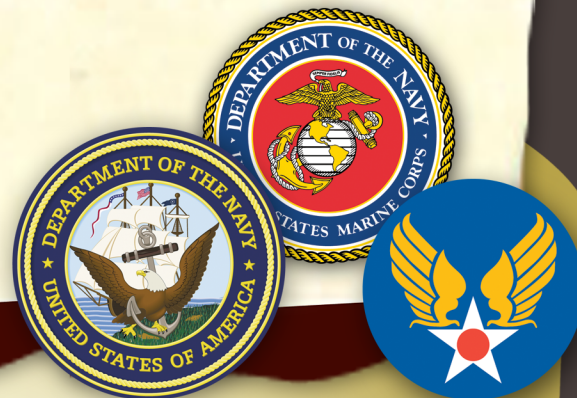


# THE ANTHONY CREW - AUGUST 10, 1944

13TH AIR FORCE, 307TH BOMBARDMENT G, & 371ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

B-24J A.A.F. SERIAL NUMBER 44-40571



**The Mission:** Lt. Don Anthony's B-24 and crew failed to return from Yap on August 10, 1944. The plane was last seen entering a heavy weather front 30 minutes before reaching Yap. They likely became separated from the rest of the squadron and arrived over Yap after the other planes had already bombed their targets. Lt. Anthony tried to contact the squadron leader but the message was garbled. A gunner from another squadron reported hearing the following message: "Am going down in flames over the target." Radio Tokyo reported on August 11th, "The Japanese garrison on Yap Island shot down one enemy plane from an enemy formation of nineteen heavy bombers which raided the island yesterday." Two of the eleven members of the Anthony crew were captured by the Japanese near the mouth of Yap Harbor. One of the men captured, Sgt. Hilary Gilbert, was shot down and rescued on July 17, 1944 after going down with the Kizer B-24 crew on a mission to Yap. He was shot down a second time in less than a month, both over Yap, with the Anthony crew. It is likely the Anthony crew was hit by anti-aircraft fire while bombing Colonia and went down outside the harbor entrance due to the fact that the two surviving crew members landed near the harbor entrance.

## The Men:

Don A. Anthony, Pilot from Pittsburgh, PA  
Robert D. Baker, Co-Pilot from Burlington, NJ  
William C. Galton, Navigator from Madison, NJ  
James H. Cuddy, Bombardier from Bethany, MO  
Donald E. Carlson, Engineer from Valley, NE  
Ernest R. Mayo, A. Engineer from Rocky Mount, NC  
Richard J. O'Brien, Radio Operator from Philadelphia, PA  
Norman C. Echols, A. Radio Operator from Sioux City, IA  
Henry J. Hartman, A. Gunner from Brooklyn, NY  
Reynold B. Mooney, Gunner from Pittsburgh, PA  
Hilary Gilbert, Jr., Photographer from Norfolk, VA



**Anthony Flight Crew**

**The Plane:** The B-24 Liberator was a four-engine American heavy bomber. It was produced in greater numbers than any other American combat aircraft of World War II and still holds the record as the most produced US military aircraft. It was used by many Allied air forces and every U.S. branch of service during the war, attaining a distinguished war record with its operations in the northern European, Pacific and Mediterranean theaters. Often compared to the better known B-17 Flying Fortress, the B-24 was a more modern design with a higher top speed, greater range and a higher bomb load. The B-24 provided excellent service in a variety of roles thanks to its large payload and long range. 18,482 B-24s were built by September 1945.

**The Base:** The Anthony B-24 crew's home base at the time of their fateful mission was Mokerang Field in the Admiralty Islands. Mokerang field was located on Los Negros Island. On February 29, 1944 an American force landed on Los Negros Island, the third largest of the Admiralty Islands. A furious battle developed for control of the Admiralty Islands. The battle was fought out in the islands, on the surrounding waters, and in the sky. In the end, Allied air superiority and command of the sea allowed the Allies to heavily reinforce their position on Los Negros and capture it from the Japanese. The Admiralty Islands campaign officially ended on 18 May 1944. The Allied victory completed the isolation of the major Japanese base at Rabaul that was the ultimate objective of the Allied campaigns of 1942 and 1943. A major air and naval base was developed in the Admiralty Islands that became an important launching point for the campaigns of 1944 in the Pacific, including the Anthony crew's final mission.