



Personal info

Full name

ESTER, Elbert Eugene

Date of birth

8 February 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Kansas

Hometown

Los Angeles County, California

Military service

Service number

39553701

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**856th Bombardment Squadron,
492nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

20 June 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	37	22

Immediate family

Members

Ben Ester (father)

Annie M. Milis (mother)

Eva Ester (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

44-40112

Data

Type: B-24J

Nickname: Flak Happy

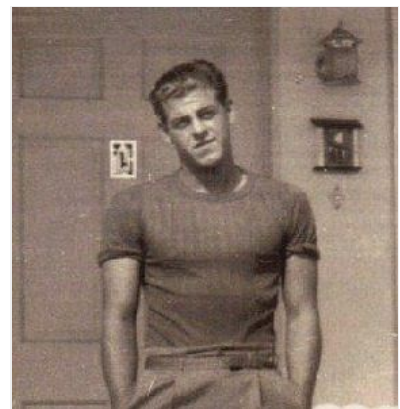
Destination: Politz, Germany

MACR: 7074

More information

On 20 Jun 44, they led the group's low left squadron to bomb the heavily defended refineries at Politz. On the way to target just as they reached Rugen Island, they were attacked by enemy fighters. Kehoe recalls, "A loud explosion was my first indication that we had been hit. When I turned around the whole flight deck was in flames." His co-pilot left his seat to see if he could put the fire out. The whole plane was filled with smoke and for a time no one could see. Kehoe gave the order to bail but wasn't sure if the bell or intercom was working. As the smoke semi-cleared few minutes later, Kehoe discovered he was the only one left. Somehow Kehoe made it to Sweden. Elbert E. Ester died 20 June 1944 but his body was recovered on 6 Aug. 1944.

Photos



Source of information: Kathy Tomlin, www.492ndbombgroup.com, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov

Photo source: Kathy Tomlin