



### Personal info

Full name

**WEISER, Robert Maurice**

Date of birth

**5 August 1922**

Age

**22**

Place of birth

**Buffalo, Erie County, New York**

Hometown

**Buffalo, Erie County, New York**

Religion

**Jewish**

### Military service

Service number

**O-765558**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

Unit

**47th Squadron,  
313th Troop Carrier Group**

Awards

**Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**24 March 1945**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Margraten**

Plot	Row	Grave
C	17	21

## Immediate family

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### Members

**James A. Weiser (father)**

**Elsie Weiser (mother)**

**Ernest Weiser (brother)**

**Ruth R. (Baulk) Weiser (wife)**

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**44-77581**

### Data

**Type: C-46D**

**Destination: Drop zone X, north of Wesel, Germany**

**Mission: Paratrooper Drop**

**MACR: 13420**

## More information

Lt Robert M. Weiser graduated from East High School and was employed at Curtis Wright.

The airplane was hit by flak and was on fire just after the paratroopers were dropped. It went into a bank and crashed in the vicinity of the drop zone. It exploded when it hit the ground.

One crew member bailed out and returned to duty, three men of the crew were killed.

In addition to the crew, there were 26 passengers on board, 25 paratroopers of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment and one photographer, 2nd Lt Charles A. Higgins Jr., who was also killed in the crash.

The surviving crew member, T/Sgt Edward J. Gardner, gave the following statement: "We had been lagging slightly behind the formation as we approached the Rhine. We were flying no. 3 ship of the third element, second section of nine, second serial. We came into the DZ on course and encountered heavy fire from the edge of the woods west of the DZ. Just before we reached the DZ, we had not dropped our troops, I saw no. 2 ship in an element in front of us, nose down toward the ground, and hit and explode a short distance west of the DZ. It was in an open field. I had seen no fire or smoke coming from this plane prior to its crash.

We encountered some small arms fire over the DZ but got all of our troops and bundles off over the DZ, dropping on our Flight Leader. I then noticed that our flaps would not come back up, which slowed us up and forced us to drop behind the formation. After we made the right turn, very heavy fire broke loose. One shell came through the left door, glanced off my helmet, made a large hole in the right side of the fuselage. We were trying to climb out, but were not making much progress. The flaps seemed to stay about a half to a quarter down. Lt Higgins had refused to put on his flak suit or chute, saying it interfered with his taking the pictures, and as we flew over the woods on the way west toward the Rhine through the heavy fire, I threw Lt Higgins on top of his flak suit and got on top of him to afford some protection. A few seconds later I looked into the cockpit and all I could see was smoke. Sgt Wolfe and Lt Weiser came out of the cockpit and had walked about to the end of the navigator's table. Flames were shooting out of the cockpit into the cabin. The flames seemed to be coming out of the trap door behind the pilot's seat. These flames may have caught Lt Weiser's chute when he passed through. About that time Lt Blendinger turned around and gave Lt Weiser a message of some kind and Sgt Wolfe yelled at Lt Higgins and me to bail out. Just before this, I had looked into the cockpit, and it seemed to me that Lt Blendinger was trying to set the automatic pilot.

Before I bailed out, I told the photographer to put his chute on and bail out. I was nearest to the door when the bailout order came, so went out first. Just before I went out, I saw Lt Higgins reaching for his chute. Sgt Wolfe and Lt Weiser were on the way to the door. After I bailed out, my back was to the plane all the way down, and I saw neither what happened to the plane nor whether any other chutes came out. I landed in an open area perhaps 200 yards from the Rhine near a large brown house."

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Jewish Servicemen Card / 1930 Census, Arie-Jan van Hees, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Des Philippe, Buffalo Courier Express - 25 May 1937, Robert Weiser