



Personal info

Full name

ESKLUND, Theodore Harttwell "Ted"

Date of birth

7 November 1924

Age

20

Place of birth

Lewiston, Nez Perce County, Idaho

Hometown

Utah County, Utah

Military service

Service number

O-930035

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**332nd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

15 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	34	36

Immediate family

Members

Arthur H. Esklund (father)

Mary Esklund (mother)

Maurine Esklund (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

43-38662

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Oranienburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard

MACR: 13028

More information

Theodore Esklund graduated of Pl. Grove High School.

He enlisted on 26 June 1943 and received basic training at Camp Kearns, Utah and trained at Marfa, Texas. He attended school as an aviation student at the Utah State Agricultural College in Logan. He was promoted 2nd Lieutenant in January 1945 at Rapid City, South Dakota.

According to witness statements of crew members of other aircraft, this aircraft was hit by flak while on the bomb run, just before the target was reached. Seconds after the aircraft was hit, their bombs were released. When the formation turned westward, this airplane turned eastward and headed for the Russian lines. Much flak was being shot at the lone plane but no direct hits were observed. Number 2 engine was smoking. Two parachutes were seen leaving the plane and it is believed a third man was observed, but it could not be positively identified as coming from this aircraft. The first parachute out caught on the tail wheel and about three minutes later the crewman was seen to fall out of his harness and fall to the ground.

Surviving crew members also mentioned that Sgt Ashcraft's parachute was caught by the tail wheel.

They also stated that the pilot, 2nd Lt Torndyke stayed in the plane, thinking he could save it.

Six crew members were taken prisoner, four were killed in action: Navigator Harold E. Long Jr, Gunner Wilton J. Ashcraft, Pilot William K. Torndike and Co-pilot Theodore H. Esklund. They were buried in two coffins in a common grave at the community cemetery of Werneuchen on 17 March 1945 (see photo) by German soldiers.

On 2 September 1947 an American team disinterred the bodies. The remains were in very bad condition and two of the bodies could not be separated on disinterment. There was no identification found on these four remains, so they were evacuated to Ardennes Cemetery as four unknowns.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, www.wiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com Utah, Military Records, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.newspapers.com - Deseret News - 16 April 1945