

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGPO-CG 201 Tinsley, Robert W.
(18 Apr 47) 01696784

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 July 1947

Mrs. D. J. Abbott
1740 Avenue H
Schenectady 4, New York

Dear Mrs. Abbott:

I have received from the office of The Quartermaster General, a copy of your letter concerning your brother, Second Lieutenant Robert W. Tinsley.

Your desire to receive additional details relative to the circumstances surrounding the death of your brother is most understandable. Information available in the War Department reveals that Lieutenant Tinsley was the pilot of a C-46 (Commando) transport plane which departed from Chenyi, China on a cargo mission to Misamari, India on 17 September 1944. Your brother's plane was last contacted by radio at about 2:00 p.m. at which time it was flying between Shingbuiyang, Burma and Jorhat, India. Since Lieutenant Tinsley failed to arrive at his destination and no further contact was made with his plane, he was reported missing in flight on 17 September 1944.

He remained in a missing status until 24 January 1945 when the wreckage of his aircraft was located at 29° 15' North, 94° 23' East, at an altitude of 11,000 feet in the mountains between India and Tibet. Due to the aerial observation of deep snow and extremely hazardous mountain passes and crevices it was decided that it would be impracticable to send a ground searching party to the scene without endangering the lives of such personnel. Further in view of these circumstances it was highly improbable that any of the crew survived the crash and even had any survived, such conditions would have undoubtedly prevented their safe return. Upon this basis, it was reported by the overseas authorities that Lieutenant Tinsley and the other members of his crew were declared "administratively dead" as of 17 September 1944. It was also reported that no evidence as to the cause of the crash was available but there were scattered showers and thunderstorms over part of the route of your brother's plane.

Please accept my deep sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward F. Witsell
EDWARD F. WITSELL

Major General

The Adjutant General of the Army