



Personal info

Full name

WILHELM, Lawrence Michael

Date of birth

12 December 1923

Age

20

Place of birth

St. Louis, Missouri

Hometown

St. Louis, Missouri

Military service

Service number

37604384

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**715th Bombardment Squadron,
448th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

26 August 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
C	5	32

Immediate family

Members

Lawrence Wilhelm (father)

Pauline (Kopp) Wilhelm (mother)

June A. Wilhelm (sister)

Lorette F. Wilhelm (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-95134

Data

Type: B-24H

Destination: Ludwigshafen, Germany

Mission: Chemical Plant

MACR: 8469

More information

S/Sgt Lawrence Wilhelm enlisted on 25 February 1943 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Statement of James R. Boatright: "We were struck on a course of approximately 180 degrees about 1.5 minutes from our primary target at Ludwigshafen, Germany. The aircraft was severed between station five and six just aft of the Sperry ball turret. At this time, all crew members were at the battle stations. Myself, the tail gunner, and one waist gunner were able to parachute from the freely spinning tail section of the aircraft. The other portion of the craft crashed out of control after both pilot and co-pilot made good their escape. I witnessed the burning of the craft while falling on my parachute, but was taken prisoner immediately upon reaching the ground. As a prisoner, I was unable to check on the fate of the rest of my crew, but as no trace of them has been found, I naturally assumed them dead. As near as I can determine, the crash occurred directly north of Ludwigshafen, between Worms and Oppenheim."

Six of the crew members died, four survived, and were taken prisoner of war.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, Ralph Peeters, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com - WWII Enlistment Record, MACR, www.ancestry.com - 1930 Census, www.newspapers.com - St. Louis Post-Dispatch, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, www.newspapers.com - St. Louis Post-Dispatch