



Personal info

Full name

LEWIS, William Francis

Date of birth

18 March 1918

Age

26

Place of birth

Lebanon, Boone County, Indiana

Hometown

Lebanon, Boone County, Indiana

Military service

Service number

O-743661

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**332nd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

4 November 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Arlie E. Lewis (father)

Grace (McIlwain) Lewis (mother)

Mary M. Lewis (sister)

James E. Lewis (brother)

Bobby Leonard (step-brother)

Mary F. (Cisson) Lewis (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

43-38165

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: St. Christopher Kids

Destination: Hamburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Rheunania Ossag oil refinery

MACR: 10305

More information

2nd Lt William F. Lewis graduated from Lebanon High School, Class of 1935.

Two engines were hit and damaged by flak. According to the last word received from the crew, they were heading towards Holland and had decided to abandon the plane in the North Sea and await an Air Rescue. No further communication was received.

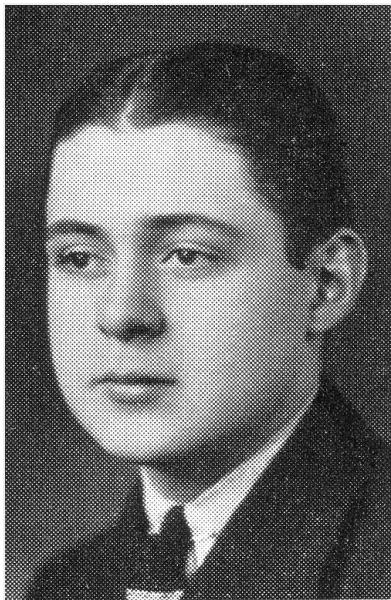
The entire crew of nine men was killed.

Official Statement of Thomas C.S. Houser, 2nd Lt, Air Corps:

"This aircraft was last seen with two engines out on 4 November 1944 at 53°52'N - 07°00'E at 1322 hours. At 1342 hours it was reported that he was calling for Air Sea Resque at 53°48'N - 05°40'E. Reports over VHF stated that he would try to make Holland but then decided to ditch. No further confirmed reports were received from this aircraft and therefore it is not known whether it ditched or made a landing safely."

He is remembered at the Oak Hill Cemetery, in Lebanon, Boone County, Indiana.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, Raf Dyckmans, www.94thbombergroup.com, www.wwiiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com, The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), WWII Draft Card
Photo source: Peter Schouteten, The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina) - 31 Dec 1944, Yearbook Lebanon High School Cedars 1935 via Eric Spall - Local History Specialist, Lebanon Indiana, www.findagrave.com - Marc Doty,