



## Personal info

Full name

**HESS, Robert William**

Date of birth

**12 September 1920**

Age

**23**

Place of birth

**Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York**

Hometown

**Tully, Onondaga County, New York**

## Military service

Service number

**12099180**

Rank

**Sergeant**

Unit

**853rd Bombardment Squadron,  
491st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal**

## Death & Grave

Status

**Missing in Action**

Date of death

**5 June 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

**Walls of the Missing**

## Immediate family

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### Members

**Bailey O. Hess (father)**

**Jennie I. (Baker) Hess (mother)**

**Marjorie Hess (sister)**

**Margaret M. (Batt) Hess (wife)**

**Maureen Hess (daughter)**

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**44-40243**

### Data

**Type: B-24 J**

**Macr: 5633**

**Mission: Operational**

## More information

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Sgt Robert W. Hess graduated from Tully Central High School in 1938.

On aircraft M 44-40243 5 June 1944

I was flying with Lt Sharp on Aircraft F 44-40226 as left waist gunner. M 44-40243 was hit by flak just after we had passed the target. The plane appeared to blow up just before it hit land or water. I was at the left waist window and the plane was practically at a right angle when it exploded. The number 1 engine was feathered and gas was streaming out between number 1 and number 2 engines.

Two men seemed to have come out of the plane, but I saw one chute open.

- Warren H Rudolph

According to a newspaper article in the Watertown Daily Times of 2 April 1946, he was initially buried at the Temporary American Military Cemetery of St. André, France. We have no confirmation this information is correct.

## Photos



Source of information:: Terry Hirsch, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [NARA](http://www.nara.gov), Missing Aircrew Report 5633, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Watertown Daily Times - 2 April 1946