



Personal info

Full name

MC ILROY, James Henderson

Date of birth

3 June 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Cass, Franklin County, Arkansas

Hometown

Wichita County, Texas

Military service

Service number

18083302

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**325th Bombardment Squadron,
92nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

29 May 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	20	8

Immediate family

Members

Charles S. Mc Ilroy (father)
Mary M. (Childers) Mc Ilroy (mother)
Edna G. Mc Ilroy (sister)
Winnie M. Mc Ilroy (sister)
Lillian Mc Ilroy (sister)
John E. Mc Ilroy (brother)
Charles S. Mc Ilroy Jr. (brother)
Walter S. Mc Ilroy (brother)
Claude Mc Ilroy (brother)
George R. Mc Ilroy (brother)
Emma C. Mc Ilroy (sister)
Robert G. Mc Ilroy (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-37877

Data

Type: B-17G
Nickname: Popcorn Fort
Destination: Cottbus, Germany
Mission: Bombing of the Focke-Wulf Aviation Industry
MACR: 5357

More information

Statement of 2nd Lt Herdman S. Porter, O-813057:

"Ship 877 was hit on first or second attack. A 20mm went through left wing, outboard of #1 engine. 877 flew in his position for about ten (10) minutes, then peeled off to the right, apparently under control.

About a minute after that, the left wing buckled and fire started at the trailing edge. A few seconds thereafter, the wing section broke off and the ship went into a steep spiral to the left out of control. Seven chutes were seen by my crew members."

Statement of 2nd Lt Harry Avery, pilot of A/C 42-37877:

"Our plane was hit by enemy fighter action, caught on fire and blew up on mid-air. After plane was hit I gave orders for men to put chutes on and bail out. The navigator and I saw two bodies on ground without chutes which evidently were blown out of plane. Our navigator recognized clothing on one of the bodies to be that of bombardier's (2nd Lt Stewart). I believe that the other body was subject's (S/Sgt Mc Ilroy)."

At the moment that the airplane blew up, S/Sgt Mc Ilroy was still on board. His body was found with his parachute blown off.

Photos



Source of information: Luc van der Sterren, Raf Dyckmans, www.wviimemorial.com, www.8thafhs.com, www.fold3.com - MACR, www.ancestry.com - Sam Mc Ilroy Family Tree

Photo source: Jac Engels, Luc van der Sterren, www.panoramio.com / Pawelm (plaque at crashsite)