



Personal info

Full name

NEAL, Latham Wilson

Date of birth

13 October 1923

Age

20

Place of birth

Bankston, Fayette County, Alabama

Hometown

Fayette County, Alabama

Military service

Service number

34708771

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

21 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

| Plot | Row | Grave |
|------|-----|-------|
| A | 1 | 9 |

Immediate family

Members

Frank W. Neal (father)

Sula (Brown) Neal (mother)

Irick Neal (brother)

Beatrice Neal (sister)

Nellie Neal (sister)

Melba Neal (sister)

Fay Neal (sister)

Jack Neal (brother)

Charlotte Neal (sister)

Edith I. (Cooper) Neal (wife)

LaGara Neal Rose (daughter)

Plane data

Serial number

42-31013

Data

Type: B-17F

Destination: Regensburg, Germany

MACR: 7836

More information

Sgt Latham W. Neal was an airplane mechanic.

He enlisted at Fort McClellan, Alabama on 6 March 1943.

His daughter was only seven months when he was killed.

The aircraft was hit by flak on course into target at 5120N-0440E while flying at 20,000 feet at 0850 hours. The aircraft appeared to be hit between #1 and #2 engines. The aircraft turned over on its back and then resumed normal flying position. It then dropped off into a spin and was seen to explode before hitting the ground. The aircraft was burning and flames were visible. It burned out in the crash and explosion of bombs, it was destroyed for 99%. Three engines burned out and one engine was found deep in the ground. Four chutes were observed. Latham was first reported as MIA but KIA as of 17 March 1945.

Photos



Source of information: Terry Hirsch, www.ww2memorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com - 1940 census / Family Trees, Tuscaloosa Virtual Museum

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Lisa Landman, Tim Seman - Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County