



Personal info

Full name

AMBROSE, Tuite Howe Anthony

Date of birth

21 September 1921

Age

21

Place of birth

Belle Rose, Assumption Parish, Louisiana

Hometown

Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, Louisiana

Military service

Service number

38194123

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**510th Bombardment Squadron,
351st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

17 August 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
I	14	12

Immediate family

Members

Robert Ambrose (father)

Nellie (Clifton) Tuite (mother)

Clifton R. Ambrose (brother)

Theresa Ambrose (sister)

Nellie Ambrose (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-29839

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Cherokee Girl

Destination: Schweinfurt, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the KuglFisher ball bearings plant

MACR: 303

More information

S/Sgt Tuite Ambrose attended high school for four years and was a sales clerk.

He enlisted in New Orleans, Louisiana on 13 July 1942.

His brother Clifton is buried at Florence American Military Cemetery, Italy.

Lt Hansen, flying 42-29839 in the number three position of the second element, lead squadron, lead group, was hit in the number three engine. The engine lost all oil pressure and could not be feathered. With the wind-milling propeller, the plane could not maintain speed and was forced to leave the formation. As the bombs were salvoed to reduce weight, a fighter hit the plane with four bursts of 20mm. The first came through the nose, taking the plexiglass and nose gun completely away, and exploded under the cockpit among the oxygen bottles, starting a fire. The second burst hit the radio room, starting another fire. The third hit in the waist and the fourth in the tail, taking away the tail guns and leaving the gunner staring into space.

With the aircraft burning fiercely, Lt. Hansen gave the order to bail out before bailing out of the side window himself. He was on the wing of the plane, but found that he could not get his right foot out. Looking back, he saw that it was caught in his parachute which he had forgotten to take with him! Turning back he grabbed the parachute, wrapped the harness around his hand and slipped off the wing. When the parachute opened he was left hanging by one foot and one hand. All the crew, except the top turret gunner, managed to get clear before the ship exploded, but all had severe burns.

According to witness statements of surviving crew members, S/Sgt Ambrose's parachute opened inside the plane and as a result he was unable to bail out.

He was initially buried at the cemetery of Mendig, probably on 17 August, in a common grave with six other soldiers who were casualties of other crashes. He was disinterred and transported to Margraten where he arrived on 23 February 1946. There he was buried as Unknown X 2362 at block YY, row 2, grave 50. On 27 September 1948, he was again disinterred and identified by toothcharts and markings on his coveralls. He was given his final resting place on 3 February 1949.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, www.351st.org, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Wedge Family Tree / WWII Draft Card, 1930 Census, Debbie Blouin