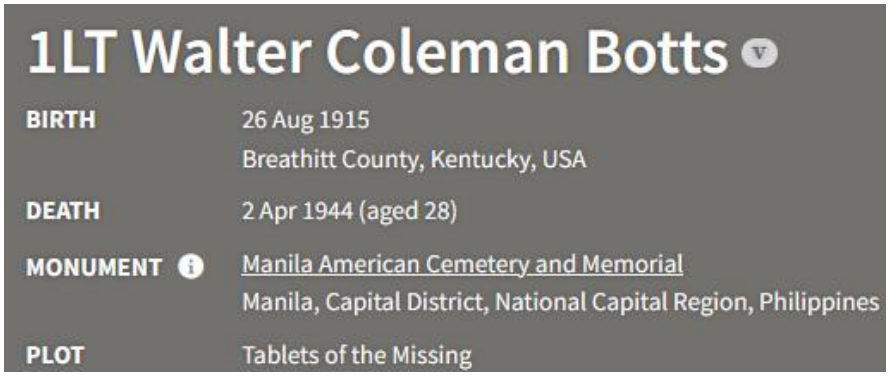
Botts, Walter Coleman





University of Kentucky class of 1940? - member of the tennis team - Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Wife, Marguerite L. Gordon lived in Jefferson County, Ky

Enlisted on 21 April 1942 at Bowman Field, Louisville, Kentucky
1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Forces, O-676614
Co-Pilot on B-24J Liberator #42-70148 / aka 42-73148
72nd Bomber Squadron, 5th Bomber Group, Heavy
★ Air Medal

On 2 April 1944, 1st Lt Botts and his fellow crew members prepared for take off from Nissan Airfield on Green Island in Papua New Guinea on a bombing mission against the Japanese held Truk Islands. This crew was scheduled to fly B-24 Liberator #232 until a fuel truck accidentally collided with it prior to take-off, damaging the wing. The crew then transferred to B-24 #148.
This delay caused the bomber to take off 30 minutes late. It was presumed Lt Botts and crew flew to the northwest to catch up with the rest of the formation and may have experienced a severe weather front between Green Island Atoll and Truk Islands.
After take off, this bomber was never seen nor heard from again. The entire crew of 10 remain missing today.

Walter was declared **"Missing In Action"** on this mission during the war.
He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

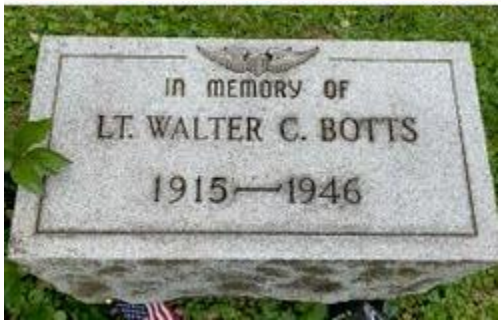
MIA Crew on B-24J #42-70148 - MACR #14289 :

Botts, Walter C ~ 1st Lt, Co-Pilot, KY
Brady, Vincent R ~ S/Sgt, Gunner, HI
Dolsky, Jack ~ Sgt, Radio Operator, IL
Heddrick, Robert C ~ 1st Lt, Bombardier, NY

Huffman, Albion T ~ S/Sgt, Gunner, NM
McIntyre, John ~ Sgt, Engineer, NY
Robison, William C ~ 1st Lt, Pilot, PA
Smith, Robert H ~ 1st Lt, Navigator, IN
Thomas, Michael ~ Sgt, Gunner, WV
Winham, Kenneth H ~ S/Sgt, Gunner, LA

Having actually gone "Missing" on the above date, he was not officially declared by the military as being dead until April 5, 1946.
(Bio & Crew Report by: Russ Pickett) & CFFA





