



Personal info

Full name

AHLWARDT, Donald Lewis

Date of birth

4 May 1923

Age

20

Place of birth

Iowa

Hometown

Danbury, Woodbury County, Iowa

Military service

Service number

O-537244

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
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

Lewis A. Ahlwardt Sr. (father)
Maggie B. (Clausen) Ahlwardt (mother)
Gladys Ahlwardt (sister)
Luella Ahlwardt (sister)
Evalyn Ahlwardt (sister)
Lewis A. Ahlwardt Jr. (brother)
Betty L. Ahlwardt (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-38075

Data

Type: B-17G
Destination: Berlin
Mission: Bombing of the industrial areas
MACR: 2794

More information

1st Lt Donald L. Ahlwardt was a clerk. He volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on 31 December 1941.

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



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, Carla Mans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, Missing Aircrew Report 2794

Photo source: Donald S. Ahlwardt (cousin), Dennis and Gerda Hermsen, <http://www.armyairforces.com> - lucky partners, www.americanairmuseum.com, Greg Lampman, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43-D, Lubbock, Texas