

## Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor  
Foundation



### Personal info

Full name

**NYREN, Ralph John**

Date of birth

**2 February 1918**

Age

**26**

Place of birth

**New York City, New York**

Hometown

**Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa**

### Military service

Service number

**O-752931**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

Unit

**419th Bombardment Squadron,  
301st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**25 February 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
A	10	21

## Immediate family

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### Members

**Clarence Hedlund** (father)

**Beda Hedlund** (mother)

**David C. Nyren** (adoptive father)

**Anna B. (Johnson) Nyren** (adoptive mother)

**Mildred C. Nyren** (sister)

**Georgia G. (Gordinier) Nyren** (wife)

## Plane data

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### Serial number

**42-30310**

### Data

**Type: B-17F**

**Destination: Regensburg, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of the Messerschmitt aviation industry**

**MACR: 2597**

## Biography

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Ralph Nyren was born as Ralph John Hedlund. His father had abandoned him and his mother and when he was four years and seven months old, his mother died. In September 1922 he was adopted by David C. and Anna Nyren and was named Ralph John Nyren.

## More information

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Lt Nyren was a graduate of Roosevelt High School and was employed in the classified advertising department at The Register and Tribune.

He joined the Air Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve in Des Moines, Iowa on 10 August 1942.

The aircraft was shot down by enemy fighters.

According to a crew member of another plane in de formation it was on fire from the engine to the rear of the plane.

Seven crew members survived and were taken prisoner, three were killed.

It was presumed that 2n Lt Nyren could bail out and he did. His body was found in the Kasereck mountains the next day at an area that was very hard to reach in winter conditions. This is probably the reason he didn't survive the night.

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Waterloo Sunday Courier / 1930 Census / Iowa State Census Collection / WWII Bonus Case File, [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - The Des Moines Register

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Arie-Jan van Hees, Bombardier Class Book 43-12, Deming AAF, New Mexico