



Personal info

Full name

VANCE, Harold Claude "Dei"

Date of birth

1 September 1920

Age

24

Place of birth

Indiana

Hometown

Seymour, Jackson County, Indiana

Military service

Service number

35707170

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**332nd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

4 November 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

John C. Vance (father)
Maude A. (Fields) Vance (mother)
Roy Vance (brother)
Carl W. Vance (brother)
Peggy (Barness) Vance (sister)
Jean (Kelly) Vance (sister)
Bettie M. (Carlein) Vance (sister)
Mary E. Vance (wife)
Johnny Vance (son)
Judy Vance (daughter)

Plane data

Serial number

43-38165

Data

Type: B-17G
Nickname: St. Christopher Kids
Destination: Hamburg, Germany
Mission: Bombing of the Rheunania Ossag oil refinery
MACR: 10305

More information

S/Sgt Harold C. Vance graduated from Shields High School and was the employed by Burnside-Box Construction Company.

He enlisted in Liousville, Kentucky on 4 August 1943.

Two engines were hit and damaged by flak. According to the last word received from the crew, they were heading towards Holland and had decided to abandon the plane in the North Sea and await an Air Rescue. No further communication was received.

The entire crew of nine men was killed.

Official Statement of Thomas C.S. Houser, 2nd Lt, Air Corps:

"This aircraft was last seen with two engines out on 4 November 1944 at 53°52'N - 07°00'E at 1322 hours. At 1342 hours it was reported that he was calling for Air Sea Resque at 53°48'N - 05°40'E. Reports over VHF stated that he would try to make Holland but then decided to ditch. No further confirmed reports were received from this aircraft and therefore it is not known whether it ditched or made a landing safely."

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov - WWII Enlistment Record, www.ancestry.com - Vance Family Tree / Underwood Family tree / 1930 Census, www.usaafdata.com, www.Fold3.com - MACR, Statement, www.8thafs, www.newspapers.com - The Tribune

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.newspapers.com - The Tribune