



DE SOTO HIGH SCHOOL  
 CLASS OF 1940

# MAX STUMP

OCT. 14, 1922 - FEB. 9, 1945  
 22 YEARS, 3 MONTHS, 26 DAYS



LT. STUMP JOINED THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS ON MARCH 27, 1943 AT AGE 20 AND WAS A MEMBER OF 8TH AIR FORCE STATIONED IN ENGLAND.

"INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED INDICATING THAT LIEUTENANT STUMP WAS KILLED WHEN HIS BOMBER COLLIDED WITH ANOTHER AIRCRAFT AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY AT HIS BASE IN ENGLAND. LIEUTENANT STUMP WAS A CREW MEMBER OF A HEAVY BOMBER WHICH HAD COMPLETED A MISSION TO MAGDEBURG, GERMANY. ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR SON'S CREW WERE KILLED IN THE COLLISION."

2nd Lt. Max Stump trained stateside as a Navigator for a Heavy Bomber. As one of four officers assigned to a heavy bomber he was tasked specifically with the plotting navigational charts to and from bombing missions. He would have to take into account enemy anti-aircraft locations, wind speed and direction as well as a host of other variables when planning each mission.

Stump was later promoted to 1st Lt during his service as a Navigator on a B-24 Liberator assigned to the 734th Bomb Squadron, 453rd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. His Bomb Group was assigned to Old Buckenham Airfield in England.

While flying combat missions out of "Old Buck" he undoubtedly came to know the Group's Operations Officer a tall slender actor from Hollywood named Major Jimmy Stewart. Also serving in the same unit was a 24 year old waist gunner from New York who later became a household name-Walter Matthau.

While returning from their 27th mission, Stump's plane collided with another damaged Liberator less than 100 yards from the runway. Stump and the other 10 men aboard his plane were killed in the crash.

The 453rd flew its last combat mission only two months later as the war in Europe drew to a close. The remains of 1st Lt Stump and many of his crewmates and friends are buried in the American Cemetery in Cambridge England. The United States Army Air Forces lost over 88,000 crewmembers during WWII.

