



## 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

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### 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

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### Serial number

**41-28822**

### Data

**Type: B-24H**

**Nickname: Bashful Marion**

**Destination: Juvincourt, France**

**Mission: Bombing of the airfield**

**MACR: 6263**

## More information

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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](http://www.wwiimemorail.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) - Paul Webber

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