

Organizational Information

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

<u>Aircraft Manufacturer</u>	<u>Aircraft Type</u>	<u>Aircraft Name</u>	<u>Aircraft Tail #</u>
Bell Aircraft Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia	B-29-15-BA	Superfortress	42-63423

Facts and Circumstances

This grave marks the final resting place for five individuals who were killed aboard this aircraft that departed Isley Field, Saipan on a bombardment mission at the Nakajima aircraft factory, Tokyo, Japan. Clouds and high winds force seventy-six B-29 aircraft from the 73rd Bombardment Wing to divert from their primary targets, the Musashino and Nakajima aircraft plants in the Tokyo area. Fifty-six of the B-29s employ radar to attack urban areas in Tokyo and six attack alternates and targets of opportunity. Fighter opposition is the heaviest to date with five B-29s being shot down by Japanese fighters and four others ditch at sea or crash-land in the Mariana Islands. This ship was attacked by Corporal Masakazu Suzuki of the Japanese Army 244th Squadron causing it to crash in the area of Shbazoe-Dogenji, Fuji Omiya City, Japan. Cpl Suzuki was also killed in this mishap. Four members of this crew were captured as prisoners of war and detained by the Huzinomiya police squad. The Right Waist Gunner was taken to the Army hospital where he died on 10 February 1945 of his wounds and burns received in this crash. The other three individuals were taken to the Tokyo Army prison where they were burnt to death by the May 25-26, 1945 bombings. Comments from the 20th Air Force Combat Chronology for this date were as follows: By this date the forward detachments of the four B-29 groups in the Chengtu area have evacuated their bases and moved to more permanent bases in India. This move complies with JCS directive formulated on 16 December 44 and received on 18 December. The long-existing understanding that XX Bomber Command might be moved from CBI when more convenient bases are available is thus put into its initial stage when XX Bomber Command Commanding General, General LeMay, and JCS agree that on logistical grounds XX Bomber Command operating scheme is basically unsound, a situation made more apparent when in November the Japanese had overrun Luchou and Yungning and threatened Kunming. Twenty-two XX Bomber Command B-29s based in India hit navy yard and arsenal at Saigon. One bombs bridge at Bangkok. Results are poor. Seventy-six B-29s of 73rd Bomb Wing are airborne from the Marianas against Musashiho and Nakajima aircraft plants near Tokyo. Clouds and high winds over target area prevent bombing of the primary. Fifty-six very heavy bombers bomb secondary target of Tokyo urban area and six others attack alternates and targets of opportunity. Fighter opposition is the heaviest to date and five B-29s are downed. Four others ditch or crash-land. B-29 gunners claim sixty fighter kills, the highest claim to date. 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 the circumstances of the crash and the commingling of remains. The casualty date was 27 January 1945 and these remains were returned to Zachary Taylor National Cemetery for interment on 22 January 1949. Missing Air Crew Report # 11620 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>
Barr	Joseph	F		US Army Air Forces	Sgt	Left Waist Gunner
Cyran	Chester	C		US Army Air Forces	Sgt	Tail Gunner
Kennedy	William	J	Jr	US Army Air Forces	SSgt	CFC Gunner
Lovvorn	Lowell	E		US Army Air Forces	SSgt	Radar Operator
Overmire	William		Jr	US Army Air Forces	SSgt	Radio Operator

Other individuals on this aircraft/mission

Right Waist Gunner taken to the Army hospital where he died on 10 February 1945 of his wounds and burns received in this crash. The other three individuals were taken to the Tokyo Army prison where they were burnt to death by the bombings of May 25-26, 1945. Pilot, Co-Pilot and Engineer are listed on the Tablets of the Missing, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii and burial location of the Right Waist Gunner is unknown

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Engineer</u>	<u>Right Waist Gunner</u>
Hahn, Elmer G Capt, US Army Air Forces	Redinger, Eugene J 1Lt, US Army Air Forces	Edman, Herbert 1Lt, US Army Air Forces	Myhra, Clifford A Sgt, US Army Air Forces

Below two individuals killed in this crash and burial location is listed

<u>Navigator</u>	<u>Bombardier</u>
Frazier, Robert C, 1Lt, US Army Air Forces Section 34, Grave 2219 Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia	Lowe, Harry Jr, 1Lt, US Army Air Forces Section Q, Grave 1007 Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Nickname of Aircraft: "Werewolf"