



Personal info

Full name

TRUE, Robert George

Date of birth

13 February 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Ogden, Monroe County, New York

Hometown

Spencerport, Monroe County, New York

Military service

Service number

32471793

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**535th Bombardment Squadron,
381st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

5 November 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten**Walls of the Missing**

Immediate family

Members

Morris L. True (father)**Marguerite True (mother)****Malcolm H. True (brother)****Eleanor L. True (sister)****Jean M. True (sister)**

Plane data

Serial number

42-30852

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Hot Toddy aka Blowin' Bessie

Destination: Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the synthetic oil refinery

MACR: 1399

More information

After graduating at Spencerport High School, Robert True was employed by the International Business Machines Corporation as a payroll clerk and timekeeper. He enlisted in Rochester on 14 September 1942.

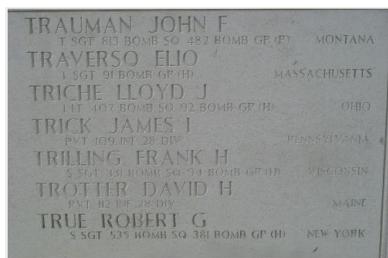
The airplane was hit by flak over the target, knocking out #2 engine. Oil vapor came out the #2 nacelle and the propeller was windmilling. also #1 engine was hit and was feathered. It kept up with the formation for about ten minutes and then dropped out and was observed to be losing altitude. Later the plane was attacked by German fighters, hitting it near the cockpit.

Some of the crew members jumped out before the plane hit the water of the Hollandsch Diep near the village named Klundert.

In total seven crew members were killed from which six were never recovered. Three crew members survived and were taken prisoner.

The wreck of the plane was recovered in October 1969.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.ancestry.com - Townsend Family Tree / 1930 Census, www.newspapers.com - Democrat and Chronicle

Photo source: Peter Schouteten