

### **Jack R. Miller (192. – 1943)**

The closest reference to a “Jack R. Miller” whose name appears in Memorial Park in Chula Vista that has yet been found was a “John R. Miller” who listed his home of record as the state of California. The information found on this WWII veteran is therefore furnished.

John R. Miller was from California and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the USAAF. His serial number was O-680481.

He was assigned to the 525<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron of the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group (Heavy). On November 29, 1943, he was listed as Missing in Action (MIA), and his name appears on the Missing in Action and Buried at Sea tablets at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands.

A brief history of the 525<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron follows: (Reference USAF History WWII for 29 November 1943): EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): VIII Bomber Command Mission 140. 154 of 360 B-17's hit the port of Bremen, Germany and targets of opportunity in the area at 1429-1450 hours; unfavorable cloud conditions and malfunction of blindbombing equipment cause 200+ B-17's to abort; they claim 15-11-10 Luftwaffe aircraft; **13 B-17's are lost**, 3 damaged beyond repair and 43 damaged; casualties are 2 KIA, 13 WIA and **131 MIA**. The B-17's are escorted by 38 P-38's and 314 P-47's; they claim 15-4-6 Luftwaffe aircraft; 7 P-38's and 9 P-47's are lost; 1 P-47 is damage beyond repair and another damaged; casualties are 1 WIA and 16 MIA.

The 525<sup>th</sup> Squadron flew from Kimbolton, England. They were one of 12 Heavy (B-17) “Flying Fortres” USAAF squadrons in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bombardment division of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. They flew over 330 missions between May 29<sup>th</sup> 1943 and Mar 31 1944 and shot down 315 enemy aircraft, and lost 141 B-17s from enemy aircraft and ground anti-aircraft guns.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Miller had been awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

