

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

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AFPPA-14 (10 APR 43)

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT
WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

16544

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in triplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 12 hours of the time an aircraft is officially reported missing.

- ORGANIZATION: LOCATION: _____ COMMAND OR AIR FORCE: _____
GROUP 42 Bomb : SQUADRON 69 Bomb : DETACHMENT _____
- SPECIFY: POINT OF DEPARTURE _____ : COURSE Low level
INTENDED DESTINATION Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel : TYPE OF MISSION Bombing Mission
- WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: _____
Last seen to go down in flames over Rekata Bay, South Pacific
- GIVE: (A) DATE 7 Jan. 43 TIME _____ : AND LOCATION OF LAST KNOWN
WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING AIRCRAFT Last seen to go down in flames over Rekata Bay
(B) SPECIFY WHETHER () LAST SIGHTED: () LAST CONTACTED BY RADIO:
() FORCED DOWN: (X) WENT 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: at 300 feet fragmentation bombs were dropped on the bivouac area, and *
- AIRCRAFT: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES B-26 : AAF SERIAL NO. Not known
- ENGINES: TYPE, MODEL AND SERIES _____ : AAF SERIAL NO. () _____
(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 X
OR (B) NON-BATTLE CASUALTY _____
- NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: CREW 7 : PASSENGERS - : TOTAL 7
(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	STATUS
(1) PILOT	Behling, Lincoln E.	Capt.		KIA 7 Jan 43
(2) CO-PILOT	Wiesner, Blaine K.	1 Lt		KIA 7 Jan 43
(3) Navigator	Spadone, Mitchell S.	1 Lt		KIA 7 Jan 43
(4) Bombardier	Hughes, Charles C	2 Lt		KIA 7 Jan 43
(5) Radioman	Sharp, Otis L.	S/Sgt		KIA 7 Jan 43
(6) Engineer	Mulcahy, Daniel M	Sgt		KIA 7 Jan 43
(7) Tail Gunner	Pietroluongo, Raffaele	PFC		KIA 7 Jan 43
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				
(11)				

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

NAME IN FULL (LAST NAME FIRST)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER	CONTACTED BY RADIO	LAST SIGHTED	SAW CRASH	SAW FORCED LANDING
(1)						
(2)						
(3)						

- 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) _____
- ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
- ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.
- ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE.

* converging automatic AA fire scored direct hits on Capt. Behling's plane, while leading a flight of six planes.

Prep. from AGO Casualty & AC Historical Records:

Signed Elee L. Tyler, Major Inf.

(Date of Report)

(Signature of Preparing Officer)

REMARKS: (Use additional sheet if necessary)

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AGO Casualty files reveal the following info:

BEHLING, Lincoln E. Captain [REDACTED] KIA --- 7 January 1943
69th Bomb. Gr. Sq.

Plane last seen to go down in flames over Kekata Bay, South Pacific.
Those on board were the following:

Wiesner, Blaine K.	1st Lt.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43
Spadone, Mitchell S.	1st Lt.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43
Mulcahy, Daniel M.	Sgt.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43
Sharp, Otis L.	S/Sgt.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43
Hughes, Charles C.	2nd Lt.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43
Pietroluongo, Raffaello	Pfc.	[REDACTED]	KIA	---	7 Jan 43

Plane was on a low level bombing mission.

There is no SR&D Report of this crash.

A TRUE COPY

S/ Elce L. Tyler
T/ ELEE L. TYLER
Major INF

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69th Bn. Sq.

Air Corps Historical Records

On January 7, 1943, Capt. Behling and his crew were shot down over Rekata Bay while leading a flight of six planes. The other pilots were: Captain Long, Capt. Lingamfelter, Capt. Wright, Lt. Howbert, and Lt. Field. At 300 feet 100# fragmentation bombs were dropped on the bivouac area, and converging automatic AA fire scored direct hits on Capt. Behling's plane. Lost with him were Lts. Wiesner, Spadone, and Hughes, along with radio operator S/Sgt. Otis L. Sharp, Tail Gunner Pfc. Robert Pietroloungo, and engineer Sgt. Daniel Mulcahy.

A TRUE COPY

S/ Blee L. Tyler
T/ BLEE L. TYLER
Major INF

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Letter dated 28 Sept.43 from Air Command, Solomon Islands Intelligence Section to The Adjutant General, states that a B-26 reported missing 7 Jan. 43 at Rekata Bay, Santa Isabel, was found and identified 13 Sept.43 on the shore of Papatura Pa Island directly across from Suavanau Pt.,

While scattered, the remains appeared to be the full crew, only two (2) identification tags were found:

Sharp, Otis L.
Mulcahy, Daniel M.

Also wallets and personel papers belonging to these men.

Remains were buried 15 Sept.43 in one box in a single grave at a point about 20 yards in from Rekata Bay beach and 50 yds. South of the road crossing the tip of Suavanau Pt. Service by local natives. A wooden cross was erected over the grave mound with a card attached reading:

"In memory of a B-26 Crew"

Photograph submitted showing location of grave.

Members of the crew (69th Squadron were:

Pilot -	Capt. L.E. Behling
Co-Pilot -	1 Lt. B.K. Wiesner
Navigator -	1 Lt. M.S. Spadone
Bombardier -	2 Lt. C.C. Hughes
Radioman -	S/Sgt O.M. Sharp
Engineer -	Sgt. D.M. Mulcahy
Tail Gunner	Pfc. R. Pietroloungo

Info from AC Historical Records.