



Personal info

Full name

BASSING, Charles H

Date of birth

22 July 1922

Age

21

Place of birth

Jackson County, Missouri

Hometown

Jackson County, Missouri

Military service

Service number

O-759163

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

20 June 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Francis J. Bassing (father)

Mary L. Bassing (mother)

Mary E. Bassing (sister)

Francis J. Bassing Jr. (brother)

George H. Bassing (brother)

Bernard E. Bassing (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

44-40112

Data

Type: B-24J

Nickname: Flak Happy

Destination: Politz, Germany

MACR: 7074

More information

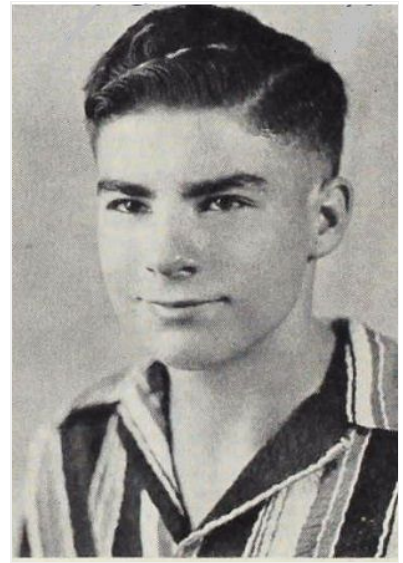
Charles H. Bassing graduated from Pasco High School and Kansas City Junior College.

He enlisted in June 1942. He was commissioned 3 November 1943 and went overseas in April.

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.

Lt Bassing's body surfaced on 2 Aug 44 in Bay Tromper Wiek, northwest of Sassnitz. He was buried locally, but his grave ID was lost.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, Astrid van Erp, Carla Mans, www.492ndbombgroup.com, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - 1940 Census

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.ancestry.com - Pasco High School yearbook 1938, 1939 and 1940, Kansas City Times 6 July 1944