

## Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor  
Foundation



### Personal info

Full name

**FOCHT, William James**

Date of birth

**3 October 1922**

Age

**21**

Place of birth

**Grinnell, Poweshiek County, Iowa**

Hometown

**Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa**

### Military service

Service number

**17119136**

Rank

**Staff Sergeant**

Unit

**836th Bombardment Squadron,  
487th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**30 September 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Margraten**

Plot	Row	Grave
J	12	2

## Immediate family

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### Members

**Charles E. Focht (father)**

**Laura L. (Triplett) Focht (mother)**

**Richard C. Focht (brother)**

**Laura E. Focht (sister)**

**Charles E. Focht (half-brother)**

**Michael A. Focht (half-brother)**

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**43-38154**

### Data

**Type: B-17G**

**Destination: Bielefeld, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of marshaling yards**

**MACR: 9423**

## More information

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S/Sgt William J. Focht enlisted in Des Moines, Iowa on 1 September 1942.

It is believed that heavy contrails and prop wash was the cause of aircraft 43-38037 going over on its back while in a sharp right turn and colliding with aircraft # 43-38154. Aircraft # 43-38037 lost the right wing and aircraft # 43-38154 lost the left wing. Both aircraft went into a spin and parts were observed flying off.

## Photos



Source of information: FOHF, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) - WWII Enlistment Record, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1940 Census / Family Tree, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR

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