



## Personal info

Full name

**GATTO, Stephen Lawrence**

Date of birth

**23 May 1920**

Age

**24**

Place of birth

**Ontario, Wayne County, New York**

Hometown

**Rochester, Monroe County, New York**

## Military service

Service number

**12024483**

Rank

**Sergeant**

Unit

**544th Bombardment Squadron,  
384th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart**

## Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**6 April 1945**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
C	4	40

## Immediate family

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### Members

**Joseph Gatto (father)**

**Theresa Gatto (mother)**

**Rose Gatto (sister)**

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**43-38801**

### Data

**Type: B-17G**

**Nickname: Ruth**

**Destination: Leipzig, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of the rail traffic center**

**MACR: 13851**

## More information

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Sgt Stephen L. Gatto attended Benjamin Franklin High School and was employed by the Rochester Stationery Company.

He joined the Air Corps of the Regular Army in Binghamton, New York on 23 May 1941.

The airplane collided with B-17 #43-39164 just after they left the target area.

The tail was destroyed, and it had a hole in the right trailing edge of the wing. The pilot held control for a minute and then went into a steep dive.

Seven crew members were killed, and one was taken prisoner.

## Photos

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Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, <http://384thbombgroup.com>, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - Democrat and Chronicle, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930 Census, New York Birth Index

Photo source: Jac Engels, [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - Democrat and Chronicle