

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

KERR, Richard Louis

Date of birth

30 March 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana

Hometown

Hamilton County, Ohio

Military service

Service number

35685305

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

7 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
I	13	22

Immediate family

Members

John H. Kerr (father)

Josephine H. (Gale) Kerr (mother)

Dorothy Kerr (sister)

Robert Kerr (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-95230

Data

Type: B-24H

Destination: Berburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing Aircraft Manufacturing Plant

MACR: 7238

More information

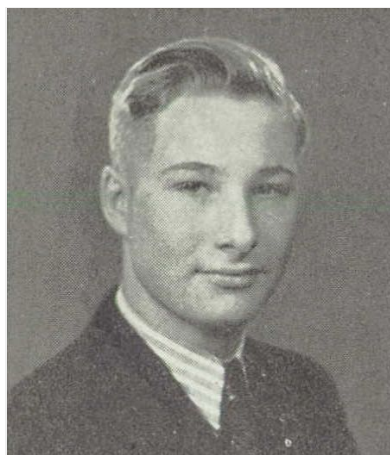
S/Sgt Kerr was a graduate of Harrison High School and was employed by the Wright Aeronautical Corporation.

He entered the service in January, 1943 and had been overseas since April, 1944. Shortly before the fatal mission, he received the Air Medal.

The airplane was shot down by enemy fighters over Bernburg in attempt to take out an aircraft manufacturing plant. Four of the men were killed while manning their posts. Some of the men were able to jump before the ship exploded. Others, like Frank Haag, were blown out. George Haag watched his brother's plane go down.

The wreckage landed outside the town of Gröningen, Germany, which is about 12 kilometers northeast of Halberstadt. The bodies recovered were buried locally at Gröningen. After the war, their remains were taken to the American Cemetery in the Netherlands. The local Germans in the town of Gröningen built a memorial to honor all victims of WWII in their area, which includes the names of the fallen men of the Haag Crew.

Photos



Source of information: Michel Beckers, Terry Hirsch, Caroline Fanello, Astrid van Erp, Carla Mans, MACR, 492ndbombgroup.com, www.newspapers.com - The Cincinnati Enquirer, Indiana Birth Certificate

Photo source: Michel Beckers / 492ndbombgroup.com, www.ancestry.com - Harrison High School Yearbook 1941, The Cincinnati Enquirer 5 October 1944