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WORLD WAR II

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Service held at Arlington National Cemetery for area men

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By TODD HELBERG

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ARLINGTON, Va. -- A burial service was held here Thursday for crew members -- including two local men -- who died when their B-24 aircraft was downed by Japanese fire during World War II.

The group service was conducted at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) just outside Washington, D.C., for eight men aboard the plane shot down on Sept. 1, 1944, during a bombing mission in what is now the Pacific Ocean nation of Palau. The plane was attacking Japanese-held ground targets.

Among those honored Thursday were Staff Sgt. Leland Price of Oakwood and Staff Sgt. Earl Yoh of Scott, located on the Paulding-Van Wert county line.

Three crew members parachuted from the plane and survived, but died as Japanese prisoners of war.

The other eight men were presumed dead while their plane was not discovered until recent years when a private group called the "BentProp Project" located their aircraft on the ocean floor. DNA testing and other evidence confirmed the identity of the fallen airmen.

The other six men honored Thursday were Second Lt. Frank Arhar of Lloydell, Pa.; Second Lt. Jack Arnett of Charleston, W.Va.; Staff Sgt. Jimmie Doyle of Lamesa, Texas; Tech. Sgt. Charles Goulding of Marlboro, N.Y.; Flight Officer William Simpson of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Tech. Sgt. Robert Stinson of San Bernadino, Calif.

The names of the eight crew members who died in the crash will be inscribed upon a group memorial marker in the cemetery, according to Kaitlin Horst of Arlington National Cemetery Public Affairs.

Yoh's remains were returned to his family about a year ago and buried in Mohr Cemetery, south of Haviland.

Individual burials have also been held for Arnett, Doyle and Stinson by their families, according to a press release issued by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office in Washington, D.C. But "remains representing the group and the individual remains of Arhar"

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were buried Thursday in the national cemetery.

Price's family held a memorial service for him on Sept. 19 at Defiance's Riverside Cemetery where his parents, Dean and Nellie Price, are buried.

According to information provided by Horst, Myrna Green, great-niece of Leland Price, received a U.S. flag during Thursday's service while the Yoh family received theirs during the service previously held for him.

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