



Personal info

Full name

REED, Charles Joseph

Date of birth

3 March 1923

Age

20

Place of birth

**Methuen, Essex County,
Massachusetts**

Hometown

Methuen, Essex County, Massachusetts

Military service

Service number

11090412

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**569th Bombardment Squadron,
390th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

16 November 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	14	4

Immediate family

Members

Allen H. Reed (father)

Nora (O'Flaherty) Reed (mother)

Donald A. Reed (brother)

Marguerite B. Reed (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-30455

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Schiffless Skunk

Destination: Rjukan, Norway

Mission: Bombing of the hydro-electric plant

MACR: 1400

More information

S/Sgt Charles J. Reed graduated from Searles High School in 1940.

The aircraft was seen to catch fire approaching the enemy coast. Ten parachutes were observed, 5 or 6 of which were reported by crews of the 100th Bomber Group following, to have landed on shore. 4 or 5 small vessels were seen heading towards the parachutes.

Statement of 1st Lt George W. Harmon:

"About three miles out from Hellvig, Lt Becker's ship, 455, had radiator room and engine #1 on fire. Alt. 13,000 feet. Ten parachutes were seen to open. Three boats were seen close by heading South."

Statement of Lt Maurice G. Crosbie:

"455 was just ahead, started to veer right, escape hatch came off, No.2 engine black smoke, flames coming out radio hatch. Looked like started in gas tank - no enemy action - saw 1 man jump - saw total of 9 later all open. One chute (No 10) did not open. 9 chutes open - 1 not - 10 total. Saw three coastal vessels in vicinity in V formation make down coast toward chutes. A/C hit water - big flash came out of radiator room just before it hit."

Although these statements indicate that the crew had bailed out and landed in the sea or on the ground, the entire crew was killed. Any information about circumstances of their death could not be found. The target of the mission was the hydro-electric plant of Rjukan. This building also contained the Norwegian heavy water plant which was being used by the Germans to provide heavy water for their experiment in the development of the Atomic/Hydrogen bomb.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com - Carney Family Tree, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Searles High School 1940