



Personal info

Full name

COOK, Mervin Woodrow

Date of birth

1 January 1916

Age

27

Place of birth

Clayton, Union County, New Mexico

Hometown

Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

Military service

Service number

17027083

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

20 October 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	22	10

Immediate family

Members

Thomas L. Cook (father)

Gracie M. (Holcomb) Cook (mother)

Eugene D. Cook (brother)

Norman C. Cook (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-3130

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Nip'n Tuck II

Destination: Düren, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the railway complex and aviation industry

MACR: 902

More information

Sgt Mervin W. Cook graduated from Lincoln High School in 1934.

He joined the Air Corps on 30 December 1940 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

On the return flight, the airplane was attacked by enemy fighters. It was so badly hit it exploded in mid-air. Debris were scattered across a wide area.

Eight crew members were killed and initially buried at the military cemetery of Venlo. Two crew members survived and were taken prisoner.

In 2014 a local research team, the Planehunters Recovery Team, found parts of the airplane in the vicinity of the crash. It was decided to erect a monument at the Hoogriebroekseweg in honor of the crew.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Family Trees / 1930 Census / Enlistment Record, <http://www.planehunters.be/>, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, www.newspapers.com - The Des Moines Register - 13 February 1944