



### Personal info

Full name

**HEIST, Walter H**

Date of birth

**6 April 1921**

Age

**23**

Place of birth

**Jefferson County, Kentucky**

Hometown

**Alden, Erie County, New York**

### Military service

Service number

**32380856**

Rank

**Sergeant**

Unit

**496th Bombardment Squadron,  
344th Bombardment Group, Medium**

Awards

**Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Finding of Death**

Date of death

**27 April 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
C	14	25

## Immediate family

### Members

**Wesley G. Heist (father)**  
**Alice G. (McAvoy) Heist (mother)**  
**Jean A. Heist (sister)**  
**Frank T. Heist (brother)**  
**John D. Heist (brother)**

## Plane data

### Serial number

**42-95893**

### Data

**Type: B-26B**  
**Nickname: -**  
**Destination: Fort Mardyck, France**  
**Mission: Bombing of coastal artillery batteries**  
**MACR: 4145**

## More information

Sgt Walter H. Heist was a machine operator before enlisted on 21 July 1942 in Buffalo, New York.

The airplane was hit directly over the target immediately after dropping bombs. The released bombs had not as yet hit the target when flak hit the plane. The left engine was seen to burst into flames, the plane then went into a dive, burst completely into flames and crashed approximately one hundred and fifty yards from the target. One crew member survived and was taken prisoner, five men were killed.

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) - WWII Enlistment record, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930 census, Various Family trees, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php](http://www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php)

Photo source: Peter Schouteten