

1944: In the Thick of It – Overview

At the end of 1943, the published Honor Roll numbered 8. These men lived in Pulaski County at the time of their enlistment or were very strongly connected to it by blood or marriage.

When 1944 arrived, the United States had entered its third full year of fighting in both the European and South Pacific theatres of war, with troop levels at their second-highest.

Designated D-Day, on 6 Jun 1944, 156,000 Allied troops stormed the Normandy coast of northern France. The intent was to place an overwhelming force on the ground to push the Germans out of France and end the war in Europe. The Allies were also coming north from Italy.

By winter, while Germany was reeling from its defeat in Russia, it was still a formidable enemy. Germany attempted to retain control over the Allies at the Battle of the Bulge, but failed.

In the Pacific, the Allies and Japan still battled for control of New Guinea, north of Australia, and the Marshall Islands, farther to the northeast. Closer to Japan, the Allies secured Saipan, Guam, and the Philippines.

During 1944, seventy-three of our boys died, four times the count of the previous year.

Although Buck was missing in India and declared dead, his crashed plane wasn't found for 62 years.

Once before he died, Richard, a bombardier, got to see his daughter through his bombsight as his plane flew over Pulaski during a training flight. Ralph had only seen his son in a photograph a month before he was killed in action. Three other fathers weren't lucky enough to even see their babies.

Nemo drowned in the Solomon Islands.

The town of Francesville lost Ralph, Raymond, and Ed within three weeks of each other.

James' fiancée found out about his death from the newspaper!

Jack had worked at Kocher's Meat Market in Winamac before he entered in May 1944. His boss, A. E. Kocher, closed his business that same month. Not only had he lost Jack, but his sons, Harry and Arthur, had also entered before Jack. A naval petty officer, Harry was killed in the European Theater in 1944. Jack died on 29 January 1945, at the end of the Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg.

Over the years, there were more than 100 occasions when those in service met fellow residents, including brothers and cousins. Almost half were coincidental – meeting on board a large troopship headed to a war zone, in the same or nearby military unit, or in a bar. One bittersweet event was the first coincidental meeting between brothers, Arthur and Harry, and one more meeting a year later in 1944, just three months before Harry was killed.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Having survived the Bataan Death March, Clarence was the only case of “friendly fire” reported for Pulaski County. Sadly, Clarence was predeceased by his wife and daughter some years before.

Before he died, Forrest earned his Distinguished Service Cross, next only to the Medal of Honor.

Woodrow died on his birthday. Robert died on Christmas Eve. Jesse died of hypothermia after the truck in which he was riding overturned into a ditch on Christmas Day. And when the year 1944 ended, so did John.

Profiles of these and the rest of the servicemen who died in 1944 are in this chapter’s section, “The Dead”.

In 1944, besides Forrest’s Distinguished Service Cross, at least eight earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. At least four earned a Silver Star, and at least nine earned a Bronze Star. Lawrence earned a Silver Star in Saipan. In addition to the Silver Star, ultimately Archie received two medals from the Belgians for his part in the Battle of the Bulge. More Air Medals were earned, and, sadly, more Purple Hearts.

Here are some of the war stories of 1944. Harold earned his Silver Star during the bridging of the Rapido River in Italy, while in an exposed place, repelling two attacks from artillery and mortar fire and hand grenades. Challie had enough of the Army in May 1943, but the Army didn’t have enough of him when he was found working in a potato field. Lawrence earned a Silver Star when he scaled a cliff under enemy fire and knocked out a protected observation post with anti-tank grenades, even though he sustained a head wound. There would be another two months of heavy fighting before Peleliu Island was secure, as Harold wrote of living in foxholes, scanning for lost planes, and filling sandbags. Donald reported that he was among the first Americans to enter Paris and that he wrote that he had never been kissed so much in his life in a letter - to his wife! While in service, Pete ran unopposed for County Treasurer, his wife fulfilling his duties. Arthur earned a Bronze Star when he exposed himself to draw enemy fire, enabling his platoon to discover and knock out enemy positions. Ray received the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation, likely for taking Hill 510 with 250 men, of whom only 18 returned.

