



World War II Honoree

Killed in World War II



Robert A. Rockefeller

BRANCH OF
SERVICE
**U.S. Army Air
Forces**



HOMETOWN
Morris County, NJ

HONORED BY
Sam E. Pennartz

ACTIVITY DURING WWII

ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATRES OF OPERATION, FIFTH AIR FORCE, 22ND BOMB GROUP (MEDIUM), HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, STATIONED AT GARBUTT AERODROME NEAR TOWNSVILLE IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. AFTER A REFUELING STOP AT '7-MILE STRIP' NORTH OF PORT MORESBY ON JUNE 9, 1942, HE FLEW IN THE AERIAL GUNNER POSITION ABOARD A MARTIN B-26 MARAUDER NICKNAMED 'THE VIRGINIAN' (TAIL # 40-1508). HIS AIRCRAFT WAS ONE OF ELEVEN B-26 BOMBERS JOINING A BOMB GROUP FORMATION OF B-25 AND B-17 AIRCRAFT ON A MISSION TO BOMBARD JAPANESE FORCES OCCUPYING THE AIRFIELDS AT LAE AND SALAMAUA, NEW GUINEA. THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A BAND OF 20 JAPANESE 'ZERO' FIGHTER PLANES, WITH 'THE VIRGINIAN' BEING SHOT DOWN OVER NASSAU BAY APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES SOUTH OF SALAMAUA, RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF ALL ONBOARD.