



Personal info

Full name

KILIAN, James Knight

Date of birth

12 July 1919

Age

24

Place of birth

Kansas

Hometown

Dickinson County, Kansas

Military service

Service number

O-2044831

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

**332nd Bombardment Squadron,
94th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

5 November 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	41	56

Immediate family

Members

Henry N. Kilian (father)
Florence E. (Knight) Kilian (mother)
Henry A. Kilian (brother)
Martha A. Kilian (sister)
John P. Kilian (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-30166

Data

Type: B-17F
Nickname: You Cawnt Miss it
Destination: Gelsenkirchen, Germany
Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard and the synthetic oil refineries
MACR: 1043

More information

James K. Kilian attended college and was a filling station attendant.

He joined the National Guard in Kansas City, Missouri at 23 December 1940.

The following was written by Harry Slater formerly of the 94th Bomb Group:

"On November 5th, the 94th launched 32 aircraft to bomb the synthetic oil refineries northwest of Gelsenkirchen. Since the Ploesti oil production center had been bombed, this target was considered important to the German cause. Nineteen aircraft formed the lead group of the 1st Air Task Force.

Flak was light over the Dutch coast but became intense in the target area. Lt. James K. Killian and crew of the 332nd squadron in aircraft 42-30166 (You Cawn't Miss it) were observed under heavy attack. After a time, the aircraft exploded with one parachute blossoming out of the debris. Eight aircraft suffered minor flak damage".

Two crew members survived and were taken prisoner, eight were killed. The remains of S/Sgt Pauley were never recovered.

His body washed ashore near Renesse, The Netherlands on 9 December 1943.

This memorial is at Indian Hill Cemetery, Chapman, Dickinson County, Kansas where his parents and other members of the family are buried.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.ancestry.com - 1930 census / U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, www.findagrave.com.
Connie Langvardt, www.angelfire.com/my/mighty8thlh/hodyost.html

Photo source: Jac Engels, Crew: Facebook 332nd Bomb Squad / Marc Benson, Arie-Jan van Hees - Pilot 42-K Luke Fd Arizona