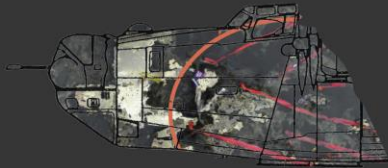


Slide 1

## **DIXON NOSE DETAIL**



The purpose of this document is to provide past and current day visual reference to the location and condition of the Dixon Nose Compartment


Credit: Graphics and photo by Ted Mikita

## **WHY INVESTIGATE THIS B-24 NOSE SECTION?**

- Recent field investigation and analyses (since 1994) now provide credible evidence that the nose section of B24J-170-CO, Serial No: 44-40603, has been located (which lies near shore, in shallow water).<sup>1,2</sup>
- Up to six crew members of '603 would have been in this section of the plane as it crashed (based on their crew positions for the mission).<sup>3</sup>
- The nose section of the plane separated from the aft fuselage as it broke up and there is aerial photo evidence of the impact of the nose as it hit the water which aligns with where the nose was found in 1994.<sup>4</sup>
- An investigation of an inshore discovery of an additional crew compartment is not indicated in any AGRS or other official reports, so it is reasonable to suppose it is a new discovery.<sup>5</sup>
- AGRS only found the dog tags of a waist gunner (S/Sgt Farnam) among remains of three individuals who were in the aft section of the aircraft (based on their crew positions for the mission).<sup>6</sup>
- No dog tags (other than Farnam) or other personal effects from other crew members have been found to date – there may be some in the nose section.<sup>7</sup>

1. <https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/b-24/44-40603.html>
2. Missing Air Crew Report NARA MACR 19440828 372BS 4M319 After Action Report MACR - Dixon 28 Aug 44 Bombing Mission 4M319
3. NARA RG 92 Burial File, GB-385, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery p 184 compiled copy of MACR
4. NARA Archives\Can 806\1944-08-28-307-424-ap792-4m319-15-pos cu 1.jpg SHIP #792 424<sup>th</sup> BS frame 15
5. NARA RG 92 Burial File, GB-385, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery pp107-110,182 and 192
6. NARA RG 92 Burial File, GB-385, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery pp108
7. NARA RG 92 Burial File, GB-385, Zachary Taylor National Cemetery pp192

## THE CREW OF '603 – MOST ARE STILL MISSING



George Feeney Don Elliott Clifford Biggenstaff Herb Farnam Bob Mansell Roger Holt  
FR Engineer Radio Opr Armorer Asst Engr Asst Radio Opr Armorer  
Top Turret Waist Gun Nose Turret Waist Gun Belly Turret Tail Turret

Gordon Dixon Pilot Art Wilson Copilot Terry surviving Navigator James Aldrich surviving Bombardier


**372 Bomb Squadron Command Ship, Capt W. G. Dixon, C.O.**  
Dixon Crew, Taken at Bos Negros, New Guinea RIP Koror, Palau, 28 Aug 44

photo processing and captioning by Ted E. Mikita, Jr. photo courtesy George Feeney family

Airplane Type: B24J-170-CO  
Serial No: 44-40603



CAPT TENTON  
substituted Bombardier



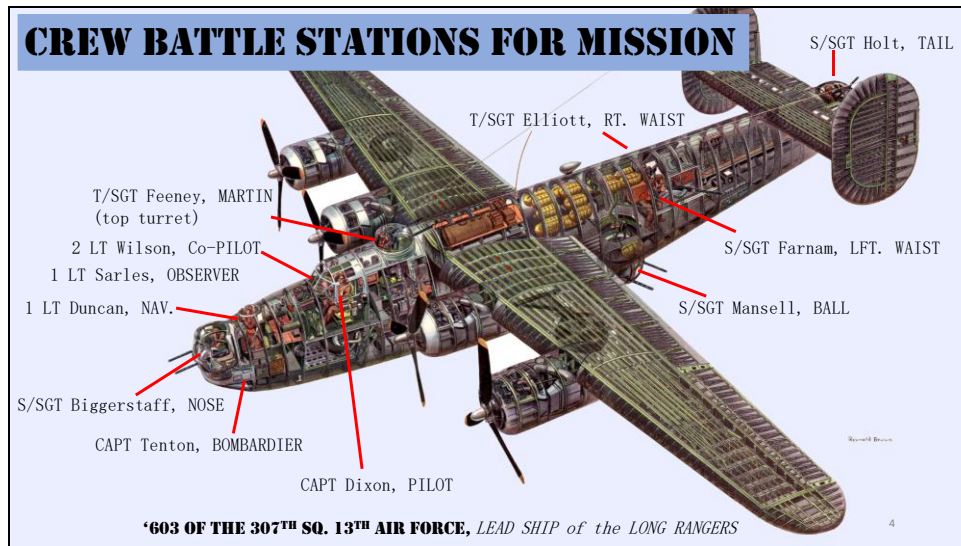
1<sup>st</sup> LT DUNCAN  
substituted Navigator



