



Personal info

Full name

HELSTROM, Herb E "Herbert"

Date of birth

7 September 1922

Age

21

Place of birth

Washington

Hometown

Spokane, Spokane County, Washington

Military service

Service number

19097043

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**20th Bombardment Squadron,
2nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

7 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	2	24

Immediate family

Members

Axel C. Helstrom (father)

Anna L. (Johnson) Helstrom (mother)

Norris L. Helstrom (brother)

Evelyn B. Helstrom (sister)

Henning B. Helstrom (brother)

Dorothy V. Helstrom (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-38213

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Blechhammer, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the oil refinery

MACR: 3219

More information

S/Sgt Herb E. Helstrom attended high school for 4 years and was a machinist. He joined the U.S. Army Reserve in Spokane, Washington on 12 August 1942.

Statement from 1st Lt James E. Wagner:

"At 1053 hours, from an altitude of 23,000 feet, at approximately 50-18N, 18-16E, B-17 No. 213 was hit by flak and the whole nose section was blown off. The aircraft then went straight down. I observed no chutes."

Statement from 2nd Lt Thomas H. Hancock:

"I first saw B-17 No. 213 at 1055 hours from 24,000 feet. It was hit by flak in bomb bay and the nose began falling apart into several pieces. Aircraft was not on fire when it dropped straight down. Either the controls were shot out or both pilot and co-pilot were killed. I saw no chutes. This was at approximately 50 deg 18 min North 18 deg 16 min East."

The entire crew of ten was killed.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Astrid van Erp, www.abmc.gov, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com - U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil / 1930 Census / Washington Births, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 44-A, Victory Field, Vernon, Texas