



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, www.archives.gov - WWII Enlistment Record, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com, 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.384thbombgroup.com/>, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43-B, Blackland AFS, Waco, Texas