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Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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AFIPA-14 (10 Apr 46)

R E S T R I C T E D

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

853

incc: 15499

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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: Location: New Guinea Command or Air Force 5th Ba. Command
GROUP _____; SQUADRON _____; DETACHMENT _____
- SPECIFY: Point of Departure Port Moresby, New Guinea
Intended Destination Merauke and Horn Island; Type of Mission Reconnaissance Flt.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
- GIVE: (a) Date ⁴³ 26 March 43; And Location of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft _____
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () last contacted by radio; () 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-17; AAF Serial No. 41-24384
- ENGINES: Type, Model and Series _____; AAF Serial No. (a) _____
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
- INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial Number)
(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
(e) _____ (f) _____ (g) _____ (h) _____
- THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty _____
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 11; Passengers 1; Total 12
(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
DED 1.	Pilot	Ramey, Howard K.	6	0-10874 Brig. General
DED 2.	CP	Chafrin, Harold N.	2	0-224697 Lt. Col.
DED 3.		Loewenberg, Stanley A.	3	0-282379 Capt.
DED 4.		Griffin, James R.	4	0-389636 Capt.
DED 5.		Lief, William	7	0-726002 2nd Lt.
DED 6.		Collier, James D., Jr.	3	6920942 M/Sgt.
DED 7.	<i>Passenger</i>	Quail, Artie L.	7	6149056 T/Sgt.
DED 8.		Stith, Robert R.	11	18004634 S/Sgt.
DED 9.		Johnson, Harry A.	6	12031847 S/Sgt.
DED 10.		Berkowitz, Marvin	1	6979447 Sgt.
DED 11.		Hopfield, George T.	5	6668063 Pfc.

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

ded Passenger Mannocci, Ferdinand A. Lt Navy Lt. com.

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C6-8049S,AF

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

Name in Full (Last name first)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1.						
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 _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) _____

14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS 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 _____

Date of Report _____

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

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FROM SR + D #593 + 373 A

CREW LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN & GRADE</u>	<u>STATE</u> <u>EA</u>
✓ Ramey, Howard K.	O-10874 Brigadier General	
✓ Chaffin, Harold N	O-22469 Lieutenant Colonel	
✓ Loewenberg, Stanley A.	O-282379 Captain	
✓ Griffin, James R.	O-389636 Captain	
✓ Lief, William	O-726002 2nd Lt	
✓ Collier, James D., Jr.	6920942 M/Sgt	
✓ Quaal, Ortis L	6149056 T/Sgt	
✓ Stith, Robert R.	16004634 S/Sgt	
✓ Johnson, Harry A.	12031847 S/Sgt	
✓ Berkowitz, Marvin	6979447 Sgt	
✓ Hopfield, George T.	6668063 PFC	

(Lt Commander Ferdinand D. Mannocir, II, ~~was~~ serving as Naval Liaison Officer, was also aboard this aircraft and has been declared dead by the Navy Department.)

The officers are shown as members of the Fifth Bomber Command and the enlisted men as members of Headquarters Squadron, Fifth Bomber Command.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SUBJECT:

TO :

1. This headquarters is in receipt of a request for details concerning the circumstances under which the subject named was reported missing (in action) on the date shown.

2. A search of the records of this headquarters indicates that a Missing Air Crew Report, as required by A.G.O. letter, 23 May 1943, (AG 360.33 (5-21-43)OB-S-AF-M), has not been received to date in this case. It is requested that this report be forwarded with the least practicable delay.

For the Commanding General:

E. A. BRADUNOS,
Major, A. G. D.,
Chief, Notification Branch,
Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief Air Staff, Personnel.

5-509;AF

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FROM SR & D #593 and 593A

AG 201 file of Brigadier General Ramey contains the following information:

"Plane took off on the morning of March 26, 1943, at 9:15 A.M. for the purpose of completing a seven (7) hour reconnaissance flight. Gas on board was sufficient to enable twelve (12) hours of continuous flight. Radio Operator checked in with ground station about twenty (20) minutes after take-off, after which time no further contact was made with plane. Missing plane was a B-17F A.C. No. #41-24384".

SR & D #593 further states: The radio operator "checked in" with the ground station about twenty minutes after the

SR & D #593 further states: "Briefly the facts concerning the disappearance of General Ramey, et al. are these: They took off from their base, Port Moresby, New Guinea, at 0915 on 26 March 1945 in a B-17F airplane for a reconnaissance flight to Me. auke and Horn Island. The flight, as scheduled, would have required seven hours. The plane carried sufficient fuel for twelve hours of continuous flying. The radio operator "checked in" with the ground station about twenty minutes after the take-off and thereafter no contact was made with the plane. When the plane failed to return from its flight extensive searches were made and 'all possible land and sea areas were covered by many patrols' but no trace of the aircraft or its crew was found. The nearest enemy territory to any plane on the scheduled route was across the Owen Stanley Mountain range and the entire island of New Guinea approximately one hundred and fifty miles distant".

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HEADQUARTERS V BOMBER COMMAND
APO 994

28 March 1946

TO: Commander-in-Chief
U.S. Army Forces, Pacific
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Attn: AG Casualty Branch

Stith, Robert A. S/Sgt 18004634 AC W Hq. Sq. V Bomber Command

Date of Casualty: 26 March 1943 Type of Casualty: MIA

X - In line of duty, investigation not required

X - On duty status (including absence from organization on duty).

X - In pay status at time of death.

X - In flying status

1. The airplane took off at 0915L, 26 March 1943 on a reconnaissance flight to Merauke and Horn Island; the route involving passage over land and water not enemy territory. Extensive search of the entire area concerned disclosed nothing as to the whereabouts of the airplane or its passengers.

2. In view of the fact that of the twelve (12) men on this airplane the status of five (5) has been changed from missing in action to killed in action, and due to the length of time elapsed it is recommended that the status of subject enlisted man be changed from missing in action to killed in action.

3. Mr. Raymond Stith (Father), Modoc and Hill Streets, Nowata, Oklahoma.

4. No further information is available at this Headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ John G. Geisel
/t/ JOHN G. GEISEL
Captain, Air Corps
Actg, Asst. Adj. Gen.

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15499 R-853

293 FILE		DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) CHAFFIN, HAROLD N.		GRADE LT. COL.		PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 0-22469	
ORGANIZATION Hqs. & Hqs. Sq. 5TH BOMBER COMMAND		RACE WHITE		CREED PREFERENCE	
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 26 MAR. '43		CAUSE OF DEATH FINDING OF DEATH		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA NEW GUINEA AREA	
DATE OF FOD 19 NOV. '45		FINDING OF DEATH PACIFIC AREA		FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable) 6864550	
HEIGHT 71 1/2"	WEIGHT 169#	COLOR EYES GREY	COLOR HAIR BLACK	SHOE SIZE —	
DENTAL CHART 1/16/41					
UPPER RIGHT X 7 6 5 4 3 2 1			UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
LOWER RIGHT 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9			LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		
X = Extracted		O = Carious		1 = Carious Non-Restorable	
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS FRACTURE 4TH FINGER RT.			TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK NONE SHOWN		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AGE-29 AT MIA DATE HE WAS A CREW MEMBER OF A B-17 WHICH FAILED TO RETURN FROM ARCW. FLIGHT IN THE NEW GUINEA AREA. EXTENSION SEARCHES OVER ALL AREAS INDICATED HAVE FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY TRACE OF ANY OTHER OCCUPANT OF THE PLANE.					