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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 aircraft is officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location: AFPO 713, Unit #1 Command of Air Force 5th Bomber  
GROUP: 3rd Bomb (L); SQUADRON 13th Bomb (L); DETACHMENT 309th B. Wing (H)
2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure Madzab, N.G.; Course 30 degrees  
Intended Destination Kariong, 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 0945/L; And Location of Last known whereabouts of missing aircraft 200 yards E. of Nuza Island  
(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;  Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ( ) Other Circumstances as follows \_\_\_\_\_)
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series A-20G-20-DOAF Serial No. 42-86728
7. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series B-2600-23; A/F Serial No. (a) 42-175004  
(b) 42-175106 (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   
or (b) Non-Battle Casualty \_\_\_\_\_
10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 3; Passengers 0; Total 3  
(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
1. Pilot	Norris, Sam L.		
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gnr.	Schussman, Michael P.	2nd Lt.	<u>0-877419</u>
3. (PH)	Conser, Lewis (NMI) (Attached fr 5th	S/Sgt.	<u>36189953</u>
4.	B. Camera Unit)	S/Sgt.	<u>19024398</u>
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:

1.

Or

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C6-8049S,AF

C-O-P-Y

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

MJY/bmt

15 February, 1944.

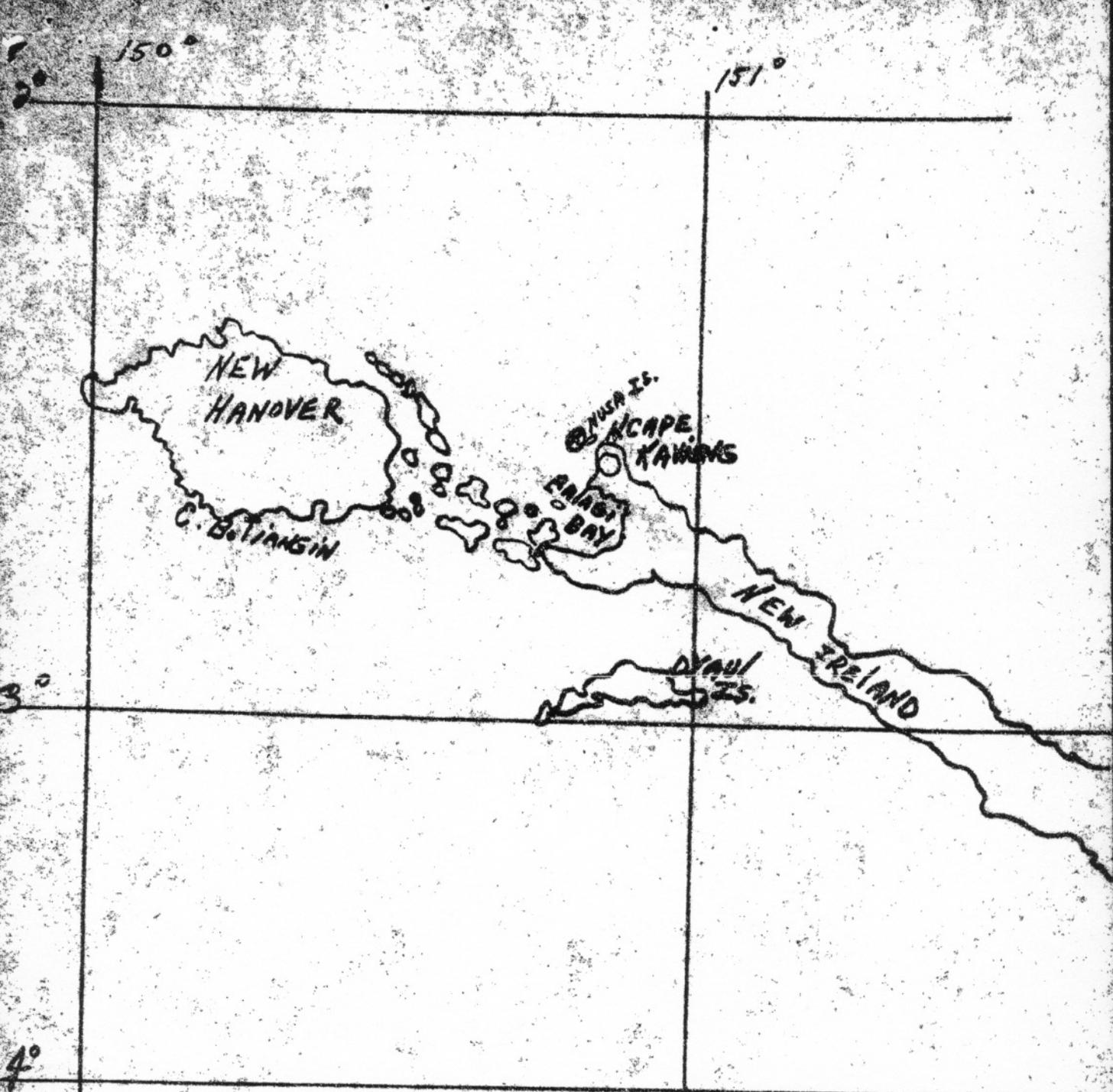
SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 42-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0945/L, 15 February, 1944, I was flying as photographer in flight leader's airplane of which Lt. Norris was flying right wing position. I observed Lt. Norris's plane enveloped in smoke and flames just as we came over the north coast line of Nusa Island, near Kavieng, N.I., after completing a bombing and strafing attack on shipping in Kavieng Harbor. Approximately 200 yards off shore I observed Lt. Norris's plane, type A-20, #42-86728, crash into the water and explode instantly, and burn. I did not observe any survivors and I believe there was no possibility of anyone surviving.

/s/ MITCHELL J. YELVERTON, 6971082,  
T/Sgt., 13th Bomb Sq. (L)

C-O-P-Y



⊗ Approximate location of aircraft when last seen.

C-O-P-Y

1000 1000  
1000 1000

~~C-0-1-1~~

AIS/mtt

12TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

1. As approximately 0930/L, February 15, 1944, after an attack on shipping at Kavieng, N.I., I saw an A-20 (43-86728) partially explode at about 200 feet and go straight down with left engine and wing on fire. It hit the water and exploded about two hundred yards north of Nusa Island. I turned over the wreckage and all I saw on the water was about six feet of wing. I do not believe there were any survivors.

/s/ ANNIE L. ROYCE,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

C-0-1-1

~~SECRET~~  
13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

WJY/mad

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0845/L, 15 February, 1944, I was flying as photographer in flight leader's airplane of which Lt. Norris was flying right wing position. I observed Lt. Norris's plane enveloped in smoke and flames just as we came over the north coast line of Nusa Island, near Kavieng, N.I., after completing a bombing and strafing attack on shipping in Kavieng Harbor. Approximately 200 yards off shore I observed Lt. Norris's plane, type A-20, #43-86728, crash into the water and explode instantly, and burn. I did not observe any survivors and I believe there was no possibility of anyone surviving.

/s/ MITCHELL J. YELVERTON, 6971082,  
T/Sgt., 13th Bomb Sq. (L)

C-O-P-Y

S-C-P-Y

ALS/mst

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

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0800/L, February 15, 1944, after an attack on shipping at Kavieng, N.I., I saw an A-20 (43-86728) partially explode at about 300 feet and go straight down with left engine and wing on fire. It hit the water and exploded about two hundred yards north of Nusa Island. I turned over the wreckage and all I saw on the water was about six feet of wing. I do not believe there were any survivors.

