

## Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor  
Foundation



### Personal info

Full name

**STUART, Robert William**

Date of birth

**19 March 1920**

Age

**23**

Place of birth

**Embsen, Cass County, North Dakota**

Hometown

**Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota**

### Military service

Service number

**O-740974**

Rank

**First Lieutenant**

Unit

**569th Bombardment Squadron,  
390th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**16 November 1943**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
D	13	26

## Immediate family

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### Members

**William G. Stuart (father)**

**Walter A. Logan (stepfather)**

**Selma L. (Marschke) Logan (mother)**

**Marion A. Stuart (brother)**

**John B. Stuart (brother)**

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**42-30455**

### Data

**Type: B-17F**

**Nickname: Schifless Skunk**

**Destination: Rjukan, Norway**

**Mission: Bombing of the hydroelectric plant**

**MACR: 1400**

## More information

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1st Lt Robert Stuart enlisted on 10 April 1942 at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The aircraft was seen to catch fire approaching the enemy coast. Ten parachutes were observed, 5 or 6 of which were reported by crews of the 100th Bomber Group following, to have landed on shore. 4 or 5 small vessels were seen heading towards the chutes.

Statement of 1st Lt George W. Harmon:

"About 3 miles out from Hellvig, Lt Becker's ship, 455, had radio room and engine #1 on fire. Alt. 13,000 feet. Ten parachutes were seen to open. Three boats were seen close by heading south."

Statement of Lt Maurice G. Crosbie:

"455 was just ahead, started to veer right, escape hatch came off, No. 2 engine black smoke, flames coming out radio hatch. Looked like started in gas tank - no enemy action - saw 1 man jump - saw total of 9 later all open. One chute (No 10) did not open. 9 chutes open - 1 not - 10 total. Saw three coastal vessels in vicinity in V formation make down coast toward chutes. A/C hit water - big flash came out of radio room just before it hit."

Although these statements indicate that the crew had bailed out and landed in the sea or on the ground, the entire crew was killed. Any information about the circumstances of their dead could not be found.

The target of the mission was the hydroelectric plant of Rjukan. This building also contained the Norwegian heavy water plant, which was being used by the Germans to provide heavy water for their experiment in the development of the Atomic/Hydrogen bomb.

## Photos

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Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) - WWII Enlistment Record, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930 Census, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR, [www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php](http://www.8thafhs.com/db/index.php)

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