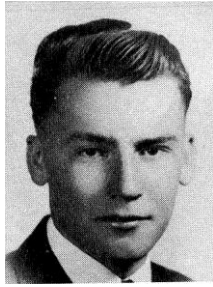
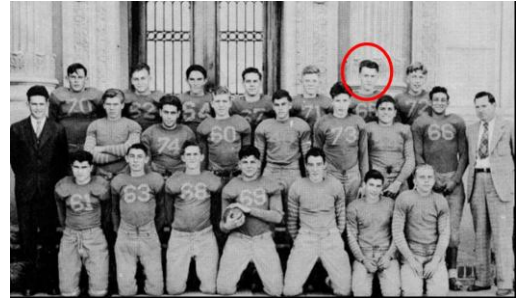


U.S. Army Air Force 2nd LT James W. McCann *Died November 2nd, 1943*



James W. McCann grew up in Pleasanton. He went to Amador Valley High School where he was President of the student body, lettered in football and basketball, and graduated in 1939.



He joined the Army Air Force, became an officer, and was assigned to 5th Army Air Force, 8th Bomber Squadron, 3rd Bomber Group, Light.



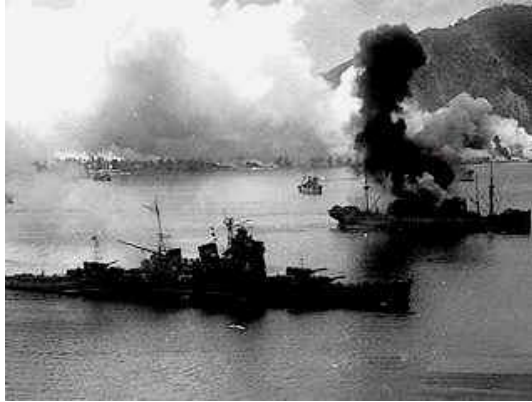
During his early days with the 8th Bomber Squadron he flew in A-24 Dauntless bombers, which consisted of a crew of two, a pilot and gunner. In 1943 he was in New Guinea and was flying in B-25 Mitchell bombers, which consisted of a crew of six, two pilots, navigator/bombardier, turret gunner/engineer, radio operator/waist gunner, tail gunner.



The 3rd Bomber Group, sometimes called the 3rd Attack Group, had made itself a reputation as being the premiere unit of the 5th Army Air Force. In 1943 they flew out of Port Moresby, New Guinea. On November 2nd, 1943 the squadron took off at 6:30am to attack Rabaul airstrip and Simpson Harbor. “*Bloody Tuesday*” dealt the Japanese heavy losses. In fewer than fifteen minutes the B-25s attacked forty-one ships, bombed two dozen, and strafed seventeen more. Destruction was estimated as:

- 1 Heavy Cruiser
- 1 Destroyer Tender
- 1 Submarine Tender
- 3 Destroyers
- 2 Auxiliary Craft
- 3 Mine Sweepers
- 16 Merchant Ships
- 2 Tankers
- 1 Barge
- 1 Tug Boat

In all it amounted to more than 114,000 tons of enemy shipping lost, 300,000 tons damaged. In addition, sixty-eight enemy aircraft were destroyed either in the air or on the ground.




For the pilots and their crews it was also one of the deadliest days in Fifth Air Force history. Forty-five American pilots were killed or missing, and aircraft losses were nine P-38s and eight B-25s. 2LT James McCann was among the 45 pilots lost that day, including their squadron leader Major Raymond Wilkins.

Major Wilkins was awarded the Medal of Honor and 2LT McCann was awarded the Silver Star.



James McCann's body was never recovered and is on the Tablets of the Missing in Manila, Philippines at the Manila American Cemetery.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

 THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL

James W. McCann, Jr.

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Forces

Service # 0-742753

8th Bomber Squadron, 3rd Bomber Group, Light

Entered the Service from: California
Died: 2-Nov-43
Missing in Action or Buried at Sea
Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery
Manila, Philippines

Awards: Silver Star, Purple Heart