/s/ ANSEL L. BOLMTER,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

C-C-P-Y

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
2ND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO FLS, Unit #1

MJT/mst

15 February, 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86728.

**TO:** All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0945/L, 15 February, 1944, I was flying as photographer in flight leader's airplane of which Lt. Norris was flying right wing position. I observed Lt. Norris's plane enveloped in smoke and flames just as we came over the north coast line of Nusa Island, near Kariang, N.I., after completing a bombing and strafing attack on shipping in Kariang Harbor. Approximately 200 yards off shore I observed Lt. Norris's plane, type A-20, #43-86728, crash into the water and explode instantly, and burn. I did not observe any survivors and I believe there was no possibility of anyone surviving.

/s/ MITCHELL J. YELVERTON, 6971063,  
T/Sgt., 13th Bomb Sq. (L)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13 Bomb Sq.

3rd Bomb.Grp. APO 713, Unit #1

13 Feb. 44

SUBJECT: Eyewitness description of Missing Aircraft # 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 200 degrees 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.

GRAIGIE J. KRAYENBUHL  
1st Lieut. Air Corps

RICHARD L. WALKER  
1 Lieut. Air Corps

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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. <b>Boiler, Ansel L.</b>	2nd Lt.	<b>0-28573</b>			<b>X</b>	
2. <b>Yelverton, Mitchell J.</b>	F/Sgt.	<b>6971022</b>			<b>X</b>	
