

DATA SHEET
380TH BOMB GROUP AIRCRAFT

No. 085

SERIAL NO.:	<u>42-73117</u>	MOST POPULAR NOSE ART NAME:	<u>DOODLEBUG</u>
MODEL:	<u>B-24J-15-CO</u>	MFR:	<u>Consolidated-San Diego</u>
		CONTRACTOR'S NO.:	<u>2687</u>
INITIAL MFG DATE:	<u>09/01/1943</u>	MFG COMPLETION DATE:	<u>09/08/1943</u>
FIRST FLIGHT DATE:	<u>09/11/1943</u>	MOD CENTER DATE:	<u>09/20/1943</u>
		MOD CENTER PLACE:	<u>Tucson</u>
USAAF ACCEPTANCE DATE:	<u>09/14/1943</u>		
TO STAGING AREA DATE:	<u>10/01/1943</u>	STAGING PLACE:	<u>Herington, KS</u>
OVERSEAS FLIGHT DATE:	<u>10/08/1943</u>	DEPARTURE PLACE:	<u>Fairfield, CA</u>
OVERSEAS ARRIVAL DATE:	<u>10/14/1943</u>	DESTINATION:	<u>Townsville</u>
MOD COMPLETED OVERSEAS:	<u></u>	OVERSEAS MOD PLACE:	<u></u>
ASSIGNMENT:	<u>380/531</u>	ASSIGNMENT DATE:	<u></u>
STATION:	<u>Long Strip</u>		
FIRST MISSION:	<u>12/17/1943</u>	WHERE (1 ST MISSION):	<u>Selaru, Utoram</u>
NO. OF MISSIONS:	<u>4 AU</u>	TERMINATION DATE:	<u>01/19/1944</u>
WHY TERMINATED:	<u>Ditched After Fighter Damage</u>		
WHERE TERMINATED:	<u>Seroea Island, Banda Sea</u>		
STRICKEN OFF CHARGE:	<u>04/03/1944</u>	WHERE REMOVED:	<u>UCIP</u>

NOTES:

MAINTENANCE CREW

Serial No.: 42-73117

Nose Art: DOODLEBUG

Model: B-24J-15-CO

	SSN	Rank	Name
Crew Chief(s):	35276007	M/Sgt	William W. Baker

	SSN	Rank	Name
Mechanic(s):			Not Available in Current Records

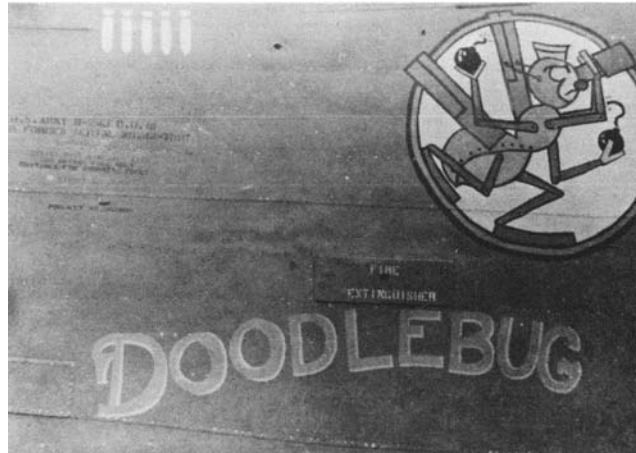
Notes:

DOODLEBUG

Serial No.: 42-73117

Model: B-24J-15-CO

Left Side



Source: Horton/Horton, *King of the Heavies*, p. 148; Horton, *Best in the Southwest*, p. 155.

Right Side



The right side of
Doodlebug also had art-
work on it.
Walter Crowe Collection

Source: Horton, *Best in the Southwest*, p. 161.



High drama above Ambon harbor, 19 January 1944. With one engine feathered and smoking, Gorman Smith is protected by Carl Magee on the right and Bill Zagrobski on the left. Joe Wells, Magee's right waist gunner, is in the process of shooting down the *Nick* that is flying in the slot position.

