

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

RICH, William Jr

Date of birth

25 August 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Roundout, Lake County, Illinois

Hometown

Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois

Military service

Service number

36608380

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

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

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

20 October 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
D	22	9

Immediate family

Members

William Rich (father)

Sophia (Rennert) Rich (mother)

Earl Rich (brother)

Anonia M. Rich (sister)

James Rich (brother)

Mary Rich (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-3130

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Nip'n Tuck II

Destination: Düren, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the railway complex and aviation industry

MACR: 902

More information

S/Sgt William Rich Jr. graduated from Libertyville High School in 1940.

On the return flight, the airplane was attacked by enemy fighters. It was so badly hit it exploded in mid-air. Debris were scattered across a wide area.

Eight crew members were killed and initially buried at the military cemetery of Venlo. Two crew members survived and were taken prisoner.

In 2014 a local research team, the Planehunters Recovery Team, found parts of the airplane in the vicinity of the crash. It was decided to erect a monument at the Hoogriebroekseweg in honor of the crew.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Carla Mans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.ancestry.com - Headstone and Interment Record / Family Tree / 1930 Census / U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, <http://www.planehunters.be/>

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, www.ancestry.com - Libertyville High School Yearbook 1940, Joop Hendrix / Lynn Sharpe Jehle