

AIRCRAFT LOSSES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA – COMBAT/NON-COMBAT 3RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP

Date	Serial Number	Type	Name of Pilot	Squadron	Status	Remarks
7 April 1942		A-24	1st Lt Henry G Swartz	8	MIA	Vicinity of Lae
11 April 1942		A-24	2nd Lt Gus Kitchens	8	KIA	Vicinity of Lae
24 April 1942		B-25	2nd Lt William R Barker	90	MIA	Coral Sea, south-southeast of Port Moresby, 1 RTD
24 April 1942		B-25	1st Lt Frank P Bender	90	RTD	Coral Sea, south-southeast of Port Moresby
24 April 1942		B-25	Lt Johnson	90	RTD	Coral Sea, south-southeast of Port Moresby
8 May 1942		B-25	Lt Leland A Walker	13	RTD	Fisherman's Island near Port Moresby. 2 KIA
9 May 1942		A-24	2nd Lt Vernon A Heidinger	8	KIA	Ward's Drome, Port Moresby
9 May 1942		B-25		13		Destroyed on the ground Port Moresby. 2 KIA
9 May 1942		B-25		13	MIA	No additional information
10 May 1942		B-25	1st Lt Harold V Maul	13	RTD	Vicinity of Samarai, in the water
14 May 1942		B-25	2nd Lt John E Hesselbath	90	RTD	Crash-landed, Three Mile Drome, Port Moresby
15 May 1942		B-25	Lt John D Feltham	90	RTD	Crash-landed vicinity of Kainantu
23 May 1942	41-12462	B-25	1st Lt Henry A Keel	13	MIA	Near Salamaua
23 May 1942	41-12491	B-25	1st Lt Wesley E Dickinson	90	RTD	Vicinity of Buna-Kokoda. 2 KIA, 2 MIA, 2 RTD
25 May 1942	41-12498	B-25	Lt Irvine H Shearer	90	RTD	In the sea south of Lae. 1 KIA, others RTD
25 May 1942	41-12466	B-25	1st Lt Arden M Rulison	13	MIA	Vicinity of Lae-Salamaua
25 May 1942	41-12441	B-25	Major Herman F Lowery	13	MIA	Vicinity of Lae-Salamaua
25 May 1942	41-12448	B-25	1st Lt John E Hesselbarth	90	MIA	South of Lae
25 May 1942	41-12450	B-25	1st Lt Bennett G Wilson	90	MIA	Vicinity of Lae
31 May 1942	41-15812	A-24	Lt Dean	8	RTD	Kainantu-Aiyura
31 May 1942		A-24	Captain Floyd W Rogers	8	RTD	Kainantu-Aiyura
31 May 1942		A-24	2nd Lt James T Holcombe	8	KIA	Near Kainantu. 1 RTD
26 July 1942	41-12470	B-25	1st Lt Ralph L Schmidt	90	MIA	40 miles northwest of Buna
26 July 1942	41-12792	B-25	Captain Frank P Bender	13	RTD	West of Buna. 4 MIA, 2 RTD
26 July 1942		B-25	Lt Johnson	90	RTD	Crash-landed, Port Moresby, badly shot up.
29 July 1942		A-24	2nd Lt Claude L Dean	8	MIA	Vicinity of Ambasi
29 July 1942		A-24	1st Lt Joseph C Parker	8	MIA	Vicinity of Ambasi
29 July 1942	41-15797	A-24	Major Floyd W Rogers	8	MIA	20 miles north of Buna
29 July 1942	41-15798	A-24	1st Lt Robert E Cassels	8	MIA	20 miles north of Buna
29 July 1942	41-15819	A-24	Captain Virgil A Schwab	8	MIA	20 miles north of Buna
25 August 1942	41-12499	B-25	Captain James L Orr	13	MIA	In the waters of Milne Bay
4 September 1942	41-12480	B-25	1st Lt Hubert J Rapp	13	MIA	Between Samarai and Hood Point
4 September 1942	41-12472	B-25	Captain Gustave M Heiss	13	MIA	Between Hood and Kepple Points
11 September 1942	40-3145	A-20	1st Lt Charles S Brown	89	RTD	Vicinity of Milne Bay
11 September 1942	40-3148	A-20	1st Lt Turner P Messick	89	RTD	In the sea near Port Moresby
13 October 1942	41-12501	B-25	Lt Simmons	13	RTD	Vicinity of Port Moresby
19 October 1942	41- 726	B-25	Lt Crosswhite	90	RTD	Crash-landed Jackson's Drome, Port Moresby
30 October 1942	41-29731	B-25	1st Lt Lloyd C Miller	90	MIA	Lost on reconnaissance
1 November 1942	41-29738	B-25	2nd Lt Theron G Platt	90	KIA	Three Mile Drome, Port Moresby. 4 KIA, 1 RTD
1 November 1942	40-166	A-20		89	RTD	Crash-landed Jackson's Drome, Port Moresby
16 November 1942	41-12982	B-25	1st Lt Richard O Yeager	90	MIA	Vicinity of Buna
16 November 1942		A-20	1st Lt Francis C Pruit	89	MIA	Coral Sea, south of Port Moresby
21 November 1942	40-155	A-20		89	RTD	Crash-landed Port Moresby
24 November 1942	41-12996	B-25	Major Raymond T Peterson	90	MIA	Vitiaz Strait area
3 December 1942	40-3151	A-20		89	RTD	Crash-landed, Ward's Drome, Port Moresby
5 December 1942	41-12974	B-25	1st Lt Charles L Richards	90	KIA	Near Durand Drome, Port Moresby
8 December 1942	40-80	A-20		89	RTD	Crash-landed, Jackson's Drome, Port Moresby
26 January 1943	40-109	A-20	1st Lt Turner Williamson (?)	89	KIA	Crashed on take-off, Port Moresby. 1 RTD
5 February 1943	41-12502	B-25	2nd Lt Frederick W Schierloh	90	KIA	Near SS Pruth (Moresby Wreck), Port Moresby
21 February 1943	41-12968	B-25	2nd Lt Gordon K McCoun	90	RTD	On a reef, 25 miles NW of Port Moresby
24 February 1943		A-20		89	RTD	On a beach, Redscar Bay area. Salvaged.

