

In Memory of First Lieutenant Kenneth Frank Hodson

1920 - 1944

(883rd Bomber Squadron, United States Army Air Forces)

Age: 24

Spouse: Mary Grant

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: United States of America

Country of Death: Pacific Ocean

Relation: Husband of Maternal 5th Cousin 1X Removed



Kenneth Frank Hodson was born in 1920 in Oregon. He grew up during the interwar years and entered adulthood as the United States moved toward global conflict. On 10 January 1942, shortly after America entered the war, he enlisted at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio, committing himself to aerial service at a time when long-range bombing was becoming central to the war effort.

He trained with the United States Army Air Forces and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. By 1944, he was serving with the 883rd Bomber Squadron, flying the B-29 Superfortress, one of the most advanced and demanding aircraft of the war. These aircraft conducted long-range strategic bombing missions against Japanese industrial targets, operating from bases in the Mariana Islands.

In January 1944, Kenneth married Mary Grant in Texas. Their marriage was brief and largely lived apart due to his overseas service.

On the night of 29 November 1944, First Lieutenant Hodson was a member of the crew of B-29 Superfortress serial number 42-65218, which took off from Saipan on the aircraft's third mission against Tokyo's industrial areas. Weather conditions were reported as clear. The aircraft was one of seven B-29s dispatched on the mission.

The aircraft was never heard from after takeoff and failed to return. No distress signal was received, and no wreckage was recovered. The crew was declared



*First Lieutenant
Bomber Squadron, United States
Army Air Forces*

missing in action, presumed lost over the Pacific Ocean. First Lieutenant Hodson was twenty-four years old.

Nearly five months after his death, a son was born to him; one whom he never had the opportunity to meet.

With no known grave, First Lieutenant Hodson is commemorated on the Honolulu Memorial, which honours members of the United States Armed Forces who were lost in the Pacific and have no known resting place.

First Lieutenant Kenneth Frank Hodson did not return. He is remembered as a husband, a father he never met, and an airman whose service ended far from land or recovery in the Pacific war.



*Honolulu Memorial
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA*