



Personal info

Full name

HANKIN, Armond Louis

Date of birth

31 March 1922

Age

22

Place of birth

**Manistique, Schoolcraft County,
Michigan**

Hometown

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Religion

Jewish

Military service

Service number

O-695814

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**856th Bombardment Squadron,
492nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

20 June 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	13	15

Immediate family

Members

Samuel H. Hankin (father)

Rose Hankin (mother)

Alvin Hankin (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

44-40112

Data

Type: B-24J

Nickname: Happy Flak

Destination: Politz, Germany

MACR: 7074

More information

2nd Lt. Hankin enlisted on 11 September 1942 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On 20 June 1944, they led the group's low left squadron to bomb the heavily defended refineries at Politz. On the way to target just as they reached Rugen Island, they were attacked by enemy fighters. Kehoe recalls, "A loud explosion was my first indication that we had been hit. When I turned around the whole flight deck was in flames." His co-pilot left his seat to see if he could put the fire out. The whole plane was filled with smoke and for a time no one could see. Kehoe gave the order to bail but wasn't sure if the bell or intercom was working. As the smoke semi-cleared few minutes later, Kehoe discovered he was the only one left. Of the ten others who had bailed, only two, Grossman and Redmond were lucky enough to be picked up by German patrol boats near Sassnitz located towards the northern tip of Rugen Island. Lt. Hankin was found on 6 August 1944 in the Baltic Sea and buried at Sassnitz Cemetery in Rügen, Germany.

2nd Lt. Hankin entered the air corps in March, 1943, and was commissioned the following October at San Angelo, Texas. He graduated from North Division high school, and attended the University of Wisconsin, where he was affiliated with Pi Lambda Phi. While in high school he was president of the Junior Congregation of Temple Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, and of TAG.

Photos



Source of information: Michel Beckers, Astrid van Erp, Carla Mans, [492nd Bomb Group](#), [www.ancestry.com](#) - 1930/1940 Census / U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, Erwin Derhaag, The Milwaukee Journal 19-mar-1945, [www.newspapers.com](#) - The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

Photo source: Michel Beckers, [492nd Bomb Group](#), [http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org/](#)