



Personal info

Full name

SCHLOSSER, Walter O

Date of birth

8 March 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Michigan

Hometown

Lake City, Missaukee County, Michigan

Military service

Service number

16083944

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

7 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Tablets of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Hazel I. Schlosser (mother)

Plane data

Serial number

44-40145

Data

Type: B-24J

Destination: Bernburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Junkers-Zweigwerke aircraft factory

MACR: 7231

More information

S/Sgt Walter O. Schlosser worked in a metal factory before he joined the Air Corps of the US Army Reserve in Detroit, Michigan on 21 August 1942.

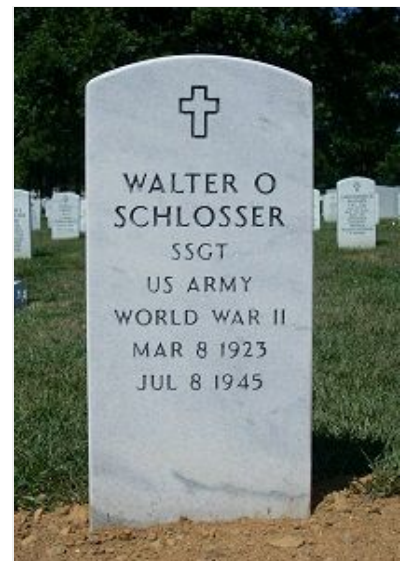
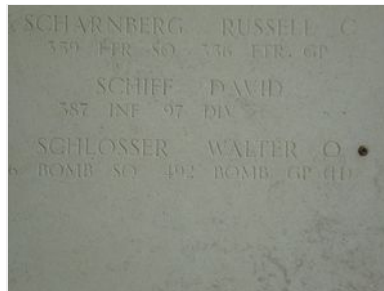
On the way back from the mission, the Luftwaffe caught the Group without any fighter protection. The 492nd lost a dozen of their planes.

The initial MIA report thought the crew might have gone down in the Baltic Sea. Later reports suspected they had gone down in the North Sea. Almost sixty years later the wreckage was discovered near the initial battle zone.

The excavated remains of the crew were sent to Hawaii for DNA identification. Everyone in the crew was positively identified except for S/Sgt Cotey. However his ring and dogtags were found in the wreckage and forensics were able to conclude his remains are among the parts from which DNA could not be extracted.

Leonard Ray was buried in Maryland on 5 October 2007. Robert Flood was buried in Pennsylvania on the following day. Hyman Stiglitz was buried on 28 December 2007 in Tucson, Arizona. The other four identified through DNA were buried at Arlington on 12 June 2008 along with a mass burial for the entire crew which contains all of the remains that could not be identified.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, 492ndbombgroup.com, Sue

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, <http://arlingtoncemetery.net/army-aircrew-07-07-1944.htm>, Michel Beckers, 492ndbombgroup.com, Sue, Peter Schouteten