



Personal info

Full name**WESTPHAL, William Frederick J****Date of birth****3 August 1924****Age****19****Place of birth****Maryland****Hometown****Baltimore, Maryland**

Military service

Service number**13136344****Rank****Technical Sergeant****Unit****331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy****Awards****Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status**Finding of Death****Date of death****3 March 1944****Cemetery****American War Cemetery Margraten****Walls of the Missing**

Immediate family

Members**Walter F. Westphal (father)****Margaret E. (Meagher) Westphal (mother)****Kathleen M. Westphal (sister)****Peggy Westphal (sister)****Walter Westphal (brother)****Frances Westphal (sister)**

Plane data

Serial number

42-38075

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Berlin

Mission: Bombing of the industrial areas

MACR: 2794

More information

T/Sgt William F. J. Westphal graduated from Catonsville High School.

He volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States in Baltimore, Maryland on 4 November 1942. He was sent overseas nine months later.

His father was an immigrant from Norway and his mother from Northern Ireland.

On their way to the target, the formation crossed another formation that was returning without bombing their target, due to bad weather. The airplane collided head on with plane 42-31112, killing the entire crew of both planes.

There is a contradiction about the exact place where the plane crashed. According to certain documents, it crashed in Itzehoe, but other documents mention that the body of Thomas Robey washed ashore in Busum on 5 May 1944. This can mean that the airplane crashed in the North Sea.

Photos

