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Smokejumper Obituary: Yoder, Robert Dale (Missoula 1943)

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Smokejumper Obituary

Yoder, Robert Dale (Missoula 1943)

Dale, (61-62), died (body was found) August 8, 1980, in Valdez, Alaska. No details as to why listed like this. He was born December 27, 1917, Aurora, Oregon. Dale was a member of the Mennonite Church and entered Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Hillsboro, Oregon. His occupation at the time was listed ad Sheet Metal Worker.

He was first assigned to Camp 21 at Cascade Locks, Oregon, where he did fire suppression and prevention work. From there he went to Camp 31 at Camino, California, a USFS camp, and did more of the same type work. Dale was well prepared for the 1943 assignment to be trained as a smokejumper. He jumped at Missoula 1943-44 and transferred to Cave Junction, Oregon, for the 1945 season.

Dale was discharged in 1944. He moved to Alaska where his occupation was listed as Teamster truck driver.

(end of excerpt)