



Personal info

Full name

THIES, Merle John

Date of birth

1 April 1916

Age

28

Place of birth

**Alliance Township, Moody County,
South Dakota**

Hometown

Pipestone, Pipestone County, Minnesota

Military service

Service number

O-816377

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**836th Bombardment Squadron,
487th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

23 June 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

| Plot | Row | Grave |
|------|-----|-------|
| D | 32 | 1 |

Immediate family

Members

William H. Thies (father)
Dorothea E. (Bauer) Thies (mother)
Laurence W. Thies (brother)
Dwight W. Thies (brother)
Ardyce D. Thies (sister)
Pearl L. Thies (wife)
Merlin P. Thies (son)

Plane data

Serial number

41-28822

Data

Type: B-24H
Nickname: Bashful Marion
Destination: Juvincourt, France
Mission: Bombing of the airfield
MACR: 6263

More information

Merle Thies graduated from Pipestone High School and worked on his father's farm

He enlisted at Camp Riley, Kansas, on 7 October 1942.

According to eye witness reports from crew members of other airplanes in the group, this B-24 was hit by flak southwest of Brussels and disintegrated in the air. Not one of the nine crew members had the chance to bail out and packed parachutes and other flying equipment were seen to fall out of the plane as it exploded. It fell in peaces near a hospice in Rue du Paloke, Molenbeek-Saint-Jean

He was initially buried at the cemetery of Evere, Belgium.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorail.com, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com - U.S. Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, www.findagrave.com - Paul Webber

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Paul Webber / Jim Zebora