

## *World War II*

*Born* - November 25, 1924 ..... Canton, Massachusetts

*Entered Service* - May 25, 1943 .... Canton, Massachusetts



1st Lt. Robert E. Gelpke  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
Age 21

Robert grew up at 432 Pleasant Street with his twin brother and four sisters. He attended the Eliot School and graduated from Canton High, class of 1942. Bob worked at the Fore River Shipyard until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 18. He was appointed as a Flying Officer at Aloe Field Victoria, Texas in August 1944 and shipped out eight months later to the Eight Air Force at Cambridge, England as a fighter pilot. Gelpke was later sent to Hanau field in occupied Frankfurt, Germany. On Thanksgiving Day November 22, 1945, while flying a mail run from Stuttgart to Hanau, he crashed in a snowstorm. The family was notified November 30th but later they received a letter from a German farmer that found him and expressing his condolences. He was first buried in Hanau, but then transferred to the American military cemetery at St. Lo in Normandy.

*Date of Death* - November 22, 1945..... Germany

*Buried* - American Military Cemetery ..... Normandy, France