



Personal info

Full name

FOCHT, William James

Date of birth

3 October 1922

Age

21

Place of birth

Grinnell, Powesheik County, Iowa

Hometown

Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

Military service

Service number

17119136

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**836th Bombardment Squadron,
487th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

30 September 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
J	12	2

Immediate family

Members

Charles E. Focht (father)

Laura L. (Triplett) Focht (mother)

Richard C. Focht (brother)

Laura E. Focht (sister)

Charles E. Focht (half-brother)

Michael A. Focht (half-brother)

Plane data

Serial number

43-38154

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Bielefeld, Germany

Mission: Bombing of marshaling yards

MACR: 9423

More information

S/Sgt William J. Focht enlisted in Des Moines, Iowa on 1 September 1942.

It is believed that heavy contrails and prop wash was the cause of aircraft 43-38037 going over on its back while in a sharp right turn and colliding with aircraft # 43-38154. Aircraft # 43-38037 lost the right wing and aircraft # 43-38154 lost the left wing. Both aircraft went into a spin and parts were observed flying off.

Photos



Source of information: FOHF, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov - WWII Enlistment Record,

www.ancestry.com - 1940 Census / Family Tree, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Cindy, www.americanairmuseum.com