The details of these stories and more are in this chapter’s section, “War Stories”.

There was more war news besides Our Boys in the paper. Shoe rationing began, so now one could not only drive but also not even walk there.

The details of these stories are in this chapter’s section, **Community Climate**.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

This is a summary of the news in print available to most residents of Pulaski County in 1944. The primary news sources were two competing local weeklies that focused solely on local news, except for government news related to farming. A nearby daily newspaper provided state, national, and international news, including progress in the war. There was no internet, no television, and minimal news on the radio and in movie theatres.

For 1944, the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* in an adjacent county had 307 issues (daily except Sundays and holidays). About 95% of the major headlines were related to the war. There were also seven headlines associated with the fourth-term candidacy and election of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and one headline about the founding of the United Nations. The remaining 2% were related to other national, state, and local dramas.

About 10% of the headlines were about bombing Germany before the D-Day invasion of Europe on 6 June 1944. Eight headlines described the D-Day invasion and the initial days of fighting. The march through France and into Germany took another 20% and 21%, respectively. About 14% of the headlines were related to taking Italy. Russian successes were chronicled in another 10% of the headlines, with more than half in Ukraine. There was 7% related to news from the Pacific war zone, and 8% related to election and other war news from Europe.

International News

In 1943, the fascist Italian government unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, but the Germans still had to be driven from the country. This began with a dramatic landing at Anzio beach at the "knee" of Italy. After five months of fighting, Rome was taken. Collateral damage from the Allied invasion included the eighth-century-old Abbey at Monte Cassino.

In 1944, Russia finally drove the Germans out. Throughout this year, they are pushing the Germans from Ukraine, Poland, and the Balkans.

The Allies were bombing Germany.

On 6 June 1944, the U.S. and other Allied countries landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Americans begin marching across France and into Germany.

In July, an assassination attempt on Hitler failed.

National News

Franklin D. Roosevelt won a fourth term as president.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), two Great Depression programs for the unemployed, were abolished as most young men were in service.

State News

For the third year, the Indianapolis 500 Race was cancelled due to the war.

As well, the Indiana State Fair was cancelled due to the war.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Local News

In 1944, between the two local competing eight-page weeklies, there were about 40 war-related news items every week. Of those items, about 30 mentioned one or more of Our Boys. The rest were war-related issues of local interest, including war-related women's clubs, recycling, labor shortages, and rationing.

Markets

The 1944 agricultural Market prices were about double those of 1939 and about a third of those of 1943.

Thursday Markets	
Quotations hereunder are secured from dealers each Thursday morning, and are for that day only. They should not be regarded as quotations for any succeeding day, as all markets are subject to frequent change.	
Cattle	\$5.00 to \$10.00
Veal Calves	\$13.00
Hogs	\$13.50 down
Sows	\$11.25 down
Sheep, per cwt.	\$4.00-\$6.00
Lambs, per cwt.	\$8.00-\$14.00
Corn, old, No. 2	1.09
Corn, new No. 5, 72 lbs. ....	.90
Oats, No. 2 heavy test .....	.74
Rye, No. 2	1.00
Wheat, bu., soft red winter	1.52
Wheat, No. 2 hard winter	1.40
Soybeans, bu.	1.80
(Possible 6c premium on beans)	
Butterfat .....	.49
Eggs, per doz. ....	.30
Hens .....	.23
Old Roosters .....	.18

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Jan 1944: 8.

THE MARKETS	
Choice Hogs	\$13.50
Choice Light Sows	11.25
Veal Calves	13.00
Lambs	8.00 to 14.00
Sheep	4.00 to 6.00
Soybeans, No. 2	1.80
with a possible 6c premium.	
Soft Red Winter Wheat,	
No. 2	1.52
Hard Red Winter Wheat,	
No. 2	1.44
Oats, Heavy No. 2, 32 lbs.	
or over .....	.80
Old Corn, No. 2	1.09
New Corn .....	.96
Rye, No. 2	1.00
Hens .....	.23
Eggs .....	.30
Roosters .....	.18
Butterfat .....	.49

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Jan 1944: 8.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Cheer Up Club, et al.