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 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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C-O-P-I

ALB/unt

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86726.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0950/L, February 15, 1944, after an attack on shipping at Kavieng, N.I., I saw an A-20 (43-86726) partially explode at about 300 feet and go straight down with left engine and wing on fire. It hit the water and exploded about two hundred yards north of Nusa Island. I turned over the wreckage and all I saw on the water was about six feet of wing. I do not believe there were any survivors.

/s/ ARNOLD L. BOLSTER,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

C-O-P-I

COPY

15TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 715, Unit #1

WJY/unt

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

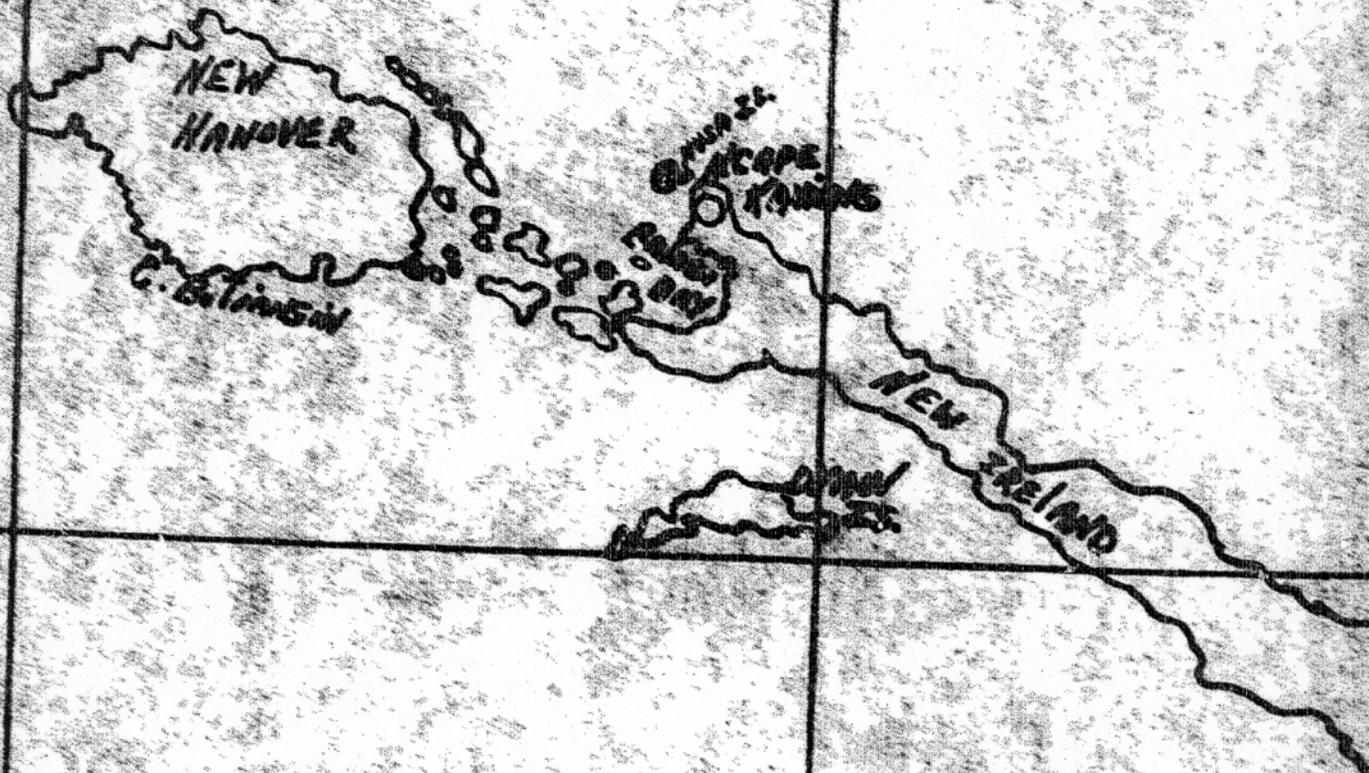
1. At approximately 0945/L, 15 February, 1944, I was flying as photographer in flight leader's airplane of which Lt. Norris was flying right wing position. I observed Lt. Norris's plane enveloped in smoke and flames just as we came over the north coast line of Nusa Island, near Kawieng, N.I., after completing a bombing and strafing attack on shipping in Kawieng Harbor. Approximately 200 yards off shore I observed Lt. Norris's plane, type A-50, #43-86728, crash into the water and explode instantly, and burn. I did not observe any survivors and I believe there was no possibility of anyone surviving.

