

Organizational Information

870th Bombardment Squadron, 497th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy)
73rd Bombardment Wing, 20th Air Force
Isley Field, Saipan, Mariana Islands

<u>Aircraft Manufacturer</u>	<u>Aircraft Type</u>	<u>Aircraft Name</u>	<u>Aircraft Tail #</u>
Boeing Airplane Company, Wichita, Kansas	B-29-40-BW	Superfortress	42-24604

Facts and Circumstances

This grave marks the final resting place for seven individuals who were killed aboard this aircraft that departed Isley Field, Saipan, Mariana Islands enroute to a bombardment mission at Tokyo, Japan. The weather conditions at the time of this mishap were listed as clear visibility unrestricted except for smoke rising from fires. This was listed as Mission #67 with code name of Perdition # 1. The participating units were the 73rd, 313th and 314th Bombardment Wings with a total of three-hundred-forty-eight (348) aircraft being airborne on this mission. Altitude of attack was between 4750-11,000 feet and seven aircraft were lost. The bombing results were excellent with 296,000,000 square feet - 10.7 square miles, 6,850 acres destroyed. Six aircraft missing to unknown reasons and one aircraft ditched on return. Enemy air opposition was moderate with 102 attacks and six enemy aircraft were destroyed. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy and medium, meager to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Average bomb load was: 73rd Wing: 16,887 pounds, 313th Wing: 15,125 pounds, and 314th Wing: 9,409 pounds. There were no eyewitness to this mishap but the following comments on the Missing Air Crew Report revealed that this was a night mission, single aircraft. The plane was not seen after take-off and was never contacted by radio, neither was any message ever received from him. Some B-29's are known to have crashed in the target area. Japanese reports revealed that this aircraft exploded, burning from the center and crashed in the vicinity of Toshima Ku Ikebukuro 5 Chome. After the fire was extinguished these crewmembers were buried at the crash location and then reburied at the Tsuyama graveyard. They were then buried at the United States Armed Forces Cemetery, Yokohama #1, Yokohama, Japan. . In a report dated 22 April 1948, the following comments were found: "The initial report was predicated on a document that was seized by the Japanese. According to this document, nine bodies were discovered and buried in Jurin Temple, in Toshima-ku, Ikebukuro, by the supervisor of the cemetery. A Graves Registration report reveals that seven remains, designated as X-57 to X-63, inclusive, were disinterred from the cemetery at the Temple and reinterred in the US Military Cemetery, Yokohama #1, in grave # 198 to 204, inclusive. The bodies were decomposed and appeared to be charred. At the crash site, which was established as Tokyo-to, Toshima-ku, Ikebukuro, 5 Chome 189, wreckage containing several numbers was found, only one of which proved of value - 224604 found on the inside of the engine casting. Subsequent reports indicate that probably only seven or eight remains were taken from the wreckage and moved from the scene of the crash to the grounds of Jurinji Temple before burial in Nezyama Cemetery and that these remains were so badly burned that facial features were indistinguishable. The infestation was closed since it was believed that all recoverable remains were disinterred and that the crew members not accounted for were burned to ashes in the fire that followed the crash." All remains recovered after the war were examined and extensive efforts made to segregate and effect individual identification, but it was not possible due to circumstances of the crash and commingling of remains. Casualty date was 14 April 1945 and these remains were returned for interment at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on 3 September 1949. Missing Air Crew Report # 13833 covers the loss of this aircraft

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>MI</u>	<u>Suf</u>	<u>Branch of Service</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Crew Position</u>
Abar	Everett	P		US Army Air Forces	Capt	Aircraft Commander
Bossley	Harold	M		US Army Air Forces	SSgt	Left Waist Gunner
Callender	Earl	J		US Army Air Forces	1Lt	Flight Engineer
Ewing	Richard	A		US Army Air Forces	1Lt	Pilot
Meeker	Roy	E		US Army Air Forces	1Lt	Bombardier
Samela	Connie	N		US Army Air Forces	TSgt	CFC Gunner
Saucier	Conrad	J		US Army Air Forces	Sgt	Right Waist Gunner

Other individuals on this aircraft/mission

Below three crewmembers killed in crash, burial location is unknown.

Radar Observer
Monroe, Robert F
SSgt, US Army Air Forces

Radio Operator
Quattlander, George T
SSgt, US Army Air Forces

Navigator
Smith, Irvin L, Capt, US Army Air Forces
Killed in this crash and buried at
Plot Q Row 0 Grave 341, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Tail Gunner
Boal, Charles W Jr
SSgt, US Army Air Forces

Nickname of Aircraft: "Wheel N' Deal"