The worries of the US entry into the war in Europe, followed by two years of World War I, surely weighed on the folks in Pulaski County. Sharing that burden helped. For women, there had been a tradition of social clubs. Now that tradition had turned toward coping with the worry of the loved ones away at war and with the burdens of rationing and recycling at home. Announcements of meetings for new clubs, such as the Cheer Up Club, Happy Hour Class, and Polly Ann Sewing Club, began to appear.

The Cheer Up club meeting was postponed Thursday and the next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Amanda Miller, August 3rd. at Medaryville.

1944-07-13 - Cheer Up Club postponed - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour Class of the Medaryville Methodist Church School will meet Thursday, July 27 for an all day meeting at the home of Mrs. Orvis Salrin.

1944-07-20 - Happy Hour Class to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up club will meet on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 3, at the home of Mrs. Amanda Miler at Medaryville.

1944-07-27 - Cheer Up Club to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up Club was held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Amanda Miller with 9 members and 5 guests present. The next meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 7th at the home of Mrs. A. R. Manning.

1944-08-10 - Cheer Up Club meets - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour Class of the Medaryville Methodist church will hold their bazaar and rummage sale on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the J. R. Linton room, first door west of Querry grocery store. Aprons and rugs will be specialties.

1944-09-07 - Happy Hour Class to hold bazaar and rummage sale - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up Club of Medaryville met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. A. R. Manning.

1944-09-14 - Cheer Up Club met - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Polly Ann Sewing Club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Karch at Medaryville with 11 members and 1 guest present. The afternoon was spent in cutting and sewing rug rags. The next meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon, October 4, at the home of Mrs. John McElroy.

1944-09-14 - Polly Ann Sewing Club met - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour class of the Medaryville Methodist church will continue their bazaar and rummage sale on Saturday afternoon and evening of September 30. The group will have an all day meeting in the church basement Thursday, September 28.

1944-09-21 - Happy Hour Class bazaar and rummage sale continues - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Polly Ann Sewing club will meet on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 4, at the home of Mrs. John McElroy in Medaryville. The Cheer Up club will meet on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 5, at the home of Mrs. Ella Hall of Medaryville.

1944-09-28 - Polly Ann and Cheer Up Clubs to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Holl with ten members and two guests present. The next meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, November 2, at the home of Mrs. Anthony Milenz.

1944-10-12 - Cheer Up Club meets - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Polly Ann Sewing Club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John McElroy with eight members present. The next meeting will be held Wednesday afternoon, November 1, at the home of Mrs. Byron Hershman.

1944-10-12 - Polly Ann Sewing Club meets - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour Class of the Medaryville Methodist church will hold their all day meeting Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the home of Mrs. Anna Kroft.

1944-10-19 - Happy Hour Class to meet all-day - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up Club will meet Thursday afternoon, Nov. 2, at the home of Mrs. Anthony Milenz. The Polly Ann Sewing Club will be held Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the home of Mrs. Byron Hershman at Medaryville.

1944-10-26 - Cheer Up and Polly Ann Sewing Clubs to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour class of the Medaryville Methodist church was held Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Anna Kroft at Medaryville.

1944-11-02 - Happy Hour Class meets - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8a - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour class of the Medaryville Methodist church will meet Thursday, November 30, with Mrs. Albert Egly for an all day meeting.

1944-11-23 - Happy Hour Class to meet all-day - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up Club of Medaryville will be held on Thursday, December 7 at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Wagner with Mrs. Augusta Steele as hostess.

1944-11-30 - Polly Ann Sewing and Cheer Up Clubs to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Happy Hour Class of the Medaryville Methodist church met Thursday at the home of Mrs. Albert Egly.

1944-12-07 - Happy Hour Class meets - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Cheer Up Club will meet Thursday afternoon, Dec. 28, with Mrs. Ray Steele instead of the regular meeting on January 4.

1944-12-14 - Cheer Up Club to meet - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

The Polly Ann Sewing Club will meet Wednesday afternoon, January 3, at the home of Mrs. Irene Myers at Medaryville.

