

Sister's information about:

Irwin J. Wentz — 43K  
Hanover  
Pennsylvania 17331

Aviation Cadet

Primary - Douglas, Georgia (Class Unknown) 43-K

Graduated pilot as a Flight Officer (Location Unknown) *MOODY FIELD  
12/5/43*

Became 2nd Lt. and 1st Lt. 0-1695404

Letter from Irwin 12/4/44 advised had completed 46 missions, stationed in Italy. Letter from 347th Bomb Sqd. - 99th Bomb GR., *FOGGIA ITALY* advised during 50th mission, sqd. trying to regroup after being hit hard and one plane was out of position when they came under attack. Gunner on friendly plane came through and shot (up or off) tail section of Irwin's plane. Report from other planes advised plane pulled up into stall and then dove nose down (2 parachutes) made it out of plane. Confusion as to which airmen made it out. Loss occurred on 12/9/44.

Two men visited family and assumed they were the two that made it out.

But report from Chaplain said they (2 chutes) were Bombadier and Navigator - also that one was lost in a later mission on another plane.

Family received Christmas presents (Bells from Isle of Capri) after death notification. Presents were sent by Irwin before last mission. *50<sup>TH</sup> MISSION*

Description from squadron and group was very superior rating and he was put in as formation and squadron leader position after starting as a co-pilot with flight officer rank.

Missing information - plane type - Air Force (assume 15th).

*B-17*

*FAMILY HAD FEW PICTURES AND WISHED TO SAVE THEM  
FOR PERSONAL REASONS*

*POSSIBLY WE CAN FILL IN OPEN INFORMATION  
AT THE REUNION*

*SEE YOU THERE*

*Gene Myers*