



Personal info

Full name

ROLLINS, William D

Date of birth

10 March 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

San Diego County, California

Hometown

San Diego, San Diego County, California

Military service

Service number

O-763356

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**77th Fighter Squadron,
20th Fighter Group**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

10 August 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Plot	Row	Grave
H	12	36

Immediate family

Members

Charles Rollins (father)

Ruth (Dorris) Rollins (mother)

Plane data

Serial number

44-13811

Data

Type: P-51D

Destination: Chaumont, France

Mission: Bombing and strafing

MACR: 7765

More information

William D. Rollins graduated from Hoover High School and worked at the Consolidated Aircraft Co.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve as an aviation cadet in Santa Ana, California on 19 March 1943.

Statement of Cpt Merle J. Gilbertson

"Lt. Rollins was flying on my wing during the mission. In the vicinity of Somme Py, France, approximately 20 miles of Reims, I saw a train and decided first to drop my belly tanks on it and then go down to strafe it. Lt. Rollins followed me down but he must have gone too near the ground because he was immediately heard to say that he was in trouble and was taking a safe course home. There were 8 ships in this same area but no one could see him and before anyone could find him to escort him home he was again heard on the radio saying he was bailing out. This was approximately 1130 A.M. August 20, 1944. I never did see him after this but on my second pass on the train I noticed two marks presumable made by his plane as his tanks dragged on the ground."

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, 20th Fighter Group, www.abmc.gov, www.ancestry.com - 1940 Census, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: Michel Beckers, Laura Phillips, Arie-Jan van Hees - Pilot 44-A Williams Fd Arizona