



### Personal info

Full name

**BECKER, John Lester "Jack"**

Date of birth

**24 March 1919**

Age

**24**

Place of birth

**Sioux Falls, Lincoln County, South Dakota**

Hometown

**Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa**

### Military service

Service number

**O-805240**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

Unit

**579th Bombardment Squadron,  
392nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Finding of Death**

Date of death

**21 February 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Margraten****Walls of the Missing**

## Immediate family

### Members

**John L. Becker (father)**  
**Phoebe M. (Koehne) Becker (mother)**  
**Beryle Becker (brother)**  
**Verna G. Becker (wife)**

## Plane data

### Serial number

**42-64435**

### Data

**Type: B-24H**  
**Destination: Vorden, Germany**  
**Mission: Bombing of the airfield**  
**MACR: 2563**

## More information

John Becker was a dratsman.

He entered the service on 13 July 1942 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. He was commissioned on 12 June 1943.

The airplane was hit by flak. According to eye-witness statements of crew members of other airplanes in the group, the #3 engine of the airplane was on fire after which a large explosion was observed beneath the airplane. After this explosion the aircraft was observed to be going down, out of control, and headed back towards the Dutch coast. It was subsequently concluded that the airplane had gone down in the waters off the enemy coast as no information was ever recovered on this situation, either in enemy or friendly force reporting.

The entire crew of ten men was killed.

## Photos



BECKER JOHN L  
201 876 DOAD SR 1018 BOMB GR 4  
BECKNELL WALLACE E  
201 878 DOAD SR 1018 BOMB GR 4  
BECKNER WILLIE G  
101 879 DOAD SR 1018 BOMB GR 4  
BEETHE ALVIN  
213 323 FTR SM 307 CTR GR  
BELILES OTIS E H  
PVT 307 INF 97 DIV  
BELL LE VERT W JR  
PFC 322 INF 97 DIV  
BELLAVIA ANTHONY P  
PVT 307 INF 97 DIV

Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, [www.B24.net](http://www.B24.net), <http://iagenweb.org/> - Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo, Iowa, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930 census / WWII Bonus Case Files for Beneficiaries

Photo source: Peter Schouteten