

Burma Report

investigation and confirm aircraft ID and disposition of the crewmembers remains. I have also developed some reliable info on the location of two more B-24 crashsites. My research shows one B-24 with 8 crewmembers aboard, and the other with 10 crewmembers aboard. I'll confirm these IDs in Jan-Mar '05. All three of these B-24 wrecks are in southern Burma. More details later.

All the Burmese government officials, businessmen and villagers that I have encountered have been extremely supportive, cooperative and helpful towards me (even to the point of refusing payment for their services).

Regards, Clayton

***Editor's Note:** Clayton has requested that we provide the following message to our members.*

"MIA AIRCRAFT". Please contact me if you would like to find a specific MIA aircraft lost in the CBI theater during WWII. I have successfully found and visited three US aircraft crashsites in Burma and India, accounting for the remains of at least eight US service men. I can lead a custom search for your MIA aircraft.

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A GREAT CONNECTION

Clayton Kuhles' greatest hope in conducting searches for missing aircraft in the CBI is that he will find an aircraft and make a direct connection with a member of the family of one of the crew members. That happened with his discovery of C-87 #23696, located along the NE India/Burma border, on October 19, 2003. He removed some remains from that site that ended up at JPAC at Hickam Field.

The family had already obtained a copy of the accident report and was aware of the aircraft's tail number. Clayton's report of finding this aircraft provided the family the missing link in accounting for a missing member of their family. The family has

contacted Clayton for further details. Needless to say this was a very satisfying experience for them all.

FURTHER MIA INTERESTS IN BURMA

We recently received an e-mail from a couple of brothers, whose father was a Hump pilot. They also are interested in searching in Burma for missing WWII aircraft. They also have a further ambition. They are experience parachutists and would like to bail out in the area of north Burma where the Eric Sevareid rescue team bailed out in 1943 and retrace their steps out of the area.

***Editor's Note:** As for myself I never had any desire to do any extended walking in the jungles of Burma. If this project progresses we will let our members know.*

Elephants Update

GAUHATI, INDIA — Wild elephant herds have been terrorizing India's remote northeast, killing people, flattening houses and guzzling local rice beer supplies, prompting villagers to retaliate with firecrackers and bonfires.

With an estimated 5,000 elephants, Assam state has the largest concentration of wild Asiatic elephants in India, said M.C. Malakar, Assam's Chief Wildlife Warden.

The herds, faced with shrinking forest cover and human encroachment of their corridors, venture into settlements looking for food and attack those who try to stop them.

The elephants have stampeded across the region, stomping down houses and feasting on crops, Pradyut Bordoloi, Assam state's forest minister, said Saturday.

Rice beer is an attraction. Workers in tea plantations in Assam make rice beer at home and store it in drums. "There are many instances of wild elephants guzzling the brew and returning for more," Bordoloi said.

*(Associated Press article 11/14/2004; **Editor:** Glad our working elephants didn't know about this back during the Hump days.)*