



Personal info

Full name

BLACKBURN, Robert Medbury

Date of birth

29 August 1920

Age

24

Place of birth

Kansas City, Missouri

Hometown

Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

Military service

Service number

O-727390

Rank

Major

Unit

**509th Fighter Squadron,
405th Fighter Group**

Awards

**Silver Star,
Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster,
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

25 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	4	40

Immediate family

Members

**James C. Blackburn (father)
Margaret Blackburn (mother)
William Blackburn (brother)
Barbara J. (Miller) Blackburn (wife)**

Plane data

Serial number

44-33291

Data

**Type: P-47D-30 RA
Destination: Dortmund-Brackel Airfield, Germany
Mission: Armed reconnaissance
MACR: 13577**

More information

Maj Robert M. Blackburn graduated from Drake University.

He volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States as an aviation cadet at Fort De Moines, Iowa on 16 January 1942. He was sent overseas in December 1944.

After bombing and strafing an airfield east of Dortmund, Robert Blackburn strafed two Junkers 88 airplanes which were parked on the airfield and blew them up. Maj Blackburn continued on through or over the resulting blast. After climbing, he jettisoned his canopy and transmitted he would bail out. Maj Blackburn was out of sight and stopped transmitting. Nobody saw his plane or parachute.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, Astrid van Erp, [WWIIMemorial.com](#), [Archives.gov](#), [www.fold3.com](#) - MACR, [www.newspapers.com](#) - The Des Moines Register, [www.ancestry.com](#) - WWII Bonus Case File

Photo source: [Findagrave.com](#), Timothe Loock, [www.newspapers.com](#) - The Des Moines Register, [www.ancestry.com](#) - Drake University Yearbook 1941