

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOPIC	PAGE
FORWARD	i-ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v-vii
TIMELINE OF EVENTS	viii-ix
CHAPTER 1 - The Friendship Grows	1-11
Hofmann Family - mid 1800's	1-2
Rauh Family - early 1900's	3
Adam Hofmann Family Tree	4
Geog Johann Hofmann Family Tree	7
Francis Michael (Mike) Iriarte	8-9
CHAPTER 2 - The Brewing Storm	13-18
Enlistment	13-14
Pearl Harbor	14
<i>The War Illustrated</i> - News of the War in Europe, January 1941	15-18
CHAPTER 3 - Stateside Training - A Common Path	19-28
Smyrna Airfield, Tennessee	19
Preflight Training	20
The Bombardier	21-25
Victorville Army Flying School - California	26-27
Gilbert Rauh Gets His Wings	27
George Hofmann Gets His wings	28
Mike Iriarte Gets His Wings	28
CHAPTER 4 - Bomber Assignments and Crew Training	29-65
B-24 and B-26 Assignments	29-30
The Consolidated B-24 Liberator	31-54
Walking Tour of the B-24	36-54
Davis-Monthan Army Air Field - Arizona	55-57
Advanced Combat Crew Training	58-62
Salinas Air Field - California	63
Gibby and John McLauchlen Training Crew	63-64
CHAPTER 5 - Deployment to the CBI Theater of Operation	65-80
Operations in India	65-67
History of the 436th Bomb Squadron, 7th Bomb Group, 10th Air Force	68-70
The China/Burma Theater	69-70
Lt Baggett & Capt. Kuroe Combat Story	70-71
Gibby and the McLauchlen Crew Travels to India	72-73
Scenes from Panagarh Air Base - India	74-77
CHAPTER 6 - Combat Begins	78-
Gibby & the McLauchlen Crew	78
Combat Missions	79-84
Where is Mike Iriarte?	85
Where is George Hofmann?	86-87

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

TOPIC	PAGE
CHAPTER 7 - Gibby's Last Mission	89-119
The Target	89-92
Mission #10 Begins	93-
Bad Luck	92-
Strike One - Japanese Defense Strengthens	92-93
Strike Two - Allied Fighter Coverage Falters	94
Strike Three - Top Japanese Fight Ace is in the Area	94
Yasuhiko Kuroe - Japanese Ace	94-96
Combat Box	97
B-24J, S/N 42-73196, The "Apocalypse"	98
The Bomb Run & Fighter Resistance	99-100
Emil A. Kremer - Allied Eye-witness Report	101, 112
Japanese Fighter Eye-witness Reports	103-104
B-24's Lost	104-108
Apocalypse 'Missing Air Crew Report' No. 1233	109-113
War Department MIA Telegram Home	113
Last Known Location	114-117
Burma Campaign Ends	118-119
Mike Iriarte Arrives Too Late	119
CHAPTER 8 - Mike	121-136
Pandaveswar Air Base, India	121-123
Mike's Last Mission	124-125
The Target - Port Blair, Andaman Islands	124-125
The Route	126
Mission Details	127
'Missing Air Crew Report' No. 4199	128-132
Last Know Location	133
Surviving Crew Member - Charles Kaufman, Navigator	134
George Hofmann - On His Way to Combat	135-136
CHAPTER 9 - George	137-159
397th Bomb Group, 596th Bomb Squadron	137
Last Mission	138-154
Letter from Pilot, George W. Parker	142-144
'Missing Air Crew Report' No. 4429	146-149
Mission/Capture Details	150-154
The Longest Mission - POW	155-159
The European Death March	158-159
Going Home	159

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

TOPIC	PAGE
CHAPTER 10 - Moving On	161-172
Manila American Cemetery - Tablets of the Missing -Philippines	161-162
Gilbert A. Rauh - MIA Memorial	163
Apocalypse Crew MIA Memorials	164
Francis Michael (Mike) Iriarte - MIA Memorial	165
Stanley Allison Crew MIA Memorials	166
Gilbert A. Rauh VFW Post, Thornwood, NY	167
Jack Carosi - D-Day Veteran	167-168
POW/MIA Monument Dedication - Mt Pleasant, NY	168-169
First Contact with Anita & Richard McLaughlen	170
DPAA Notification - Gibby Was Coming Home	171
McLaughlen/Seifreid/Pyle/Tedone - Returned Home	171-172
CHAPTER 11 - Never Giving Up	173-182
American Graves Registry History	173-176
WWII Recoveries	177-178
DPAA - Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	178-182
Procedures	178-179
Central Identification Laboratory (CIL)	179-181
Armed Forces Repository (AFRSSIR) – DNA Samples	180
Impact & Achievements	182
CHAPTER 12 - Gibby Comes Home	183-
Discovery Debriefing	183-200
Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF)	185
Gravesite #505	186
X Files - X-505A-H	186
Location	187
Overseas Cemeteries	188
Barrackpore, India	189
Schofield Barracks, Oahu, HI	188, 189
National Memoria Cemetery of the Pacific - Punchbowl - Oahu, HI	189-194
Resting Place at Punchbowl	194-196
Forensic Anthropology Report	198
DNA Analysis	199
Odontology Report	199
Rosette Placement - Manila American Cemetery - Philippines	200
Memorial Day Remembrance – 2025 – Mount Pleasant, NY	201-
Interment	TBD
Postscript	
References	
Index	
APPENDIX A – AAF Combat & Unit Training Manual	
APPENDIX B - B-24 Liberator Pilot Training Manual	