



Personal info

Full name

BLAKELEY, Willis Garmany

Date of birth

20 September 1920

Age

24

Place of birth

Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, Texas

Hometown

Palo Pinto County, Texas

Military service

Service number

O-721022

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**576th Bombardment Squadron,
392nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

2 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	18	19

Immediate family

Members

Willis A. Blakeley (father)
Bessie B. (Luten) Blakeley (mother)
Walter W. Blakeley (brother)
Jess C. Blakeley (brother)
Elbert D. Blakeley (brother)
Gerline L. Blakeley (sister)
Juanita A. (Imoe) Blakeley (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-51302

Data

Type: B-24H
Destination: Magdeburg
MACR: 12854

More information

2nd Lt Willis G. Blakeley entered Army Air Corps on 12 August 1942 and left for the ETO on 21 October 1944.

Sgt Spades, the Radio Operator, rendered this Casualty Questionnaire report after repatriation from POW status: that Blakeley, Schoelman, Amodeo (Pilot, Co-Pilot and Engineer respectively) were in the flight deck just before he left the ship, and they were not injured; and Navigator Walker and Nose Gunner Talley were in the nose compartment at that time, condition unknown. He indicated that according to the Germans later, that these men were found dead in their relative positions in the crashed plane. This crew member also reported in his account that Law, Halpern, Flesey and Rubenstein bailed out of the waist hatch, while he exited through the bomb bay. He also noted that the Engineer, Pfc Amodeo, was last seen close to going into the bomb bay area and appeared ready to bail out. There were no other available facts by any others concerning the ship's or specific crew member's final situations involved with this unfortunate happening. The MACR remarks on this emergency stated: "Hit by tracers from runaway tail guns of A/C 42-29476, which was flying lead of the High Right Element in the Squadron".

Lt Blakeley was first buried at Temporary American Military Cemetery Ardennes, Belgium Block L, Row 3, Grave 70.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, www.b24.net, www.ancestry.com Family Trees / Texas Birth Index / Headstone and Interment Record

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, <http://www.b24.net/> Service record - Roosevelt County, New Mexico