

HEADQUARTERS  
NORTHWEST AFRICAN AIR FORCES  
APO 650

30 May 1943

SUBJECT : Report of Search for Dog "Duckworth"

TO ; The Commanding General, Northwest African Air Forces.

1. Pursuant to instructions, I proceeded to the 52nd Fighter Group to locate the dog "Duckworth", the return of which had been requested by the parents of Lt. Richard J. East, by direct appeal to General Eisenhower. The dog was located and returned to Northwest African Air Forces, Advanced, and the circumstances surrounding the location of the dog are submitted herewith:

It was learned that the dog, "Duckworth", belonged jointly to Lt. Richard J. East, O-792111, and to his best friend, Harold F. Taff, O-792175. Lt. East was killed in action on April 4. His plane and grave were located after our forces had moved into the Tunis area. The loss of his best friend, Lt. East, has deeply affected Lt. Taff. The Commanding Officer of the 52nd Fighter Group brought Lt. Taff, with the dog, to the airplane. Lt. Taff was heartbroken with the thought of losing his dog, and wanted to spend every possible minute with him until the plane took off. He placed him in the plane, carefully tied him, and left the plane just before the take off. Col. West had been waiting in his car to take Lt. Taff back to his quarters, but Lt. Taff was seen to thank him and walk away from the car, to an adjoining field.

2. Under the circumstances, I am sure that the parents of Lt. East would not want to take the dog away from Lt. Taff.



*Everett R. Cook*  
EVERETT R. COOK,  
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