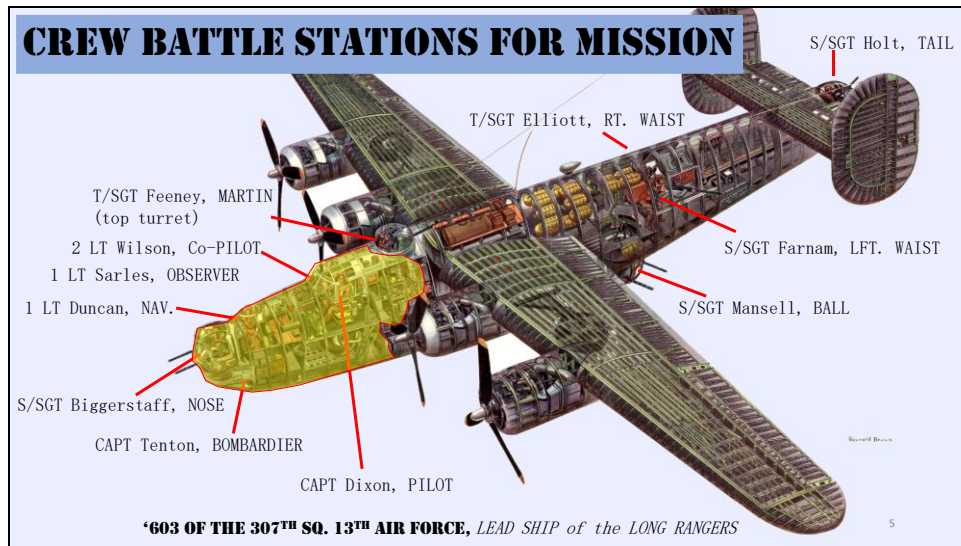
1<sup>st</sup> LT SARLES  
Observer (Navigator, Bombardier & Intel)

*Terry and Aldrich were not on the 28 Aug 1944 mission.*

On the mission of 28 August 1944 Squadron Commander Captain Dixon's crew, augmented by the Squadron Bombardier Max Tenton, Carson crew's Navigator Paul Duncan and Bomb Group Nav/Bomb observer John Sarles, led the formation in ship 44-40603. In September 1948 only 3 remains were recovered from the wreckage, and the rest were assumed to have burned. Most of the rest were in a separate crew compartment and this compartment has been located.

