



Robert C. Hagerstrom 59-43

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Forces

Service # 1180195

**17th Squadron
71st Reconnaissance Group**

Entered the Service from: Iowa

Died: 8-Jun-1944

Missing in Action or Buried at Sea

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

**Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal,
Purple Heart**

From Pacific Wrecks.com

B-25D Mitchell Serial Number?

Pilot 2nd Lt. Howard Wood, O-664709 (MIA / KIA) CA

Co-Pilot 2nd Lt. Marcos A. Baggese, O-689185 (MIA / KIA) TX

Observer 2nd Lt. Robert C. Hagerstrom, 1180195 (MIA / KIA) IA

Armour/Gunner Sgt Virgil C. Harrelson, 38197434 (MIA / KIA) LA

Radio/Gunner SSgt Frank J. Brunk, 16087489 (MIA / KIA) IN

Photo/Gunner Sgt Robert E. Bodi, 15374006 (MIA / KIA) OH

MIA June 8, 1944

MACR 16311 (16160)

Aircraft History: Serial Number unknown. Assigned to the 5th Air Force, 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 17th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron.

Mission History: (Mission #160 B-310) Took off from Wakde Airfield leading a strike by a total of ten B-25s sent to attack six Japanese destroyers bound for Biak during "Battle of Cape Waios". The formation flying in a "V of V's" located the convoy headed due east at 00 50' E 132 50' E, then broke up into two ship elements to attack.

According to the B-25s, the convoy consisted of two cruisers and four destroyers and met intense anti-aircraft fire.

This B-25 was hit and sank before reaching the target. This B-25 was last seen 50 miles north of Cape Waios (False Cape) on the Vogelkop Peninsula on Dutch New Guinea. Approximate location 0045 S and 13245 E.