Fields of Honor Memorial
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Fields of Honor
Foundation

Personal info

Full name
RIGAPOULOS, John

Date of birth
20 December 1921

Age
22

Place of birth
Massachusetts

Hometown
Worcester County, Massachusetts

Military service

Service number
11105947

Rank
Private First Class

Unit
**H Company,
3rd Battalion,
504th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
82nd Airborne Division**

Awards
Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status
Killed in Action

Date of death
20 September 1944

Cemetery
American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
K	1	9

Immediate family

Members
Andrew Rigapoulos (father)
Demetra (Melonas) Rigapoulos (mother)
Stella Rigapoulos (sister)
Antonia Rigapoulos (sister)
Angeline Rigapoulos (sister)
Eleni Rigapoulos (sister)
Diamondo Rigapoulos (brother)
Leonidas Rigapoulos (brother)
William T. Rigapoulos (brother)
Katherine A. Rigapoulos (sister)

More information

Pfc John Rigapoulos attended grammar school and worked at a construction company. He was born of Greek immigrant parents. They had 10 children. His last name misspelled by the government - should be spelled Rigopoulos- but he is to forever be remembered and known as Rigapoulos. He was also a pathfinder.

He volunteered, originaly for the Air Corps of the Army of the United States, in Springfield, Massachusetts on 28 October 1942.

He participated in the Waal Crossing near the railroad bridge at Lent and was killed near the bridge.

His niece, Catherine Metropoulos, sent us the folowing story:
"A photo of him killed there was given to me by Frank Van Luteren. Bill Hannigan had told me once that he stayed with John until he died -a bleeder- for about 45 minutes. I had asked him if John said anything to him, how much pain he was in, etc... and Hannigan responded by slowly turning away, looked out into nowhere and slowly said to me: "He was a very brave soldier." Mrs. Metropoulos asked us to publish this picture.

On the family picture, he is standing left behind of his little sisters.

Photos