



### Personal info

Full name

**VANDERSTELT, Joseph**

Date of birth

**5 March 1917**

Age

**27**

Place of birth

**Muskegon Heights, Muskegon County, Michigan**

Hometown

**Muskegon Heights, Muskegon County, Michigan**

### Military service

Service number

**36416921**

Rank

**Staff Sergeant**

Unit

**364th Bombardment Squadron,  
305th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Distinguished Flying Cross,  
Purple Heart,  
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**5 December 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
B	32	37

## Immediate family

### Members

**Jan D. Vanderstelt (father)**  
**Johanna M. (Teuling) Vanderstelt (mother)**  
**Dirk D. Vanderstelt (brother)**  
**Maud (VanderKooi) Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**Gertrude (Smith) Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**Jacob Vanderstelt (brother)**  
**William Vanderstelt (brother)**  
**Helen Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**Henrietta Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**Donna Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**Joan Vanderstelt (sister)**  
**John Vanderstelt (brother)**  
**Genevieve N. Vanderstelt (wife)**

## Plane data

### Serial number

**42-39947**

### Data

**Type: B-17G**  
**Nickname: Chiquita**  
**Destiniantion: Berlin, Germany**  
**Mission: Bombing of munitions and tank plants**  
**MACR: 11040**

## More information

Joseph Vanderstelt attended college for one year and was a carpenter.

He enlisted in Kalamazoo, Michigan on 31 December 1942.

The airplane was hit by a direct flak burst, breaking the fuselage in two.

The wreckage crashed close to Prenden, Germany. All nine crewmembers were killed. They were initially buried at the local cemetery of the town.

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, [www.wwiiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930/1940 Census / United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946 / Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) - geni.com