



Personal info

Full name

ECKERLE, William C "Bill"

Date of birth

15 November 1925

Age

19

Place of birth

Ohio

Hometown

Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio

Military service

Service number

15127428

Rank

Staff Sergeant

Unit

**569th Bombardment Squadron,
390th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

14 February 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
J	17	18

Immediate family

Members

Herman A. Eckerle (father)

Hilda M. (Zuecher) Eckerle (mother)

Beverly L. Eckerle (sister)

Shirlee A. Eckerle (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

43-39079

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Chemnitz

Mission: Bombing of the marshalling yard

MACR: 12350

More information

The intented target was to bomb the marshalling yard of Chemnitz with 332 airplanes but 38 attacked the airfield of Eger as a target of opportunity. According to the MACR, this airplane was part of these 38.

The airplane received a direct hit by flak about the radio room which bent the ship into a V for a moment. It then broke in two sections with the forward section going into the ground and exploding and with the tail section spinning slowly down. Several crews reported three bodies leaving the rear section, with only one parachute seen which seemed to only open partially. Two men survived the crash and were taken prisoner, the remaining seven men were killed.

According to medical examinations of his remains, S/Sgt William C. Eckerle must have hit the ground very hard while landing with his parachute.

The killed crew members were first buried at a civilian cemetery in Kettenbach, Germany.

Photos



Source of information: Astrid van Erp, Raf Dyckmans, Louis Hensgens, www.wwiimemorial.com, www.fold3.com, www.louishensgens.com

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, Michel Beckers/Declan Curran