

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 735001

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

ADDRESS REPLY
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification changed

to ~~RESTRICTED~~
by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. WENCH, Capt., AC
Date FEB 14 1946



ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

27 April 1945

SUBJECT: Corporal Robert D. Hill, 36444312

TO : Commanding Officer, Atkinson Field, Georgetown, British Guiana.

1. Attention invited to attached copies of letters from Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Hill, regarding their son, Corporal Robert D. Hill, 36444312, killed non-battle 13 March 1945.

2. Request information upon which to base a reply to the parents of Corporal Hill.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

N. W. Reed

N. W. REED
Major, Air Corps
Assistant Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

2 Incls.

201-Hill, Robert D. (Enl) 1st Ind MAY 9 1945 /pas
HEADQUARTERS, BRITISH GUIANA BASE COMMAND, Atkinson Field, British Guiana, SA

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

1. In compliance with the above, the following information is stated in chronological order: -

A-26 Serial No. 41-39568 arrived at this station 16 February 1945. The pilot, 2nd Lieut. Clyde M. Henderson O-836 787 AC made no complaints after landing as to the performance of the plane.

The airplane stayed on the ground 17 February 1945 because of unfavorable weather.

On 18 February, during preparation for the take-off, the right engine was not running smoothly. The engine was thoroughly checked and necessary adjustments made.

On 10 March the airplane was test hopped by Maj Vail for 45 Minutes and again on the same day for thirty minutes and found to be satisfactory. Then Lt/ Henderson test hopped for an hour and the plane checked satisfactory.

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AT-2348

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BASIS Ltr, Cpl R. D. Hill, Hq AAF Wn DC, 27 Apr 45.

satisfactory.

On 11 March Lt. Henderson after take-off reported the altimeter and air speed indicator out and returned. Necessary repairs were made and instruments ground checked and found satisfactory.

On 13 March aircraft departed at 0600Q for its next destination with Lt. Henderson piloting and Corporal R. D. Hill as Engineer Gunner. Three minutes later another A-26 with 1st Lt. C. S. McFadden took off and was to be the lead plane for Lt. Henderson. After clearing the field Lt. McFadden reported to the tower that he could not contact Lt. Henderson. About that time a C-46 (Eastern Air Lines) reported smoke in the jungles about nine miles south west of the field.

A rescue party was dispatched immediately and guided by an RA-24 located the wreck at 1130Q. The aircraft was completely demolished, presumably by the explosion of the large ferry tank carried in the bomb-bay. The evidence at the scene of the crash indicated that the plane must have come almost straight down.

As no one saw the aircraft in any trouble, and no one observed the crash, and due to the almost complete disintegration of the plane, no definite cause can be set forth as attributing to the crash.

Chaplain (Capt) Wolski, the Catholic Chaplain of this Base was a member of the rescue party and conducted the funeral service for Corporal Hill. The funeral was held on 15 March 1945 and was conducted with full military honors and respects. The Base Commander and as many officers and enlisted men as could be absented from their duties, attended together with a number of local employees who work here. The service was held in the Base Chapel. After the service, the cortege proceeded to the Post Cemetery where the remains were interred.

Several soldiers stationed here were acquainted with Corporal Hill. Their names are as follows:

Pfc Marvin Lehtman	Det 155th AACs Sqdn
Pfc Richard H. Bower	"
Pfc William H. Tabor	"

2. Chaplain Romuald Wolski wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Hill which was forwarded thru channels shortly after the funeral.

3. Attention is invited to AAF Form No. 14 on the subject accident which adds to the technical details and substantiates some of the above information.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

2 Incls: n/c

Alvin S. Isaacs
ALVIN S. ISAACS
Captain, CAC, Adjutant.

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Wenona Ill R.1.
Apr 2. 1945

Commanding Officer

Hunter Field
Savannah Georgia.

We have been told by waiting to you we can obtain some information concerning the plane crash in which Cpl. Robert D. Hill 36444312 was killed on March 13th in British Guiana. He was an A 26 engineers gunner and Lt. Clyde M. Henderson was his pilot. He left Hunter Field on Feb 11 and went to West Palm Beach Fla. and left there on Feb 13. We would like some details information concerning the crash. Wether he was killed instantly, if he had a Catholic Burial, and any other information you can give us. We would appreciate it very much if you could send to us the name of the Chaplain at Atkinson Field British Guiana, we would like to write to him to see if he can give us any additional information.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Hill
Wenona Ill R 1

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Apr 4-45

Commanding Officer.

Our only son about 21 yrs old Cpl Robert D. Hill 36444312 a gunner on a A26, and the pilot Lt. Clyde M. Henderson were killed on March 13 in a crash landing 9 ml. from Atchison British Guiana S. America. We understand from the information we received from Lt. Hendersons parents that they had engine trouble on the way for repairs 30 days, and then started over seas, and had to come back the air speed and Altimeter went out, the following day they started again, and crashed 9 miles from Atchison, why were those boys sent out with a defective plane.

I think the lives of our boys are worth more than to have them take chances like that.

We lost a loving son and would like to know more about the crash.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Hill
Wenona Ill
R1

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to **RESTRICTED**
by E. A. BRADINA Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. ROSEN
Date **FEB 14 1946**

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Group #755

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