



Personal info

Full name

COSTLEY, Francis William

Date of birth

21 June 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Bath, Maine

Hometown

Saint Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida

Military service

Service number

O-713001

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**702nd Bombardment Squadron,
445th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

27 September 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
N	2	7

Immediate family

Members

James E. Costley (father)

Ruth E. Costley (mother)

Grace A. Costley (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-100308

Data

Type: B-24J

Nickname: Our Gal

Destination: Kassel, Germany

MACR: 9763

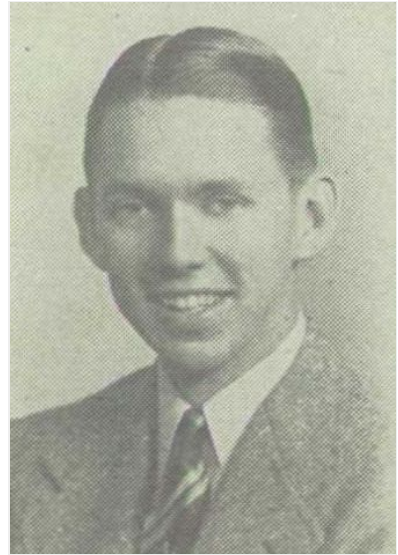
More information

Francis W. Costley was a graduate of Senior High school with the class of '41. He also attended Junior college for one and a half years where he was president of the MD club, before enlisting with the air forces in June, 1942. He reported for duty and basic training at Miami Beach February 1. Transferring from there for two months instruction at James Millikin university, Decatur, Ill., he was then sent to the west coast, to Santa Ana, Cal., for classification. He received his navigator's wings and second lieutenant's commission in March at Hondo army air field in Texas. He was stationed somewhere in England when reported missing.

100 to 150 E/A attacked our formation from 6 o'clock. They came in about 10 to 15 abreast and there were about 6 rows. B-24's were going down all around and it was impossible to state which was which. Many parachutes were seen in the area. Many of the planes were seen going down in flames.

I saw Lt Costley jump, but I was unable to see whether his parachute opened or not.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Astrid van Erp, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.newspapers.com - Tampa Bay Times, www.fold3.com - WWII Draft Card, www.ancestry.com - 1940 Census

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.newspapers.com - Tampa Bay Times, www.ancestry.com - St. Petersburg High School Yearbook 1941