

HARRISON FORMAN

6 COLBY ROAD
PORT WASHINGTON
LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

April 24, 1946.

Mrs. D.J. Abbott
1740 Avenue H.
Schenectady, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Abbott:

I have only just returned from an extended lecture tour and find your note of Feb.24th with my accumulated mail.

I am indeed sorry to hear about your brother. Checking my map for the Latitude and Longitude where your brother's wrecked plane was sighted I believe I can offer some reason why the authorities have not sent anyone in to investigate. That area is one of the wildest and most inaccessible places in Asia. My map shows one mountain peak, the Namcha Barwa 25,445 feet above sea level, at almost the spot where your brother cracked up. It would, therefore, be most difficult to send anyone into that area on foot. When they sighted your brother's plane they must have decided he could not have come out of the wreck alive. To have sent someone in on foot to investigate might have required a major expedition.

I hope you won't misunderstand me -- I'm not offering excuses for the Army Air Force authorities responsible for such a decision. I'm merely suggesting a reason why they may have made that decision.

Literally dozens of boys like your brother have been lost flying the Hump. And while a most efficient rescue service had been developed for the rescue of an extraordinarily high percentage of those who were forced down, nevertheless many had a tough time of it before they got back to civilization. Those who lived through the crash landing, that is.

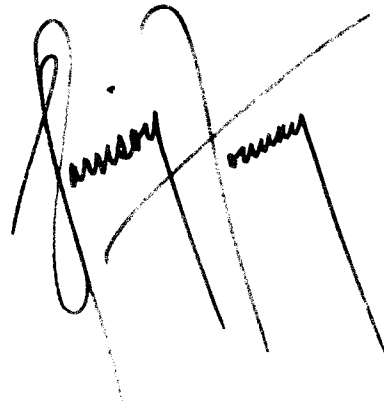
I would suggest you write directly to the Army Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and ask for a full report on your brother's crash. With the war over I'm sure they might tell you things now that they held back before.

The mountain "Higher than Everest" of which your brother wrote was undoubtedly Mt. Amnyi Machin, at the headwaters of the Yellow River in Northeastern Tibet, somewhere in the vicinity of Lat.35 Long.100, about 500 miles to the north and east of where your brother was lost. Five hundred miles, however, is not much of a distance to cover by air. He may have seen it by detouring slightly in his regular flights across the Hump -- and may have been lost on one of

these detours. If so, you may well consider him a martyr to science -- regardless of the fact that he was in uniform and flying an army plane.

I hope one day myself to fly over or around that mountain, having made two expeditions to it on foot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the word "Sincerely,".