



Personal info

Full name

ALEXANDER, William L

Date of birth

17 July 1923

Age

20

Place of birth

Scurry County, Texas

Hometown

Howard County, Texas

Military service

Service number

O-672285

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**333rd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

17 July 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten**Walls of the Missing**

Immediate family

Members

William J. Alexander (father)
Carrie E. (Sickendick) Alexander (mother)
Helen Alexander (sister)
Alvis 'Hi' Alexander (brother)
Donnie Beryl Alexander (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-3219

Data

Type: B-17F
Nickname: Dear Mom
Destination: Hamburg, Germany
Mission: Bombing of the aircraft industry
MACR: 93

More information

Lt. Alexander graduated from Big Spring High School in 1939 and attended Tarleton and Howard Payne Colleges.

He was employed by the Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company.

He enlisted in Abilene, Texas on 4 March 1943.

The element originally designated to attack Hamburg was a combined force of 125 B-17's, but weather caused a recall of this formation. However 84 B-17's from 94BG (18), 95BG (23), 96BG (21) and 100BG (22) sighted a German ship convoy on the return. Only one B-17 from 96BG managed to drop on the convoy. Another segment of this formation, 385BG (21) and 388BG (20) attempted to bomb the Fokker aircraft factory at Amsterdam. A total of 22 aircraft attempted the bombing, but the results were highly scattered and 150 civilians were killed. 1 B-17 from 94BG, aircraft 42-3219, was shot down by enemy aircraft (2 engines were hit) near Helgoland, Germany.

The entire crew was killed. Every crew member, with the exception of waist gunner Everett A. Quimby is remembered on the Walls of the Missing at Margraten. We have no information why he isn't mentioned.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Peter Schouteten, Terry Hirsch, www.94thbomgroup.com, www.wwiiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Abilene Reporter News, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.8thafhs.com

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Chris van der Linden, www.ancestry.com - Big Springs High School, 1939