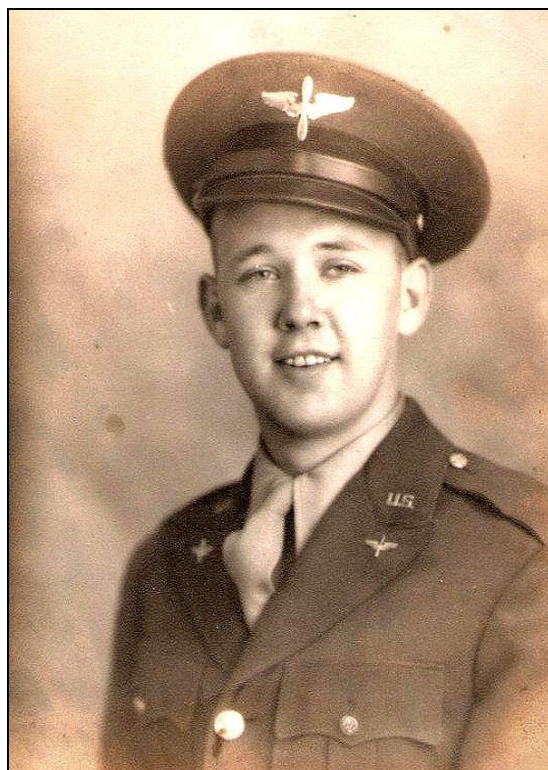


World War II - Lt. James Elmer Hall, Jr.

Killed in Action 15 Oct 1944



An email received by Linda Fluharty on 3 Feb 2013 from hendrik_schoebrechts@hotmail.com: "We are currently working on an exposition in our museum "Histor Center Airbase Brustem". The museum shows and tells about the history of the former airbase located at Brustem, Sint-Truiden in Belgium. - In WWII it was home to German night fighter units until September 1944 when Sint-Truiden was liberated by the Americans. From September 1944 to April 1945, the base was the home for the 48th and 404th Fighter Groups. I've had the good fortune to attend the reunions of both groups in recent years and especially those of the 404th FG. This is where James Elmer Hall Jr comes into the picture: a member of the 404th FG since May 1944, he took off from A-92 St-Trond for a ground support mission from which he did not return. Shot down and killed near Aachen (Verlautenheide). I managed to stumble on a few documents, indicating he was only found in March 1945 and subsequently buried at Henri Chapelle in Belgium. - In 1947, at the request of his family, his remains were brought to the US and he was buried on 15 November 1947 at 'Bethlehem Cemetery Grantsville'. - I was wondering if you perhaps have some information you can share with us, which we would then like to include in the exposition. - Best regards Hendrik Schoebrechts, vice-president Histor Center Luchtmachtbasis Brustem"

Email #2: "In attachment you'll find some documents about James E. Hall Jr. that I received from a group of German researchers of airplane crashes in Germany. - The picture of the young Lt Hall while in pilot training, is one I found on "The Hur Herald". The webmaster of this site was able to give me the following information: Born on 13 November 1923 in Grantsville, WV. Starts his pilot training in May 1942 at Moore Field, Mission, TX. Receives his wings in January 1944 at Randolph Field, TX. Joins the 404th Fighter Group in May 1944, when the Group was already in England, stationed at Winkton. - The last picture is the one that appears in "Leap Off", the official history of the 404th Fighter Group. Written by Andrew F. Wilson over the period September 1945 - December 1948." All my best, Hendrik."

Note from Linda Fluharty: If James Elmer Hall, Jr. died on 15 Oct 1944, and if he was 21 years, 11 months and 2 days old at the time, his birthdate would be 13 Nov 1922. - He was the son of James Elmer Hall, Sr., a school teacher, and Ester Brown Farrar. They had a son, Lowell, who died in 1937, and a daughter Florence Mae. Apparently, the family moved to Columbus, Ohio, and James E. Jr. joined the Army Air Corps in Columbus on 11 Nov 1942.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

Classification changed

to **RESTRICTED**

by E. A. BRADUNAS, Lt. Col., AC

by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC

Date MAR 15 1948

MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in quintuplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an airplane is officially reported missing.

