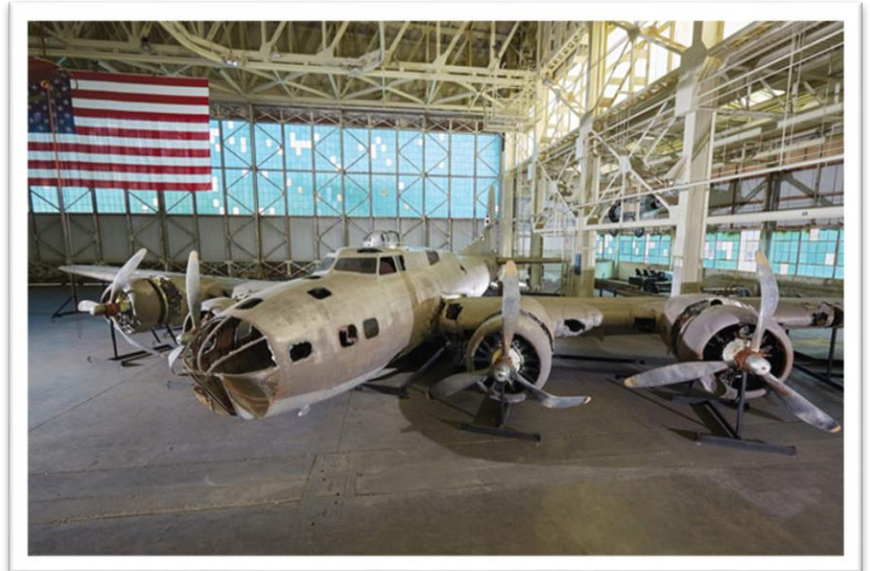


The Swamp Ghost - Overview

Boeing B-17E 41-2446 known as “Swamp Ghost” began its life on Nov. 28, 1941 the day of her completion on the Boeing factory lines in Seattle, Washington. On December 6, 1941 the aircraft was officially accepted by the U.S. Army Air Forces and then was flown from Boeing Field to Fort Douglass Army Air Field in Salt Lake City, Utah. From here she was flown to Sacramento, Ca and then on Dec. 17, 1941 ten days after the attack she flew on to Hickam Field in Hawaii.



While in Hawaii the aircraft was assigned to the U.S. Navy and conducted anti-submarine patrols out of Wheeler Field until she departed on Feb. 11, 1942 on an island-hopping flight through the Pacific to her new home in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. She arrived in Australia on Feb. 20, 1942 and after just two days she left on her first and only bombing mission of the war.

On the evening of Feb. 22, 1942 B-17E, 41-2446 was part of the first strategically targeted bombing mission of the war for the United States. This mission was to attack Japanese shipping near Rabaul. The original plan called for nine B-17s but before take-off two had collided and another had trouble starting its engines. Of the six that took off one had gotten lost in the night clouds and turned back leaving only five B-17s for the mission. Over target 41-2446 had trouble with the bomb bay doors, once able to open the doors the crew decided to make a second pass dropping their bombs. On this second pass she was hit by anti-aircraft fire which made a hole in the wing.



While leaving the target area the crew got intercepted by enemy fighters and they conducted a running aerial fight at high speed. This fight caused the aircraft to run low on fuel and as she approached Papua New Guinea the crew realized they would not be able to climb over the Owen Stanley Mountains so they circled looking for a flat field to land her in. Once they found what seemed to be a nice field the pilot put her down as safely as possible only to find out they settled to a stop in the middle of the Agaiambo swamp, in the Oro Province, in about 4 feet of water. After the gear up landing the crew survived and spent the next six weeks making their way back to their main base in Australia.



The aircraft stayed in the swamp to be forgotten after the war ended only to be found again by Australian Army helicopter crews conducting exercises in the early 1970s. This is when she would receive the name she is known by today “Swamp Ghost.”

In 2006 Alfred Hagen and his crew salvaged the aircraft at which time it was crated up and stored on the docks in Lae, PNG for the next 4 years, when in 2010 she was shipped back to California where she stayed until 2013.

In April of 2013 Swamp Ghost had finally completed a 71-year journey back to her first home on the Island of Oahu at the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.

Contractor	Boeing
Deployment Date	1941 with the British Airforce
Span	103 Feet, 9 Inches
Length	73 Feet, 10 Inches
Height	19 Feet, 2 Inches
Weight	51,000 LBS
Max. Speed	317 MPH
Service Ceiling	36,000 Feet
Range	3,200 Miles
Crew	10 (Pilot, Co-Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier/Nose Gunner, Flight Engineer)