



Staff Sergeant Matthew Francis Fourneyron, Jr.

KIA November 21, 1944, Isle of Rügen, Northeast Germany

Matthew Fourneyron was born in 1922 in Paterson, New Jersey. In 1927 the family relocated to 187 Hawthorne Avenue, and Matt attended St. Anthony's Parochial School on Diamond Bridge Avenue. He enrolled at Hawthorne High School in 1936, where he was a member of the Student Council, baseball team, golf club and member of numerous clubs. After graduation in 1940, he went to work at Wright Aeronautical Corporation in Paterson, New Jersey.

After the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Matt enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on October 10, 1942. Private Fourneyron began extensive training and trained extensively in a B-24 bomber. On September 9, 1944 Corporal Fourneyron arrived in England. After numerous missions, on the morning of November 21, Staff Sergeant Fourneyron and his crew boarded a B-24 nicknamed *Little Jo*, for their 13th mission. Their target was Hamburg, northern Germany. As the bombers crossed the coastline into Europe, and dropped bombs, they were hit and sustained damage their number one and two engines. They headed toward Sweden. *Little Jo* was attacked and exploded, crashing northwest of Bergen on the Isle of Rügen. SSgt Matthew Fourneyron was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and an Air Medal oak leaf cluster signifying a second awarding of the Air Medal. First listed as MIA, and later in February of 1945 received the news that he was killed in action on November 21, 1944 over Germany.

**S/Sgt Matthew F. Fourneyron, USAAF Way
(Hawthorne Avenue at Taylor Avenue)**