- RAR Strip A-92-Belgium
- ORGANIZATION: Location St. Trend, Command of Air Force IX TAC, 9th AF
Group 404th Ftr Gp Squadron 507th Ftr Detachment
 - SPECIFY: Point of Departure RAR Strip A-92 Course 98°
Intended Destination Aachen, Germany Type of Mission Dive Bomb
 - WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED 5 scattered clouds-- 3 to 5 mile visibility
 - GIVE: (a) Date 15 Oct 44 Time 0935 and Location K-918470 NW Bur-
of last known whereabouts of missing airplane ape 1/250,000 Army Air
(b) Specify whether () Last sighted; () Last reported by Radio; Sheet 3
() Forced down; () Seen to crash; or () Information not available.
 - AIRPLANE WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS RESULT OF:
(Check only one) () Enemy Airplane; () Enemy Anti-Aircraft; ()
Other circumstances as follows: _____
 - AIRPLANE: Type, Model and Series P47-D22RE A.A.F. Serial No. 42-25717
 - ENGINES: Type, Model and Series R-2800-52 A.A.F. Serial No. (a) FF-001171
(b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____
 - INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below Make, Type and Serial No.) Browning Aircraft
(a) 1107563 (b) 1107523 (c) 1107512 (d) 1106108
(e) 1107413 (f) 1107669 (g) 1106118 (h) 1104216
 - THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non Battle Casualty _____
 - NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRPLANE: Crew One Passengers _____ Total One
(Starting with pilot, furnish the following particulars: If more than 10 persons were aboard airplane, list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach original to this form.)

	Crew Position	Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number
1.	Pilot	Hall, James Elmer Jr	1stLt	C707627
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

DEC 7 1944



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11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRPLANE, AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

Name in Full (Last Name First)	Rank	Serial Number	Contacted		Saw	
			By Radio	Last Sighted	Crash	Force Landing
1. <u>Latman, Charles C.</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>0660167</u>			<u>X</u>	
2. <u>Buckles, Paul M.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>0741877</u>			<u>X</u>	
3. <u>Blair, Floyd F.</u>	<u>1st Lt</u>	<u>04488133</u>			<u>X</u>	

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachuted were used _____; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash _____; or (c) Any other reason (Specify) No Information Available
13. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRPLANE WAS LAST SEEN. (Overlay attached)
14. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRPLANE. (Description attached)
15. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HERE: _____

Date of Report 16 October 1944

Rolland G. McCartney
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
ROLLAND G. McCARTNEY,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

REPORT OF BURIAL

10 March, 1945

293

1. NAME: HALL, JAMES ELMER JR.

RANK: 1st Lt., A.C.

ASN: O-707687

ORGANIZATION: 507th Ftr. Bnr. Sqdn, 404th Ftr. Bnr. Grp.

COMMAND: IX Tactical Air Command, NINTH AIR FORCE.

PLACE OF DEATH: Southeast edge of AAF Y-45.

DATE OF DEATH: Est. 15 December, 1944.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Specific cause unknown. Shot down by enemy action.

IDENTIFICATION: Group Identification on Aircraft; Serial Number on Aircraft engine.

STATEMENT

10 March 1945

I certify that the remains delivered by me this date to the U. S. Military Cemetery No. 1, Henri Chapelle, Belgium, are those of Hall, James Elmer Jr., 1st Lt., A.C., ASN O-707687.

Month of death is obviously misstated in the document.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

TO THE FOLLOWING IN THE ORDER INDICATED		CHECK ACTION	
1. Records Sec Attn: Checking Sub-Sec	INITIALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE
	DATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE
2. Rep Sec Br Man Div	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE AND RETURN
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE AND FORWARD
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPLETE ACTION
3. HALL, JAMES E. JR. 1st Lt. O-707 687	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CIRCULATE
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE

Buried in USMC, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, Plot B-4, Row 5, Grave 94.

Mr. James E. Hall - father- legal next of kin.

Address changed from 58 West California Avenue, Columbus 2, Ohio, to 220 East Dunedin Road, Columbus 2, Ohio.

Request notation be made concerning change of address.

