



PRESS KIT

SWAMP GHOST DVD

B-17E FLYING FORTRESS 41-2446



The Swamp Ghost
www.TheSwampGhost.com

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One-Liner

The true story of an intact World War II bomber that landed in a New Guinea swamp, and exists to this day.

Documentary Summary

Known as 'The Swamp Ghost', this American B-17 Flying Fortress bomber exists in a remote swamp in northern New Guinea. When it was rediscovered in the early 1970s, photographs of this intact and complete bomber captured the world's attention. Despite hopes for salvage, no one has ever undertaken a study of the history or comprehensive documentation of the wreck... until now.

Join videographer and historian, Justin Taylan on a quest to find the bomber and experience this 'ghost' himself. After several attempts, Taylan and fellow historians John Douglas and Michael Claringbould are find 'The Swamp Ghost'.

'The Swamp Ghost' DVD tells the history of this aircraft, from the day it was built until it force landed during America's first bombing mission in the New Guinea theater. Flying from Australia on a mission over 2,200 miles unescorted, it attacked Japanese forces occupying Rabaul.

Over the target, the crew elected to go around on a second pass after a bomb bay malfunction. Intercepted by Japanese fighters and hit with anti-aircraft fire, they fought their way homeward. Low on fuel, the bomber force landed in a swamp. After a six week trek, all returned to their unit with the help of local people and the Resident Magistrate.

Today, the bomber is the last intact World War II aircraft wreck on land left in the world. Unique to Papua New Guinea, the bomber is a symbol of the war in New Guinea and a historical destination like no other.

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Info At A Glance

Title: The Swamp Ghost
Writer/Director/Producer: Justin Taylan
With Historians: John Douglas
Michael Claringbould
Length: 23 minutes + special features
Production Format: DVD
Completion Date: May 2005
Shot on location in Papua New Guinea

Screenings & Awards

B-17 Combat Crewmen's Association
Southern California Chapter, March 2005

Planes of Fame Museum
Chino, California, May 2005

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum
Reading, Pennsylvania USA May 2005

Flight Journal Magazine
Named "#1 Aviation Adventure"

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B-17 'Swamp Ghost' Wartime Crew Members

The bomber had a crew of when it flew its mission and landed in the swamp. After a six week ordeal struggling through the swamp they were returned to Port Moresby. Villagers from the Kairaisa area and Australian Resident Magistrate, Allan Champion assisted them. Today, only three of the former crew are still alive, and are interviewed in 'The Swamp Ghost' movie.

Richard Oliver (WWII Veteran, Bombardier)

Born in Oklahoma, he served as the bombardier aboard 'The Swamp Ghost'. He received the Silver Star for his role in the February 23, 1942 mission when 'The Swamp Ghost' crashed. He returned to service and flew about 30 more missions as a bombardier in the Pacific. Today he lives near San Francisco, California

George Munroe (WWII Veteran, Navigator)

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri he Munroe went to college for engineering. After graduation, He joined the Army Air Corps and due to a shortage of navigators was assigned to that role. He went on to fly more missions in New Guinea. Today, he lives in retirement in Virginia.

Clarence LeMieux (WWII Veteran, Engineer)

Born in Spokane Washington. After the mission to Rabaul, he serviced engines, and was commissioned to an officer and stayed in the military. Today he lives in retirement in Spokane Washington.

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Biographies

Justin Taylan (Writer, Director, Producer)

Grandson of an American World War II soldier and combat photographer that served in New Guinea, he has been fascinated by the history of New Guinea and World War II. Taylan first saw photographs of 'The Swamp Ghost', and was haunted by the sight. In December 2003, he visited the bomber himself, and then interviewed its surviving crew members.

Taylan is the founder of the non-profit website PacificWrecks.com that deals extensively with Papua New Guinea World War II history. Taylan grew up in Hyde Park, New York, USA and has made five trips to Papua New Guinea.

Unlike other outsiders, who hope to salvage this bomber and take it away from New Guinea, Justin believes that it should remain in Papua New Guinea as a symbol of war history. If promoted, he feels it could easily be an important tourist and historical site, for future generations to explore just as it force landed.

John Douglas (Historian & Explorer)

New Zealander John Douglas has lived in Papua New Guinea since 1989. He is the manager of Douglas Environmental Services in Port Moresby. Also, he is a historian and explorer. Working with local people, he has found many World War II wrecks and stories over the decades, and assisted the American Army in recovering bones of their war dead.

Michael Claringbould (Historian)

Australian Michael Claringbould grew up in Port Moresby. He has been involved with airplanes in PNG for many decades including the salvage of an A-20 for the PNG Museum and RAAF. He is the author of several books on the American 5th Air Force that served in New Guinea.

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'The Swamp Ghost' Credits

Dedication: To the former crew of the bomber
& those who served in New Guinea

Producer & Director: Justin Taylan

Staring: Richard Oliver
George Munroe
Clarence LeMieux
John Douglas
Michael Claringbould

Narrators: Christopher Seehase
Flyod Holt

Special Thanks: The People of Karaisa Village
Dale McCarthy, Benderoda Lodge
Chris White, North Coast Aviation
PNG National Museum
Director, Soroi Eoe
Modern History Curator, Mark Katakumb
Senior Technical Director, John Lelai
Former Curator, Bruce Hoy

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