

## U.S. Army Air Force Staff SGT Joseph P. Amaral *Died August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1944*

Joseph (Joe) P. Amaral was born in Pleasanton on March 26, 1924. He graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1941 and joined the United States Army Air Force.



Joe graduated from the Air Force Technical School and became a gunner on a B24 Liberator bomber. Joe was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force, 819<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, 30<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group, Heavy. As a gunner he participated in combat missions in the South Pacific over Saipan Island.



On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1944 he was on his 3<sup>rd</sup> mission, a bombing run over Iwo Jima. During the mission they were attacked by Japanese fighters and received significant damage, killing the co-pilot and injuring the pilot and flight surgeon. The cripple plane was nursed along for three hours in an attempt to reach their base in Saipan. About 25 miles from Saipan the pilot turned off the automatic pilot and attempted to take control of the plane in order to prepare for a landing.



Unfortunately the controls had been severely damaged and did not function properly causing the plane to fall into a flat spin. During the confusion some of the crew parachuted from the plane while others prepared for a water landing. Joseph was among those at the rear of the plane who prepared for a water landing. Navy ships were on seen shortly after the crash and were able to save three crew members. Joseph and several other men who stayed with the plane were never found and eventually had their status changed from missing in action to killed in action.

Today, in Honolulu, Hawaii there stands a WWII memorial to the “Missing in Action or Buried at Sea.” The name of Joseph P. Amaral is inscribed there.

The Amaral Family owned the property where Veteran Plaza is located.



World War II  
Missing in Action or Buried at Sea



Joseph P. Amaral

ID: 39129523

Entered the Service From: California

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Service: U.S. Army Air  
Forces, 819th Bomber Squadron,  
30th Bomber Group, Heavy

Died: Monday, August 14, 1944

Memorialized at: Honolulu Memorial

Location: Honolulu, HI, USA

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart