



Charles W. Cross 64-43

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # 0-515939

**Division Artillery
Americal Division**

Entered the Service from: Illinois

Died: 29-Feb-1944

Missing in Action or Buried at Sea

**Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery
Manila, Philippines**

Awards: Air Medal

Lieutenant Cross was an aerial reconnaissance pilot with the Division Artillery, Americal Division and disappeared in the Bougainville jungle (Papua/New Guinea) in February 1944.



Rockford Man Is Missing in Pacific Area

With U. S. Army Forces, Bougainville, March 10.—(UP)—After being lost nearly a month inside Japanese Lines, Lieft Iqkoro, a Fiji Islander, returned to U. S. lines at Bougainville, but hope has been virtually abandoned for his companion, Second Lieut. Charles W. Cross, 23, Rockford, Ill., it was announced here today.

Iqkoro and Cross, who was an aerial liaison artillery specialist of the American division, were lost in the clouds January 27 while on an observation mission. They crash landed in Japanese territory unhurt.

After struggling for six days through dense jungle, they finally emerged into a clearing and discovered that they were deep inside enemy territory.

They headed back toward U. S. lines. They had water but no food.

By February 7 Cross was unable to walk further. The Fijian carried him on his back for two days, after which Cross refused to burden him any longer. He insisted that Iqkoro continue alone.

After an argument the Fijian built a lean-to and left Cross his clothes and water. Twice Iqkoro returned to Cross but the third time he kept going toward the American lines.

Finally, on February 21 Iqkoro was picked up by some natives who carried him to shelter. There he rested and had food, after which he pushed on until he reached safety.

An American patrol was sent out to look for Cross but found no trace of him.