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U.S. identifies remains of missing WWII airmen



Consolidated B-24J Liberator bomber. (U.S. Air Force)

The remains of eight servicemen who went missing in action during World War II have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The servicemen were aboard a B-24J Liberator bomber that was shot down on Sept. 1, 1944, while on a bombing mission near the town of Koror, Republic of Palau, the Pentagon said in a news release.

"Crewmen on other aircraft reported seeing (Lt. Jack S. M.) Arnett's aircraft come apart in the air and crash into the sea between Babelthuap and Koror islands," the release said. "Two parachutes were spotted, but none of the 11-man crew ever returned to friendly territory. An aerial search was unsuccessful, and more thorough recovery operations could not be conducted due to Japanese control of the area."

Post-war Japanese documents established that three crew members survived the crash but died while prisoners of the Japanese, the Pentagon said.

In 2004, a private wreckage-hunting group notified a team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command that it had discovered the wreckage of a B-24 on the ocean floor four miles northeast of where a diagram from U.S. records indicated a crash site.

In several efforts through 2008, divers recovered remains, which were then identified using mitochondrial DNA analysis, the biological profile of the remains, dental records and material evidence, including machine gun serial numbers and identification tags.

On Thursday, at Arlington National Cemetery, group remains were buried of Arnett, the pilot, of Charleston, W.V.; Flight Officer William B. Simpson, of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Tech. Sgt. Charles T. Goulding, of Marlboro, N.Y.; Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Stimson, of San Bernardino, Calif.; Staff Sgt. Jimmie Doyle, of Lamesa, Texas; Staff Sgt. Leland D. Price, of Oakwood, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Earl E. Yoh, of Scott, Ohio.

Individual remains of Lt. Frank J. Arhar, of Lloydell, Pa., also were buried at Arlington on Thursday. Individual remains of Arnett, Yoh, Doyle and Stinson were buried earlier by their families.



Posted by **Aubrey Cohen** at **April 29, 2010 5:38 p.m.**
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Posted by **unregistered user** at 4/29/2010 6:38 p.m.

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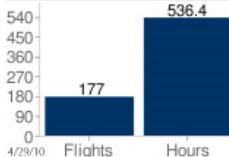


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