

MIA Recoveries, Inc
P.O. Box 12871
Prescott, AZ 86304-2871
928-899-1614
info@MIArecoveries.org
www.MIArecoveries.org

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Crashed Aircraft Site Report

Date Visited: 14 Dec 2005

Model & Serial Number: C-53DO #42-15890 a.k.a. CNAC #58

GPS Coordinates: N 27-46-33.2 E 096-56-30.9

Datum: WGS 84

Country: India

State/Province/District: Arunachal Pradesh

Nearest Town/Village: Samdul/Minzong

Distance/Direction: 5-day trek NE of Samdul/Minzong

Altitude: 14,800 ft.

Topography: Mountains

Aspect: SSE

Terrain Notes: Open, rocky, moderate slope

Vegetation: None

Nearest Water: Small pond approx. 1 mi. from site

Site Disturbance: Significant disturbance caused by accidental burning of fuselage by Mishmi hunters who would shelter in it while hunting in the area

Aircraft ID Method: Tail panel with number 4215890

Engines/Propellers: 2 engines and propeller blades

Wreckage/Artifacts/ID Tags: Wreckage and cargo concentrated in small area, engines and landing gear located approx. 50 yds. down rocky slope from main wreckage area, location of engines and landing gear is probably point of impact

Human Remains: None seen by investigator

Removed from Site: Several small pieces of wreckage and cargo removed by investigator and donated to CNAC museum in Kunming, China

Photos: See website for photos, additional photos/video on file

Misc. Notes: Samdul/Minzong is Mishmi village on Lohit River at junction with Kallong River (S of Walong). Cross to E bank of Lohit River on hanging bridge just downstream from Samdul/Minzong. Trek upstream Kallong River to Mishmi village of Bhau. Trek upstream Kallong River to Ghalum River. Trek upstream Ghalum River to Ngat River. Trek upstream Ngat River to Tap River. Trek upstream Tap River and SE up mountain to crash site. Crash site overlooks Tap River (tributary of Ngat River) and is near India-Burma border.

Residents of Bhau had migrated there from the Ngat River Valley after WW II. Injured pilot and co-pilot first encountered the Mishmi along Ngat River after hiking down from crash site in April 1943. The Mishmi brought them to their village and cared for them until a village runner could find a British survey team working along Lohit River and bring them to the village. I met an elderly Mishmi woman in Bhau, who as a young woman in 1943, had personally cared for pilot and co-pilot in her Ngat River village. She immediately and joyfully recognized Capt. C. Joseph Rosbert, and co-pilot Charles R. "Ridge" Hammell when I showed her a photo of them taken shortly after their return to US control in 1943.

Investigator: Clayton Kuhles