



Personal info

Full name

SIMMONS, William Clinton "Billy"

Date of birth

26 May 1924

Age

20

Place of birth

Surry County, North Carolina

Hometown

Graham, Alamance County, North Carolina

Military service

Service number

O-764808

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**47th Squadron,
313th Troop Carrier Group**

Awards

**Bronze Star,
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 |
|------|-----|-------|
| M | 22 | 1 |

Immediate family

Members

Thomas M. Simmons (father)
Olivia V. (Jackson) Simmons (mother)
Edna L. (Oakley) Simmons (sister)
Buster M. Simmons (brother)
Walter W. Simmons (brother)
Harold G. Simmons (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

44-77595

Data

Type: C-46D
Destination: Drop Zone X, north of Wesel, Germany
Mission: Paratroop Drop
MACR: 13421

More information

1st Lt William C. Simmons joined the Air Corps on 11 March 1943. He successfully completed the Basic Flying Training course and was graduated from Marana Army Air Field in Tucson, Arizona. He was sent overseas near the end of July 1944.

The airplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire on the approach to the dropzone and exploded when hitting the ground.

The entire crew of four men was killed and of the 34 passengers, all members of C Company of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division, only 10 survived.

On the last picture shows Lt William C. Simmons on the left and Sgt Buster M. Simmons on the right.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.findagrave.com, www.ancestry.com - Family Trees, www.newspaperarchive.com - Burlington Daily Times-News, <https://newspaperarchive.com>

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Des Philippet, <https://newspaperarchive.com>, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 44-A, Marfa, Texas.