12 AIRMEN KILLED AS FLYING FORT FALLS AND BURNS

Farmer Finds Wreckage and Bodies in Remote Part of Kittatinny Mountains

BLAIRSTOWN, N.J., Feb. 23, 1944 (AP) — All 12 airmen aboard were killed when a four-engine B-17 Army Flying Fortress crashed yesterday in a remote section of the Kittatinny Mountains, exploded and burned fiercely.

The first searcher to reach the wreckage said he found parts of bodies on the ground, and six bodies nearly intact near the plane. The engines were buried in the frozen ground.

George Kimball of Millbrook told also of hearing small explosions like those of bursting ammunition as he climbed a wooded mountain following the sound of the crash. He said he found trees knifed down for a quarter-mile near the wreckage on the fog-shrouded mountain top.

Five U.S. Army officers, six army enlisted men and an RAF navigator were the victims.

Two New Jersey officers were among them—Lt. Arthur W. Stanley, Ridgewood, and Second Lt. James B. Sanders, 23, Trenton, and Mason, Tenn. Sanders was listed as an Army Air Forces pilot.

Mr. and Mrs. James Rorty, writers who live in a cabin on a nearby mountainside, said the crash of the bomber was earth-trembling.

Fort Dix Army Air Base officials said the plane was attached to the base and was on a training flight from Bangor, Me., to Fort Dix.

The plane crashed in rough terrain, two miles from the nearest mountain trail and about seven miles northwest of Blairstown, in northwestern New Jersey, after circling over Millbrook, N.J., and Bushkill, on the Pennsylvania side of the nearby Delaware River.

Millbrook residents and New Jersey and Pennsylvania State police searched the rain-swept mountains in this vicinity for more than two hours after the crash was heard, before Kimball, a farmer, located the wreckage.

Included among the dead Army men identified by Fort Dix officers was:
Staff Sgt. Patsy C. Williams, 29, of Connellsville, Pa.

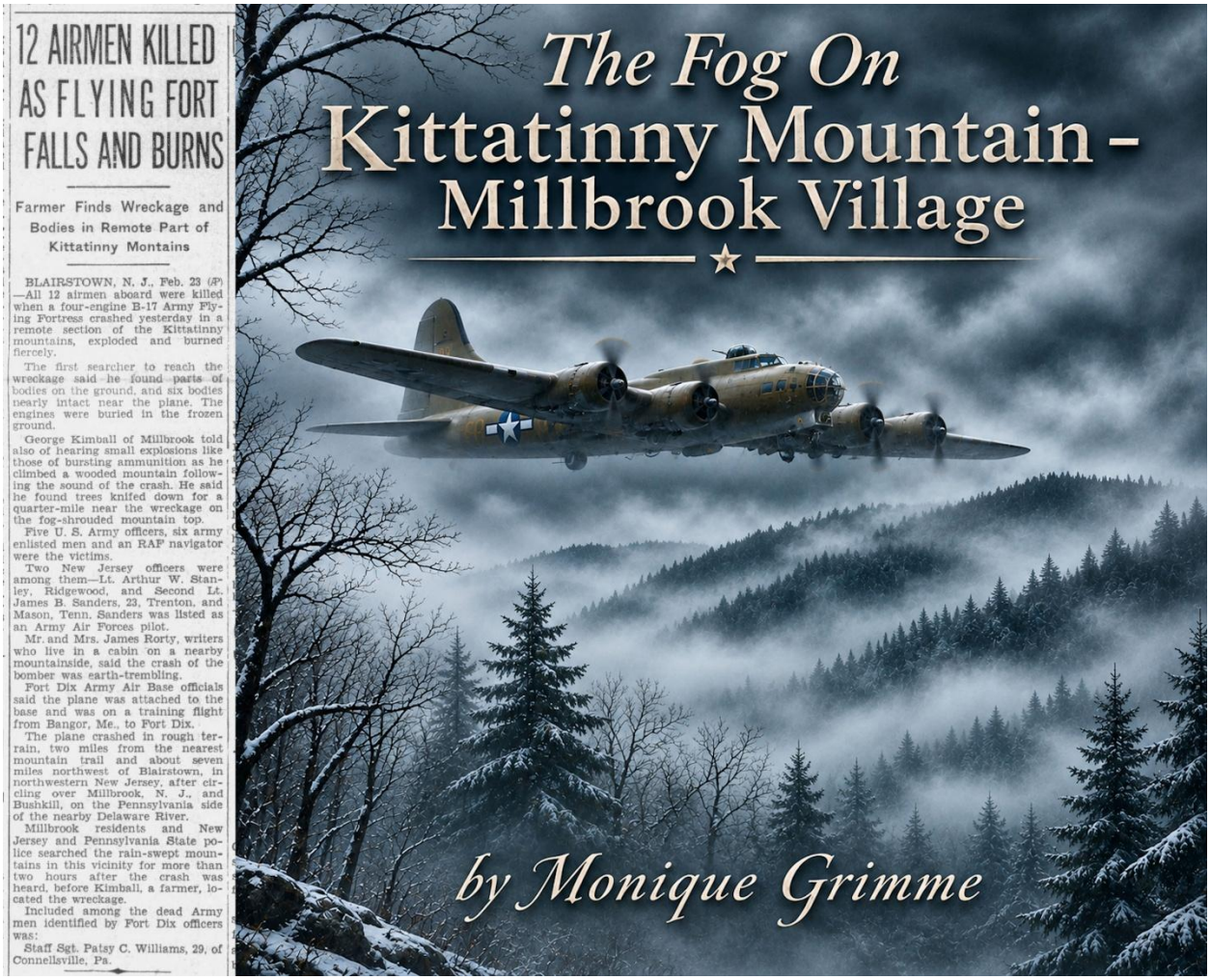
FEBRUARY 22, 1944 KITTATINNY MOUNTAIN | MILLBROOK, NEW JERSEY

IN MEMORY OF THE TWELVE MEN WHO NEVER RETURNED HOME

CAPT. MURPHY K. LENTS
2D LT. HOLBROOK WHITE
2D LT. JAMES B. SANDERS
2D LT. HOWARD BECKMAN

MASTER SGT. THEODORE HATFIELD
SGT. PATRICK G. WILLIAMS
SGT. GEORGE PETERS
CORP. JOHN L. DIGGIN
SGT. LAWRENCE CONROY
CORP. BENEDICT CICONE
LT. ARTHUR W. STANLEY
SGT. BIBB – ROYAL AIR FORCE NAVIGATOR

THEIR JOURNEY ENDED HERE. THEIR MEMORY LIVES ON…



Dedicated to the memory of the twelve airmen who lost their lives on February 22, 1944, on Kittatinny Mountain, New Jersey. And to every service member who has answered the call to serve. **WE REMEMBER. WE HONOR. WE WILL NEVER FORGET.**

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