

Main Identity

From: "Matt" <mfay@aimaz.com>
To: "Matt" <mfay@aimaz.com>
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2008 1:14 PM
Subject: Fw: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)
To: [Clayton Kuhles](#)
Sent: Sunday, November 09, 2008 10:23 PM
Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Dear Mr. Kuhles:

Thank you so much for your response. I am going to forward it to Betty Clark. As I explained in my earlier correspondence Betty Clark, my Dad's neighbor, has waited over 60 years to find out the fate of her younger brother. Because of your web site I learned about missing air crew reports and was able to at least tell her that the approximate location of her brother's last resting place. She was so grateful. I am still puzzled as to why the AAF never informed Lt. Tinsley's family that they knew the fate of his aircraft.

Mr. Kuhles, I want you to know how much I admire the work you are doing. It means so much those families of the men who served with honor and gave their lives for their country. I know a little about aviation and I have come to appreciate how incredibly dangerous flying the Hump was. These were very courageous men. For Betty Clark, and my own Dad who served in the South Pacific, I thank you for all of your efforts. They are most appreciated.

Please say hello to Pam. She was very kind to respond to my emails while to you were away. She also sent an article link about flying the Hump which I forwarded to Betty Clark.

Jon Frank

From: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

To: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2008 6:40 PM
Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Dear Jon and Ingrid,

Thanks much for your letter.

Sorry for my delayed reply. I just returned home today from a 7-week MIA search expedition in NE India. This latest trip resulted in reaching 7 additional US crashsites, with several of those being C-46 aircraft. It will take me a month or so to complete my research and prepare my site reports. All the new site reports should be posted onto my website by year's end. I'll certainly let you know if Lt. Tinsley is among those now accounted for.

Thanks much for the C-47 photo. I'll also post that to my website.

Best regards,
 Clayton
www.MIArecoveries.org

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)

To: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2008 7:31 PM

Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Dear Pam:

Thank you very much. I'll pass your email on to Betty. Since our last correspondence Betty has been studying everything I have given her so far. When the magnification tool on her Window's picture viewer is not strong enough, she takes out a magnifying glass to study the maps and photos. I know she has been looking at Clayton's website. I put the link on her computer desktop so she can easily find it. She was on the verge of tears when I showed her some of the pictures of the artifacts that Clayton has recovered. She is very touched by your response and the work that Clayton is doing for the families of the lost air crews. I'm sure she will also read this article as soon as she get it.

I also found some pictures of Robert's unit (1328th) which I put on CD for Betty. Please find one of those pictures enclosed. The two officers (probably pilots) are standing in front of a C-47. I am guessing that the decoration they are holding is the distinguished flying cross. This medal was awarded for uncommon heroism during flight. One of the crew members may have received the award. I have another picture of that award being affixed to the nose of the aircraft.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

To: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)

Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2008 1:03 PM

Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Hi Jon and Ingrid,

Clayton is still somewhere in Arunachal Pradesh and will be home in a couple of weeks time. In the meantime I dont know if you know about the "Hump" already. If not here is some information for you and Betty.

<http://74.125.113.104/search?q=cache:yDiOX9KruSwJ:williamstories.com/resources/Flying%2BThe%2BHump.doc+Gary+Zaetz&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=23&gl=us>

Happy reading.

Pam

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)

To: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 6:12 PM

Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Pam:

Thank you so much for replying to my letter. I am forwarding it to Betty.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

To: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 10:34 AM

Subject: Re: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Dear Joe and Ingrid,

My name is Pam and I am Clayton's wife. Thanks for your sweet email on behalf of Betty. Please tell Betty he won't be able to reply to him at this point because he is in the Indian mountains trying to locate more wrecks for closures for some relatives. I am sure he will write you once he comes back to US.

Take care!

Pam

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jon and Ingrid Frank](#)

To: [Clayton Kuhles](#)

Cc: [Betty Clark](#)

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2008 6:37 PM

Subject: Lt. Robert W. Tinsley

Dear Mr. Kuhles:

I am writing in behalf of My dad's neighbor, Mrs. Betty Clark of Pocasset, MA. On September 17, 1944 Mrs. Clark's brother, 2nd Lt. Robert W. Tinsley, was reported as missing. He was piloting a C46A on its way back to its home base in Misamari, India. Betty remembers vividly the day her family received the news of her brother's disappearance. Bobby, who had enlisted the day after Pearl Harbor, was due to be home in December that year, in time for Christmas.

Since that day, Betty never heard any more about what happened to her brother. Although he was presumed to have been lost in a crash, his family never learned his fate, or final resting place. During the ensuing years Mrs. Clark's parents, and Robert's wife have all passed away. A day doesn't go by without Betty, who is now 93 years old, thinking about her brother. She still has a box full of Robert's letters and a painting of him on her wall.

A few years ago, Betty was contacted by Mr. Bill Gadoury from JAPAC who indicated that her brother's name was on the list of lost fliers that they were looking for. Betty supplied a DNA sample but has had no further news about her brother.

Last summer, while speaking with Betty I learned about her brother and the interest of JAPAC. I was curious, so I spent some time on the Internet. I came across your website and learned about the incredible work you are doing. Honestly, until I spoke with Betty I had never realized how important it is for the families of these brave men to learn of their fate, and perhaps properly bury their remains. You are doing wonderful work that provides a tremendous sense of closure to the families of men who gave their lives flying very dangerous missions for their country.

I emailed Betty some information about your organization (yes at 93 she gets email and is on the Internet every day). She wanted to write you but had some trouble with her email that

day. I offered to forward her letter to you, but decided that I would first gather as much information about her brother as I could. After a bit of detective work I was able to get a copy of the USAAF Missing Air Crew Report regarding Robert's aircraft (MACR 8616).

On Sept 17, 1944 Robert was either the pilot or copilot of a C-46A serial number 42-61067 flying from Chaynl, China to Misimari, India. The last known location of the aircraft was between Shinbwiyang, Burma and Jorhat, India. He was on board with 1st or 2nd Lt. (there is some contradiction in the MACR) Charles M. Adams, the other pilot, and PFC Andrew E. Rajnic, the radioman. The last contact with the aircraft was at 1413Z.

When I read this page of the MACR, there was nothing remarkable about it. However when I read page 3 I was taken aback. On page three there was a report that a search and rescue squadron had located Robert's C-46 on January 24, 1945. The location of the wreck was reported as 28 degree 15 minutes North, 94 degrees 23 minutes East, at an altitude of 11,000 feet. The crew was then declared administratively dead. The AAF determined that the site was too difficult to reach by land. Unfortunately, none of this news ever reached Betty, and as far as I can tell, any other family members. This past Saturday I showed Betty a copy of the MACR along with maps and satellite photos of the location of the C-46 on which Robert took his final flight. Betty was surprised and grateful for the news. Of course she was left wondering why the Army Air Force never told her that they knew her brother's fate in the 64 years since his passing.

I also showed her your website and she was overwhelmed with the work you are doing. I asked for her permission to send you an email on her behalf with all of the above information. I have also enclosed relevant pages from the MACR. According to Google Maps the location provided by the search and rescue flight puts the wreckage near West Siang in the State of Arunchal Pradesh. Should you ever discover this wreckage here are some contact names:

Betty Clark--christened Catharine Elizabeth TINSLEY (Sister)
Pocasset MA.

Thank you very much for all of your work.

Sincerely,

Jon Frank
Natick, MA