



Personal info

Full name

KUNKEL, John Alvin

Date of birth

3 May 1920

Age

25

Place of birth

**Lower Alsace, Berks County,
Pennsylvania**

Hometown

Lower Alsace, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Military service

Service number

13029003

Rank

Technical Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

unknown

Death & Grave

Status

Died non-Battle

Date of death

7 May 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Tablets of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Charles A. Kunkel (father)

Amy G. Kunkel (mother)

More information

T/Sgt John A. Kunkel was a paymaster.

He joined the Air Corps of the Regular Army in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 4 September 1941.

T/Sgt Kunkel was a flight engineer in the 567th Bomber Squadron

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

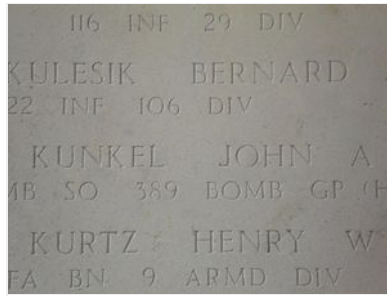
Trolley missions were flown in early May 1945. The purpose being to provide all crew and ground personnel the opportunity to see the results of their contribution in the strategic air war against Germany. Many precautions were taken on these missions, and the most responsible and experienced pilots were 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, Terry Hirsch, Raf Dyckmans, Carla Mans, www.389thbg.net, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Pennsylvania Church Record / Family Tree

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.ancestry.com - West Reading High School 1937 / jdouglass78 / Karen Lincke