

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

BARKS, Arthur Edwin

Date of birth

14 November 1915

Age

28

Place of birth

Providence County, Rhode Island

Hometown

Providence County, Rhode Island

Military service

Service number

O-687923

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**701st Bombardment Squadron,
445th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Distinguished Service Cross,
Purple Heart**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

22 December 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Robert A. Barks (father)

Nellie Barks (mother)

Dorothy Barks (sister)

Ada Barks (sister)

Elsie Barks (sister)

Lester R. Barks (brother)

Gordon J. Barks (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

41-29126

Data

Type: B-24H

Nickname: Lizzie

Destination: Osnabruck, Germany

More information

2nd Lt Arthur E. Barks was awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross (The only member of his group to ever receive this high award). He was painfully and mortally wounded by enemy gun fire and remained at his post long enough to chart a return course to their air base in Tibbenham, Norfolk England. The plane was losing altitude rapidly, the crew members had to lighten the load of their crippled plane and it was necessary to jettison his body into the North Sea laying to rest the remains of an American of exemplary courage and outstanding example of military training and a martyr to the members of his crew. Had the load not been lightened that last little bit, the entire crew might have been buried in the North Sea with the navigator. The crew felt certain that he would have wanted them to take action the way they did. It was felt that in life and in death he had saved their lives.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, www.445th-bomb-group.com, www.wiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.honorstates.org