



Personal info

Full name

HOULE, William Darius

Date of birth

2 April 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

Providence County, Rhode Island

Hometown

Providence County, Rhode Island

Military service

Service number

11096623

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

18 April 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	21	10

Immediate family

Members

Adelard D. Houle (father)

Marie E. (Gagne) Houle (mother)

Lionel J. Houle (brother)

George J. (brother)

Eveline W. Houle (sister)

Edouard J. (brother)

Helen M. Houle (sister)

Omar J. (brother)

Leonie W. Houle (sister)

Yvonne W. (sister)

Francis J. (brother)

Laurette M. Houle (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-31401

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: Old Hickory

Destination: Berlin, Germany

MACR: 4151

More information

Sgt William D. Houle was employed by the American Watch Case Co before he enlisted in September, 1942. He was sent overseas in February 1944.

This aircraft was a member of the Lead Group of a Combat Wing. All A/C were on the bomb run flying at 25,000 feet. Weather was clear with no undercast as the bomb run was begun. At altitude, clouds were encountered as the bomb run progressed. Clouds became solid, so the Group began descent so as to get under them. Just as the Group emerged from the upper clouds and leveled off, flying at 23,000 feet, the Group was attacked by a close formation of about 40-70 S/E enemy A/C which were practically directly on top of our formation. Two (2) passes were made on this Group, both being head-on in close formation and well pressed. About 80 enemy A/C were in the formation making the second attack. This aircraft dropped out of formation and was last seen about 5 miles south of target flying at 18,000 feet and circling. An Unknown number of unidentified chutes were seen. No other information available.

A city square in Providence - Houle Memorial Square - was named in his honor in 1946.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.fold3.com 1930 Census

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Providence Journal - 2 July 1944