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3 March 1943	41-12978	B-25	Lt Smallwood	90	RTD	Crash-landed Jackson's Drome, Port Moresby. 1 KIA
6 March 1943	40-176	A-20	1st Lt Edward R Richardson	89	RTD	Bootless Bay, Port Moresby
12 March 1943	40-89	A-20	1st Lt Paul Kendrach	89	MIA	Mt Murray area
26 March 1943	40-170	A-20	Captain Donald E Good	89	RTD	Off Dona, south of Salamaua. 2 MIA
27 March 1943	41-12884	B-25	1st Lt James L Hughes	90	MIA	Lae-Morobe area
12 April 1943	41-29714	B-25		13		Bombed on the ground, Port Moresby
12 April 1943	41-29719	B-25		13		Bombed on the ground, Port Moresby
14 April 1943	41-13088	B-25	Lt Charles W Howe	90	RTD	In a swamp near 30 Mile Drome, Port Moresby
30 April 1943	41-12969	B-25	Major Edward L Larner	90	KIA	Near Dobodura
16 May 1943	41-12487	B-25	1st Lt Nelson P Ingram	90	MIA	Vicinity of Lae
22 May 1943	41-12981	B-25	1st Lt Roy J Moore	90	MIA	North coast of New Guinea
26 May 1943	41-29697	B-25	Lt Wonderly	90		Destroyed by a B-24, Jackson's Drome, Port Moresby
21 June 1943	41-12980	B-25	1st Lt Harlan L Reid	8	MIA	Between Dobodura and Cape Gloucester
22 June 1943	41-12449	B-25	Lt Helbert	90	RTD	Crash-landed at Dobodura
9 July 1943		B-25		8	RTD	In the sea, north of Nassau Bay, 1 em MIA
20 July 1943	40-3147	A-20	Lt Dowe	89	RTD	Morobe Harbour
23 July 1943	41-12962	B-25	Captain Oscar L Wertz	90	KIA	Hanisch Harbour
23 July 1943		B-25		13	RTD	South of Salamaua, 2 KIA
28 July 1943	41-12906	B-25		13	MIA	Vicinity of Cape Gloucester
7 August 1943	41-12946	B-25	1st Lt Joseph H Castelli	90	KIA	2 miles east of Buna
9 August 1943	41-30318	B-25	Lt Hawkins	90	RTD	Written off due to battle damage
17 August 1943		A-20		89	RTD	Vicinity of Salamaua
18 August 1943	41-30526	B-25	1st Lt Richard C Henrick	8	MIA	Wewak area
28 August 1943		B-25	1st Lt Robert B Widener	8	KIA	Hansa Bay
30 August 1943	41-30345	B-25	Lt Solomon	90	RTD	Crashed on take-off at Dobodura
27 September 1943	41-30434	B-25	1st Lt Miles L Green	8	MIA	Kairuru Strait, near Wewak
27 September 1943	41-30636	B-25	1st Lt Keith A McKee	90	MIA	25 miles southeast of Wewak, 5 miles out to sea
24 October 1943	41-30376	B-25	1st Lt Robert H Miller	8	MIA	Kabanga Point, Rabaul area
29 October 1943	41-30320	B-25	1st Lt Robert V Lockhart	90	KIA	Near Dobodura
30 October 1943	41-30318	B-25	1st Lt Edward A Murphy	90	KIA	Off Senta Bay, Garove Island, Witu Group
2 November 1943	41-30316	B-25	Major John P Henebry	90	RTD	Off Kiriwina Island
2 November 1943	41-12998	B-25	1st Lt William C Mackey	8	MIA	Vicinity of Rabaul
2 November 1943	41-30212	B-25	1st Lt John Cunningham	13	MIA	Vicinity of Rabaul
2 November 1943	41-30311	B-25	Major Raymond H Wilkins	8	KIA	Simpson Harbour, Rabaul
7 January 1944	42-54088	A-20		89	RTD	Arawe area
1 February 1944	41-30532	B-25	1st Lt Walter R Gerry	90	MIA	Mount Kenevi, Owen Stanley Range
6 February 1944	43-9117	A-20	Lt Ruse	90	RTD	Crash-landed, Nadzab
6 February 1944	42-86722	A-20	Captain Baucom	90	RTD	Saidor
6 February 1944	42-86733	A-20	Captain Ellis	90	RTD	Saidor
6 February 1944	42-86760	A-20	Lt Richardson	90	RTD	In a swamp, near Mt Hagen, New Guinea highlands
15 February 1944	42-86742	A-20	Lt Ladd	90	RTD	Nadzab
15 February 1944		A-20	2nd Lt Sam L Norris	13	MIA	30 miles southwest of Kavieng
15 February 1944		A-20	1st Lt William T Pearson	13	MIA	One mile north of Nusa Island, New Ireland
17 February 1944		A-20		13	RTD	Markham River between Lae and Nadzab
25 February 1944	43-9116	A-20		90	RTD	Nadzab
28 February 1944	42-86627	A-20	2nd Lt Norman H Williams	13	MIA	Near Laing Island, Hansa Bay area. 1 RTD
5 March 1944	42-54102	A-20	1st Lt Richard Greenhalgh	8	MIA	Between Lae and Sio
12 March 1944	42-86730	A-20	2nd Lt Allan W Garlick	90	KIA	Simbai, Schrader Range
12 March 1944	42-86618	A-20	1st Lt James L Scarlott	13	KIA	Wewak
12 March 1944	42-86747	A-20	Lt Rutters	90	RTD	Crash-landed south coast of New Guinea
12 March 1944	42-86778	A-20	Lt Short	90	RTD	Crash-landed south coast of New Guinea
12 March 1944	42-86614	A-20	Lt Trzaskowski	90	RTD	Crash-landed south coast of New Guinea