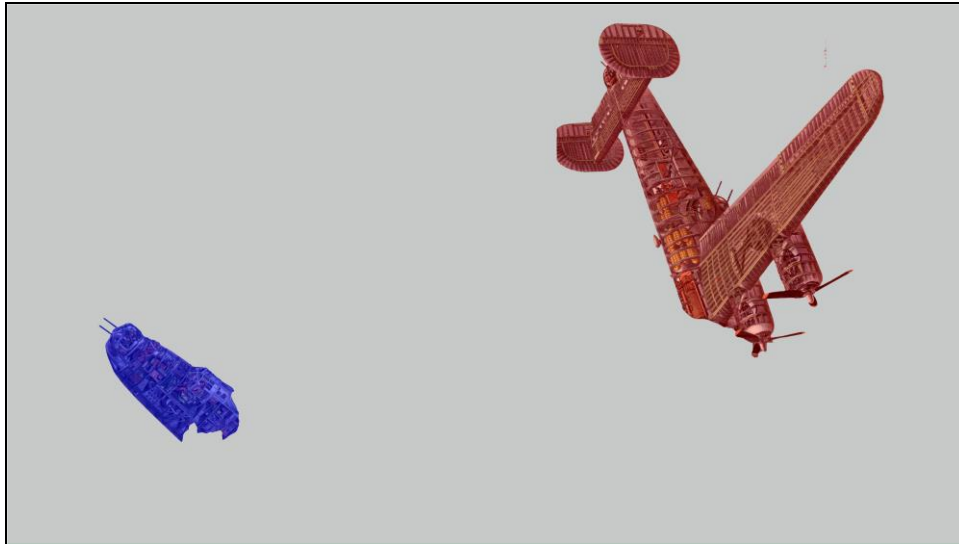


Assigned crew positions for each crewmember on the plane. All crewmembers were at their battlestations on the bomb run when the aircraft was hit.

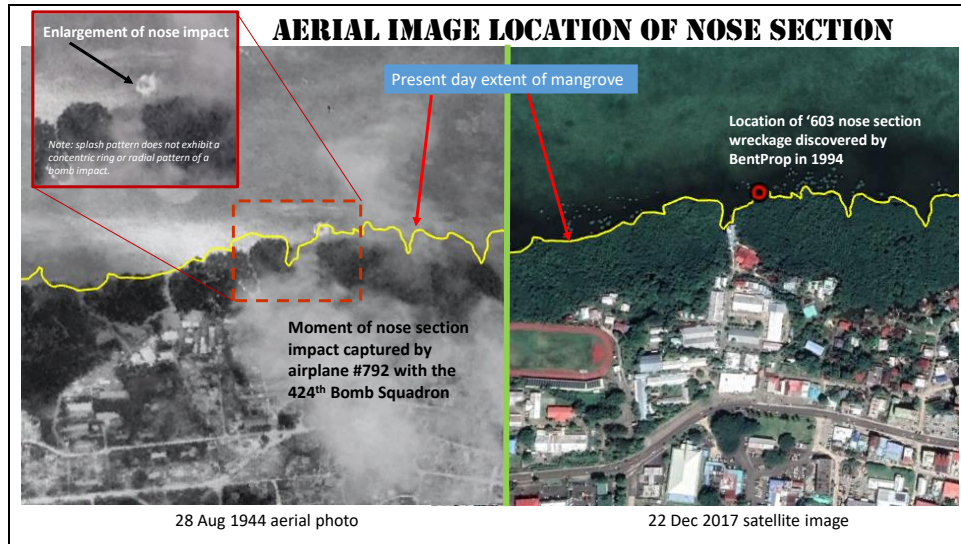


Assigned crew positions for each crewmember on the plane. All crewmembers were at their battlestations on the bomb run when the aircraft was hit.

Slide 6



Until the nose compartment was discovered off the N Shore of Koror in 1994, Bomb Group observers, and later the graves registration service searchers did not know that the nose separated. When the wreck was discovered in Koror Town in 1948 there wasn't much there ; they found some remains in 1948, and assumed that this was all that there was of the wreck.



**AERIAL PHOTOS OF IMPACTS**



Bomb Splash Patterns - exhibit a concentric ring or radial pattern at impact.



'603 Nose Section - exhibits a slightly irregular to rectangular shape at impact by ship '284

28 Aug 1944 aerial photo (source: National Archives)

1. NARA Can 806\1944-08-28-307-424-ap792-4m319-07-pos 20151217\_123523 .jpg SHIP #792 424<sup>th</sup> BS frame 7
2. NARA Can 806\1944-08-28-307-371-ap284-4m319-08-pos c u 1.jpg SHIP #284 371st BS frame 8



