



Personal info

Full name

COMBS, Robert Walker

Date of birth

23 November 1921

Age

21

Place of birth

Locust Grove, Henry County, Georgia

Hometown

Muscogee County, Georgia

Military service

Service number

O-800230

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

11 November 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Woodfin G. Combs (father)

Ruth E. (Walker) Combs (mother)

Woodfin G. Combs (brother)

Jack Combs (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-39868

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Münster, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard

MACR: 1067

More information

2nd Lt Robert W. Combs graduated from Jordan High School in Columbus and was employed at Georgia Power Company.

He volunteered for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States on 21 January 1942, received his wings in April, 1943 and was sent overseas in July 1943.

The plane exploded in mid air. There was a very heavy front over the English Channel when they took off for Münster in the morning. They reached their target and were on their way back. As they were approaching the front, near the coast of the Netherlands, three Focke-Wolf 190's came out at about four to six hundred yards distance and engaged them, knocking out their No. 3 engine and also starting fire on the left wing. The airplane was strafed its full length and the interphones shot out. The pilot, is believed to have been hit at that time, because the airplane went into a wide bank and then into a spin, after which it exploded. The bombardier and two enlisted men landed in the water and were picked up by Dutch fisherman who were later overtaken by a German patrol boat.

The B-17 was shot down by Oblt Rudolf Leuschel of 8./JG26.

Three men survived and were taken prisoner. Seven men were killed.

The remains of the recovered crew members were initially buried at the cemetery of Rotterdam-Crooswijk.

This was Lt Comb's fourth mission.

Lt Combs is remembered at McDonough Memorial Cemetery in McDonough, Henry County, Georgia with a memorial marker.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com - Sullins-Coldwell Family Tree

Photo source: Chris van der Linden, Leon Sanders, www.findagrave.com - Gayle Harmon