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12 March 1944	42-86625	A-20	2nd Lt Vernal J Bird	13	MIA	Wewak area
19 March 1944	43-9462	A-20	2nd Lt Norman L Craig	8	KIA	Kairuru Strait near Wewak
19 March 1944	43-9477	A-20	Lt John Soloc	89	RTD	70 miles northwest of Wewak. 1 KIA
22 March 1944	42-86613	A-20		13	RTD	Crash-landed at Nadzab #5
26 March 1944	43-9118	A-20	1st Lt Glen O Richardson	90	MIA	Off YakamuI Group, near But
3 April 1944	42-86889	A-20		90	RTD	Crashed at Gusap
11 April 1944	43-9433	A-20		8	RTD	Northwest of Sepik River. 1 RTD
12 April 1944	43-9610	A-20	1st Lt Joseph R Fox	90	KIA	South of Kaiapit, Markham Valley
16 April 1944	43-9039	A-20		13	RTD	Tariltce
16 April 1944	713	A-20		13	RTD	Crash-landed at Saidor
16 April 1944	42-86615	A-20		13	RTD	Yamai Strip near Saidor
3 May 1944	43-9436	A-20	2nd Lt Thomas J Reading	89	RTD	North of Annenberg

MIA: Missing in Action, KIA: Killed in Action RTD: Returned to Duty

6 February 1944: Possibility that Captain Baucom was flying 42-86733 and Captain Ellis in 42-86722

12 March 1944: Possibility that Lt. Rutters was flying 42-86778 and Lt. Short in 42-86747

23 July 1943: Information on this loss came from the History of the 90th Bomb Squadron, page 321, held at Maxwell Air Force Base. The loss is not recorded in the history of the 13th Bomb Squadron.

This list of aircraft covers most combat and a number of non-combat losses incurred by the Group in what is now known as Papua New Guinea. It was prepared by Mr. Bruce Hoy, curator, Aviation, Maritime and War Branch, National Museum, Port Moresby, from two major sources: 1) the histories for each squadron and the Group history held on micro-film at Maxwell Air Force Base, and 2) the relevant Missing Aircraft Report, when such a report was prepared, held at the National Archives, Washington. The list does not profess to cover all aircraft losses, as there were many in the period April 1942 to February 1944 due to training or other accidents and aircraft written off due to combat damage. The period March to May 1944 is complete according to the records of 5th Bomber Command. The list also does not include aircraft loss between Australia and Papua New Guinea or vice versa where there is doubt if the aircraft actually was within the territorial limits of Papua New Guinea. Nor does it include aircraft lost that were on temporary assignment to any other Group.