



### 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](http://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