

Wilbur Hill Collins

He was a **World War II Era** casualty on September 9, 1944. ★ He served with honor in the **United States Army Air Forces**. ★ He is remembered by the people of **Mississippi** ★ May his positive example inspire us, as global citizens. ★ When we work together, we can help one another.

America's Fallen



World War II



US Army Air Forces



Mississippi



State Flower



Wilbur Hill Collins



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▼ STATE OVERVIEW

Mississippi

Wilbur Hill Collins is among the 3,910 American Gold Star casualties recorded in our archive with close ties to Mississippi. This is a substantial number of individuals who gave their lives in service to their country.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Name | Wilbur Hill Collins |
| From | Jones County, Mississippi |
| Born | December 28, 1921 |
| Death | September 9, 1944 |
| War | World War II |

ID O-815080
Rank Second Lieutenant
Specialty Co Pilot
Branch US Army Air Corps
Group 390th Bomber Group, Heavy, 570th Bomber Squadron
Cause Hostile, Killed in Action
Location Dusseldorf, Germany

Awarded ★ Air Medal
★ Purple Heart

ORIGINS



Wilbur Hill Collins was born on December 28, 1921. According to our records [Mississippi](#) was his home or enlistment state and [Jones County](#) included within the archival record. We have [Laurel](#) listed as the city.

SERVICE



He had enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces. Served during World War II. Collins had the rank of Second Lieutenant. His military occupation or specialty was Co Pilot. Service number assignment was O-815080. Attached to 390th Bomber Group, Heavy, 570th Bomber Squadron.

CASUALTY



During his service in World War II, Army Air Forces Second Lieutenant Collins experienced a traumatic event which ultimately resulted in loss of life on [September 9,](#)

1944. Recorded circumstances attributed to: Killed in Action. Incident location: Dusseldorf, Germany.

DETAILS



He was on the crew of the B-17G #42-97871 "Bundles of Trouble" during a bombing mission to a tank factory at Dusseldorf, Germany. They received a direct flak hit in the open bomb bay just half a second after they dropped their bombs. They blew up over the target. There were no survivors.

In fact, this explosion caused a chain reaction across the group and nine planes in all were lost, with six crews killed.

INCIDENT

We identified 9 casualties in our archive that might be related to the #42-97871 incident on September 9, 1944.

- [Wilbur H Collins](#) :: *Co Pilot*
- [Melvin D Hobbie](#) :: *Pilot*
- [Howard A Liederbach](#) :: *Top Turret Gunner*
- [Jesus Porras](#) :: *Radio Operator*
- [Robert L Schmidt](#) :: *Tail Gunner*
- [George N Sempepos](#) :: *Bombardier*
- [Calvin E Straney](#) :: *Navigator*
- [Henry W Talbot](#) :: *Ball Turret Gunner*
- [William W Ziemirowski](#) :: *Right Waist Gunner*

REMEMBERED



Wilbur Hill Collins is buried or memorialized at Plot A Row 15 Grave 19, Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands. This is an American Battle Monuments Commission location.

COMMENDATIONS

- ★ Air Medal
- ★ Purple Heart
- ★ United States Aviator Badge Army

- ★ World War II Victory Medal
- ★ American Campaign Medal
- ★ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ★ Army Good Conduct Medal
- ★ European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign



PLEASE NOTE THIS MIGHT NOT BE A COMPLETE OR COMPLETELY ACCURATE ACCOUNTING. FOR SOME AWARDS WE USE PROBABILITIES BASED ON KNOWN SERVICE DETAILS.