



### Personal info

Full name

**MEANS, Robert Eugene**

Date of birth

**December 1922**

Age

**21**

Place of birth

**Iowa**

Hometown

**Manilla, Crawford County, Iowa**

### Military service

Service number

**37656190**

Rank

**Staff Sergeant**

Unit

**337th Bombardment Squadron,  
96th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**21 February 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
B	40	21

## Immediate family

Members

**Frank B. Means (father)**

**Hannah Means (mother)**

**Margaret Means (sister)**

**Grace Means (sister)**

## Plane data

Serial number

**42-39814**

Data

**Type: B-17G**

**Nickname: Big Time Operator**

**Destination: Brunswick, Germany**

**Mission: Operational**

**MACR: 2425**

## More information

Eyewitness statement from a crewmember:

"After 'bail out', 'bail out' came over the interphone, S/Sgt William O. Ford and myself put S/Sgt Frank V. Morale harness his chute on. We had just snapped his chute on when the ship turned over and went into a dive. I started crawling up, towards the waist door with Morales behind me. It was approximately four feet from the door when I turned around and looked at Morales. He tried to yell something but I could not hear him. As I turned my head back towards the door, I saw Means, lying face down. It must have been then that the explosion took place, as I came to, approximately 8,000 feet and seen three chutes under my own. Pieces of the ship were coming down around me afire and the chute had a rip or was severed by cannon fragments."

## Photos



Source of information: FOHF, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Council Bluffs Nonpareil 10 March 1944

Photo source: Jac Engels, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)