



Personal info

Full name

NESBITT, Carl D

Date of birth

2 February 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

Ohio

Hometown

Lima, Allen County, Ohio

Military service

Service number

O-690966

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**569th Bombardment Squadron,
390th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

29 May 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Tablets of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Robert H. Nesbitt (father)

Robert H. Nesbitt Jr. (brother)

Jean F. (Kievit) Nesbitt (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-39953

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: Flying Coffin

Destination: Leipzig, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the aircraft factory

MACR: 5313

More information

Carl Nesbitt graduated from Central High school in 1939. He had finished his junior year at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, when he joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve at Patterson Field, Ohio.

He was employed at the Kolter-Buckeye Dairy Co. before he was appointed an aviation cadet. He trained at San Antonio, Texas; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and Coffeyville, Kansas, receiving his wings in August 1943.

The airplane was attacked by enemy fighters. It dropped out of formation with #3 engine afire and the left aileron and wing damaged. It began to fall behind formation but was, at that moment, still under control. It crashed and sunk in a marsh.

Six crew members survived and were taken prisoner. Four men were killed.

The American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was charged with recovering the remains of fallen service members in the European Theater following the war. They were able to find the remains of one of the crew members buried in a cemetery in Horst during a search in September 1946. After 1950, worsening diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, who controlled this part of Germany at the time, prevented the AGRC from investigating further. Nesbitt was declared non-recoverable on 21 April 1953.

In July 2012, an investigation team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, a DPAA predecessor organization, found the crash site and recovered evidence of a B-17 crash. In 2015, DPAA received permission from the land-owner to excavate. DPAA contracted History Flight, Inc. to excavate the site, which they did between 17 July and 12 August 2019. They recovered possible material evidence and possible remains, which were first turned over to the local authorities and then sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for scientific analysis.

To identify Nesbitt's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced on 19 September 2022 that 1st Lt Carl D. Nesbitt was accounted for on 9 September 2022.

Nesbitt's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Nesbitt was given his final resting place on 15 May 2023 in Annville, Pennsylvania.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com Lima News

Photo source: FOHF, US School Yearbook, Facebook