1944-12-28 - Polly Ann Sewing Club - Winamac (IN) Republican - p8 - Pulaski County

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Rationing

Rationing continued, though to some degree mediated by Victory Gardens. Fortunately, farm machinery was becoming more available.



*Now is the time to
**PLANT A
VICTORY GARDEN***

Make your spare time
count for Victory!

Planting a Victory Garden is not only patriotic... but it's thrifty and healthful too.

PATRIOTIC because food fights for freedom. The food grown in your own garden saves transportation, packing and labor.

THRIFTY because you save points.

HEALTHFUL because you get exercise, sunshine and fresh air and your family will thrive on the tasty vegetables you grow.

If you grew a Victory Garden last year, why not try to manage a bigger one this year?

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATION'S ALL-OUT WAR EFFORT BY NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr 1944: 5.

Farm Machinery Off Ration List

All farm machinery except corn pickers was released from rationing today Walde Huddleston, Pulaski County AAA chairman, was informed by telegram.

The information was also broadcast by radio and many Pulaski county farmers called or visited the AAA office in the court house seeking additional information.

A check of county implement dealers revealed that no additional machinery other than allotments already set are expected in Pulaski county. These dealers have little

or no machinery on hand now.

Many farmers and practically all the dealers were mystified by the unlooked for action inasmuch as there is less machinery available today than in 1942 when rationing was started.

The Pulaski County Farm Machinery Rationing Board consists of Mr. Huddleston as chairman; Preston Nice, Charles Ginther, Harvey Hiatt and Herman Bremer.

The board will continue to function for the rationing of corn pickers, the AAA office reported.

AN EDITORIAL

A frantic New Deal party, seeking to head off defeat, committed an unpardonable sin today. It used a war agency in an effort to curry favor with farmers.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's farm advisers announced that all farm machinery except corn pickers are released from rationing.

This action is an insult to the intelligence of farmers. Who knows better than the food producers that the harvest is practically over and that there is no need for equipment now—except the corn pickers and they remain on the ration list. After the corn is picked they will probably be released.

Everyone who knows anything about farming knows that implement dealers do not now have and do not expect to have any appreciable amount of equipment because it is just not being made.

The action is not only an insult to the intelligence of every farmer but it is also an affront to the loyal American citizens, members of both political parties, who have given of their time to get a fair distribution of machinery by serving without pay on farm machinery rationing boards.

Only the simple minded will fail to see through this latest political move by the New Deal.

From this action it is safe to predict that other items will leave ration lists as the frantic bureaucrats seek out the voter.

Winamac (IN) Republican 28 Sep 1944: 1.

Rationing at a Glance

Meats, Cheese, Butter, Fats,
All red stamps A8 through Z8, good indefinitely for 10 points

Processed Foods
Blue stamps A8 through Z8 and A-5 in book 4 good indefinitely for 10 points. Tokens may be used for change. Stamps W8 through Z8 and A-5 became valid July 1 and will be good indefinitely.

Sugar
Stamps 30, 31 and 32 in Book 4 good indefinitely for five pounds. Stamp 40 in Book 4 good for five pounds of canning sugar through Feb. 28, 1945. Applications for additional canning sugar may be made by sending Spare Stamp 37 with each application to local rationing board.

Shoes
Book 3 airplane stamps 1 and 2 good until further notice.

Gasoline
12A Coupons are valid for three gallons through Sept. 21. B3, B4, C3, C4 coupons good for five gallons. A, B, C, D and T coupons not valid until endorsed with the automobile license number.

Tires
Commercial vehicle tires must be inspected every six months or every 5,000 miles, whichever is first. No inspection of passenger car tires is required. Tire inspection records for passenger cars must be retained in order to obtain gasoline and tire replacements.

Stoves
Certificates to purchase most heating and cooking stoves that burn coal, wood, oil or gas now must be obtained from local ration boards.

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Jul 1944: 5.

