

Dear General Scott,

Thank you for writing about Hank. I ~~am~~ remain deeply saddened by the loss of two outstanding young men. I am writing this as a personal ^{letter} and would be less than honest if I tried to convey any sense of false hope. I came up over the crash site with three A4-1Gs approximately 5 minutes after impact and I had been monitoring all radio transmissions enroute to the target area. ~~I had seen Hank's aircraft~~ ~~at the way to the ground~~ Hank's wing ship covered him down and observed no movement inside the aircraft during or after the crash. The fire was intensive and ordnance started to explode after impact. I personally do not feel that there was any possibility of survivors. Your second question pertaining to official notice is being addressed in an official ^{letter} from General Hamlet to you.

Hank's performance was truly outstanding in every respect. I shared your feeling that he would someday be a General Officer. His potential and leadership were unlimited.

To the best of my knowledge, Hank could not have come home when the 101st stood down. ~~but~~ He was being considered for a drop at the end of April but volunteered to stay with us until mid-June. He wanted foremost to ~~help~~

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contribute to our mission and secondly to complete 5/6ths of a tour to preclude ^{another} family separation in the near future.

Hank had recently submitted a request for branch transfer to Primer based on his experience over here and guidance from interest from other officers including yourself.

Hank and CW-2 Winkler have been recommended for the Silver Star in connection with their actions on 5 April. I share with all of you a tremendous personal grief and loss. I hope to have an opportunity to visit Washington this summer and if you have no objections will contact your aide for an appointment to visit you and possibly your daughter and grand daughter if you felt appropriate. Please do not hesitate to write if I can be of any assistance. All of you are in my daily prayers and please keep my outstanding brave young Americans in your prayers.

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