

4 February 1945

C-46 # 7386

KARACHI

DEAD: 34

CREW: Pilot. F/O: Cecil A. Weaver, T-193145
C/P: 2nd Lt. Robert H. Maddox, O-771073

PASSENGERS:

1st Lt. William E. Price, O-503719
Capt. Thomas J. Harper, O-503807
Capt. Lawrence C. Archer, O-499303
Capt. Kenneth R. Arnette, O-501902
1st Lt. Marshall Young, O-742403
S/Sgt. Forman F. Smith, 20246146
S/Sgt. Ernest B. Schenck, 33269869
1st Lt. Frederick J. Raubinger, O-756694
1st Lt. Harold B. Morse, O-809852
T/Sgt. Scott F. Mitchell, 33290838
Sgt. Joseph F. Kehrer, 32280080
S/Sgt. Merrill R. Hyde, 14023531
S/Sgt. Joseph B. Hewitt, Jr. 32486680
T/Sgt. Phillip Feld, 31278351
S/Sgt. Alva H. Floyd, 34666636
1st Lt. John A. Flach, O-752398
T/Sgt. Robert E. Finks, 16151830
Pvt. Harold B. Erwin, 37053241
1st Lt. James W. Brokaw, O-750331
1st Lt. Myron L. Cook, O-694860
T/Sgt. Allan H. Cousins, 32539822
Cpl. Buster Beck, 38077222
1st Lt. Charles B. Moore, O-805097
Cpl. L.F. Sellers, 37130005
Pfc. Norman C. Maxfelt, 38073056
S/Sgt. David McKissock, Jr. 32138397
Pfc. J.G. Goodman, 18046749
T/Sgt. Lawrence G. Jacobs, 31141682
S/Sgt. Harlan G. Casper, 19174473
1st Lt. Howard S. Pierson, O-692713
1st Lt. Louis P. Worland, O-681849

PASSENGERS:

1st Lt. John F. McDonough, Jr. 0-810910

T/Sgt. Marvin H. Jacobs, 32833249 (Lone Survivor)

This aircraft took off from Karachi, India, with 33 passengers and a crew of two, the plane was homeward bound. Eighteen aboard were from the 22nd Bombardment Squadron. T/Sgt. Marvin H. Jacobs, like many others were dozing or asleep. Sgt. Jacobs remembers a sudden and violent shifting of luggage, the plane seemed to mush, nose up-- tail down. When he regained consciousness, he was lying in a bamboo thicket. With the coming of dawn, he heard noises of chopping, the natives had located him. Because of a broken ankle he could not walk; natives brought him food, and later built a stretcher of bamboo, and carried him to their village. He was fed sweet potatoes, pop corn, and on many days an egg, also rice flavored with spice. On 18 February, a rescue party arrived, there was T/Sgt. Brenner, Capt. Austin E. Lamberts, Flight Surgeon and Lt. William F. Diebold. It was decided that an air strip would have to be built in the jungle in order to fly Sgt. Jacobs out in a light aircraft.

Sgt. Brenner went to the sight of the wreck, where 34 young men had lost their lives, he located nineteen bodies, he tried to bury them, the natives would not help. The natives had stripped the bodies, he could not find dog tags to help him identify the bodies, On some, the natives had cut off the fingers of the crash victim's hands in order to get their rings. Rescue aircraft dropped food, clothes, medicine, dynamite. Sgt. Brenner and Lt. Diebold, cleared an area for an L-5 to land and pick up Sgt. Jacobs, not an easy job. Capt. Lamberts was kept busy with his patient, and

all the natives that lined up for sick call, Capt. Lamberts set up a regular dispensary with hours being about 0900 each morning, He always had quite a few patients. A couple of the patients were women. He used to treat the rheumatism cases with mosquito repellent so that they would not feel as if they were being neglected. They liked the smell of the repellent. The nights passed very pleasantly as Lt. Diebold was a real character, between his jokes and his singing, they had quite a time. They taught the natives to sing the part of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" the part that goes, "ee-i-ee-i-o". It was really something to hear the natives chiming in loud and clear, "ee-i-ee-i-o". On February 28th, 1945, the little L-5 landed, the pilot was a Sgt. Nelson, it had rained the night before and the runway was very rough and muddy. They started with full throttle, and then went bumping along, the next thing Jacobs knew they were airborne. The pilot kept the flaps down for quite a while as he was having difficulty getting up his air speed. Twenty minutes later they landed at Duflager Tea Estates, then Sgt. Jacobs was transferred to a C-47 transport and back to his base. The crew and passengers on Aircraft # 7386 were declared administratively dead as of 4 February, 1945. The location of the wreck is at (27° 12-93° 27).

[Excerpts from Sgt. Jacobs, statement while in the hospital.]

