



Personal info

Full name

BLAIS, Edmond John

Date of birth

13 October 1921

Age

21

Place of birth

Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Hometown

Buffalo, Erie County, New York

Military service

Service number

32478396

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

9 October 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	1	36

Immediate family

Members

John B. Blais (father)

Josephine Blais (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-30867

Data

Type: B-17F

Destination: Anklam, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Arado-Heinkel aviation industry

MACR: 1035

More information

Sgt Edmond J. Blais attended Calumet High School and was managing a chain of restaurants in Buffalo, New York.

Shortly after crossing the Danish coast the group was attacked by German fighters. Thirty to fifty Me 109s executed many close attacks. At the start of the bomb-run the enemy fighters broke off their attacks, leaving the formation to suffer the attentions of the Anklam flak gunners.

Smoke from the bombs of the preceding Wing obscured the target, as a consequence most of the bombs fell in the center of the city.

The formation turned for home and flew straight into the Luftwaffe's assembled forces. Me 110s and a few Ju 88s stood off and fired rockets into the formation.

Edmond Blais and another crew member, John R. Butterbach, were killed during the fighter attack.

In total four crew members were killed, six were taken prisoner.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, WWIIMemorial.com, Chicago Tribune 5 July 1944, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Suburbanite Economist - 5 December 1943, Kay Bee