



Profile 106 B-17E serial 41-2458 *Yankee Diddler*

This Fortress served in Java with the 28th BS and 30th BS and then from Mareeba with the 93rd BS and 435th BS. On 31 July 1942 it was reassigned again this time to the 8th PRS with which its ventral Bendix ball turret was removed, and the bomber was converted for photo reconnaissance flights. In November 1942 it was reassigned to the 65th BS then in February 1943 briefly to the 403rd BS, but by month's end it was returned to the 65th BS. Its original artwork was applied shortly after it arrived in Australia, but it changed in both colours and format over the course of the numerous units with which it served. When modified to armed transport configuration it was given four new engines, then assigned to the 39th TCS where it received squadron number 25. After an extensive career the bomber was finally scrapped at Brisbane in January 1945.

Profile 107 B-17E serial 41-2464 *Queenie*

This last profile in this volume is reserved for the last Fortress lost in the SWPA theatre. The bomber was a veteran of both the 19th and 43rd BGs. It was named *Queenie* (after a pilot's wife) when with the 64th BS, before it was transferred to the 65th BS in July 1943. On 3 August 1943 it suffered major damage when its copilot accidentally retracted the landing gear at Seven-Mile. After yet more repairs it briefly served with the Thirteenth Air Force in the Solomons as a photo platform. Then following conversion to armed transport configuration, it was transferred to Fifth Air Force Service Command. Its last flight was on 8 July 1944 when it departed Nadzab bound for Biak, but after take-off it was never seen again, costing the lives of five crew and fourteen passengers. The circumstances of its loss remain unknown, and the wreckage has not been located, giving strength to the possibility it may have crashed into the ocean.