**ADDITIONAL PERIOD PHOTOS OF NOSE IMPACT**



28 Aug 44 Nose Splash off N Koror, ship '792



01 Sep 44 Nose Reflection off N Koror, ship '567  
i.e. 4 days after crash

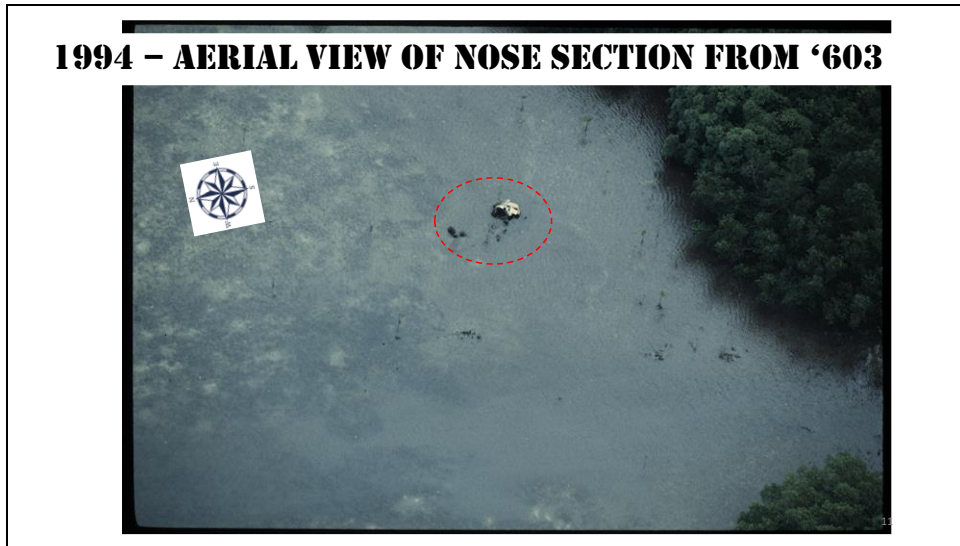
1. NARA Archives\Can 806\1944-08-28-307-424-ap792-4m319-15-pos cu 1.jpg SHIP #792 424<sup>th</sup> BS frame 15
2. NARA Archives\Can 833\1944-09-01-307-372-ap567-4m323-24 pos cu 2.jpg SHIP #567 372<sup>nd</sup> BS frame 24

Slide 10



Screenshot Ted Mikita Google Earth records

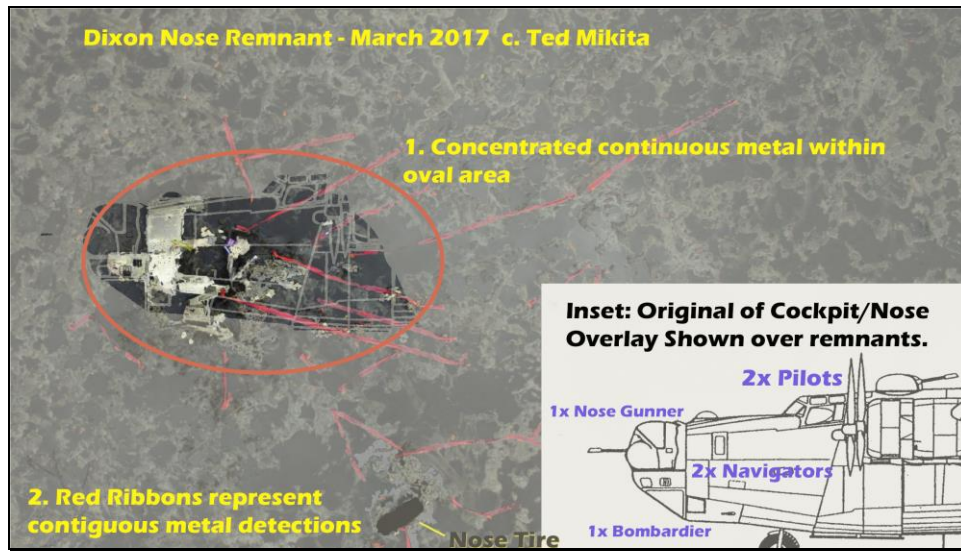
Slide 11



1994 Credit: Patrick J Scannon, Project Recover



Credit: Ted Mikita personal photo collection, graphics added  
Red tape reflects metal detection areas



Credit: Ted Mikita personal photo collection graphics added.