

Swarthmore Ace Killed In Fight

Capt. James Willard Wilkinson, 28-year-old American Air Ace, and only son of Roy L. Wilkinson, of 410 Dickinson avenue, Swarthmore, was killed in action over German-held territory, according to an official telegram received on Tuesday by his father.

Commanding officer of the Seventy-eighth Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force, based in England, Captain Wilkinson some months ago accounted for his fifth Nazi plane, in dog fights over France and Germany. He is credited with the destruction of 27 enemy planes, including those he destroyed on German airfields.

A native of Cincinnati, O., Captain Wilkinson moved to Swarthmore four years ago. He had attended the University of Cincinnati. At the outbreak of war he was unable to enlist in the U. S. Air Force because he had not completed college. He went to Canada and enlisted in the artillery. After being sent to England, he was transferred to the Eagle Squadron of the RAF, in which he soon became a flying officer. When the American boys in the RAF were transferred to our own Air Corps, Wilkinson became a lieutenant, advancing to captain and commanding officer of the Seventy-eighth Fighter Group.

While in England, Captain Wilkinson married the former Friede Sutton, an English girl who is active in the Air Raid Precaution after nursing services. His father is connected with the Anchor Packing Company, of Philadelphia.

Capt. Wilkinson was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Cincinnati.