



### Personal info

Full name

**GAITHER, Raymond Albert**

Date of birth

**1921**

Age

**unknown**

Place of birth

**Morris, Okmulgee County Oklahoma**

Hometown

**Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California**

### Military service

Service number

**O-672790**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

Unit

**547th Bombardment Squadron,  
384th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**12 August 1943**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
A	13	16

## Immediate family

### Members

**James A. Gaither (father)**  
**Nancy Gaither (mother)**  
**Velma L. Gaither (sister)**  
**Alberta Gaither (sister)**  
**William J. Gaither (brother)**  
**Margaretta Gaither (sister)**

## Plane data

Serial number  
**42-30104**

### Data

**Type B-17F**  
**Destination: Bochum, Germany**  
**Mission: Bombing of the synthetic oil installation**  
**MACR: 286**

## More information

2nd Lt Raymond A. Gaither volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States on 18 January 1942 in Los Angeles, California.

His plane was attacked by enemy aircraft and crashed in Haus Oelgarten, near Hennef, 7 miles east of Bonn.

He was initially buried on 13 August 1943 at the cemetery of Geistingen.

The week before the fatal crash, this crew was hit on a bombing run with two of four engines shot out, fuel leaking from their fuel tank, and jammed tail and side guns. They limped across the channel, unsure if they were going to crash into the English cliffs or make it over the top. They did make it over the cliffs and managed a safe landing. Their plane was scrapped, and they were given a replacement bomber.

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, Carla Mans, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) - WWII Enlistment Record, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.8thafhs.com](http://www.8thafhs.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - U.S. Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil / 1930 Census

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, <http://www.384thbomgroup.com>, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43-B, Blackland AFS, Waco, Texas