



Thomas Edward Sledge Jr

1921-2017

BIRTH 29 DEC 1921 • Louise, Mississippi

DEATH 3 DEC 2017 • Texas City, TX

Facts

Age 0 – Birth

29 Dec 1921 • Louise, Mississippi

Age 20 – Military

JUL 1942 • commissioned as a 2nd Lt. AAF on July 4, 1942

Age 21 – Residence

1942 • University of Texas

Age 21 – Military

15 Jan 1943 • attacked the Tharp Grp at sea Moji Maru 7-th Bomb Group, flying B-24 Liberators based in Panda, India.

Age 24 – Military

26 Jul 1946 • O-36994 CPT USAF

Age 95 – Death

3 Dec 2017 • Texas City, TX

Burial

Galveston Memorial Park; Hitchcock, TX
185698761 COL(ret) USAF

Notes

7-th Bomb Group, flying B-24 Liberators based in Panda, India. On January 15th his flight of (three) B-24's were in the area looking for any Shipping or other activity the Japanese may be trying to get through to there much needed effort in Burma. on that day at approx: 12:20 (noon) Tom Sledge's flight saw the Japanese convoy of three ships, two Junk Tankers and a larger transport type, (with Japanese Engineers and Dutch) POW's Captured as we were on Java. The American POW's were on one of the Junks named "Dai Moji Maru". when Tom sledge and his flight made the first bomb run and dropped their bombs, I being on deck at the time, saw one bomb go down the smokestack of the Transport almost splitting it in half, and one bomb of Col. Tom Sledge's B-24 dropped closet to the Rear (aft) of our ship, at the same time his bomb was dropped unaware of the Jap old Cannon type gun chained to the aft deck had fired a round and back-fired and killed about fourteen Japs plus setting it on fire, Tom though they had hit the ship and set it on fire and could not understand on the second

Sources

Ancestry sources



Ancestry Family Trees



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990



U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985



U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

bomb run why the fire was out, unknowm to him it was the bomb hitting the water beside the ship and that put the fire out. We on the Dia-Moji-Maru drug bottom up the Moulmien river with a large bomb gash in our ship. Colonel Thomas Edward Sledge, Jr. (retired U.S. Air Force) took his final flight Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 8:30 am at Mainland Hospital in Texas City, Texas. The Colonel was born December 29, 1921, to Mildred Russell Sledge and Thomas Edward Sledge, Sr. in Louise, Mississippi. He spent his childhood in Shreveport, Louisiana with his mother and younger brother Russell. After graduation from Byrd High School at age 17, he traveled to Texas City to work in his father's pharmacy. He was attending the University of Texas in Austin to study medicine when WWII began in Europe. He immediately joined the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet the day after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. on July 4, 1942. As a navigator, he flew 45 combat missions in China-Burma-India during WWII and 50 missions during the Korean conflict in the 1950's. In his 28-year career in the Air Force, he participated in the Bikini Atomic Bomb tests in the Pacific, was stationed in Germany and was heavily involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis as a war planner at the Pentagon. The Colonel was awarded 17 medals and ribbons, including two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. As WWII was ending, he married Doris McCauley on April 24, 1945. They enjoyed living on various Air Force bases as a military family while raising their three children, Sylvia, Tommy and Sydney. While serving his country, he also managed to graduate from college, receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration from Park College in Kansas City, MO. After retiring from the Air Force, he established the first Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Dickinson High School in 1972 and ran it for eight years. He was very proud of his students and of the ROTC program that is still going strong today. The Colonel was an avid reader, hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed playing and watching golf, traveling, and dancing to country western music and his favorite Big Bands.