

Lt Boyd Sutcliff Grant O-724265 Purple Heart USAAF

Boyd was born on 14 January 1915 in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, USA, the son of Ferdinand (Fred) M L Grant and Minnie Elvie Grant nee Sutcliff. In April 1942 he married Ernestine Vaughn in the Air Base Chapel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Educated at Ouachita Parish High and Northeast Junior College, West Monroe, he also spent time at Louisiana State University. Boyd was employed by the News Star World Publishing Company, Monroe Printing Company and the Louisiana Power and Light Company

He enlisted in September 1941, and in April 1942 he was awarded his Observer badge before transferring to England in May 1942..

On 28 June 1942, orders came from the USA that the USAAF would begin combat operations on 4 July 1942, Independence Day. Crews from the 15th Bomb Squadron, that had arrived in the UK earlier in the year and were attached to 226 Sqn for training, were chosen for this joint mission. The importance of this first mission was evident with the visit of General Eisenhower to RAF Swanton Morley two days before the attack.

On 4 July 1942, a mixed force of 12 Bostons, in four three-plane formations, were tasked with an attack against four airfields in German-occupied Holland - De Kooy, Bergen, Valkenburg and Haamstede. At 07:14, Boyd, operating as the Observer, and the crew departed RAF Swanton Morley, Norfolk in Boston III AL741 (MQ-V), heading for Bergen.

At 08:02 the Bostons arrived at the airfield. They had difficulties in identifying the proper objective, causing the formation to attack at 100ft in line astern, starting fires in hangars located on the north side of the airfield. Boyd's plane was hit by flak right after bombing and crashed on the airfield, killing all on board.

American and British reporters gave the mission a lot of attention, but the low-level, daylight raid was not a success. German anti-aircraft gunners, apparently warned of the approaching attackers by a ship off the coast, mounted a vicious opposition. The experienced crews of 226 Sqn agreed the flak was the worst they had ever seen.

Also Killed: Lt William George Lynn (Pilot); Sgt William Ennis Murphy (Air Gunner); Cpl Charles P Kramarewicz (WOp/AG)

Boyd was originally buried in the Allied Community Cemetery, Bergen, North Holland. In September 1949, his remains were repatriated to the USA. Boyd is buried in Hasley Cemetery, West Monroe, Ouachita, Louisiana.

Boyd is commemorated on Wall Panel 172

Photo Source: Find a Grave

