



Personal info

Full name

NIELSEN, Niels Robert

Date of birth

1 October 1922

Age

22

Place of birth

Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota

Hometown

Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota

Military service

Service number

O-760659

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**325th Bombardment Squadron,
92nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

3 October 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
L	16	19

Immediate family

Members

Niels Nielsen (father)

Ida (Mortenson) Nielsen (mother)

Roy H. Nielsen (brother)

Howard R. Nielsen (brother)

Willard E. Nielsen (brother)

Virginia M. Nielsen (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

43-38445

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Nurnberg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nurnberg (MAN) AG vehicles Industry

MACR: 9346

More information

1st Lt Niels R. Nielsen joined the U.S. Army Reserve in Santa Ana, California on 10 March 1943.

On the return flight, the airplanes 43-38396 and 43-38445 collided in mid-air. Airplane 396 was seen to go down out of control with a hole in the right wing. It is believed it exploded after falling below the cloud cover. Airplane 445 went down, out of control, with the tail section sheared off.

Both planes crashed in Wieseck near Giessen.

Of the plane 445, six crew members were killed in the crash and one was taken prisoner. The casualties were buried at the community cemetery of Giessen.

Two men were taken prisoner but were executed the same day. For more information, see the memorial page of Wallace W. Bengson.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, Raf Dyckmans, www.abmc.gov, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com - 1940 Census / WWII Enlistment Record / Our Past Their Future, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Des Philippet, www.ancestry.com - John Witzel, Aircrew Remembered