



Personal info

Full name

O'BRIEN, David Wright

Date of birth

30 June 1918

Age

26

Place of birth

Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Hometown

Cook County, Illinois

Military service

Service number

16139348

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

11 December 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Plot	Row	Grave
G	11	65

Immediate family

Members

Edward C. O'Brien (father)
Paula E. (Wright) O'Brien (mother)
Elizabeth O'Brien (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-31900

Data

Type: B-17G
Nickname: Sally
Destination: Giessen, Germany
MACR: 11105

More information

Sgt David W. O'Brien graduated from the Academy in 1936. He was a prolific American writer whose first story was "Truth is a Plague!" (February 1940 'Amazing Stories' Magazine) and he published almost entirely for the Ziff-Davis magazines 'Amazing Stories' and 'Fantastic Adventures' from early 1940 onward.

#2 Engine started to throw oil just before reaching the target. Feathered #2 engine after bombs away. Then #1 engine ran away and after some difficulty with it, it was finally feathered. Also not drawing full power on #3 engine. Losing about 300 feet per minute at this time. Jettisoned all equipment. Trying to make Liege, but realized that they couldn't; so they bailed out on Pilot's orders at 5015N-0620E at approximately 1410 hours. Aircraft was flying on about 20 degree right bank at 2,000 feet. Visibility about 200 yards, ceiling 200 feet. Flying on W-NW heading of approximately 290 degrees. The Top Turret Engineer, Navigator, Radio Operator, Tail Gunner and Ball Turret Gunner got out and are now back. The Left Waist Gunner was seen to get out but no definite information is known pertaining to his present status. The returned crew members do not know what happened to the Pilot, Co-Pilot and Togglier. However, they think that these three should have had time to bail out. The returned crew members landed within a mile of each other and right in our front lines. 1st Army Troops picked them up immediately and they were flown back to Aldermaston, England in a C-47 from an A/D 3 or 4 miles NW of Liège on 13 December 1944.

Photos



Source of information: FOHF, www.ancestry.com - Headstone and Interment Record / 1930 Census / Illinois Birth Certificate, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, Loyola Academy - Grad Prep Yearbook (Chicago, IL) - Class of 1946,

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Loyola Academy - Grad Prep Yearbook (Chicago, IL) - Class of 1946