



### 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.wwiiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Family Trees / 1930 Census / Enlistment Record, <http://www.planehunters.be/>, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - The Des Moines Register - 13 February 1944