

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

COLE, Jesse Wilson

Date of birth

1 May 1924

Age

20

Place of birth

**Smithfield, Johnston County, North
Carolina**

Hometown

Sanford, Lee County, North Carolina

Military service

Service number

34854210

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

26 November 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

| Plot | Row | Grave |
|------|-----|-------|
| C | 19 | 20 |

Immediate family

Members

Thomas R. Cole Jr. (father)

Mary (Parker) Cole (mother)

Mary J. Cole (sister)

Betty R. Cole (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

44-40212

Data

Type: B-24J

Nickname: The Easy Way

Destination: Misburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Deurag synthetic fuel plant

Macr: 11158

More information

S/Sgt Jesse W. Cole attended the College of Pharmacy of the University of North Carolina in 1943.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 13 December 1943.

The target of that day for 57 B-24's was the synthetic oil refinery in Misburg but 26 bombed the marshalling yard of Hannover as target of opportunity.

The B-24's were attacked by enemy fighter planes and without any doubt were the target the target of anti-aircraft fire. Due to the number of shot down airplanes in the immediate vicinity of both targets, the exact location of the crash of this airplane is uncertain.

However, the records mention the names of crew members of this and other aircraft how were initially buried at the cemetery of Hannover-Seelhorst. It therefore can be assumed that this aircraft crashed close to his target.

Two crew members were taken prisoners, seven men were killed.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, Rootsweb, Missing Aircrew Report 11158, WWII Draft Card, 1940 US Census

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, North Carolina University 1943