

September 30th 1944
New Guinea

My Dear Helene,

I fear that this letter will prove to be a difficult task, for I find it painful to think about what has happened, just as I know you do. However, I thought that you might be interested in just what happened so if I cause you any sadness, please forgive me.

We hit the Palau group of islands and while over the target suffered a hit by ack-ack. Our entire electrical system went dead and a short time later our no. 2 engine went out. Apparently we had a gasoline leak on the right side to cause no. 3 engine to cease functioning and we figured that no. 4 would quit too so we decided on a water landing.

We had no contact with the other ships because our radio was dead and our attempt at signaling with flares were unsuccessful. So our position was indeed precarious. Hubble was at his assigned ditching station in the waist, and his safety belt was fastened. I never did see Hubble again after the crash, although I made an exit from the ship uninjured.

I had a difficult time releasing the one raft that was not jammed and when I finally got it inflated the ship was settling rapidly. You see, I had climbed into the top of the waist to get at the raft but I saw no one-I imagine that I was so intent on getting our only means of survival out that I didn't look very closely. To be candid, I was pretty scared at the time.

The other three survivors were Hill (Co-Pilot) who was unharmed; Perlowitz, (Engineer) who was badly injured but is rapidly recovering, and MC Caffrey (3rd Career) who had a broken leg. We were picked up 26 hours later and a further search was made for any other possible survivors, but it was of no avail.

I think you know that Hubble was the favorite of the crew and I found him always dependable. I cannot express my feeling towards you, I am not eloquent, but I want you to know that he was a good soldier and the kind of a man I'll always be proud to have known.

Perhaps this note hasn't been tactful but my intentions were good. Helene, I grieve too, and if I can in any manner assist you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Very Sincerely,

Robert Parenti

Letter from Hubble's

Pilot