

*(Editors note: The following correspondence relates to the loss of 42-24894 on May 29, 1945. We have verified that the correct serial number is (894) and not (594). The Japanese historian, Ya Hayashi, deserves thanks for his careful research.)*

From: Sparky Corradina

Subject: Lt. Clark and 42-24894

I have been wondering about the Clark crew for some time now since I had read in Neil Wemple's book that one or two parachutes were seen and the whole crew was listed as MIA.

Tonight I got the information from Ya, historian. Two did bail out, Hurley and Robertson and were POW's. They were executed on June 28, 1945, along with some crew members of the 444th. These are the first men of the 40th that I have found to have been murdered.

I don't know if anyone in the 40th ever knew this. This is closure for this crew.

We Shall Never Forget.

Best Regards,  
Sparky

PS: Below is Ya's letter to me.

Dear Sparkey

A B29 (airframe number 42-24594, 40BG58BW) crashed on Fujikawa Higashi-Kawane-village (now, Hon-Kawane-cho) Shita-gun Shizuoka-prefecture, nine o'clock in the morning on 29 May 1945.

While large B29 formation passing over the village, an aircraft rammed by fighter "nick", then broken up in the air.

Principal parts of the aircraft were dropped on the forest near by Tokuya-shrine.

Incendiary bombs equipped by the aircraft were scattered about here and there in the village and burnt several residents.

Nine crews killed in crashed aircraft, buried near crashed area, and recovered by U.S. Military after the end of the war.

Two crews, Elgio L. Robertson (sergeant) and Richard H. Hurley (second

lieutenant), were parachuted on the forest of Fujikawa, arrested and sent to Tokai Military Command.

They sentenced to decapitation by the command on 28 June in forest of Akatsu-cho Seto-city Aichi prefecture with nine crews of B29 (airframe number 42-63451, Black Jack Too, 444BG58BW) arrested on 5 June 1945 in Mie-prefecture.

Please accept my sincerest condolences upon this sad event.

I requested to Institute of Historical Materials of Seto-city to discover the place of execution.

Any questions accepted.

Sincerely Yours

Ya

notes:

This story is based on the unpublished report written by Mr. Toru Fukubayashi

I wonder which is correct 42-24594 or 42-24894.

*(Following is information on the source.)*

The Japanese source is Ya Hayashi. He joined Sallyann's B-29 Group about six months ago. He has been so helpful to many members in the group. I got to know him pretty good with personal e-mails in research. He lives in Nagoya. In Wemple's book he said that 894 when down 35 miles from Kyoto and Ya said it was correct your sentence "35 miles west of the city of Kyoto" as "35 miles west of the city of Numadzu".