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Crashed Aircraft Recovery Report

Date of Recovery: 05 Nov 2023 to 26 Nov 2023.

Model & Serial Number: C-46A #42-96721.

GPS Coordinates: N 27-38-00.1 E 096-35-59.4.

Datum: WGS 84.

Country: India.

State/Province/District: Arunachal Pradesh.

Nearest Town/Village: Ngwazakha.

Distance/Direction: 8-day trek NW of Ngwazakha.

Altitude: 13,000 ft.

Topography: Mountains.

Aspect: ESE.

Terrain Notes: Steep, rocky slope.

Vegetation: High-altitude bamboo and grasses.

Nearest Water: None noted, other than snowfields.

Site Disturbance: Significant disturbance caused by 1950 earthquake.

Wreckage Trail: Wreckage extending approx. 200 yds. downslope from estimated point of impact.

Human Remains Recovered: Yes, pending analysis.

Personnel Artifacts Recovered: Yes.

Wreckage Artifacts Recovered: Yes.

Photos: See website for photos. Additional photos/video on file.

Personnel on Recovery Team: 16.

Team Leader: Clayton Kuhles.

Summary: MIA Recoveries, Inc was asked by the family group associated with this aircraft to lead an expedition back to the crash site for the purpose of recovering remains and personal artifacts of the 13 personnel who died aboard the aircraft when it crashed on 06 Jan 1945. It was requested that the recovery expedition occur during Fall 2023, as soon as possible after the monsoon season.

I knew the monsoon season in that area typically ends in Oct, but it can take a couple additional weeks for the rivers to go down to a level that's safe for wading across and for any seasonal bridges to be rebuilt after sustaining damage from floating debris during the flood stage. The recovery expedition was therefore scheduled to begin in early Nov 2023. Given the altitude of the crash site, there would only be a narrow weather window of Nov and Dec to complete the recovery work. It was essential that the team meet-up in Dibrugarh in early Nov and be prepared to mobilize immediately to the crash site. Days could not be wasted if we were to complete the recovery work before the snows arrived. Team members were selected for their ability to do the required work and their willingness to comply with the expedition itinerary. It was also necessary for all team members to be exceptionally fit and have the tenacity to live and work in a remote, challenging and unpleasant environment for weeks until the recovery mission could be completed.

Team members and I accessed the crash site via the same route we used in Dec 2021. The Dihing and Namdapha Rivers were safely waded across without incident. High camp was established slightly below the crash site near a snow bank that we could melt for a water source.

Recovery work at the crash site was conducted in a line formation, starting below the lowest extent of the debris field and methodically moving up-gradient. We completed our recovery work on 26 Nov 2023, amid clear and mild weather conditions.

Demobilization started immediately.

Recovered remains and personal artifacts were transferred to US control for identification and repatriation to the families.

Date of Report: 29 Dec 2023.

Prepared By: Clayton Kuhles.