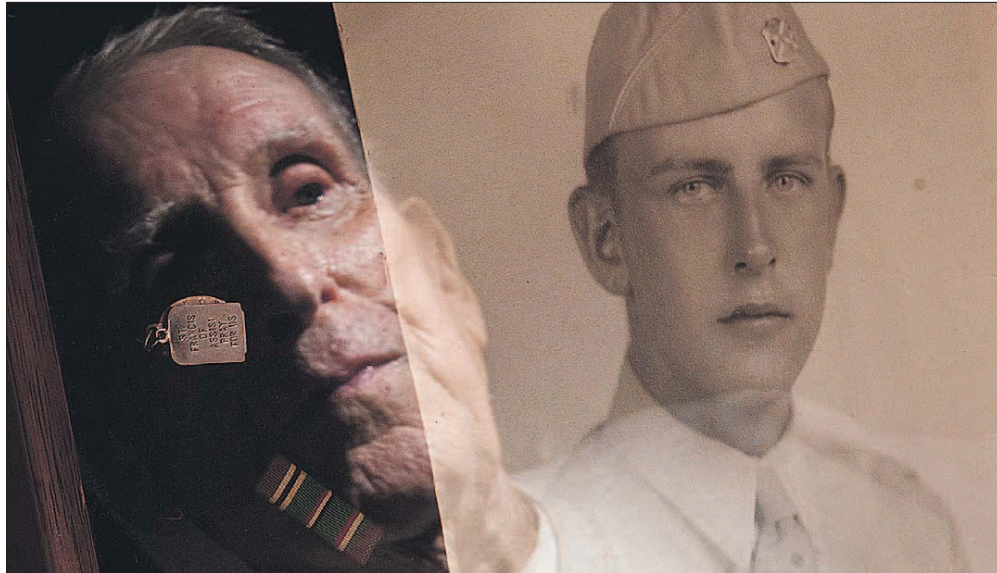


Army Air Corps Sgt. Frederick W. Zumpf of Washington Depot crashed and died on a B-17 bombing run on Black Thursday, Oct. 14, 1943. In one of the most deadly air battles in history 73 years ago today, the U.S. lost 51 planes and 167 fliers while Germany lost 186 planes. Witnesses, a surviving crew member's son and a historian pieced together the 19-year-old's final moments and ...

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Edward Zumpf, 86, of Washington, Conn., is reflected in a shadow box, which contains a photo of his brother, Frederick, and Fred's World War II medals. Fred Zumpf was killed at age 19 on Oct. 14, 1943, when his B-17 bomber was struck by a German missile over Hasselt, Belgium. Zumpf crashed just over the border in Beek, Holland. Below, Zumpf's grave is well-maintained by Dutch caretakers and local school children at the American Cemetery in Margraten, Holland.

Local teen went down with B-17

BY BRIGITTE RUTHMAN
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WASHINGTON, Conn. — Hope died in the spring of 1944 with the delivery of a Western Union telegram.

RA EXCLUSIVE

Previously listed as missing in action, Army Air Corps Sgt. Frederick W. Zumpf, a 19-year-old waist gunner from Washington Depot, was confirmed through interviews with survivors to have died after his B-17 bomber was shot down over Belgium 73 years ago today.

See **FLIER**, Page 7A



CONTRIBUTED

It's known as 'Black Thursday'

BY BRIGITTE RUTHMAN
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Army Air Corps Sgt. Frederick W. Zumpf's B-17 bomber was among the first to be struck by a missile fired by a German JU-88 fighter plane on Black Thursday, when the clear, blue sky above the Belgian town of Hasselt became a killing zone.

It was Oct. 14, 1943, a day that would see 167 American fliers die and 11 wounded during one of the most ferocious and deadly air battles in history. A total of 381 survivors were taken prisoner and held for the duration of the World War II in camps.

See **DEADLY**, Page 7A

"THERE ARE NO BATTLEFIELDS TO MARK IN THE SKIES, NO PLOTS OF EARTH FOR VISITORS TO REMEMBER AND LISTEN TO STORIES OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE. ... THERE ARE ONLY THESE POOR INAUSPICIOUS MARKERS THAT WE THE LIVING HAVE ERECTED TO HONOR OUR COMRADES ... WHO STILL LIVE STRONGLY IN OUR MEMORIES."

COL. BUDD PEASLEE, MISSION 115 COMMANDER

ON THE DEDICATION OF THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY MEMORIAL TO FLIERS WHO NEVER CAME HOME