

S/Sgt Frank J. Crane

Location - East-A: R23, C26



PLANE EXPLODED ENROUTE TO JAPAN ON BOMBING MISSION

S/Sgt. Frank J. Crane of Oshkosh, Gunner Aboard B-29, Presumed to Have Been Killed

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crane, 1214 Ninth street, have received a letter from the commanding officer of the Saipan base for B-29 Super-Fortresses informing them their son, S/Sgt. Frank J. Crane, possibly has been killed in action.

No word has been received from the war department, but the letter from the officer stated Staff Sergeant Crane's plane was seen to explode and four of the crew members, all blown free of the plane, were rescued, but eight others, apparently including Crane, were unaccounted for.

The letter also said the ill-fated bomber had taken off for a bombing mission over Nagoya, but when only 100 miles off Saipan's coast the engines caught fire. The crew jettisoned the plane's load of bombs, but had lost so much altitude the resulting explosion of the released bombs engulfed the bomber and the plane exploded.

Was Reported Missing

Mr. and Mrs. Crane had been previously notified that their son was missing in action. No details of the action were given at the time, but the date was set at Jan. 14.

The B-29 on which Crane served, dubbed the "Lucky Lynn," was the lead plane on one of the raids over Tokyo and as such was the subject of an article appearing in the service publication "Yank." Crane was a gunner.

Sergeant Crane enlisted in the air corps in 1940 and was stationed at Hickman Field in Hawaii at the time of the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. He had seen action in numerous Pacific engagements. Another brother, John "Jack" Crane, is in training for the navy air corps at Pensacola, Fla.

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HISTORICAL
COLLECTION

3-12-45

SGT. F. J. CRANE DEFINITELY LISTED AS KILLED IN ACTION

6-30-45
S/Sgt. Frank J. Crane, who participated in the first B-29 raid on Tokyo, has been definitely reported killed in action with the United States air forces in the southwest Pacific, according to government notification received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crane, 1214 Ninth street.

Unofficial word from his commanding officer in March, had presumed him to be dead when a B-29 Super-Fortress, on which the deceased was a gunner, exploded about 100 miles from Saipan on a bombing mission over Nagoya. Four of the crew were rescued at that time, but the other eight, including Crane, had not been found. The latest telegram officially declared him dead, and said that further details will follow.

Was at Hickam Field

At the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Crane was at Hickam Field, Hawaii, with the armed forces, having enlisted in 1940. A year and a half later, he was returned to the United States where he received training as a Super-Fortress gunner. He had been on a number of bombing missions over Tokyo previous to the fatal flight which cost him his life.

The deceased was born Sept. 22, 1917, and attended St. John's Catholic school and Oshkosh High school, graduating in 1936. He attended Oshkosh State Teachers college for two and a half years and then went to work as draftsman for the Leach Company.

Surviving are his parents; a twin sister, Mrs. Arthur Ostertag of this city; two brothers, Clarence of Washington, D. C., and John George, an ensign in the U. S. navy at Corpus Christi, Tex., and a nephew.

Memorial services will be held as soon as arrangements can be made.

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6-30-45

SERGEANT IS MISSING IN ACTION

**Frank J. Crane, One of Tokyo
Raiders, Is Unreported Since
Date of Jan. 14**

With several raids over Tokyo already to his credit, S/Sgt. Frank J. Crane, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crane, 1214 Ninth street, has been listed as missing in action.

Sergeant Crane was fire control man and command gunner aboard a B-29. No details of the action were given but the date was set as Jan. 14. Other information will follow, the message from the war department, received several days ago, said.

The B-29 on which Crane served, dubbed the "Lucky Lynn," was the lead plane on one of the raids over Tokyo from a base in Saipan, and as such was the subject of an article appearing recently in the service publication "Yank."

Sergeant Crane enlisted in the air corps in 1940 and was stationed in Hawaii at Hickham Field at the time of the Jap sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. He has seen action in numerous Pacific engagements.

PARENTS RECEIVE POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR SERGEANT CRANE

The air medal has been awarded posthumously to the parents of S/Sgt. Frank J. Crane. The award was made at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crane, 1214 Ninth street, by Capt. Raymond E. Watts and First Lt. Thomas H. Scott.

According to the citation accompanying the medal, it was given for "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight from Oct. 28, 1944, to Dec. 3, 1944, as combat crew member in successful combat missions from bases in the Marianas island against the Japanese empire. . .

"Under prolonged period of physical and mental strain, and undaunted by the many hazards faced regularly and continuously, each crew member displayed such courage and skill in the performance of his duty as to reflect great credit on himself and the army air forces."

Sergeant Crane enlisted in the army air corps Oct. 28, 1940. He was stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii, when the Japanese made their Dec. 7, 1941 attack. On Jan. 14, 1945, he was aboard a B-29 when the plane exploded.

The purple heart was also awarded posthumously at a previous date. Other medals earned by the sergeant included the good conduct medal, the American defense ribbon with bronze star for defense of Pearl Harbor, the American theater of operations ribbon and the Pacific theater ribbon.

Pvt. Frank J. Crane of Oshkosh is at Hickham Field, Hawaii, with the Fifth bombardment. He has been stationed there since October, 1940. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crane, 1214 Ninth street.

IN MEMORY OF
FRANK JOSEPH CRANE
S SGT US ARMY AIR CORPS
WORLD WAR II

SEP 22 1917

JAN 14 1945

PH MIA

