



### Personal info

Full name

**ROSS, Robert Fred**

Date of birth

**8 June 1921**

Age

**22**

Place of birth

**Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

Hometown

**Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

### Military service

Service number

**15103232**

Rank

**Staff Sergeant**

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**8 October 1943**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
D	5	33

### Immediate family

Members

**Fred W. Ross (father)**  
**Nettie Ross (mother)**

## Plane data

Serial number

**42-30292**

Data

**Type: B-17F**

**Nickname: Pulsatin' Polly**

**Destination: Bremen, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of the U-boat yards**

**MACR: 783**

## More information

S/Sgt Robert F. Ross graduated from West Technical High School and was employed at Cleveland Twist Drill Company.

He volunteered for the Army of the United States at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, on 17 June 1942.

According to the right waist gunner, S/Sgt Harold T. Lambert, the airplane was hit by anti-aircraft fire about the time they reached the Initial Point. Two engines were afire and there was also fire in the accessory compartment and part of the oxygen system was disabled. Also, the radio room and the cockpit were hit, injuring both pilots. They were forced to leave the formation and were attacked by enemy fighters, causing further damage. The pilot, Lt Marshall Shepherd, gave the order to bail out, but he was never able to leave his seat himself. While the crew members were trying to leave the airplane, it blew up.

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

It was the 13th mission of this crew.

## Photos



