



Lt. Ernest J. Boehner
April 8, 1920-March 1, 1945

An Awards Service for Lt. Ernest J. Boehner was held at Beloit High School 7:00 pm Friday, March 13, 2009. Lt. Boehner was killed on March 1, 1945 just short of his 25th birthday on a ground attack mission in his P-51 Mustang near Bad Wildungen, Germany. Lt. Boehner was flying with the 78th Fighter Group, 82nd Fighter Squadron out of Duxford, England. The Beloit, Kansas VFW Post # 6242 provided the presentation and retiring of the Colors. Warren Inskeep, Chaplain of the Cawker City, KS American Legion Post # 379 had the invocation and benediction. Kelly Mc Nichols of Burr Oak, KS welcomed Lt. Boehner family members and guests. Mr. Mc Nichols showed a Power Point presentation of the military life of Lt. Boehner. Two local St. John's Catholic High School students, Richelle Perez and Vanessa Kresin shared talks. The service awards were presented by Lt. Col. Rick Watson Commander, 10th Air Support Operations Squadron, Ft. Riley, KS accompanied by Sgt. Major Arnold Lewis to Mary Dillon and Ralph Boehner, sister and brother of Lt. Boehner. A reception followed the awards presentation hosted by the Beloit, KS VFW Post #6242 Auxiliary.



Sgt. Major Arnold Lewis accompanied Lt. Col. Rick Watson in presenting awards to Ralph Boehner (forefront) and Mary Dillon (rear)



Cousin Walt Seidel, sister Mary Dillon and brother Ralph Boehner with Lt. Ernest Boehner's Service Awards

Lt. Ernest Boehner was the son of Fred and Laura Boehner and grew up on a farm near Glen Elder, KS. His siblings included Cecil, Mary, Ralph and his twin brother, Earl. Lt. Boehner flew the PT-23 at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, the BT-13 at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and the AT-6 at Dothan, Alabama. At Clearwater, Florida, getting into the cockpit of a Curtis P-40 must have been an exhilarating feeling. Lt. Boehner flew his first missions with the 33rd Pursuit Squadron out of Patterson Field, near Keflavik, Iceland. Here the squadron flew anti-submarine and convoy patrol missions. At Patterson Field the group flew P-40 and Republic P-47s. A photo supplied by sister-in-law, Doris Boehner shows Lt. Boehner and his squadron mates.



L/R Marle Brendle, Tom Donovan, Richard K. Corbett, John Custy, Howard Brockleman and Lucian Bibeau

Front L/R Joel Li and Ernest Boehner

Brendle, Boehner and Bibeau KIA 78th FG

Custy killed in Iceland on a training mission in a UC-64

Lt. Boehner transferred to the 78thFG, 82nd FG stationed in Duxford, England. Artist Nicolas Trudgian shows a scene reminiscent of the base in his painting, "Duxford Eagles". A link showing the print is: <http://www.military-art.com/mall/more.php?ProdID=4253>.



Lt. Boehner standing by his 78th FG, 82nd FS Mustang

Lt. Boehner's first combat mission from Duxford was January 14, 1945. His last bomber escort mission in his Mustang to Ulm, Germany was March 1, 1945 flying less than two months of combat. According to his Squadron Commander, Richard Hewitt the final mission lasted 5:50. After escorting the bombers, the fighters peeled off and looked for "targets of opportunity". A copy of the Missing Air Crew Report shows the location of the crash site of Lt. Boehner. A link to a German language website describing the same incident is: <http://www.luftkriegederbergland.de/flakfall.htm>

