

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

VAN DYKE, Joseph Semmes

Date of birth

7 February 1921

Age

23

Place of birth

Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Hometown

Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Military service

Service number

O-808614

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

23 June 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	40	11

Immediate family

Members

Frank G. Van Dyke (father)

Katherine B. (Semmes) Van Dyke (mother)

George Van Dyke (brother)

Francis Van Dyke (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

41-28822

Data

Type: B-24H

Nickname: Bashful Marion

Destination: Juvincourt, France

Mission: Bombing of the airfield

MACR: 6263

More information

Joseph S. Van Dyke worked as an office clerk.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve in Detroit, Michigan on 28 April 1942. He completed Army Air Forces pilot training in Class 43-G, and received his wings and commission as a Second Lieutenant on 28 July 1943.

According to eye witness reports from crew members of other airplanes in the group, this B-24 was hit by flak southwest of Brussels and disintegrated in the air. Not one of the nine crew members had the chance to bail out and packed parachutes and other flying equipment were seen to fall out of the plane as it exploded. It fell in peaces near a hospice in Rue du Paloke, Molenbeek-Saint-Jean.

He was initially buried at the cemetery of Evere, Belgium.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.findagrave.com - Paul Webber, www.ancestry.com - U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Dave Steigerwald, www.findagrave.com - Paul Webber / Jim Zebora