

Personal info

Full name

GOEWERT, Earl Enil

Date of birth

6 March 1919

Age

24

Place of birth

St Louis, St Louis County, Missouri

Hometown

St. Louis, St. Louis County, Missouri

Military service

Service number

37132881

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**407th Bombardment Squadron,
92nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

29 January 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	28	4

Immediate family

Members

William Goewert (father)

Ceana Goewert (mother)

Arline M. Goewert (sister)

Irma B. Goewert (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-30711

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Fertile Turtle Myrtle

Destination: Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the war industry

MACR: 2253

More information

S/Sgt Earl E. Goewert graduated from Beaumont High School in 1937.

He enlisted in January 1942 and had been overseas since November 1943.

The plane only had one working engine, having been riddled by flak over Valenciennes. It was also attacked by a German fighter, flown by Lt Friedrich Lang of JG26. The pilot (2nd Lt James F. Holdren) sent the plane into a spiral in order to land near the Genech woods. The plane hit the ground, bounced, disintegrated and caught fire. The fighter circled the wreck, spat out a few barrages then landed in the neighboring Lesquin airfield. Less than an hour later the German pilot accompanied by firefighters arrived to extinguish the fire without success.

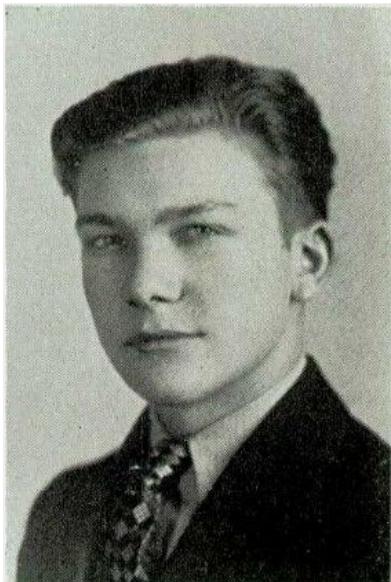
Eight crew members were killed. They were initially buried at the cemetery of Genech the same day. Two men were taken prisoner.

According to surviving crew members Sgt Goewert was decapitated during the first fighter attack.

A monument at the crash site remembers the fallen crew members.

The picture was taken in high school in 1937.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.newspapers.com - St. Louis Post-Dispatch, WWII Draft Card
Photo source: Jac Engels, Beaumont High School 1937, Commune de Genech