EDWARD C. PEDERSEN
1922- August 5, 1944

From June 1939 Legend:
"What's the use of hurrying when there is plenty of time."
Rifle Club; Sergeant of Arms; Intramural Football; Intramural Basketball; Camera Club; Tennis.

1st. Lt. Edward Pedersen was the pilot of the B-24 Liberator "Blondes Away!" in the 5th Air Force, 43rd Bombardment Group, 64th Bombardment Squadron operating in the South Pacific. The squadron reached Australia in March 1942. It operated from bases in Australia until 1943 when it moved to New Guinea. It attacked Japanese shipping in the Netherlands East Indies and the Bismarck Archipelago and experimented with skep bombing and used this technique in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea in March 1943 where it made repeated attacks against an enemy convoy bringing reinforcements to the Japanese forces in New Guinea. For this action the squadron was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. It also provided air support for the ground forces in New Guinea and attacked airfields and enemy installations in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Celebes, Halmahera, Yep, Patau, and the southern Philippines.

On August 5, 1944 Pedersen took off from Mokmer Airfield on Blak, New Zealand with a crew of 10 for a bombing mission against Boeia on Ceram, an island in eastern Indonesia. His plane was flying the right wing of the first element. While over the target at 11:40 AM during the bomb run, the bomber suffered an explosion of an undetermined origin in the bomb bay. Immediately the no.1 and no. 3 engines caught fire and were feathered and a few seconds later the entire bomber was engulfed in flames and then exploded into five pieces. The wreckage landed in Boela Bay. The navigator, William Bischoff had been able to bail out but was captured by the Japanese and executed the next day.
Pedersen and his crew are memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery on the Tablets of the Missing.

Edward Pedersen was born in New Hampshire to Svend Pedersen, and immigrant from Denmark, and Maude Pederson, an immigrant from Ireland. In 1940 the family lived at 1 Gruman Avenue, and Edward worked as an usher in an office. He had a sister who was about 15 at the time of his death. He was married to a woman named Jean, an immigrant from Scotland, who in 1950 was a roomer in a home in Kearny.





B-24J "Blondes Away" 42-110006 nose art on the left side of the nose
Nicknamed "Blondes Away" with the nose art of a cartoon wolf wearing a suit holding a bouquet of flowers and a cane on the street corner of Vine and Hollywood outside the "It Cafe" in Los Angeles.