

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

BURGESS, Harold David

Date of birth

21 May 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

Bertha, Todd County, Minnesota

Hometown

Woodside Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota

Military service

Service number

37542976

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**828th Bombardment Squadron,
485th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

8 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	8	10

Immediate family

Members

Clarence H Burgess (father)

Elsie V (Summerfield) Burgess (mother)

Margaret E Burgess (sister)

Ronald E Burgess (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-52674

Data

Type: B-24H

Destination: Vienna, Austria

Mission: Bombing of the oil refinery

MACR: 6587

More information

S/Sgt Peter O'Brian states in the Missing Aircrew Report:

"I was tail gunner in ship number 721, flying high box, lead wave on a bombing mission over Florisdorf, Austria, on 8 June 1944. I first saw the ship, in which 1st Lt Bearden was pilot, on fire and the right wing dipped. The ship was in a glide at that time, and in my opinion the pilot was trying to regain the control of the ship. The ship was losing altitude very fast, and I saw no parachutes. The ship was at approximately 16,000 feet when my attention was called to fighter planes coming at nine o'clock. I later looked back in the general area where I had last seen the ship, and I saw no parachutes, nor could I locate the ship itself."

Photos



Source of information: Michel Beckers, Terry Hirsch, [WWII Memorial, Fold3, 485th Bomb Group](#), WWII Draft Card, 1930 US Census

Photo source: Michel Beckers, Jerry Whiting, Peter Schouteten