



### 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. Eklund (father)**

**Mary Eklund (mother)**

**Maurine Eklund (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 Eklund 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.

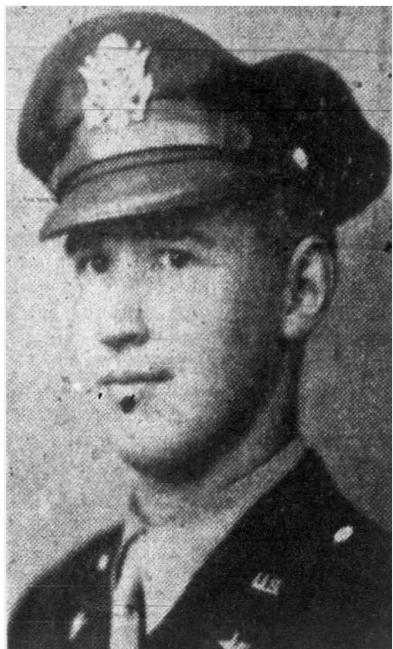
Surviving crew members also mentioned that Sgt Ashcraft's parachute was caught by the tail wheel.

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. Torndyke and Co-pilot Theodore H. Eklund. 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.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Utah, Military Records, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - Deseret News - 16 April 1945