



Personal info

Full name

BELL, Donald Dewitt

Date of birth

24 June 1912

Age

32

Place of birth

South Dakota

Hometown

Watertown, Pennington County, South Dakota

Military service

Service number

T-121971

Rank

Flight Officer

Unit

**305th Squadron,
442nd Troop Carrier Group**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Died of Wounds

Date of death

24 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
E	16	17

Immediate family

Members

Clement H. Bell (father)

Ora M. Bell (mother)

Roger Bell (brother)

Owen Bell (brother)

Richard Bell (brother)

Jean Bell (sister)

John Bell (brother)

Margaret Bell (sister)

John Hudson Bell (son)

More information

F/O Donald D. Bell enlisted at Fort Snelling, Minnesota on 29 April 1941.

He joined the Air Corps of the Regular Army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota on 29 April 1941 as a private. He completed 4 years of high school, worked as a truck driver in Watertown, South Dakota.

At the time of Donald's landing by glider on drop zone N during Operation Varsity, his craft was under heavy small arms fire, and it was essential that he and his crew immediately left the glider to seek the nearest shelter. F/O Bell, however, was caught in German crossfire and was fatally wounded by a shot in the groin. Although immediately given blood plasma by combat medical men, F/O Bell never regained consciousness so he knew no pain or suffering. He passed away in a field hospital at approximately 17.30 hours, 24 March 1945.

Photos



Source of information: Richard Kunne, Herman Kunne, John T. Gerlosky, www.ancestry.com - 1920-1940 Census / Headstone and Interment Record / WWII Enlistment Records / 17th Airborne Division Historical Report of Operation Varsity
<http://members.home.nl>

Photo source: Richard Kunne, Herman Kunne, Arie-Jan van Hees