

**45. Boeing B-17E Flying Fortress #41-2416 *San Antonio Rose*
14th Bombardment Squadron 7th Bombardment Group**



San Antonio Rose only served briefly with the 14th BG at Townsville, before it locked wings with another Fortress while taxiing for a Rabaul mission in the early morning darkness on 22 February 1942, with 1/Lt Frank Bostrom at the controls. This occurred on the bomber's first mission from Townsville, having arrived there only two days previous from the Philippines. For security reasons, during this early phase of the war in Australia, a directive was issued that all B-17s were referred to as *Hudson Mark 6* aircraft in radio communications.

After being repaired at Townsville, it was transferred into the 13th Air Force bomber pool where it was reassigned to the 11th BG at Koomac, New Caledonia. 1/Lt John Puis and crew flew the aircraft throughout most of 1943, after which it was reassigned to the 7th Air Force. This bomber was scrapped at Brisbane in January 1944. The bomber is profiled as it appeared at Townsville on 20 February 1944, still in U.S Navy markings. Unusual was the appearance of only four digits of the serial number instead of five. The striped rudder was an original Navy marking, later painted over with olive drab when transferred to the 13th Air Force. The brown/ green duotone camouflage was also unusual for the SWPA theatre, however the name *San Antonio Rose* stuck with the aircraft throughout its long and diverse career.