

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

BAUM, William J

Date of birth

1 July 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia

Hometown

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia

Military service

Service number

15337666

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**579th Bombardment Squadron,
392nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

21 February 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

William Baum (father)

Blanche M. Baum (mother)

Freda Baum (sister)

Robert Baum (brother)

Margaret Baum (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-64435

Data

Type: B-24H

Destination: Vorden, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the airfield

MACR: 2563

More information

William Baum worked in a machine shop.

He volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States at Fort Thomas, Kentucky on 26 October 1942.

The airplane was hit by flak. According to eye-witness statements of crew members of other airplanes in the group, the #3 engine of the airplane was on fire after which a large explosion was observed beneath the airplane. After this explosion the aircraft was observed to be going down, out of control, and headed back towards the Dutch coast. It was subsequently concluded that the airplane had gone down in the waters off the enemy coast as no information was ever recovered on this situation, either in enemy or friendly force reporting.

The entire crew of ten men was killed.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, Carla Mans, www.ancestry.com - 1940 census / United States World War II Army Enlistment Records 1938-1946, West Virginia Memory Project

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Marlene Gorka / Kathy Hoag