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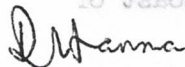
Dear Mrs Broadhurst

I am writing to thank you for taking the time and trouble to communicate with me regarding the American pilot, Charles I. Hitchcock. Cy Klimesh finally tracked Hitchcock down to an address in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, his health is very poor and he is looked after by his wife. He remembers the Australians with great fondness.

During the flight from Dili, his aircraft was attacked by four Zeros. The upper turret gunner, Glenn A. Campbell shot down two in quick succession. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the crew. Campbell remained at his guns, even as the aircraft was ditching into the sea and, unfortunately, was killed by the impact. The rest of the crew emerged with minor injuries. Hitchcock himself dived under and into the sinking plane to pull Campbell out.

As you surmised correctly, John Jones also replied to my inquiry and provided some interesting information! Once again, my thanks for your assistance. It was very much appreciated. I am preparing a feature article on the Hitchcock flight and if it is published I will try to send you a photocopy of it.

Kindest regards



David Hanna

enc.

Extract from 2/4th Company book.
"COMMANDO".

Sgt, Jack Jones, with a small party of the Engineers manned the Punar OP. He recalls watching and listening in to an American pilot who was in a lot of trouble overhead on the 3rd Nov. 1942: There were about seven of us up there, including Curly, Bob Miller and John Dusting, looking over the Manatuto area. While we were watching some Marauder Bombers of the US Air Force came over one time and they were bombing Dili. We could see the Zeros coming up to attack them. One of the bombers was hit on the port wing and motor was on fire. We could see it coming towards us. It was flying below the OP but suddenly climbed up over the mountain. We could see the Japanese plane behind him firing shells. We listened in to the radio and could hear the Americans talking. "One of them said: 'Where are you, Hitchcock?' and he replied: 'You just come back here and I'll show you where I am.' Three of the others came roaring back to help him and they and the Zeros disappeared from our view to the south.

"We heard later that he crash landed his plane in the sea just off Melville Island. Everyone on the Island had their radios on offering a silent prayer for Hitchcock." That stirs an old memory from Frank Hammond: Do you know the sequel? Later on, in the Lae Campaign, I was based at Buna in an engineer unit for a while. Sig. Sandy Sandiford was also there. He went down one night with two othersto Dobodura drome to see a picture show They sat on coconut logs. Sandy was sitting next to some American pilots. During the interval, one of the Americans said:

"'Hullo Aussie? Where are you from ?"

"Sandy replied: 'We are just left out of battle by our unit and based here at Buna'.

"'Where have you been before?.

"'Well, we were on Timor.'

Continued -

"Timor?' He said, 'I used to fly over Timor and bomb it.'

"What's your name?. Sandy enquired.

"Hitchcock', he replied.

"I was a Sig. exclaimed Sandy. 'I've got it all on record where you said you were on fire - and your commander was saying: 'You're not I can't see any fire.'

"He said: 'Yes I got the hell out of that when I crashed. I've got an easy job now in Fighter planes. I'll never go back to Bombers.'

"I believe he did lose his navigator in the crash landing. But wasn't that a remarkable meeting between him and Sandy.?"

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Extract from "INDEPENDENT COMPANY by

Bernard J.Callinan D.S.O., M.C.

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After "Hitchcock's" dogfight. A signal sent to Darwin asking for news of Hitchcock, but by the following morning we could wait no longer, ans Laidlaw, whose set was in the Bomber's frequency, shot into their calls and reports: "Did Hitchcock make it"? A stunned silence seemed to decend upon the planes, but soon the urgent demands of their mission preoccupied them. That night in the messages from Darwin was one from the United Stated Air Force Commander who was there: "Thanks Diggers, Hitchcock made it". Crash landed Bathurst Island. Hitchcock and his fight were discussed up and down our lines, ans we were bitterly disappointed when a few days later Darwin told us that the Mitchell bombers had been withdrawn suddenly to meet an emergency on the east coast of Australia.

Sgt. Jack Jones, with a small party of the engineers manned the Puma. He recalls watching and listening in to an American pilot who was in a lot of trouble overhead on the 17th Nov. There were about seven of us up there, including Gurry, Bob Miller and John Hastings looking over the Manatua area. While we were watching some Marauder Bombers of the US Air Force came over one time and they were bombing Dili. We could see the Beros coming up to attack them. One of the bombers was hit on the port wing and motor was on fire. We could see it coming towards us. It was flying below the OP but suddenly climbed up over the mountain. We could see the Japanese plane behind him firing shells. We listened in to the radio and could hear the Americans talking. "One of them said: 'Where are you, Hitchcock?' and he replied: 'You just come back here and I'll show you where I am.' Three of the others came roaring back to help him and the Beros disappeared from our view to the south. "We heard later that he crash landed his plane in the sea just off Melville Island. Everyone on the Island had their radios on offering a silent prayer for Hitchcock." That stirs an old memory from Frank Hammond: Do you know the sequel? Later on, in the Iae Campaign, I was based at Buna in an engineer unit for a while. Sig. Sandy Sandiford was also there. He went down one night with two othersto Doboona drove to see a picture show They sat on coconut logs. Sandy was sitting next to some American pilots. During the interval, one of the Americans said: "Julio Aussie? Where are you from?" "Sandy replied: 'We are just left out of battle by our unit and based here at Buna.' "Where have you been before?" "Well, we were on Timor."



CHARLES I. FITCHCOCK.

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GLENN A.
CAMPBELL.