1 Incl
Cpy ltr dtd 13 Jun 46

MEMORANDUM
JUN 13 11 56 AM
REID
RECORDS BRANCH

RETURN OF REMAINS - WORLD WAR II DEAD
CERTIFICATE OF INTERMENT EXPENSES

Date Nov. 15, 1947

I James E. Hall 220 East Dunedin Road, Columbus 2, Ohio
(Name and address of person responsible for payment of interment expenses)

hereby certify that the total sum of \$75.00 was incurred by me in connection

with the interment of the remains of the late James E. Hall, Jr.

1st Lt., O-707687, Air Corps

(Grade, Serial Number, & Arm of Service of Decedent)

in the Bethlehem Cem. Calhoun Co. West Va.
(Name of Cemetery) (County or City) (State)

James E. Hall
(Signature)

NOTE: 1. This certificate will be completed in quintuplicate and signed by the person who engaged the receiving funeral director and is responsible for payment of his bill. It is NOT to be accomplished or signed by the funeral director.

2. Return to: Commanding Officer
Columbus General Distribution Depot
Columbus 15, OHIO
ATTN: Chief, American Graves Registration Division

QMC Form R-5068
7 Nov 46

Local Reproduction Authorized

PAID ON VOUCHER 27764
12/5/7 ACCOUNTS OF
KNOBLOCH, Lt. Col. F. D.



The following letters, found on Fold3.com, were written by Lt. Hall's comrades following the incident that killed Lt. Hall.

507TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
404TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U.S. Army,
16 October 1944.

Statement by Lieut. Paul M. Buckles on the loss of Lieut. James E. Hall Jr.

I was leading the second element of the top cover flight at 7,000 feet on 15 October 1944. I saw Lieut. Blair's element follow Captain Lutman's down in a dive on target area from about 6,000 feet. I saw Captain Lutman's bomb blasts, and then a sudden brief flash of bright flame just short of the bomb hits, along the axis of Lieut. Blair's attack which was 180 degrees to Captain's run. Then as the two elements joined up after the attack, I heard Lieut. Blair call Captain Lutman and ask if Lieut. Hall was there. I didn't answer, figuring Lieut. Hall would. Captain Lutman didn't answer at once and I saw four ships in string -- Captain's element, and then $\frac{1}{2}$ mile behind Lieut. Blair and another ship directly behind him. Lieut. Blair called again, I looked again and only saw three aircraft. This was three miles Northwest of Aachen heading West.

Paul M Buckles

PAUL M. BUCKLES,
1st Lieut., AC,
O-741877.

507TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
404TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U.S.Army,
16 October 1944.

Statement by Captain Charles C. Lutman on the loss of Lieut. James E. Hall Jr.

I dove on the target from 6,000 feet. I saw Lieut. Blair's element swing around for a pass 180 degrees to mine. I completed my bombing run and pulled up breaking to the West. There was a lot of light flak tracer. I looked back and saw a large sudden brief flash of flame and black smoke short of my element's bombs. It looked similar, though a little bigger than the explosions of two hits on tanks by my element. I also saw Lieut. Blair's bombs hit near mine, but didn't see his plane. There were easily half a dozen explosions in the area. I took evasive action, and heard Lieut. Blair call me and ask if I saw Lieut. Hall. I looked back but couldn't tell which planes were my second element. There seemed to be 4 other aircraft than our own squadron in the vicinity. I finally saw just one aircraft coming in my direction to join up. I called Lieut. Blair and said I'd talk to him later, not wanting to confirm a possible loss over the air. The three of us circled in the area Northeast of Aachen, made several calls to Lieut. Hall and got no answer.

Charles C. Lutman

CHARLES C. LUTMAN,
Captain, Air Corps,
O-660167.

507TH FIGHTER SQUADRON
404TH FIGHTER GROUP

APO 595, U.S.Army,
16 October 1944.

Statement by Lieut. Floyd F. Blair on the loss of Lieut. James E. Hall Jr.

I was leading the second element with Lieut. Hall on my wing on 15 October 1944. We started the dive at 6,000 feet, I peeled into Lieut. Hall on my left and saw him crossing over behind me from left to right. I completed my run, released my bombs about 3,000 feet, completed pullout at 1,000 feet. I looked back for Lieut. Hall, saw nothing but light flak tracer in the air, and on the ground about 200 yards away from the target area a large puff of white smoke. Lieut. Hall did not rejoin formation.

Floyd F. Blair

FLOYD F. BLAIR,
1st Lieut., AC,
O-448813.