

Pittsburgh's Greatest Unsolved Mystery

January 31, 1956



On January 31, 1956, a TB-25N (commonly known as a B-25 Bomber) ditched in the Monongahela River approximately six miles upriver from the Point at the City of Pittsburgh, PA. The air temperature was 27° F and the water was 34° F. All six crew members survived the impact with the river, but tragically two men died as they attempted to swim to shore. For the next two weeks, there was a search for this aircraft with no success and to date it has never been found. Conspiracy theories quickly surfaced that the U.S. Government secretly recovered the aircraft under the cover of darkness. Some of the theories why they took it out of the river were because it was transporting: a nuclear device, nerve gas, mafia money, a Russian defector, Howard Hughes, and even show girls from Las Vegas. The missing B-25 has become an urban legend and is still Pittsburgh's Greatest Unsolved Mystery.

In 1991, Filmet created the iconic photograph of the B-25 that is in the upper right-hand corner of this image by combining photographs of a B-25 in a hanger in Reading, PA, the Homestead High-Level Bridge, sky from Oregon, and water from Maine, and pictures of two people in the cockpit of the aircraft.

After years of research, the B-25 Recovery Group, LLC felt compelled to revise the iconic image of the B-25 to be more historically accurate. Under the auspices and approval of Filmet, they commissioned a graphic artist to make changes. Those changes included: the orientation of the plane hitting the water tail first, the color being natural aluminum, the green-house in the front was replaced with a solid nosecone, and all the armaments were removed. Floating debris was added to highlight that three of the four surviving crew members did so by hanging onto wood until picked up by boats. The red nun buoy marked an actual shallow area in the river that the plane had to avoid while ditching. Nose art now reflects the name "Linda Rose."

For more information or questions concerning Pittsburgh's Greatest Unsolved Mystery, email the B-25 Recovery Group LLC at B25LindaRose@gmail.com.

Learn More!

For additional information concerning the history of this missing B-25, we suggest you view this video:
<https://youtu.be/wb9tGSMJvmg>





A Pittsburgh Toast

The B-25 Recovery Group LLC invites you to join us in assigning the name “**Linda Rose**” to aircraft TB-25N, #44-12925, which was last seen on January 31, 1956 in the Monongahela River. You may have heard stories about its mysterious cargo and subsequent retrieval “in the dead of night.” Our investigations have also revealed that there were at least three other aircraft that either ditched in or crashed within a few miles of Pittsburgh’s rivers during the 1950s and 1960s. This has potentially led to much confusion. Regardless of whether you believe the aircraft is still in the river or has been taken out, there have been significant advances in underwater search technologies. The government has also released additional documents through the Freedom of Information Act that may shed light on the aircraft’s whereabouts. We feel that it is only a matter of time and technology before the final resting place of the B-25 is identified.

As we move forward with our search, both in the river and by reviewing historical documents, we feel it is fitting to acknowledge the inspiration and persistence of “Linda Rose.” For years, she authorized her company’s personnel, equipment, and resources to search for this aircraft.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum; Senator John Heinz History Center; Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.; and Marion Hill Associates, Inc. for their continued technical and financial support.

We would like to collectively toast all B-25 crews and members of our Armed Forces past and present for their:

“Service, Courage & Honor”

To participate from home or any other location, please select a drinking container (glass, mug, or goblet) and your favorite beverage to toast on January 31, 2024, at 4:11 pm (EDT). This will be the 68th Anniversary of this B-25 ditching in the Monongahela River. Although this is the preferred time, the Pittsburgh Toast can be done anytime at your convenience.

Spread the word!

Please pass this announcement on to your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you!

