

44-12-5-7

1w/26 Sep 60

Douglas

AFCRS-1

9/28

Engines Located on the Mendel Glacier

**Mr. John M. Davis
Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, California**

Dear Mr. Davis

1. Your letter of 1 September 1960 to the Hamilton Sub-regional Rescue Coordination Center, Hamilton AFB, California, has been referred to this office for answer.
2. The assistance provided the U. S. Air Force by you and your personnel in attempting to positively identify the wreckage located in the Sequoia National Park is greatly appreciated.
3. The wreckage located in LeConte Lake on 27 July 1960 has been identified as a B-24E Nr 41-28463 missing on a flight to Hammer Field, Fresno, California, on 5 December 1943.
4. Unfortunately, a thorough search of our records failed to disclose any wrecked Air Force aircraft on Mendel Glacier. The wheel located near the engines was of the type used primarily on aircraft approximating the size and configuration of the C-45 or now obsolete Lockheed Model 212 (this Model 212 corresponds to the Lockheed Electra of the late 1930s).
5. Unless further wreckage is located which could positively identify the accident, no further search of our files is anticipated.
6. Since the Commander of the Sixth Air Force Reserve Region at Hamilton AFB is desirous of closing his records, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to him.

Kopatich
Terry
Russler

Sincerely

X

**PAUL P. DOUGLAS, JR.
Colonel USAF
Executive
Deputy Inspector General for
Safety**

**Copies to: 6 AF Res Rgn
(HSRCC)**

Gerwig

*Doyle
Asst. Adm.*

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MEMO FOR RECORD: This ltr concerns the radial engines discovered on ice pillars on Mendel Glacier. We have been unable to identify the acdnt fr the info furnished.

The forest rangers have worked very closely with the Air Force in the identification of the B-24 acdnt discovered in LeConte Lake aprx the same time the three engines were discovered on Mendel Glacier. Only 6 miles separated the two wreckage locations. Although the B-24 wreckage was positively identified, we have not been able to locate any acdnt utilizing the type eng and wheel found on Mendel Glacier.