



FAREWELL BONNY. Barking Sands AFB, June 24, 1952.

NARRATIVE OF MEMORIAL SERVICES  
FOR  
MAJOR CARLOS W. BONHAM  
COMMANDER, 199TH FIGHTER SQUADRON (SE)  
HELD AT BONHAM AIR FORCE BASE  
(then Barking Sands Air Force Base)  
TUESDAY 24 JUNE 1952

Maj. Bonham was killed, June 15, 1952, in a midair collision while leading a flight of JUGs in acrobatics in-trail. The other pilot parachuted to safety in the sea between Barking Sands and the island of Niihau.

A flight of four F-47s was slowly orbiting over Hickam AFB at 1230 hours Tuesday 24 June 1952. A B-26 was parked on the ramp in front of Squadron headquarters; a double row of Air National Guardsmen formed an Honor Guard.

Captain Jarrett F. Carr carried the urn, followed by an airman with the Interment Flag, thru the saluting Honor Guard ranks to the B-26. Captain John W. Groom received the urn. Both of these officers fly for Hawaiian Airlines as their civilian occupation; they piloted the B-26 on its flight to Kauai.

The flight of F-47s escorted the B-26 to Bonham AFB. The B-26 landed, and taxied to the vicinity of the control tower. The entire Squadron, some 450 officers and airmen, were assembled there at attention. There were about thirty Squadron guests who represented Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaii National Guard, United States Air Force, as well as close personal friends.

A lone F-47 (with Captain Robert B. Maguire in the cockpit) was parked in front of the Squadron formation and near the B-26.

An Honor Guard, composed of the Air Police Element, marched forward and formed a double rank, facing in, between the B-26 and the lone F-47. The Colors moved forward midway between the two aircraft.

Chaplain (Major) Howard Gould (Protestant) of Hickam AFB said a short prayer over the urn. TSG Norman C. Ault, Jr. accepted the urn from the B-26 pilots and covered it with the Interment Flag.

Chaplain Gould, accompanied by ToG Ault with the urn, marched thru the saluting ranks of the Honor Guard to the lone F-47. They were followed by Major Robert F. Butler and CWO Joseph L. Barnett, who acted as honorary pall bearers. All those assembled were at present arms. Captain Maguire received the urn, and closed the cockpit canopy.

The Colors and honor Guard returned to their place in the formation. The lone F-47 cranked up, taxied to the runway, and took-off.

The Squadron marched across the runway to the sand dunes facing the island of Niihau. The Squadron guests were escorted over, and were assembled in four ranks behind the colors.

Chaplain Gould said a short service.....there was a two minute period of silence, broken only by the sound of the waves and the breakers on the shore.

The sound of an F-47 formation was heard; six F-47s flew in the form of a cross just off-shore along the coast line at a thousand feet elevation.

The lone F-47 followed about half a minute later. When Captain Maguire was in front of the troops, he distributed the ashes in the waters just off Bonham Air Force Base. All personnel were at present arms. When this lone F-47 passed, two buglers played echo taps.

A C-47 followed, dropping a full load of flowers, which drifted down over the sea.

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As the marching Squadron returned across the runway, the entire Squadron of F-47s passed in review over the field at five hundred feet elevation in final tribute to their Squadron Commander.