/s/ MITCHELL J. YELVERTON, 6971082,  
T/Sgt., 15th Bomb Sq. (L)

COPY

150°

151°



⊗ Approximate location of aircraft when last seen.

~~SECRET~~

MR/AM

12TH AIRBORNE DIVISION (2)  
2ND AIRBORNE CORPS (2)  
APO 711, Unit #1

15 February, 1944.

**SUBJECT: Spontaneous Description of Hearing Aircraft No. 42-36740.**

**TO: All Concerned.**

1. At approximately 0800 hrs, February 15, 1944, after an attack on shipping at Kaseong, I.L., I saw an A-20 (42-36740) partially explode at about 300 feet and go straight down with left engine and wing on fire. It hit the water and exploded about two hundred yards north of Bass Island. I turned over the wreckage and all I saw on the water was about six feet of wing. I do not believe there were any survivors.

/s/ ANSEL L. BURGER,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

~~SECRET~~  
100th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
AND SUPPORT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, UNIT #1

WVY/and

18 February, 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 43-06728.

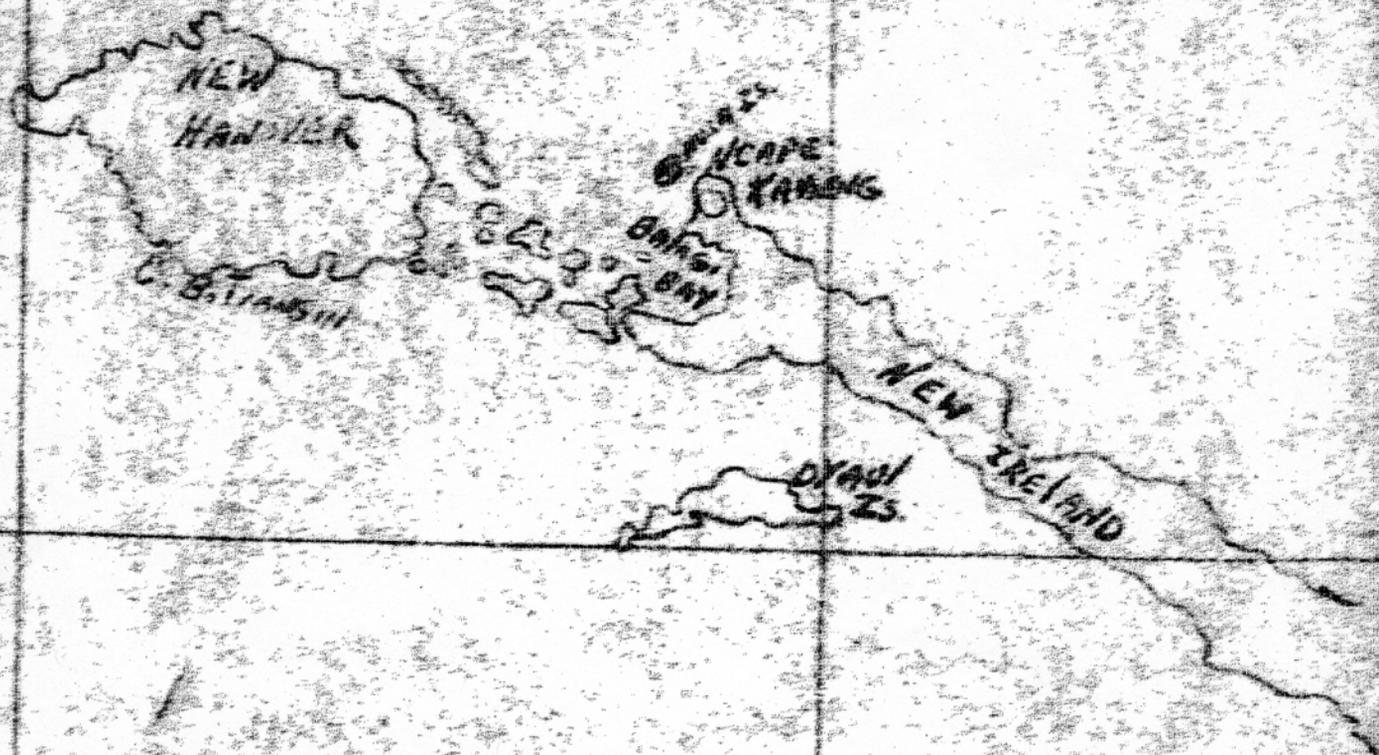
**Re:** All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0845/L, 18 February, 1944, I was flying as photographer in flight leader's airplane of which Lt. Morris was flying right wing position. I observed Lt. Morris's plane enveloped in smoke and flames just as we came over the north coast line of Kusa Island, near Kariang Harbor, I.I., after completing a bombing and strafing attack on shipping in Kariang Harbor. Approximately 200 yards off shore I observed Lt. Morris's plane, type A-20, #43-06728, crash into the water and explode instantly, and burn. I did not observe any survivors and I believe there was no possibility of anyone surviving.

/s/ MITCHELL J. YILVERSON, 0571002,  
2/Sgt., 13th Bomb Sq. (L)

150°

151°



⑧ Approximate location of aircraft when last seen.

C-O-P-Y

ALB/bmt

13TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (L)  
3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)  
APO 713, Unit #1

15 February, 1944.

SUBJECT: Eyewitness Description of Missing Aircraft No. 42-86728.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At approximately 0950/L, February 15, 1944, after an attack on shipping at Kavieng, N.I., I saw an A-20 (42-86728) partially explode at about 200 feet and go straight down with left engine and wing on fire. It hit the water and exploded about two hundred yards north of Fusa Island. I turned over the wreckage and all I saw on the water was about six feet of wing. I do not believe there were any survivors.

/s/ ANSEL L. BOITNER,  
2nd Lieut., Air Corps.

C-O-P-Y