



## Personal info

Full name

**ODEGARD, Alfred William**

Date of birth

**27 November 1918**

Age

**26**

Place of birth

**Spokane County, Washington**

Hometown

**Jocko, Flathead County, Montana**

## Military service

Service number

**19072135**

Rank

**Private First Class**

Unit

**567th Bombardment Squadron,  
389th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**unknown**

## Death & Grave

Status

**Missing in Action**

Date of death

**7 May 1945**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle**

**Tablets of the Missing**

## Immediate family

Members

**Knute Odegard (father)**

**Kate E. Odegard (mother)**

**Kenneth Odegard (brother)**

## Plane data

Serial number

**unknown**

Data

**unknown**

## More information

Pfc Alfred W. Odegard graduated from Flathead High School and worked on a farm.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve in Butte, Montana on 13 July 1942.

He was an airplane engine mechanic in the 567th Bomber Squadron

Pfc Odegard was a passenger on a B-24J with serialnumber 44-10620, which was on a Trolley mission.

Trolley missions were flown in early May 1945. The purpose being to provide all crew and ground personnel the opportunity to see the results of their contribution in the strategic air war against Germany. Many precautions were taken on these missions, and the most responsible and experienced pilots were chosen to fly. There were no trolley missions flown in bad weather. Despite such precautions, accidents occurred, such as this.

The pilot of the lead aircraft in the element in which Lt Saunderson was to fly left wing, said that he contacted Lt Saunderson once while the aircraft were circling the field. Lt Saunderson said that he was going to pull up on the wing. When Lt Saunderson failed to do so the other pilot tried several more times to contact him, however he was unable to do so. The other pilot then went out on course.

The aircraft crashed into the Engers Bridge.

All nineteen men aboard were killed, and of only six of them the remains were recovered.

## Photos



**Source of information:** Peter schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, Carla Mans, [www.389thbg.net](http://www.389thbg.net), [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - U.S. WWII Draft Cards  
Young men, Daily Inter Lake

**Photo source:** [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.e-yearbook.com](http://www.e-yearbook.com) - Flathead County High School Yearbook 1936, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43-J, Stamford Army Flying School, Texas