



Personal info

Full name

BRANAGAN, James William

Date of birth

8 June 1922

Age

21

Place of birth

Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey

Hometown

Jersey City Hudson County, New Jersey

Military service

Service number

O-688624

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**332nd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

4 March 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	44	18

Immediate family

Members

John Branagan (father)

Mary Branagan (mother)

Elizabeth Branagan (sister)

Mary Branagan (sister)

John Branagan (brother)

William Branagan (brother)

Raymond Branagan (brother)

Robert Branagan (brother)

Richard Branagan (brother)

Grace Branagan (sister)

Catherine Branagan (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-39801

Data

TypeL B-17G

Nickname: Double Trouble II aka Northern Queen

Destination: Berlin, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the industrial area

MACR: 2978

More information

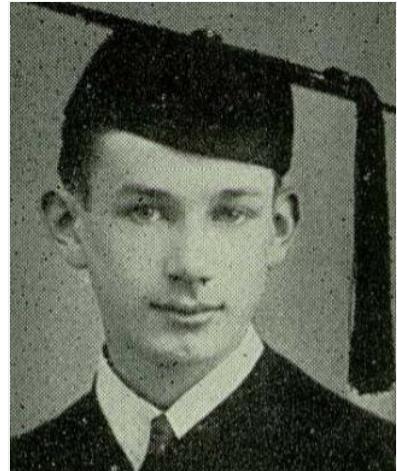
2nd Lt James W. Branagan graduated from Dickinson High School in 1939 and attended college. He was a financial clerk at the brokerage firm of Charles Jones and Co.

He enlisted in Newark, New Jersey on 21 October 1942.

The crew was forced to leave the plane, due to mechanical failure on the return flight. The entire crew bailed out. Five crew members were taken prisoner, four evaded capture with the help of the Belgian resistance. Only 2nd Lt Branagan didn't survive. Civilians found his body with serious internal injuries and the rip cord of his parachute unpulled.

Note: According to the family, the right spelling of his name is Brangan.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, [WWIIMemorial](#), [Archives](#), [Ancestry](#), [Fold3](#), 1940 Census, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Dickinson High School, 1939, Jersey Journal - 25 October 1944