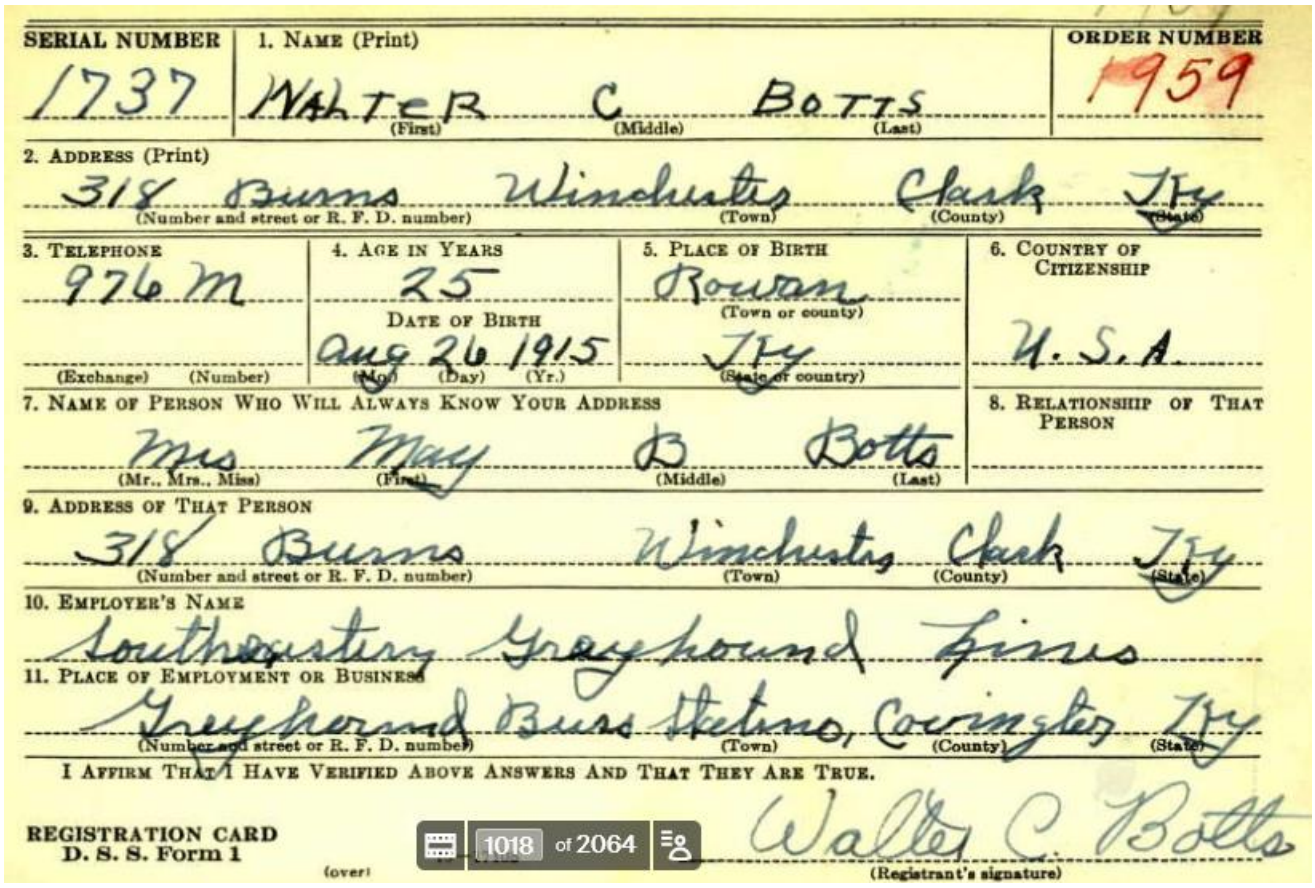
Lieut Walter Coleman Botts

BIRTH	26 Aug 1915 Breathitt County, Kentucky, USA
DEATH	1946 (aged 30–31)
BURIAL	Winchester Cemetery Winchester, Clark County, Kentucky, USA Show
PLOT	Sec-E Lot-134 Grv-4

Parents


Robert Leeroy Botts
1875–1925


May Curry *Barnes* Botts
1888–1978



SERIAL NUMBER: 1737
1. NAME (Print): WALTER C BOTTS (First) (Middle) (Last)
ORDER NUMBER: 1959
2. ADDRESS (Print): 318 Burns (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Winchester (Town) Clark (County) Ky (State)
3. TELEPHONE: 976 M (Exchange) (Number)
4. AGE IN YEARS: 25
DATE OF BIRTH: Aug (Mo.) 26 (Day) 1915 (Yr.)
5. PLACE OF BIRTH: Rowan (Town or county) Ky (State or country)
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: U. S. A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Mrs (Mr., Mrs., Miss) May (First) B (Middle) Botts (Last)
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON:
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON: 318 Burns (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Winchester (Town) Clark (County) Ky (State)
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME: Southeastern Greyhound Lines
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Greyhound Bus Station, Covington (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.
Walter C. Botts (Registrant's signature)
REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. Form 1
(over)
1018 of 2064

The Courier-Journal
11 Mar 1944, Sat · Page 8

Pilot of a Liberator bomber, **Walter C. Botts,** husband of Mrs. Marguerite Botts, 2339 Carolina, has been promoted to first lieutenant at a bomber base in the South Pacific. He was stationed at Randolph Field, Texas; Brooks Field, Texas, and the Greenville Air Base, Greenville, S. C., before going into combat.

Lexington Herald-Leader
16 May 1944, Tue · Page 2

Mrs. John A. Wells, Catlettsburg.
First Lt. **Walter C. Botts,** husband of Mrs. Marguerite G. Botts, Louisville, was listed missing in the Southwest Pacific area.

The Lexington Herald
02 Jun 1946, Sun · Page 4

About 100 young men have played on Coach Downing's tennis teams, and of these two were lost in World War II—Oscar Wisner of Danville, killed in action, and **Walter Botts** of Winchester, reported missing. They played on the same team and were doubles partners.

Lexington Herald-Leader
25 Apr 1944, Tue - Page 7

Walter Botts Now Missing

WINCHESTER, Ky. (Special)—First Lt. Walter Coleman Botts, 27, pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber, has been missing in action in the Southwest Pacific since April 2, according to a message received by his mother, Mrs. May Botts, Burns avenue.

The young officer, a graduate of Winchester high school and the University of Kentucky, took pilot training at Brooks Field, Texas, and received his commission as second lieutenant at Randolph Field about one year ago.

Botts was stationed at Myrtle Beach, N. C., and later transferred overseas. He has been in the Pacific area since Nov. 10, 1943, where he recently was promoted to first lieutenant.

Before entering the service, he was employed by the Southeastern Greyhound Company. His wife, the former Miss Marguerite Gordon, resides in Louisville.

Lieutenant Botts has one brother, Robert Botts, who is serving in the Southwest Pacific area as a petty officer in the Navy.

"In Defense of Humanity"

A Study of Clark County Soldiers who Gave Their Lives in World War I, World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War

Compiled by Michael F. Tyler

Botts, Walter Coleman



First Lieutenant Botts was the son of Mrs. May Botts. He graduated from Winchester High School and the University of Kentucky before his air force training at Brooks Field, and Randolph Field, Texas. Botts had been serving as a B-24 Liberator Bomber pilot in the Pacific theatre of war since November 10, 1943. While there, he met his brother, Robert P. Botts, of the navy, by chance. Neither knew that the other was in the area. Lt. Botts was eventually listed as missing in action on April 2, 1944, but was not listed as dead until April 5, 1946.

He was survived by his mother, his brother, and his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Gordon Botts. Lt. Botts was buried in Manila American Cemetery, the Philippines.