



Personal info

Full name

KITTREDGE, David R

Date of birth

27 August 1922

Age

22

Place of birth

Itasca County, Minnesota

Hometown

Outgamie County, Wisconsin

Military service

Service number

16094800

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**450th Bombardment Squadron,
322nd Bombardment Group, Medium**

Awards

Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

16 April 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

John Kittredge (father)

Eunice (Ross) Kittredge (mother)

Catherine Kittredge (sister)

John Kittridge (brother)

Robert Kittredge (brother)

Nathan Kittredge (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-96225

Data

Type: B-26B-55

Destination: Wittenberg, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the railroad station

MACR: 14463

More information

S/Sgt David R. Kittredge volunteered for the Air Corps of the U.S. Army in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 21 August 1942. He attended high school for 3 years and was a chauffeur before he joined the army.

Statement of Donald E. Sheperd, O-704507, 1st Lt., 450th Bomb Squadron: "I was flying as co-pilot in the aircraft leading the flight. The lost aircraft was flying on our left wing. I first observed Lt. Dow's aircraft as we turned off the target and his plane came directly under ours. The plane was in a steep dive and smoke was coming from its tail. Later I saw flames come out of the left side of the plane. At the same time I saw one chute leave the aircraft and blossom out. Diving earthward the plane made a shallow turn to the left and hit in the center of a small town. The aircraft exploded immediately upon hitting the ground."

The plane received a direct hit from antiaircraft fire and crashed into a house at Muhlangen, 1 mile south east of Wittenberg. In December 1948 the wreckage could be located, however no trace could be found of the remains of the deceased crew members. It is believed that their remains were totally destroyed by the ensuing fire since the plane and the house burned completely.

In 2007, a German aircraft researcher interviewed eyewitnesses, who reported seeing two deceased crew members buried near the crash site under an apple tree. He also reported the crew members as being exhumed in 1947 or 1948, by an allied recovery team.

In June 2012, a German national informed the U.S. government that he found possible human remains in Muhlangen, which he believed to have been associated with an April 1945, B-26B crash, and turned them over to the local police. In July 2012, a Department of Defense (DoD) team began excavating the site recovering human remains, personal effects and aircraft wreckage. DoD also took custody of the remains that the local German national had previously recovered. The remains were of two crew members, S/Sgt Howard and S/Sgt Kittredge.

To identify Sgt Kittredge's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools such as mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA).

The individually identified remains of S/Sgt Kittredge were buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on 27 May 2015, together with the individually identified remains of S/Sgt Howard.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Family Tree / 1930 Census / Birth Index, www.fold3.com, IDPF of Dwight K. Booth

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.findagrave.com - Sue, Arlington National Cemetery