

# Thomas Hartnett

U.S. Army Air Corps – 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

Missing in Action – March 20, 1944 – Solomon Islands



Bombardier Badge

Purple Heart		Air Medal	
American Campaign Medal	Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal	WWII Victory Medal	

Thomas was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 868th Bomber Squadron, XIII Bomber Command, Heavy. His plane, a SB-24J heavy bomber took off with a Crew of 10 and 2 Passengers, from Munda Field, New Georgia Island, Solomon Islands on a shipping strike. Based on those that survived the crash that killed him, shortly after takeoff the No. 1 engine would not reduce power no matter what the crew tried. This caused the SB-24 to eventually lose altitude and caused them to make a crash landing in the water. His body was not recovered.

He is memorialized at the *Tablets of the Missing* of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Manila, Philippines. He resided in Henderson County, North Carolina prior to the war. Thomas Harnett was flying a B-24 J when it crashed in the ocean. The B-24J was similar to the B-24H, but shortages of the Emerson nose turret required use of a modified, hydraulically

powered Consolidated A-6 turret in most J model aircraft built at Consolidated's San Diego and Fort Worth factories. The B-24J featured an improved autopilot (type C-1) and an M-1 series bombsight. B-24H sub-assemblies made by Ford and constructed by other companies and any model with a C-1 or M-1 retrofit, were all designated B-24J. The J model was the only version to be built by all five factories involved in B-24 production. (Total: 6,678)

