



### Personal info

Full name

**COTTON, Joseph**

Date of birth

**29 January 1919**

Age

**25**

Place of birth

**Quincy, Norfolk County,  
Massachusetts**

Hometown

**Essex County, New Jersey**

### Military service

Service number

**O-814402**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

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
C	7	11

## Immediate family

### Members

**Joseph J. Cotton (father)**  
**Nellie (Cierpisz) Cotton (mother)**  
**Mildred Cotton (sister)**  
**C. Lillian (Cincotta) Cotton (wife)**

## Plane data

Serial number  
**42-95230**

### Data

**Type: B-24H**  
**Destination: Bernburg, Germany**  
**Mission: Bombing Aircraft Manufacturing Plant**  
**MACR: 7238**

## More information

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, MACR, [492ndbombergroup.com](http://492ndbombergroup.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Headstone and Interment Record

Photo source: Michel Beckers / [492ndbombergroup.com](http://492ndbombergroup.com), [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) - Des Philippe