

DAVID RICHARD EPPRIGHT

1917--1943

Warrensburg, Mo.--First Lt. David Eppright Missing in Action Nov 5 1943, declared dead in 1946 was found in 2002 by a hunter at 10,800 feet in the mountains of New Guinea. After identifying the numbers on the plane which an avalanche had covered it, several search teams until late 2005 were sent out by the U.S. Army Central Identification Team of Hawaii to excavate the site, collect remains and possessions for identification of the nine crew members. That process has been completed and the remains are being returned to families or Arlington for interment. Families are so grateful for the efforts of so many. David's remains will be received by the Meierhoffer Funeral Home and Crematory of St. Joseph, Mo for his widow, Helen Pennington of St. Joseph, Mo. and his son David Richard Bauman and his wife Peggy of Pittsburg, Pa.

David was born February 28, 1917 to George and Eva Jane McElwee, Warrensburg, Mo. both now deceased as are one sister, Georgia Graham, and six brothers, John, James, Frank, Tom, Charles, and Denny. Surviving them are Georgia's son Jim Graham of Ft. Smith, Ar; Jim's daughter, Gayla Christensen, husband Dennis of the University of Texas, and son Leon Eppright of Warrensburg; Frank's daughter, Beverly Ann Morgan, husband Charles of Oklahoma city, Ok; Tom's daughters, Jane Sudderth and Judy Eppright of Dallas, Tx; Charles's widow. Ila of Versailles, Mo. and their children, Frank, wife Elaine of Lenexa, Ks, Tom and wife Janice of Cleveland, Oh, Patti and husband Kevin Schehr of Versailles, and Martha, husband Chuck Roussin of Fl.

David graduated from Centerview, Mo High School, Central Mo. University and Chillicothe, Mo Business College. He and Helen taught at Winston, Mo. High School. Since his enlistment Number was so low he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to serve his one year before searching for a business job. Following three years of enlistment, he received Wings and Commission at Hondo Navigational School. Since he was the Honor Student he was retained as a teacher until assignment to Langley Field, Va. On Oct. 1, 1943 he was ordered to New Guinea. His crew of the USAAF 5th AF 43rd BG 63rd BS of the B-24D-120 Serial Number 42-40972 was ordered Nov 4, 1943 to shadow a 10 ship convoy near Kaveing to the limit of their fuel. They radioed 3 direct hits all bombs used at 0120/1. When the plane was found the clock on the aircraft was stopped at 0121/1.