

Pre-Mission Report

First Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman, Jr.

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman, Jr.

In November 1943, Bonnyman was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed on the small Pacific island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll, in an attempt to secure the island against Japanese resistance. Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded. Bonnyman personally led a 21-man team in an initial attack against Japanese forces, where they engaged in close-quarter fighting. As a result of these attacks, Bonnyman was killed in action on November 22, 1943. His body was not recovered by U.S. forces at that time.

Your task is to prepare a report on the present conditions and historical context of the search area. Create a presentation (using either PowerPoint or Google Slides) which contains the following information:

- Maps of the country
 - National and regional maps
- Description of the fighting during World War II
 - Time period and duration
 - Number of casualties for both the Americans and the Japanese
- Current conditions within the country
 - Climate
 - Terrain
 - Weather
 - Relationship with the United States
 - Crime
 - Economic conditions
 - Any other information that could be helpful in planning the recovery mission

For the current conditions use the Country Information website from the U.S. State Department at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html> and the CIA World Factbook at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>.

Note: Tarawa is located in the Republic of Kiribati.

Analyze the challenges a recovery team would face conducting a mission to this location based on the information you collected.

Pre-Mission Report

Staff Sergeant Jimmie Doyle

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant Jimmie Doyle.

On September 1, 1944, Doyle was one of 11 men on board a B-24J Liberator bomber that was shot down while on a reconnaissance mission of enemy targets near the town of Koror, Republic of Palau. Three of the crewmen parachuted from the aircraft and died while prisoners of the Japanese, and the other eight crewmen, including Doyle, went down with the plane into the sea between Babelthuap and Koror islands.

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Note: Search the country of Palau.

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Pre-Mission Report

First Lieutenant Leonard A. Farron

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Air Forces First Lieutenant Leonard A. Farron.

On October 15, 1942, Farron was the pilot of a P-39 aircraft with the 67th Fighter Squadron, 347th Fighter Group, 13th Air Force, when he failed to return from a strafing mission over Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal. His squadron mates reported they last saw Farron ten minutes before landing, but there was heavy anti-aircraft fire and enemy fighters swarming the area at the time. No one reported seeing Farron crash.

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Note: Guadalcanal is in the Solomon Islands.

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Pre-Mission Report

Private Earl J. Keating

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Private Earl J. Keating.

In December 1942, Keating was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, when his unit was involved in an intense engagement with enemy forces along the Soputa-Sanananda Track, which is present-day Papua New Guinea.

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Pre-Mission Report

First Lieutenant Frederick Langhorst

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Air Forces First Lieutenant Frederick Langhorst.

On July 17, 1945, Langhorst was assigned to the 1330 Army Air Force Base Unit, Air Transport Command, and was the co-pilot of a C-109 aircraft with three other crew members on a routine cargo transport mission from Jorhat, India, to Hsinching, China, when it crashed in a remote area of India. An extensive search of the area failed to identify the crash site and the crew was declared deceased on July 18, 1946, and their remains designated non-recoverable.

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Pre-Mission Report

Private Evans Overbey

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Air Forces Private Evans Overbey.

On December 8, 1941, Overbey was assigned to the 93rd Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group when Japanese forces attacked Clark Field in the Philippines. With its aircraft destroyed, Overbey's unit joined forces with American and Filipino infantry units fighting the battle of Bataan. Following the April 9, 1942 surrender to the Japanese, the surviving members of Overbey's squadron began the torturous 65-mile Bataan Death March northward, where they were imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell. Because of overcrowding and an excessive death rate at Camp O'Donnell, Overbey and other POWs were transferred to Camp Cabanatuan. More than 2,800 POWs perished in this camp during the remaining years of the war. On November 19, 1942, 14 Americans, including Overbey, were reported to have died and were buried by their fellow prisoners in Common Grave 717 in Cabanatuan Camp #3 Cemetery.

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Pre-Mission Report

Corporal George G. Simmons

We have received information about the potential whereabouts of U.S. Army Corporal George G. Simmons.

On December 8, 1941 while Simmons was assigned to Battery H, 60th Coast Artillery Regiment on the Philippine Island of Corregidor, Japanese forces invaded the Philippines. Simmons and his unit engaged in intense fighting until May 6, 1942, when the U.S. fortress of Corregidor fell. Thousands of American and Filipino service members were taken prisoner, including Simmons, who was taken by ship to Manila, then by train and eventually on foot to the Cabanatuan POW camp.

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