

Joseph W. Swiencicki (1916 – 1945)

Joseph Swiencicki's Home of Record is listed as Chula Vista, CA. His wife, Mrs. Edna Fay Swiencicki lived at 575 H Street, Chula Vista, CA. He was an instructor at Bennett Field prior to enlisting in the Navy in January, 1942. Of note, there is a son named Joseph who was born in 1916 in Detroit, Michigan to Leon and Frances Swiencicki that would fit this profile, He is the only one found that does in the 1920 and 1930 census.

He was a pilot flying in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during WWII. Lieutenant Joseph Swiencicki was assigned to VPB-106, a Patrol Bomber squadron known as the "Wolverators" was commissioned at NAAS Camp Kearney, California on June 1, 1943. They trained for combat in California until their deployment to Hawaii.

On August 18, 1943 the squadron deployed to Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Hawaii and flew the PY-1 Liberators. In September and October, VPB-106 conducted bombing and surveillance missions on the Japanese islands of Wake, Canton and Makin from Kaneohe and Midway islands.

On October, 28, 1943, the squadron deployed to Carney Field, Guadalcanal. The first combat missions from Guadalcanal were scheduled on November 11, 1943, (World War I Armistice Day) and each day thereafter. The squadron operated with Bombing Squadron 104 (VB- 104) as the NAVY SEARCH GROUP conducting regular and special search operations in accordance with ComAirSoPac Search Plans 1-43 and 2-43. The search zone, fifteen degree sectors, covered the ocean area North West up the slot to Kavieng, New Ireland then north and east, including Nauru Island. Enemy installations were bombed repeatedly on OCEAN Island, GREEN Island, NEW IRELAND, KIETA, and KAPINGAMARANGI. From arrival until February 5, 1944, VB-106 missions included the previously mentioned flights and also daily reconnaissance against NAURU Island, a heavily defended island to the northeast.

From February 5, 1944 until March 24, 1944, the squadron operated from Munda, New Georgia with VB-104. In addition to the regular patrol/anti shipping flights, the VB-106 crews acted as aerial spotters for Navy Destroyers and Cruisers shelling enemy installations at KAVIENG on February 17-25, RABAU, DUKE of YORK, HAMELA MISSION area, BUKA and NAMATANAI on New Ireland. Other bombing and strafing missions were conducted against TARO Island, CHOISEUL Bay and MONORTU Mission on Bougainville. This new advanced base, Munda, provided greater range for the planes in their search and attack against Japanese shipping supplying Japanese bases on New Guinea, New Ireland and other strategic sites.

On March 25, 1944 Commander Hayward moved the squadron to Nadzab, New Guinea. At this new air strip he reported for Operational Control to ComAir7thFlt and ComGen5thAF. Eight hundred mile sectors were flown from Finchofen, New Guinea to the west, north and east. On April 11, 1944, the squadron moved to Momote Airfield, Los Negros Islands, Admiralties to operate eleven planes from this base. Four additional



planes were deployed to Wadke Island under the temporary operational control of ComGen5thAF.

From May 27 to July 15, 1944, the squadron stood down, and the aircrews enjoyed a much needed R&R in Southern California. During the summer, the squadron trained in California with the new aircraft, the PB4Y-2 Privateer.

By February 1945, the squadron had returned to the Western Pacific, trained in the new aircraft and flew as observers for bombing raids over Tokyo. By April they were flying from Central Field, Iwo Jima and conducting searches in Southern Japan and the northern Bonins

In May, the entire squadron relocated to Palawan, P.I. conducting 850 to 1000 mile search and strike missions covering the West coast of the CELEBES, the MAKASSAR Straits, the East and the West coast of BORNEO, LINGA ARCHIPELAGO, the NATOENA Islands, the ANAMBAS Islands, SINGAPORE, and the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula and the southern tip of Indochina. Lt Swiencicki and Crew 7 had detached to Mindanao due to the heavy monsoon rains at Palawan Island

On 30 July, 1945, just two weeks before the end of WWII, Lt Swiencicki and his crew were reported missing on a Patrol mission off the Southern tip of Indochina. An unexplained increase in enemy air activity occurred in that area during that time.

	
Naval Aviator Wings	VPB-106 Squadron Patch

