

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

TOM, Bernard Bruce "Bernie"

Date of birth

31 March 1924

Age

20

Place of birth

Athens, Athens County, Ohio

Hometown

Athens, Athens County, Ohio

Military service

Service number

35626632

Rank

Private First Class

Unit

**F Company,
2nd Battalion,
506th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
101st Airborne Division**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

9 October 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
G	1	15

Immediate family

Members

Fred L. Tom (father)

Lucille H. (Higgins) Tom (mother)

Fredrick D. Tom (brother)

Dana L. Tom (brother)

More information

Pfc Tom graduated from Athens High School with the class of 1942 where he played football.

After graduation, he began working for the State Highway Department and during the summer and for the Goodyear Manufacturing Company in Akron until he enlisted at Fort Hayes, Ohio on 8 February 1942. He was sent overseas in February 1944.

Having made several jumps in England, he participated in an exhibition jump along with thousands of other paratroopers for Churchill and Eisenhower. He then participated in the D-Day invasion in France on 6 June 1944, going over with the first contingent at about 3 a.m.

After some 40 days at the front, his division was taken back to England for a rest period. Later they were jumped into Holland on 17 September 1944.

In a letter written just four days before he was killed, he described how the people of Holland had received them. The woman and children gave them peaches, apples, pears and cried thinking they were Gods, sent from Heaven to save them. He told of the windmills, wooden shoes, etc. and how well they could speak English.

Pfc Orel Lev was on the machine gun with Pfc Ken A. Hull and Bernard B. Tom. The attack that was expected, came just after dark. A mortar shell hit their position. All three were killed instantly.

Pfc Tom was initially buried at the Temporary American Military Cemetery of Molenhoek near Nijmegen in the Netherlands on the same day of his death. He was disinterred on 23 June 1948 and was given his final resting place at Margraten on 5 February 1949.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Family Tree / Headstone and Interment Record, www.newspaperarchive.com - Athens Sunday Messenger

Photo source: Ralph, CJ Jansen, Marc van den Berkmortel, Mary Porter