

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

DYER, Wayne Lou

Date of birth

28 September 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma

Hometown

Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma

Military service

Service number

O-711360

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

29 May 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Tablets of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Lucius Dyer (father)

Maude D. Dyer (mother)

Freda V. Dyer (sister)

Ora S. (Jones) Dyer (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

2nd Lt Wayne L. Dyer graduated from Hobart High School and Weatherford College.

He entered the Air Corps in 1942 and was sent overseas in April 1944.

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.

Bodies recovered from the crash were believed to have been buried in a local cemetery. After the war ended, there was no evidence of Dyer being a prisoner of war or having survived, so a Finding of Death was issued a year after the crash.

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. Dyer 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 was 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 Dyer'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 2nd Lt Wayne L. Dyer was accounted for on 9 September 2022.

Dyer'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.

2nd Lt Wayne L. Dyer was laid to rest on 10 April 2023 at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

Documents

- 2.90 MB

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com - Family Tree, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: FOHF, www.findagrave.com, www.ancestry.com - Betsey Lippert