

Personal info

Full name

MARKLE, William David

Date of birth

10 September 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

**Versailles, Allegheny County,
Pennsylvania**

Hometown

West Newton, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Military service

Service number

O-551850

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**368th Bombardment Squadron,
306th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

12 September 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

William G. Markle (father)

Bernice B (Blackburn) Markle (mother)

Bernice M. Markle (sister)

Gene Markle (brother)

Luana D. Markle (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-31690

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: Belle of the Brawl

Destination: Ruhland, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Braunkohle-Benzin A.G. Industry oil refinery

MACR: 8828

More information

2nd Lt William D. Markle was a lineman at the Bell Telephone Company in McKeesport.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 26 August 1942.

Statement of a crew member:

"I heard from a crew member in another aircraft on the mission, that the first man to bail out of the front escape hatch fell out of his chute. This was apparently seen by several crews on the mission and reported to the interrogators at the home station. I was told this several months after the mission and this was the first information I had received of any nature concerning the fate of Lt. Markle."

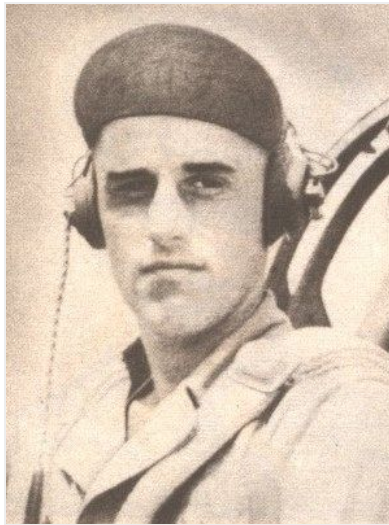
The aircraft was hit by flak and on fire, all crew members bailed out, eight were taken prisoner, one was killed. The plane was last sighted 15 miles northeast of Berlin.

Lt Markle had completed 24 missions.

According to German records, Lt Markle was initially buried at the POW Cemetery of Döbertitz.

In June 1951 an investigation was conducted to find several Americans deceased at the grounds where the POW Cemetery of Döbertitz was situated. The former caretaker, however, stated that the Americans exhumed their remains in 1947, in 1948 the French and in 1949 the Italians, Germans and Russians completely exhumed the cemetery. This was done systematically, field by field, row by row. In late 1949 the former cemetery site was returned to its German owner. In 1951 it was planted with potatoes. The conclusion of the investigation was that when the cemetery finally was disinterred all remains left, were evacuated to Russian or German Honor cemeteries and buried in unmarked graves.

Photos



MARINGER GEORGE C
PFC-G29 TD BN
MARINO LEONARD A
T SGT 487 BOMB GP (H)
MARKLE WILLIAM D
2 LT 306 BOMB GP (H)
MARKS JACK H
S SGT 832 BOMB SQ 486 BOMB GP
MARQUEZ HENRY E
PVT 112 INF 28 DIV



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, André Koch, www.abmc.gov, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com - MACR 8828, www.ancestry.com, www.newspapers.com - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, IDPF of Herald R. Boyd, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: André Koch, www.findagrave.com - Joel Frampton Gilfert, www.newspapers.com - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Rick LeBlanc