

STATEMENT

We took from Wadke Island approximately 0645 hours on 26 July 1944. We reached the target at 1045 hours at about 7,000 ft. While on the bomb run our ship was hit by anti-aircraft fire in four separate places. The Bombardier, Lt. Bishop, was wounded. The No. 1 engine ran away and could not be feathered. No. 4 engine lost power, and then went out completely. It was impossible to hold altitude and when the ship was approximately fifty (50) feet above water, No. 2 engine began to detonate and losing power. Crash landing was made at approximately 1130 hours.

The Pilot, Navigator, Engineer, Radio Operator, Bombardier and myself managed to escape to a life raft. The other members of the crew were not seen to get out of the ship, and it is probable that they were killed on impact as they were using the old ditching procedure, bracing themselves against the bulkhead at the rear of the bombay.

The Bombardier (Lt. Bishop) died of wounds while in the life raft at approximately 1830 hours and was buried at sea. The rest of us were picked up by a rescue Catalina at about 1730 hours, 27 July 1944.

*William A. Rush*  
WILLIAM A. RUSH,  
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