

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



First Lieutenant Lawrence Francis Ryan Fighter Pilot USAAF Killed in Action

Lawrence Ryan was born in Ishpeming, Michigan on November 9, 1921 and graduated from Ishpeming High School in 1939. After two years at Michigan State University, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and in January of 1943 was called for training at San Antonio, Texas. Following additional training at Mustang Field in Reno, Nevada, Strother Field in Winfield, Kansas, and Foster Field in Texas, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. In April of 1944, he transferred to England and was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant.

Ryan, pilot of a B-47 "Thunderbolt" fighter plane, was declared missing in action over Germany on December 12, 1944. Two other pilots in the squadron thought he might have landed safely over Frankfurt. Later, on April 4, 1945, his aunt, Ms. Mary C. Ryan, was notified by the War Department that he was officially reported killed.

It is ironic that at the time of his final fatal flight, he had enough missions to come home, but because he was single, with no wife or children, he gave his place to another in the squadron who was married and had a family.

Lawrence leaves his sister, Helen of Indianapolis, Indiana, his brother, Robert, and sister-in-law, Barbara of Ishpeming, Michigan.

TJ Mudge, May 2004