

Lucian Irvin Oliver, Jr., T-38

**20 August 1920 – 20 November 1943
(aged 23)**



B-24D Liberator 42-40886

“The Great Speckled Bird”

Technical Sergeant Lucian served as a Radar Operator/Gunner on B-24D #42-40886, 64th Bomber Squadron, 43rd Bomber Group, Heavy, U. S. Army Air Forces during World War II.

Army Air Force Technical Sergeant Lucian I. Oliver, of Memphis, was 23 when his B-24 Liberator, named the “Great Speckled Bird” by her crew, disappeared while returning to Jackson Airfield on the island of New Guinea from a scouting mission over the Pacific Ocean. The last transmission was at 9:45 pm on the 20th day of Nov, 1943.

Eleven families were notified that their sons were MIA.

In 1984, a WWII crash site on the island known to the local population was evaluated by The Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) Recovering Team but was proclaimed too dangerous for full recovery. Further excavations in 1987, 2002 and 2004, concluded the remains and artifacts found at Marc 1771 were indeed those of the "Great Speckled Bird" and her crew.

The United States never forgot them and never gave up, and 67 years later, brought them home. On March 24, 2011, the Pentagon and a grateful nation gave 11 families closure with a tribute and burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Our Heroes They Are"

