

Douglas C-47A 43-30676

03/16/1945

U.S. Army Air Force Douglas C-47A 43-30676 departed March Field in Riverside County, California late on the afternoon of March 16, 1945. The pilot, and aircraft commander was 1st Lt. Raymond Moore. Also on board was flight engineer, SSgt. Jack E. Moran, and passengers 2nd Lt. C.E. Beach, and J.A. Rice, USN. The destination of 43-30676 was Minter Field located in California's Central Valley. When the C-47 failed to arrive at its destination a search was initiated. Search efforts continued for several weeks without result. In late September 1945 two deer hunters saw aircraft wreckage above Parker Lake, and reported it to a district ranger. Several days later the ranger accompanied by the hunters hiked to Parker Lake, and up Mt. Lewis to the crash site of 43-30676. The recovery of the crew and passengers remains was accomplished before the first snows of Fall 1945. Why had the C-47A been so far off course? The accident report listed weather as a factor.



U.S.A.F. Personnel from March A.F.B. pose with part of the vertical stabilizer from C-47A 43-30676. Photo taken in the summer of 1969 during training mission for air force rescue personnel based at March Air Force. Note the three leaf clover and part of the serial number from C-47A 43-30676. Photo courtesy Bob Koch.



Photo taken in the summer of 1972 at Parker Lake by Douglas Westfall with a section of the vertical stabilizer from 43-30676.



Aerial photo taken during fly-over of C-47A 43-30676. Note how the aluminum reflects the sunlight. Photo courtesy Bob Koch