



Personal info

Full name

WEGIEL, Walter Frank

Date of birth

6 October 1919

Age

25

Place of birth

**Indian Orchard, Hampden County,
Massachusetts**

Hometown

Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts

Military service

Service number

O-2057781

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

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

Awards

Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

24 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
L	5	10

Immediate family

Members

Franciszek Wegiel (father)

Aleksandra (Slupski) Wegiel (mother)

Henry W. Wegiel (brother)

Joseph Wegiel (brother)

Stephanie W. Wegiel (sister)

Julia Wegiel (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-51245

Data

Type: B-24J

Destination: Wesel, Germany

Mission: Supply drop

MACR: 13516

More information

2nd Lt Walter F. Wegiel attended high school for four years and was employed at Monsanto Chemical Corporation.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The mission of the day was dropping supplies for the ground troops, participating in Operation Varsity.

The airplane was hit by small arms fire when it was flying at 300 ft and caught fire. It crashed in flames and exploded. All ten crew members were killed.

According to the above mentioned book, Lt Strickland's brother Harold, an infantryman, witnessed the crash but did not know his brother was on board.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.findagrave.com, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Roberta Cyr "Remembering World War II", Peter Schouteten