



Personal info

Full name

RUZZO, Walter Lawrence

Date of birth

18 October 1917

Age

27

Place of birth

Marion, Marion County, Ohio

Hometown

Marion, Marion County, Ohio

Military service

Service number

O-744867

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**48th Squadron,
313th Troop Carrier Group**

Awards

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

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

24 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
O	7	7

Immediate family

Members

James V. Ruzzo (father)

Florence (Viggins) Ruzzo (mother)

Edward J Ruzzo (brother)

Frances Ruzzo (brother)

Rose M. (Evans) Ruzzo (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

44-77602

Data

Type: C-46D

Destination: Drop zone X, north of Wesel, Germany

Mission: Paratrooper drop

MACR: 13425

More information

1st Lt Walter L. Ruzzo graduated from Harding High School and studied journalism at Ohio State University for one year. He volunteered for the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio on 24 March 1942.

He met his wife in college, and they were married on 20 July 1943 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was stationed at that time.

He was sent overseas in August 1943.

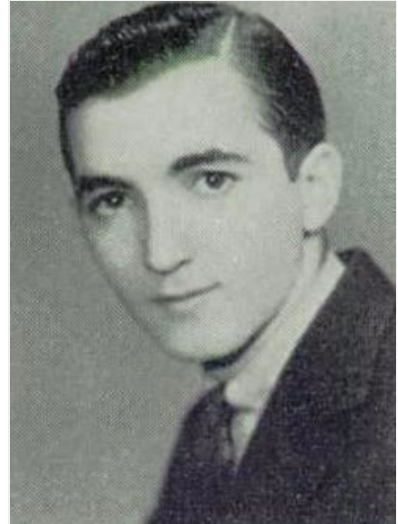
His parents immigrated from Italy.

Lt Glen H. Smith, who was the pilot of another airplane in the same group, witnessed what happened: "I was flying on the right wing of the C-46D airplane ASN 44-77602, piloted by Lt James F. Claussen. After they had dropped their paratroopers on the drop zone they made a right turn-off and the airplane was last seen by me with their left engine on fire heading back toward the Rhine River. The airplane was under good control and about 100 feet off the ground.

There were 5 crew members and 29 passengers, all members of A Company of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division on board.

Four crew members were killed. Only T/Sgt Charles L. Williams, Crew Chief, survived. He was partially out of the side escape hatch when the aircraft crash-landed and as a result he was thrown clear of the wreckage and unconscious. German medics carried him, seriously wounded, to a cellar, dressed his wounds and departed.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, The Marion Star - 30 April 1945, Indiana, Marriages, 1810-2001; United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, Des Philippet, www.ancestry.com, Harding High School, 1935, 1933, The Marion Star - 30 April 1945