CONFIDENTIAL

12811

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

MISSING AIR CRAFT REPORT

1. ORGANIZATION: Location, by Name AAF Stat. P-357; Command or Air Force VIII Air Force Group 78th Fighter Squadron 2nd Fighter Detachment
2. SPECIES: Point of Departure AAF Stat. P-357; COURSE Calais-Selestat-Stuttgart-Ulm-Kassel; Target or Intended Destination Ulm, Germany; Type of Mission Bomber escort
3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED
No low cloud, 10/10 middle cloud
4. TIME: (a) Day 1 Month APR Year 1945; Time 1445; and Location 25 miles west of Kassel of last known whereabouts or missing aircraft. (b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted (); last contacted by radio (); forced down (); seen to crash (x); or information not available ()
5. APPEARED TO BE LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (check only one) Enemy aircraft (); Enemy anti-aircraft (x); Other circumstances
6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series P-51 K-5 NT; AAF Serial Number 42-11652
7. DESIGNATION OF AIRCRAFT, if any
8. ENGINE: Type, Model and Series V-1650-7; AAF Serial No. V-327463
9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below type, type, and Serial Number); 50 cal.
L. (a) BLC 725830 (b) BLC 725830 (c) Frig. 1483142 (d) BLC Brown, Lips & Chapin
R. (e) BLC 726287 (f) BLC 726329 (g) Frig. 1484287 (h) Frig. Frigidaire
10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS: (a) Battle Casualty X
or (b) Non Battle Casualty
11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 1; Passengers 0; Total 1
Name in Full Bochner, Ernest J. Serial Number 0-812041 Current Status MIA
Crew Position Pilot (Last Name First) Rank Number Status
12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND GIVE REASON FOR BELIEF TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SALE:
Name in Full Heault, Richard A. Serial Number 0-799189 Checked Only one Column
Contacted by Radio Last Sighted Crash Down
by Radio Sighted Crash Down
13. IF PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used; (b) Persons were seen walking away from scene of crash; or (c) Any other reasons (Specify)
See attached statement
14. ATTACHED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM. See attached sketch
15. ATTACHED RECOMMENDATION DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT. See attached statement
16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION AND EXTENT

Date of Report: 3 March 1945CONFIDENTIAL
Ernest J. Bochner

S T A T E M E N T

I was Surtax leader on 1 March 1943. As planned, we were sweeping northward in the Kassel area, strafing ground targets at about 1445 hrs. I went down with my #2, Lt. Boehner, and strafed a loco in a M/Y about 25 miles west of Kassel. I saw Lt. Boehner hit the loco and intense light flak started coming up at us. Lt. Boehner called and said he was hit. I do not know whether he meant he had been hit personally. I was engaged dodging the flak and it was almost 30 seconds later before I was able to look around and then I saw Lt. Boehner's plane trailing bluish smoke at 500 ft. The plane went down into some trees and exploded. I looked for a chute but did not see one. It is possible Lt. Boehner bailed out between the time he said he was hit and I saw his ship crash, but, if he did, it was at a very low altitude.

Richard A. Hewitt
Capt. A.C.



Final resting place of Lt. Ernest Boehner in the Glenwood Cemetery, Glen Elder, Kansas



Lt. Boehner's Service Awards

The help that Congressman Jerry Moran and his Hays, KS office provided in preparation for this service cannot be understated. Although Congressman Moran could not attend, he sent a note that was read at the service.

JERRY MORAN
FIRST DISTRICT
KANSAS

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March 13, 2009

Mr. Kelly McNichols
2256 80th Road
Burr Oak, Kansas 66936

Dear friends and family:

Tonight we come together to honor Lt. Ernest John Boehner. Through his service to our country during World War II, Lt. Boehner paid the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed in action while flying over Germany on March 1, 1945.

As a young man, Lt. Boehner was not quite 25 years old at the time of his death. Like so many members of "the greatest generation," he served his country with great distinction. In doing so, he fought for all of us.

There is no group that I admire and respect more than our nation's veterans. Tonight we thank Lt. Boehner and all of those who have fought to protect our freedoms and our way of life. We also thank the family members of these veterans, the families who never saw their brothers and sons again.

Thank you for your service, your commitment and your dedication to our country. God Bless you and God Bless the United States of America.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran

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Submitted by Kelly Mc Nichols