



Andrew A. Sturchio 23-42

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Forces

Service # 1167242

**71st Bomber Squadron
38th Bomber Group, Heavy**

Entered the Service from: New Jersey

Died: 7-July-1945

Missing in Action or Buried at Sea

**Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery
Manila, Philippines**

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart



SECRET

COMBAT NARRATIVE

The destruction of the few remaining factories in Formosa was the purpose of the mission for July 7, 1945. The Toyo Sugar Refinery at Getsubi consisting of approximately eleven factory type buildings, two storage tanks and a small railroad yard was the principal target for the six B-25's of the 71st Bombardment Squadron. There were no known heavy, or medium anti-aircraft positions protecting the factory site. Light anti-aircraft fire and ground fire was probable and expected. The bombing and strafing run was planned on a due West heading making the run from land to sea.

Six B-25's of the 71st Squadron took off from Lingayen strip at 0815/I. The formation headed for Formosa at 0830/I. Approaching the target area the Squadron in a six plane abreast formation bombed and strafed the assigned target area at 1129/I. A total of 24 X 500 pound 4-5 second delay bombs were dropped select. The bombs were observed hitting a factory type building which caused an explosion with debris to 100 feet. Five to six house type buildings were destroyed with a direct bomb hit. 18,250 X .50 caliber ammunition was expended in strafing, causing damage to several houses and setting a camouflaged locomotive on fire.

On this mission airplane #942, piloted by First Lieutenant Harold P. Tiddens was lost. His plane was observed over the target with the right engine nacelle on fire. Nearing the coast the plane pulled up to approximately 500 feet. At this time the right wing had burned off. The plane crashed approximately one-quarter mile off shore. There are no known survivors.

SECRET

CREW LOST DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY, 1945.

Pilot	TIDDENS, H.P. 1ST LT.	K.I.A.
Co-Pilot	LARSON, G.C. 2ND LT.	K.I.A.
Navigator	SPURCHIO, A.A. 2ND LT.	K.I.A.
Gunner	LOUDEVILLE, W.J. CPL.	K.I.A.
Gunner	ZERINSKY, P. SOY.	K.I.A.

This crew was shot down over Formosa.