



Personal info

Full name

DYER, John Robert

Date of birth

1 May 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Washington, District of Columbia

Hometown

Washington, District of Columbia

Military service

Service number

O-715497

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**509th Fighter Squadron,
405th Fighter Group**

Awards

Air Medal

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

29 December 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Luxembourg

Tablets of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

Elmer M. Dyer (father)

Cecelia A. (Nicholson) Dyer (mother)

Elmer N. Dyer (brother)

Dorothy D. Dyer (sister)

Elinor J. (Hull) Dyer (wife)

Carolyn Sowell Dyer (daughter)

Plane data

Serial number

42-29147

Data

Type: P-47D-28-RA

Nickname: The Turtle No.10

Destination: Bastogne Area, Belgium

Mission: Ground support

MACR: 11450

More information

Statement from 1st Lt Johnson T. Morgan:

"I was leading second element of white flight on an armed recon mission on December 29, 1944 in the vicinity of Donnange when Lt John R. Dyer was hit by 20 mm light flak. I saw him losing gasoline and called on the radio telling him that he was hit and to head out, and at the same time I saw his plane starting to burn. I told him he was burning and to jump. Lt Dyer made no attempt to jump the ship or answer on the radio. The ship rolled over slowly and hit the ground, going straight down and exploded."

His flight leader had seen the plane burning and radioed Lt Dyer to bail out, but another airman from that mission testified that he never saw Lt Dyer leave his plane. Still, that account did not prevail in the official record. Instead, military investigators concluded the other airman's view was obscured and he couldn't see Dyer escape. That inquiry quoted witnesses saying Dyer floated to earth in his open parachute and was captured. The Army had concluded since Dyer's body was never found that he was murdered and buried by the Germans.

But after reopening the case, the Army notes that the physical description of the pilot and the account of his capture matched that of another pilot taken prisoner the month after Dyer's plane went down. Witnesses probably confused the airmen, since the rails of both planes bore similar ID numbers.

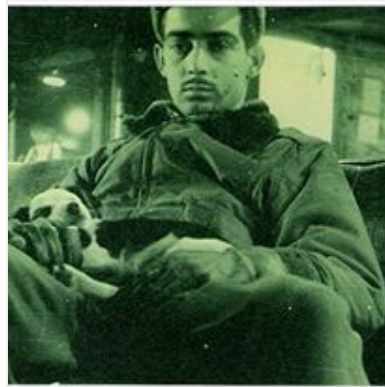
His plane went down in a bog and was lost until some time in the 90s, when some of his teeth were found.

He was given his final resting place at the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, Prince George's County, Maryland on 26 May 2004.

Photos



DETJENS DALE C	1 LT	574 BOMB SO	391 BOMB C
DEVENNEY JOHN W	TEC 5	20 INF BN	10 ARMD I
DEWART WILLIAM L	S SGT	318 INF	80 DIV
DIAZ HENRY G	PFC	40 TR BN	7 ARMD
DICKINSON ROBERT H	2 LT	751 BOMB SO	457 BOM
DIGBY HENRY M	PVT	109 INF	28 DIV
DOLAN EUGENE R	TEC 5	422 INF	106 D
DOSS JOEL H	PVT	506 PRCHT INF	REC
DUGAN PATRICK D	PFC	HQ CO	4 DI
DYER JOHN R	2 LT	509 FTR SO	405 FTR GP
EARLEY JOHN P	TEC 4	BAND	28 DIV
EARP TROY R	TEC 5	2 CAV RCN	SO
FAIR FREDRICK E	LT COL	HQ SQ	NINTH A
FEHMAN PATRICK J	PFC	354 INF	89 D
FERRIS HAROLD C JR	PVT	3 CAV	RCN
FEVOLD MAURICE J	S SGT	599 BOMB SO	397 B
FINKBINE EDWARD C II	2 LT	3 CAV	
FIRENZA FRANK J	CPL	112 INF	28 D
FISCHER WILLIAM C	SCT	359 INF	90 D



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Thomas Dyer, www.abmc.gov, www.findagrave.com - John C. Anderson, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.ancestry.com - Morris Family Tree, www.fold3.com

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