

Personal info

Full name

SCHMIDT, Leo

Date of birth

9 December 1917

Age

25

Place of birth

New Jersey

Hometown

Clifton, Passaic County, New Jersey

Military service

Service number

15105539

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**333rd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

17 July 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Adam Schmidt (father)

Caroline (Becker) Schmidt (mother)

Charlotte Schmidt (sister)

Mildred (Case) Schmidt (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-3219

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Dear Mom

Destination: Hamburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the aircraft industry

MACR: 93

More information

S/Sgt Leo Schmidt attended college and was a chauffeur and truck dispatcher for the Curtiss-Wright Corporation in Columbus.

He volunteered for the U.S. Army at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana on 31 July 1942.

The element originally designated to attack Hamburg was a combined force of 125 B-17's, but weather caused a recall of this formation. However 84 B-17's from 94BG (18), 95BG (23), 96BG (21) and 100BG (22) sighted a German ship convoy on the return. Only one B-17 from BG96 managed to drop on the convoy. Another segment of this formation, 385BG (21) and 388BG (20) attempted to bomb the Fokker aircraft factory at Amsterdam. A total of 22 aircraft attempted the bombing, but the results were highly scattered and 150 civilians were killed. 1 B-17 from 94BG, aircraft 42-3219, was shot down by enemy aircraft (2 engines were hit) near Helgoland, Germany.

The entire crew was killed. Every crew member, with the exception of waist gunner Everett A. Quimby is remembered on the Walls of the Missing at Margraten. We have no information why he isn't mentioned.

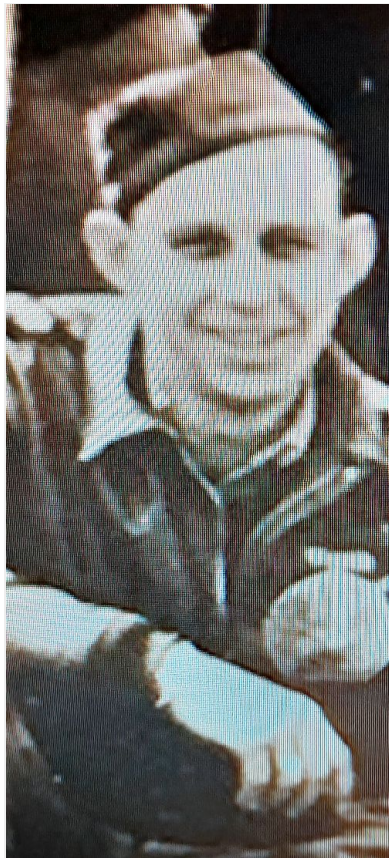
His niece, Mrs. Bonnie Danner, contacted us with information and talked about Leo with her mother who is 94 and still recalled some family stories:

"She said when he would want to get away from his parents he would drive his car two hours down into Bucks County, Pa. He would stay 3-4 days with his Aunt on her farm with cows, pigs, geese, chickens and horses.

My mother lived a few houses away.

My mom and her two sisters were very young and just adored him. When he went MIA the whole family were so distraught. She remembers that when someone mentioned his name, everyone cried. When they declared him dead, no body ever joined the armed forces after that." This information was added in January 2024.

Photos



SCHMAL FRED G
PIC 333 INF 84 DIV OHIO
SCHMALENBACH PAUL J PENNSYLVANIA
SCHMIDT LEO
SCHMITZ HOWARD W



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, Kathy Grimshaw-Clifton Public Library, Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com, The Herald News - 26 July 1943

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, The Herald News - 27 July 1943, Bonnie Danner