

8408

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Morris, William H. T-1384

519.1 (Air Crew Personnel)

2nd Ind.

P-B-10

HEADQUARTERS 3D BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 559, U. S. Army.

TO: Commanding Officer, 385th Bombardment Group, APO 559.

Attn: Statistical Control.

10 MAY 1944

Request compliance with basic communication.

By command of Major General LE MAY:

John P. Thomas
JOHN P. THOMAS
Captain Air Corps
Asst. Adjutant General

3rd Ind.

RCE/e

HEADQUARTERS 385th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), APO 559.

TO: Commanding General, 3d Bombardment Division, APO 559, U. S. Army. 13 MAY 1944

1. Cite basic communication and in compliance therewith the following is submitted:

F/O Morris and crew took off from this base on an operational mission on the morning 5 January 1944.

Shortly after take-off the right wing of the aircraft came in contact with the ground and the aircraft then crashed.

Witnesses of the crash said the aircraft had reached an altitude of 200 ft. when lost to sight. A few seconds later they saw a large flash resulting from this aircraft's crashing into the ground. The position of the crash would indicate that the pilot started a slight turn to the right after the take-off. The pilot was probably flying on instruments at the time as it was during the hours of darkness.

It is very possible that the superchargers were pulled off too soon and the aircraft, which was carrying a maximum load, with a reduction of power, the aircraft lost altitude and came in contact with the earth's surface before the pilot realized what was happening. This is borne out by the fact that the aircraft hit the ground in a semi-stall position. The right wing tip hit first, then the ball turret, the number four prop, three, two, and one in that order. These facts were determined from markings on the ground.

As a result of the crash one bomb exploded and together with the impact of the crash, the parts of the aircraft and its crew were scattered over quite an area.

Due to the sudden illness of one crew member just prior to take off, only nine men were aboard this aircraft at the time of the crash.

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AAF 201 - Harris, William H.

x 319.1

5th Ind.
HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE, AAF STATION 101, APO 634

TO: Commanding General, ETOUSA, APO 871.

Attention is invited to 3rd Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:



Burnis Archer
BURNIS ARCHER,
Captain, AGD,
Ass't Adj General.

AG 704

6th Ind

Hq ETOUSA, APO 871, 24 May 1944.

To: Commanding General, Army of Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

pc-2307

H.M.R.
H.M.R.

PPA-2

PR/jh

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

501# L-69.24

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Morris, William H., T-1384, 3d Ind., Cont'd.

The entire crew of this aircraft (see below for name and position) were killed instantly in this crash with the exception of one (1) man (noted below):

4/C No. 42-3544

Position	Name	Rank	ASN
Pilot	Morris, William H.	P/O	T-1384
Co-pilot	Ziebarth, Dennis J.	2nd Lt.	O-752032
Navigator	Proctor, Richard	2nd Lt.	O-798873
Bombardier	Totaro, Robert M.	2nd Lt.	O-678512
Top Turret Gunner	Stevens, Russell	Sgt.	31190827
Radio Operator Gunner	Rober, Chester A., Jr.	Sgt.	11117727
Ball Turret Gunner	Stuebgen, Walter A.	S/Sgt.	13059973
Tail Gunner	Hamilton, Burnell W.	S/Sgt.	34538030
Waist Gunner	Lowitz, Stanley (NMI)	Sgt.	12154534

*This crew member was seriously injured and has since fully recovered and returned to duty.

For the Commanding Officer:

Kiffin C. Harrow
 Kiffin C. HARROW,
 Major, Air Corps,
 Adjutant.

Morris, William H. T-1384

319.1 (Air Crew Personnel)

4th Ind.

P-B-10

HEADQUARTERS 3D BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, APO 599, U. S. Army,

TO: Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, APO 634.

Attn: Statistical Control.

15 MAY 1944

Attention invited to information furnished in 3rd Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:



John P. Thomas
 JOHN P. THOMAS
 Captain Air Corps
 Asst. Adjutant General

11 IN 2 1944



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