



Personal info

Full name

MC COY, Richard J

Date of birth

17 July 1920

Age

23

Place of birth

Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Hometown

Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Military service

Service number

12165291

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**506th Bombardment Squadron,
44th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

20 February 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
L	14	16

Immediate family

Members

James R. Mc Coy (father)

Plane data

Serial number

42-100373

Data

Type: B-24J

Destination: Oschersleben, Germany

Mission: Bombing of the Ago/Focke-Wulf aircraft plant

MACR: 2421

More information

S/Sgt Richard J. Mc Coy attended St. Aloysius High School and was on the baseball team.

He volunteered for the Army of the United States in Newark, New Jersey on 2 November 1942.

At an altitude of 14,000 feet and just after finishing his bomb run, the aircraft was hit by flak at 1350 hours, causing the #4 engine to smoke and catch fire. The aircraft quickly fell back, becoming a straggler. Between 1405 and 1410 hours it was attacked at least four times by German ME-109s causing it to ignite in the waist section.

The situation aboard the aircraft was very grave at this time. The ball turret gunner was lying dead in the waist of the ship, having been struck by the rounds of the ME-109s. Several other crew members were wounded and burned in the fire, with the tail gunner parachute and reserve parachute having been destroyed. He was forced to jump on the back of the Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt James Lewis, and fell to his death when he lost his grip in the jolt of the opening parachute. 2nd Lt Lewis survived and was captured.

The situation was the worst in the waist of the airplane. There the fire was the strongest and the fighter attack was the heaviest.

The right waist gunner, Sgt Hoffman, managed to jump despite being badly wounded by 20 mm shells. His parachute had opened inside the aircraft, and he had to jump holding the ballooned parachute in his hands. He was captured on the ground.

The left waist gunner was badly wounded in the legs and burned. He managed to jump, on the personal order of 2nd Lt Rawson, but died before reaching the ground.

For the rest of the crew, the situation was equally dangerous. The navigator, 2nd Lt Johnston, jumped safely from the aircraft through the nose well, but died when his parachute did not open. 2nd Lt Rawson jumped from the bomb bay and survived.

S/Sgt Mc Coy also managed to jump from the bomb bay, but his parachute failed to open. He was found by a German wood-cutter in a forest near Oberrosphe, Germany.

In all, five crew members were killed and five were taken prisoner.

Richard Mc Coy was initially buried at the cemetery of Oberrosphe on 15 March 1944.

The airplane crashed in Treisbach.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.findagrave.com, www.ancestry.com - Headstone and Interment Record, www.archives.gov - WWII Enlistment Record, www.fold3.com - MACR

Photo source: Peter Schouteten