

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

FAY, Vincent James

Date of birth

9 March 1922

Age

22

Place of birth

New York

Hometown

Queens, Queens County, New York

Military service

Service number

32515044

Rank

Technical Sergeant

Unit

**364th Bombardment Squadron,
305th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Distinguished Flying Cross,
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

22 April 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

James P. Fay (father)

Ella (Lauro) Fay (mother)

Rosemary Fay (sister)

James L. Fay (brother)

Theresa Fay (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-39818

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Hamm, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard

MACR: 4354

More information

Vincent Fay attended high school for three years and worked in a machine shop.

He enlisted at Fort Jay, New York on 29 September 1942.

The airplane was flying at an altitude of 20.000 feet, over the North Sea, as deputy Group Leader at the time of the mishap. The first knowledge that the pilot had of the fire was when he turned around and found the compartment aft the cockpit a mass of flames. The Engineer, T/Sgt Fay, was apparently in trouble, as he was standing in the center of the fire, flailing his arms about, with 50 cal. bullets, and flares going off every second. The pilot removed all his flying equipment for his person, and in trying to keep his balance as he was leaving his seat, slipped and fell into the catwalk leading to the nose compartment. There he saw the Navigator, Lt Brandino, with an extinguisher in his hand trying to get the fire in that compartment under control, but not having any success. Lt Schellenberg grabbed the extinguisher and played it on the flames in the cockpit, which was full of smoke, and the compartment aft of the cockpit. The A/C, at this time was put into a steep dive by the Co-pilot, who was flying with his head out of his window since it was impossible to see out of the windows. The plane was pulled out of the dive at 6.000 feet, travelling at a speed of approximately 2500 MPH. The pilot's parachute was sucked out of the plane through the escape-hatch in the nose as the door had been torn off by some cause that was unknown. The fire was eventually extinguished by the combined efforts of the whole crew and all the bombs except 6-500 lb bombs and one smoke bomb were salvoed by use of a screwdriver, as the automatic release were all burned out. The bomb-bay doors were sprung before the bombs were salvoed and it is believed that the Engineer jumped out through the bomb-bay. As soon as the fire was out, the pilot started to take account of the crew, and found that three members were missing. No one saw them bail out, but the area was circled and the radio operator gave fixes to air-sea rescue, who answered that message was received. Co-pilot and pilot flew the ship back to England, where they landed it safely at Bungay, England. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Photos



FARMER EDWARD J	VT	VT
PTC 13 INF 8 DIV		OHIO
FARRIS KENNETH D		
PVT 22 INF 4 DIV		TEXAS
FASANELLO DANIEL J		
T SGT 770 BOMB SQ 447 BOMB GP (H)		NEW JERSEY
FAULKNER ROLAND F		
PVT 10 INF 9 DIV		MICHIGAN
FAY VINCENT J		
T SGT 364 BOMB SQ 305 BOMB GP (H)		NEW YORK
FECHUCH PHILLIP		
PVT 10 INF 29 DIV		NEW YORK
FEHRENBACH DONALD N		
T LT 707 BOMB SQ 447 BOMB GP (H)		WISCONSIN
FEINER CHARLES R		

Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.findagrave.com, www.ancestry.com - Family Tree

Photo source: FOHF, Arie-Jan van Hees.