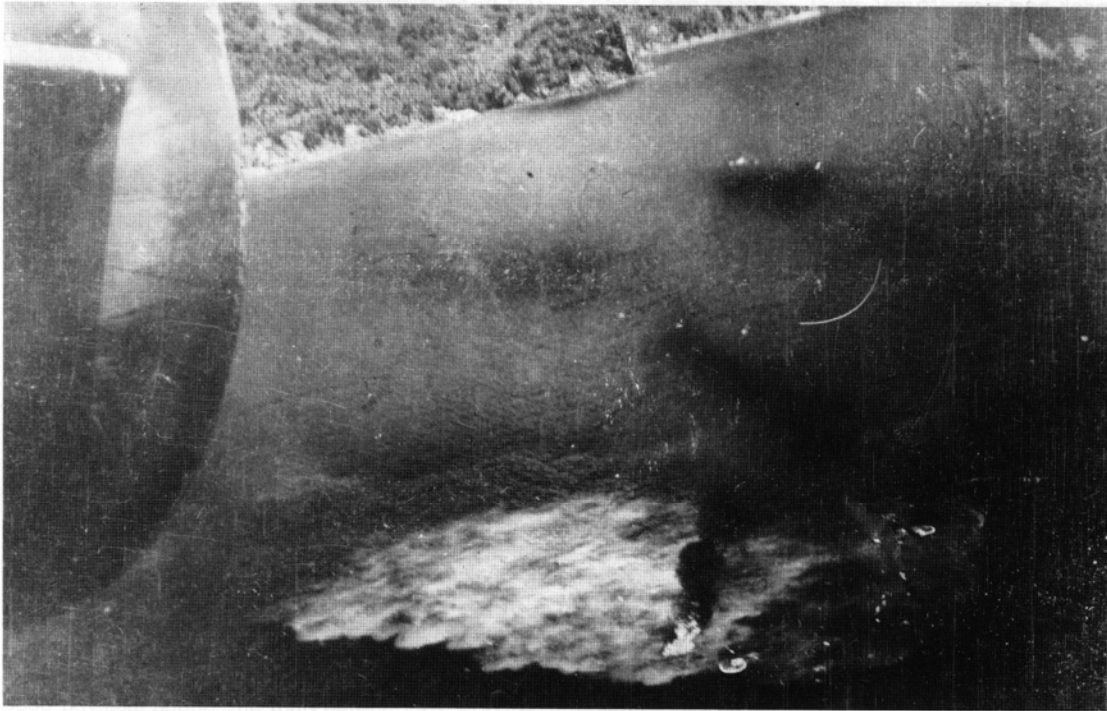
Source: Horton, Best in the Southwest.



A burning oil slick just off the coast of Serua island marks the grave of #117 *Doodlebug*. This photo of the January 19th shutdown is sadly representative of the high losses suffered by the 380th during the first month of 1944.

William L. Stephens Collection

Source: Horton, *Best in the Southwest*, p. 140.



Two dramatic views of the ditched wreckage of *Doodlebug*. Note in the upper photograph the left vertical stabilizer floating to the right of the burning oil slick and the other much farther to the right. Most of the fire dissipated when the B-24 sank.
Both photos come from William L. Stephens Collection via Gorman Smith



Source: Horton, Best in the Southwest, p. 162.

MISSION RECORD

SN 42-73117 NOSE ART DOODLEBUG MODEL J-15-CO

SQDN ASSGD 531 MFR Consolidated-San Diego M# 117

LOCATION: Australia

NOTES: _____

NO.	DATE (M/D/Y)	MISSION #	MISSION TYPE	TARGET	CREW #	ACFT CMDR	SQDN	RESULTS/NOTES
1	12/17/1943	FEN III-39	Recce	Selaru, Utoram	89	Bates	531	
2	12/21/1943	FEN III-40	Strike	Amahai, Ceram Island	91	Magee	531	First Mission for this Crew
3	01/12/1944	FEN IV-3	Strike	Balikpapan	84	Manley	531	Abort, Gas Leak
4	01/17/1944	FEN IV-11	Strike	Ambon	94	G. Smith	531	Shot Down this Mission, Ditched at Seroea Island, Banda Sea