



SSGT William O. Wood

April 19, 1918 - August 1, 1943

On August 1, 1943 a B-24 Liberator aircraft gunned by 25-year-old SSGT William O. Wood of the United States Army Air Forces' 328th Bombardment Squadron (93rd Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force) was shot down by enemy fire during Operation TIDAL WAVE. This Operation was the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, Romania during WWII. His remains were never accounted for.

During this time, unidentified military members were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section of the Civilian and Military Cemetery of Bolovan, Ploiesti, Prahova, Romania.

After WWII, the American Graves Registration Command disinterred all American remains from the Bolovan Cemetery for identification. Despite their efforts, more than 80 unknowns from that cemetery remained unidentified and were later reinterred at American Cemetery and Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, both in Belgium.

In 2017, The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted-for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE. These remains were sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for examination and identification. Scientists from the DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System employed

anthropological analysis, circumstantial evidence, mitochondrial DNA, Y chromosome DNA, and autosomal DNA analysis to assist with identification.

On May 12, 2022, SSGT William O. Wood's remains were identified and accounted for because of the collaborative efforts of the DPAA and the AFMES. His name was previously recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery in Italy, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette can now be placed next to his name to indicate he has finally been accounted for.

On August 1, 2022 Bevis Funeral Home will have the highest honor of escorting SSGT Wood to his final resting place, 79 years later: Tallahassee National Cemetery. All are invited to join us there at 2:00 PM as the United States Army Honor Guard assists us with paying our respects to a hero no longer unknown.

SSGT William O. Wood, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dutiful service and sacrifice. We are indescribably proud to be entrusted with your care.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

- President John F. Kennedy

May you soon rest in peace, SSGT.

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Previous Events

Committal Service

AUG 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery
5015 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album SSGT William O. Wood



Bevis Funeral Home - August 02, 2022 at 12:04 PM

JR

“ James Root purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of SSGT William O. Wood.



James Root - July 29, 2022 at 08:38 PM

MM

“ The Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force extend their profound gratitude to SSgt William O. Wood (93rd BG/328th BS) for his service to our nation and for his ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and liberty during Operation Tidal Wave. We also express our condolences to the Wood family and rejoice with them on the return of this previously unidentified hero to his native country.

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum - July 15, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ 5 files added to the album SSGT William O. Wood



Bevis Funeral Home - July 08, 2022 at 01:51 PM



RIP Uncle WO!

Missy Lee (Great Niece) - July 10, 2022 at 01:16 PM



R.I.P.

Nina McCalvin - July 16, 2022 at 11:03 PM



*I honor him every Memorial Day because he should never be forgotten.
So glad that he is coming home.*

Susie Newcomb Spencer (niece) - July 27, 2022 at 09:55 AM