



Personal info

Full name

MONSON, Leigh Judd Jr

Date of birth

24 March 1919

Age

23

Place of birth

Oregon

Hometown

Cass County, North Dakota

Military service

Service number

O-660510

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**364th Bombardment Squadron,
305th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

3 February 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	12	36

Immediate family

Members

Leigh J. Monson Sr. (father)

Marie M. Monson (mother)

James B. Monson (brother)

John M. Monson (brother)

Joel Munson (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

41-24593

Data

Type: B17-F

Nickname: El Lobo

Destination: Hamm, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard

MACR: 15395

More information

2nd Lt Leigh J. Monson graduated from Fargo Central High School in 1937. He also graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College in 1942.

The mission was to bomb the marshalling yard of Hamm but the city was covered by heavy clouds. Three of the four B-17 groups attacked the marshalling yard, port area and industry of Emden instead.

Coy D. Martin, the radio operator, who survived the mission, stated after the war:

'The weather was very bad and we passed over Hamm without dropping our bomb load. We then went over the secondary target without dropping bombs. Somewhere between Osnabruck and Emden an enemy fighter plane crashed into our right wing and knocked it off almost even with the right outboard engine.

After talking with the boys who were ahead of us in formation it seemed that our ship was considerably shot up in the front part of the airplane. The windshield was knocked out and considerable damage was done but as to the fate of the pilot, co-pilot and top gunner I do not know if they were killed by gun fire or not. After we were rammed I heard the pilot say: "Hold it, hold it". Those were the last words I heard from anyone up front as we almost immediately fell off on the right wing into a spin.

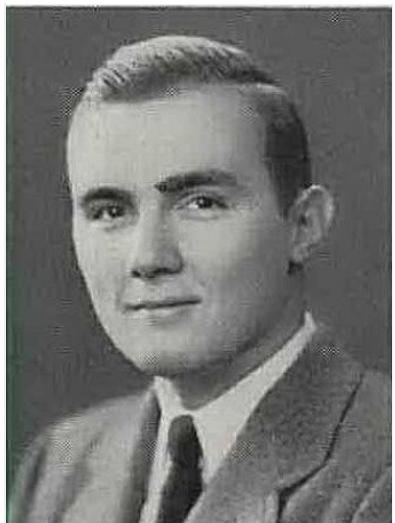
As for myself I could not move while in the spin, and although trying desperately to get out of the aircraft, could not move until the plane broke into near where I was and I dived out head first. As I was falling directly under the ship and made a long delayed jump I saw the aircraft break into thousands of small pieces and some large ones of course.

Although I and the three crew members captured with me were not allowed to view the wreckage, which landed near me, there can be little doubt of the fate of the rest of the crew.'

Four crew members survived and were taken prisoner, six men were killed.

The bodies of the killed crew members were first buried at the New Cemetery of Bad Zwischenahn-Oldenburg.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, MACR 15395, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com, 1950 US Census

Photo source: Dominique Potier, www.findagrave.com, www.305thbg.com, Fargo Central High School 1937, North Dakota Agricultural College 1942, www.findagrave.com