

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

PADGET, John William "Bill"

Date of birth

24 August 1920

Age

24

Place of birth

**Washington Twp, Bremer County,
Iowa**

Hometown

Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa

Military service

Service number

O2056288

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**331st Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

2 November 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Lorraine

Plot	Row	Grave
A	19	37

Immediate family

Members

Ernest C. Padget (father)

Hazel M. (Barr) Padget (mother)

Geraldine M. Padget (sister)

June E. Padget (sister)

Bernard B. Padget (brother)

Dorothy G. (Knode) Padget (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-102577

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: Bouncin' Annie

Destination: Merseburg, Germany

Mission: Bombing the Leuna synthetic oil refinery

MACR: 10307

More information

2nd Lt John W. Padget was married to Dorothy Gene Knode on 22 June 1941,. He was a checker at the Rath Packing Co. before he enlisted in December 1942.

Statement from 1st Lt Wesly P. Peterson, pilot of Bouncin' Annie:

"On 2 November 1944, Just after dropping our bombs on the target at Merseburg, Germany, the tail of our B-17 was blown off by enemy flak. The plane became immediately uncontrollable and went into a violent spin.

I was unable to communicate with any of the crew after the ship was hit. Lt. Padget was unharmed up until that time.

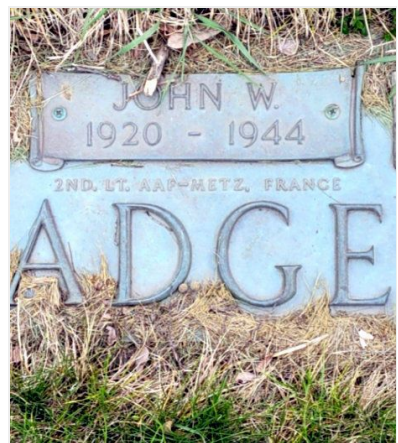
I have the impression that I saw two men in the nose thrown through the nose of the ship during the most violent part of the spin. This was only an impression, but it is the only plausible explanation I can find. I'm sure he was not in the nose when I went out the escape hatch, and this hatch, his only way out, had not been opened, at least by appearances.

I have been unable to find out from any source any more information concerning Lt. Padget. The German interrogator at Dulag Luft could tell me nothing and the other two crew members who got out alive and are back knew nothing of him either.

I am sorry that I cannot tell you what happened to him definitely. I know of no one who could help answer these questions."

He is remembered at the Garden of Memories in Wayerloo, Iowa.

Photos



Source of information: André Koch, Ralph Peeters, www.abmc.gov, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com - 1930/1940 Census / Cap't David Knode Family Tree / Headstone and Interment Record / Iowa, Births and Christenings Index / Missouri, Marriage Records, www.fold3.com - MACR, <http://www.8thafhs.com>, www.newspapers.com - The Waterloo Daily Courier

Photo source: www.findagrave.com - Laura S / Hooked on Famil, www.newspapers.com - The Waterloo Daily Courier