



Personal info

Full name

BUSENBARK, Joseph Sidney

Date of birth

21 August 1917

Age

28

Place of birth

Pearce, Cochise County, Arizona

Hometown

Pearce, Cochise County, Arizona

Military service

Service number

O-696999

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**396th Fighter Squadron,
368th Fighter Group**

Awards

**Distinguished Flying Cross,
Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

24 December 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Andrew J. Busenbark Sr. (father)
Annie C. (Adams) Busenbark (mother)
Genieve Busenbark (sister)
Lena Busenbark (sister)
Bessie Busenbark (sister)
George Busenbark (brother)
Fletcher Busenbark (brother)
Nellie Busenbark (sister)
Ann L. Busenbark (sister)
Stanley W. Busenbark (brother)
Andrew J. Busenbark (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-76482

Data

Type: P-47D
Destination: Trier, Germany
Mission: Dive-bombing
MACR: 11428

More information

2nd Lt Joseph S. Busenbark joined the Air Corps on 16 December 1941. He trained as a pilot at Shepherd Field, Majors Field, and Randolph Field, all in Texas, and received his wings in November 1943.

The mission took place on 23 December 1944.

Statement of 1st Lt J. W. Strickland, who flew in the same mission: "I was flying no. 3 in Serum Black Flight with Lt Busenbark flying no. 4. Approximately 30 FW 190s were sighted and engaged in the vicinity of Coblenz. After a brief engagement, during which Lt Busenbark destroyed one FW, he called over the R/T that his engine was missing badly. We set course on a heading of 270 degrees, with Lt Busenbark losing altitude steadily until he crash-landed in the vicinity of Lissendorf. I flew over his ship several times at a low altitude in an effort to determine whether Lt Busenbark had got away from the ship. The aircraft was beginning to burn and, to the best of my knowledge, Lt Busenbark was not in the cockpit. The incident occurred at 1100 hours, 23 December 1944."

2nd Lt Busenbark was declared officially dead one day and one year after he was reported missing in action.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, 368th Fighter Group, Cathy Ellis, www.ancestry.com - Grimm Family Tree, 1920/1930/1940 Census, Arizona Republic and Arizona Daily Star.

Photo source: Michel Beckers, 368th Fighter Group