



Personal info

Full name

O'CONNELL, Raymond Burke

Date of birth

13 December 1920

Age

22

Place of birth

Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Hometown

Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Military service

Service number

32457080

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**360th Bombardment Squadron,
303rd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

29 November 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Edward J. O'Connell (father)

Mildred A. (Burke) O'Connell (mother)

Lorette O'Connell (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-29498

Data

Type: B-17F

Nickname: Mumsie aka Dark Horse

Destination: Bremen, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the port

MACR: 1657

More information

Raymond B. O'Connell was employed by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey as a laboratory technician.

He enlisted in Newark, New Jersey on 7 August 1942.

Sgt Raymond B O'Connell was substituting for S/Sgt Gayther B Crowder.

The aircraft was hit by flak just after bombs away with the bomb bay doors still open. The right horizontal stabilizer, part of the right wing and two engines were lost. A third engine caught fire.

The B-17 was also under attack by FW-190 German Fighters.

Seven crew members were killed, four men survived. The crew exceptionally consisted of eleven men because there was a photographer on board.

It is believed that, together with Sgt Nellins P. S. Egge, he was killed by German civilians after they had safely parachuted to the ground.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov - WWII Enlistment Record, www.ancestry.com, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php, www.findagrave.com, www.303rdbg.com

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Fred Munchhof, John McParland - Jersey Journal Newspaper - 6 January 1944