #42-86616, with the right engine nacelle on fire. The fire appeared to be in the oil tank. It was headed on a course of 300 deg. and appeared to be under control although the right propeller was feathered. My flight leader, Lt. Walker, and myself turned out of the formation and pulled up on either side of the crippled ship to give any assistance that we might be capable of giving under the circumstances. As we drew abreast of Lt. Pearson his right wing hit the water and the ship cart-wheeled wing over wing and broke into about three or four pieces. My flight leader and I circled the wreckage twice and saw no survivors. The aircraft sank in about three minutes. The crash took place at 1000/L/15.

/s/ CRAIGIE J. KRAYENBUHL,  
1st Lieut., Air Corps.

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Approximate location of aircraft when last seen.