

Robert Leach “Bob” Chism, T-40

6 July 1922 – 26 June 2018

(aged 95)



He was stationed in England. Their crew was sent on a bombing mission over Germany. Their plane was shot down on his first mission. There was engine trouble and fire in the cockpit. The pilot and co-pilot tried to fix the problem to get out of Germany. When the pilot realized they could not make it out of Germany, he ordered the crew to bail out. They were very low to the ground by this time. Eight crew members jumped from the plane but four members were killed. Bob was captured two days later and was a prisoner of war for about six weeks in Stalag 7-A near Moosburg, Germany. The prisoners of Stalag 7-A were liberated on April 29, 1945, by Tom Gibbons, who was ordered by General Patton, to intercept SS troops who had been ordered by Hitler to kill all the POWs in Stalag 7-A. Bob met Tom Gibbons (his liberator) about 60 years later at a POW meeting at the Jerry Pettis Memorial VA Hospital.