28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Air Force Personnel Captured by the Japs.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D.C.

1. It has been ascertained from a captured document that the following Air Force personnel of this command are captives of the Japs:

   Lt. Colonel Edward J. Walker
   1st Lieutenant Fred F. Garrett
   1st Lieutenant Frank A. Tinker
   1st Lieutenant Russell Allen Phillips
   1st Lieutenant Louis S. Zamperini
   2nd Lieutenant James J. Palladino
   2nd Lieutenant Donald H. Wright
   2nd Lieutenant Charles Holland
   Tech. Sgt. Virgil Abbott
   Staff Sgt. George S. Leasford

2. The above list is forwarded for further action on the part of the War Department as it is not known in my headquarters what notification has been sent to the nearest of kin of the above-listed personnel.

WILLIS H. HALE,
Major General, U. S. A.,
Commanding.
AGO 704 (4 Apr 44) FC-2

2nd Ind.

AGO, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., 10 April 1944

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.

Information was recently received from the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, which indicated that the military personnel listed in basic communication were at one time prisoners of war of the Japanese Government at Kwajalein Atoll, from documents captured at that place and these personnel were at Kwajalein Atoll at the time of their interrogation. After weighing and considering all possibilities in connection with this report, it was felt that action changing the status of the individuals from "missing in action" (their present status as shown in the War Department casualty files) to "prisoners of war" should be withheld. This information was furnished the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, and pending the receipt of additional information or further instructions from higher authority, no action will be taken to change their status or to notify their emergency addressees of the information submitted by the Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adjutant General