

Not Even Close, and Definitely No Cigar

Previous attempts to establish physical proof of Earhart's fate have been disappointing. In 1960 Fred Goerner (*The Search for Amelia Earhart*, Doubleday, 1966) recovered an aircraft generator from the bottom of Tanapag Harbor, Saipan. Earhart's former technical advisor, Paul Mantz, announced at a press conference, "[I]t looks just like the generator I put aboard AE's plane," but an inspection by the Bendix Corporation later established that the part "...did not come from the plane in which Amelia Earhart disappeared"

In 1961 Goerner tried again with bones dug up on Saipan. Pathological analysis found the hypothesis that they were the remains of Earhart and Noonan to be "not supported."

A 1979 expedition to the Marshall Islands recovered a fragment of what was thought to be the mysterious "silver container" allegedly buried by Earhart and Noonan prior to their supposed capture by the Japanese (Amelia Earhart: *The Final Story*, Loomis/Ethell, Random House, 1985) Analysis, however, showed it to be a nondescript piece of sheet metal.

In 1988 *Witness to the Execution* (T.C. "Buddy" Brennan, Renaissance House) proclaimed a fragment of cloth found buried on Saipan to be the blindfold used in Earhart's execution by the Japanese. Brennan's witness, a Mrs. Blas, claimed to have seen the soldiers "tear the blindfold from her face and throw it into the hole" before shooting her. No explanation is offered for this procedure (at TIGHAR we generally leave the blindfold on when we shoot prisoners) nor for the absence of any bones in the alleged grave. Analysis of the "blindfold" showed it to be simply a piece of cotton cloth.

