



### 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

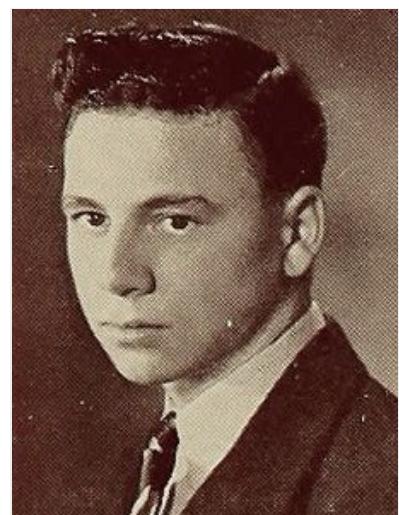
S/Sgt William Rich Jr. graduated from Libertyville High School in 1940.

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](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.ancestry.com](http://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](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Libertyville High School Yearbook 1940, Joop Hendrix / Lynn Sharpe Jehle