

The Hump Operation

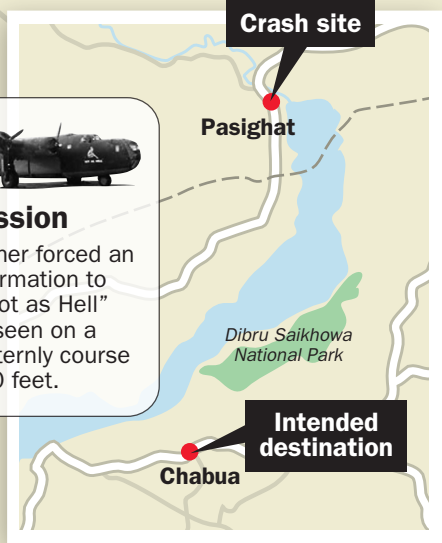
During World War II, the U.S. Army Air Forces created a long-distance aerial supply route that connected northeastern India to southwestern China. The 525-mile route fulfilled a U.S. promise to keep supplies flowing into China to keep the Chinese involved in the war against Japan.

The Hump route, as it became known, was a challenge for even experienced pilots. The high terrain of the Himalayas, plus the rain and wind — even outside the monsoon season — resulted in the loss of hundreds of planes.



The mission

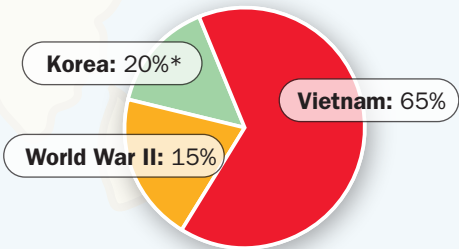
Bad weather forced an aircraft formation to break. “Hot as Hell” last was seen on a northwesterly course at 15,000 feet.



Recovering the missing

Recovering the 88,000 presumed dead members of the military falls to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. Eighteen recovery teams conduct about 25 recovery missions annually.

U.S. resource allocation



Search-and-recovery criteria:

1. The most recent conflict first
2. Relevant information and accessibility
3. Resources
4. Optimizing balance between excavations and identifications

U.S. soldiers missing in action

	Missing	Recoverable
Gulf War	3	1
Vietnam	1,800	1,000
Cold War	126	20
Korean	8,100	5,400
World War II	78,000	20,000 - 30,000

*Effort transferred to Vietnam when North Korean operations were suspended.