

This B-26 commenced its service in the U.S with the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron. The nose art was applied in the U.S just before *Strike!* was flown to the SWPA theatre via Nadi, Fiji. 1/Lt John Augustine's assigned crew usually flew the bomber when it served with the 408th BS, and *Strike!* is depicted as it appeared towards the end of 1942. By this stage of the war, most 408th BS Marauders had their tail tips painted Kelly green, the original Squadron color. When the 22nd BG was withdrawn from combat to regroup in January 1943, *Strike!* was stripped of its camouflage and nose art. The bomber commenced service with the 19th BS 'Silver Fleet' Squadron in July 1943, where it was assigned to pilot Captain Henry Hathaway. The silver bomber's new crew chief, T/Sgt Robert Abele, painted the *Simba* nose art on both sides of the nose to represent his large fluffy pet dog back home in the States. *Simba* finished its combat career in January 1944 when it, along with many other 'Silver Fleet' Marauders was flown down to Eagle Farm near Brisbane for scrapping.

**87. Martin B-26-MA serial # 40-1404 *Shittengitten*  
33rd Bombardment Squadron, 22nd Bombardment Group**



This B-26 was named in 1941 in the U.S, and flown from Hawaii to Australia by 2/Lt George Kahle, who also flew the bomber on its first mission, against Rabaul on 18 April 1942. During this mission, bombs from *Shittengitten* hit the freighter *Komaki Maru*, which had recently unloaded pilots and fighters for the Tainan Kokutai. On 6 January 1943 over Lae, *Shittengitten* took substantial hits from Zeros assigned to the 582nd Kokutai, and it crash-landed at Milne Bay. Incredibly, several decades later the panel containing the nose-art was recovered from jungle alongside the old wartime airstrip at Milne Bay. This panel is now displayed in the Australian War Memorial. The name was a crude phrase of the times to describe the act of getting away as quickly as possible after dropping bombs. The bomber is profiled as it appeared at Port Moresby in late 1942, by which time the art-work appeared on both sides of the fuselage.