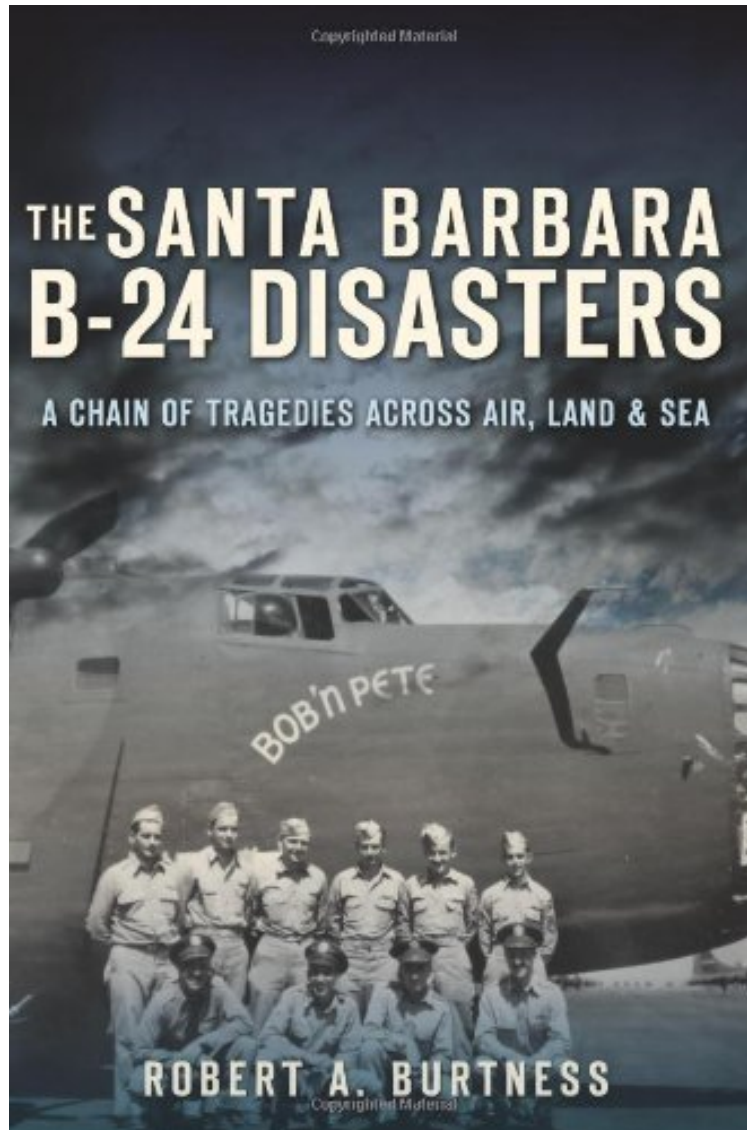


[E-BOOK] The Santa Barbara B-24 Disasters:: A Chain of Tragedies Across Air, Land Sea

# The Santa Barbara B-24 Disasters:: A Chain of Tragedies Across Air, Land Sea

Robert A. Burtness

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**Robert A. Burtness : The Santa Barbara B-24 Disasters:: A Chain of Tragedies Across Air, Land Sea** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Santa Barbara B-24 Disasters:: A Chain of Tragedies Across Air, Land Sea:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Sassy shopper I bought this book for my husband as he loves all military stories. He was not disappointed. We passed the book on to my step-dad and then a friend of his. All

have enjoyed it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Didn't read it. It was a gift. By Zsloth I bought this book for a friend from my wine-tasting group, who now lives in Santa Barbara, and was a crew member on B-24s in WW II. I think he'll enjoy it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. **INFORMATIVE AND IMPORTANT HISTORICAL READ.** By J. B. Paley I found this book very informative and important on a couple of levels. I liked the humanizing of the airmen of the flight crews. The photos of these men and their individual histories and testimonials, before, during and after the war enables one to empathize, identify with, and to put oneself into the situations described. This period of time was a defining moment in our country's history and needs to be kept vibrant and alive in the consciousness of our citizens, lest we lose sight of our legacy of confronting such horrendous challenges as WWII. The book is full of documentation, photos, letters, and testimonials, all of which flesh out the circumstances surrounding these B-24 crashes. The dogged persistence of the author in obtaining the biographical information and access to the crash sites over a period of several years is impressive. Dealing with bureaucracies on their timetables has to be a major challenge for any research project. Good read!

Three separate and related tragedies occurred during and after a training run of a B-24 Liberator on July 4, 1943, over the Pacific off Santa Barbara County: The heavy bomber crashed near Santa Barbara and two of the crew were never found, another B-24 search-and-rescue crew looking for survivors off the coast never returned at all and was found later to have crashed on San Miguel Island, killing all 12 aboard, and the Air Force investigators of that accident, years later, in 1954, coming to the island in a Coast Guard cutter, hit a yacht, killing two more people. Author Robert A. Burtness takes you inside these somber stories with recorded first-hand accounts and vintage images.

"Burtness spent many years unearthing records and interviewing survivors, putting together a jigsaw puzzle of what happened early on the night of July 4, 1943." --Barney Brantingham, Santa Barbara Independent  
About the Author Robert A. Bob? Burtness was born in Santa Barbara, California and attended local public schools before completing a bachelor's degree at Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College). Upon graduation, he joined the air force and spent most of a five-year period as a supply and logistics officer in Greece and New Jersey. Following separation from the service in 1966, he attended graduate schools at what is now called Chico State University and California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and earned an MA in English from the latter institution. He spent the next thirty years as a teacher in the Santa Barbara secondary school system, followed by flunking retirement and continuing as a substitute, mostly in private schools. Other activities include Boy Scout summer camp staff positions in nature, aquatics and bugling; a volunteer wilderness ranger with the forest service; volunteer projects with the Nature Conservancy on Santa Cruz Island; Commemorative Air Force oral history interviews; driving a miniature train at the Goleta Depot; toy train collecting; swimming, hiking and bicycling; and reading and writing. He and his wife, Lynn, whom he has known since the ninth grade, live in a longtime family home rebuilt into a Queen Anne/Victorian. Both widowed some time ago, they are the parents of three adult daughters. The family in residence now consists of two cats and a variety of wildlife in the surrounding urban forest."