

Wilbur S. Hall, Radio Operator, Missing In Action Over The North Sea

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Wilbur S. Hall, born May 16, 1924 at Cox's Mills, Gilmer County, West Virginia, to Samuel Hall and Freda Hall. Wib, as he was known to his seven brothers and sisters, was the second oldest.

He graduated from Calhoun County High School, Grantsville, West Virginia in 1942, as Class Valedictorian, Suma cum Laude. Wilbur participated in many school functions, 4H, Class government, twice serving as Grantsville Mayor, Captain of football team for two years. Wilbur was a member of the Methodist Church.

Wilbur enjoyed art, mostly painting scenery, he also liked wood carving and taught himself to play the violin and harmonica.

After high school, Wilbur attended a government-funded school in Arthurdale, West Virginia started by Eleanor Roosevelt, whom he met during his stay there. Wilbur studied welding. After completing his schooling he started working at Ice's grocery store in Rachel, West Virginia, then went to work at the Baltimore shipyards as a welder. He enlisted in the Army in January 1943 and left for duty on March 5, 1943.

He was stationed in San Antonio, Texas during his basic training. He then was shipped to Amarillo, Texas for schooling, then on to South Dakota, where he was trained as a Radio Operator.

Wilbur came home to Rachel, West Virginia on his only leave in January 1944, where he was married to Anna Mae Barker on January 5, 1944. Their only child, Judy, was born on September 27, 1944, two months after Wilbur was missing In Action.

After completing his leave he was sent to Alexandria, Louisiana where he joined the crew of the B-17-G, known as Foxy Lady.



Wilbur's pride and joy was his dog Butch, whom he sent this picture of himself to while stationed in South Dakota. Butch was a White Eskimo Spitz with blue eyes. The caption on the picture read "To Butch from Wib"



Wilbur's family was notified of his MIA at 1:00 am on August 3, 1944, one day after his oldest sister was married. Madeline (my mother) and father returned early from their honeymoon to be with her family.

His family received notice from the Air Corp on March 11, 1945 declaring his death. Wilbur is listed as Missing in Action at the Cambridge American Cemetery, England. He also has a memorial marker in the National Cemetery in Grafton, West Virginia.