

# National Archives & Records Administration

## War Department Files

**2LT John Wesley White**

**Class 35-42**

**ID: O1172333**

**Branch of Service: U.S. Army**

**Hometown: Hall County, GA**

**Status: KIA 4 Dec 1944**



White, John Wesley was born in Hall Co., Georgia on 6 November 1922, the son of Zola E. Chambers and Thomas Newton White. His family moved to Wellsburg, West Virginia when he was a child. Johnnie graduated from Wellsburg High School in 1940 and got a job at the Holland Furnace Company.

He enlisted in the Army on 14 January 1941 at Clarksburg, WV. At the time of his enlistment, he was a resident of Brooke County, WV. John received his training at Fort D.A. Russell near Marfa, Texas and Fort Sill, OK. He later attended Officer Candidate School.

2nd Lieutenant White was appointed as "B" Battery reconnaissance officer on 5 March 1943 while the 202nd Field Artillery Battalion was in Texas. Later, as a 1st Lieutenant, John was the reconnaissance officer assigned to "C" Battery.

He was awarded the Air Medal for completion of 35 combat sorties. The presentation was made on 23 September 1944 by Brigadier General Edward Stanley Ott, Commanding General of XV Corps Artillery.

Lt. White was killed on 4 December 1944 in the vicinity of Puberg, France, along with 1st Lieutenant Orris E. Herr, when the L-4 Grasshopper observation and liaison aircraft they were flying was hit by friendly artillery fire. A Battalion howitzer was conducting registration fire in the area of Hinsbourg, France when the plane was hit and fell in flames near Puberg, Bas-Rhin, Alsace. The bodies of Liaison Pilot Orris E. Herr and Observer John W. White were recovered and taken to the Graves Registration Officer at Puberg. The crew of the Battalion's other liaison plane had suffered the same fate only two weeks earlier.

He was buried on 6 December 1944 in the U.S. Military Cemetery at Hochfelden, France. The burial was conducted by the 46th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company. Positive identification of Lt. White was made by 1st Lieutenant Richard G. Krahn of HQ Battery.

Lt. John W. White was repatriated to the United States in February 1949 and interred in the Brooke Cemetery in Wellsburg, West Virginia.



*Buried in Brooke Cemetery, Wellsburg, West Virginia*