

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 sheltered 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 WWII. 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.