



Personal info

Full name

GARDNER, Cleo Harold

Date of birth

6 September 1920

Age

22

Place of birth

Underwood, Clark County, Indiana

Hometown

Marion County, Indiana

Military service

Service number

15105615

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**335th Bombardment Squadron,
95th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

12 August 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
A	36	19

Immediate family

Members

Frank Gardner (father)

Lola (Dismore) Gardner (mother)

Oliver J. Sharon (stepfather)

Plane data

Serial number

42-30194

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: We Ain't Scared

Destination: Wesseling, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the oil refinery

MACR: 253

More information

S/Sgt Cleo H. Gardner was a graduate of Arsenal Technical High School. He was employed by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

He volunteered for the Army of the United States at Fort Benjamin, Harrison, Indiana on 3 August 1942.

Statement by 1st Lt David E. Olsson, Asst Operations Officer:

"B-17F 42-30194 piloted by Captain Clifford B. Hamilton was observed to have a windmilling propellor and about 51 degrees 8'N and 5 degrees 7 'E he left the information and went down to ground level to head back to the English Coast". Enemy aircraft shot out no.4 engine. The airplane went out of control into a spin and the left wing exploded. Of the 10 men crew, 5 were killed. They were initially buried at the cemetery of the airdrome of St. Trond, Belgium on 14 August 1943.

It is believed that Cleo H. Gardner was killed before the crash.

Photos



Source of information: Luc van de Sterren, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com, www.newspapers.com - The Indianapolis Star, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.newspapers.com - The Indianapolis News, www.ancestry.com - Arsenal Technical High School Yearbook 1938