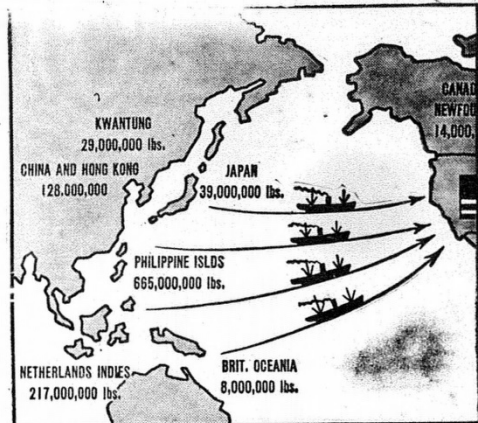
Recycling

Cooking fats were vital to the war effort in the production of explosives. Recycled paper was also of use.

Why you now get FREE MEAT POINTS for Used Cooking Fats



TO HELP END THIS WAR SOONER . . . to make life-saving battlefield medicines and gunpowder . . . the government has asked housewives to turn in their used cooking fats. For these necessities of war cannot be made without glycerine. And glycerine cannot be made without fats



THE GOVERNMENT TURNED to the women of America because (1) the Far East islands that supplied a thousand million pounds of fats and oils each year were captured by the Japs right after Pearl Harbor; and because (2) at least five hundred million pounds of fats, rich in glycerine, were being thrown away in American kitchens.



TODAY THE NEED for glycerine is more urgent than ever. So much so that the government has authorized your meat dealer to give you 4¢ and two ration points you can use for the purchase of meat, shortening or oil, any time, anywhere, in exchange for every pound of used cooking fat you turn in.



FREE POINTS for used fats are given to you as a matter of simple justice. You pay points for the meats and fats that you buy. It is only fair that the vital fats you return to the national economy should be paid for in kind.



DON'T THINK there's ever too little left in your skillet or pan, or to skim off soups or gravies. Every drop of fat is needed, no matter how much you've cooked with it or how black it is! It will still yield crystal-pure glycerine.



SO SAVE EVERY DROP of fat, after you've gotten all the cooking good out of it. Save it in a tin can, a fruit, soup, vegetable can . . . any kind of can will do, but please, not glass. When it's full, rush it to your meat dealer! You'll be doing a job that's as vitally important as any in this fight to Victory!

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 Mar 1944: 5.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 21 Feb 1944: 4.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 7.

Glycerine Makers Urge Cleanliness in Used Fats

Much of the used kitchen fat recently turned in by housewives in exchange for red ration points has been found to contain a high proportion of foreign matter, reports the Office of Price Administration. Used fats, from which pure glycerine must be processed, constitute a vital part in the production of essential war supplies. When such foreign matter as nuts, bolts, nails, sand, water and other substances are found in containers turned in, glycerine manufacturers are greatly hampered in producing the pure product needed in the many wartime items of which it is a necessary part.

OPA urged that, in view of the importance of these many uses, housewives make sure that containers in which they put used fats are clean and dry, and that they allow no adulterants to become mixed with their kitchen fats before they turn them in to their food dealers.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Jul 1944: 6.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Dec 1944: 8.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Kids help!

At the urging of schools and other organizations, children gathered milkweed pods to be used for life jackets.

School Children Asked To Collect Milkweed Pods

The County War Board has appointed County Agent C. E. Olson as county chairman of the milkweed pod collection campaign. This campaign will get underway the latter part of August or the first of September. The War Food Administration will buy milkweed floss for the armed forces this fall to be used in life jackets, life belts and similar equipment as a substitute for Java Kapok.

All youth organizations and school children are urged to take part in this campaign. Bags will be furnished by the county agent's office. Boys and girls will be paid at the rate of 20c per bag of dried pods. Everyone should be on the look-out for patches of milkweed now, Mr. Olson states.

Time for Picking.

Picking should not begin until some of the seeds in the pods have burned brown, for if they are picked too green they lack the desired buoyancy and are worthless for making life belts. As soon as pods are picked they should be placed in the mesh bags furnished by the county leader. The bags should then be hung on a fence or rail so that they do not touch the ground until they are thoroughly dry. It will take from two to four weeks for them to dry thoroughly, depending upon the weather. They may be left out in the rain without damage to the floss.

When the bags are thoroughly dry, they will be brought to a designated point in the county and assembled in storage. They will be kept in storage until transportation can be arranged for moving them to Petoskey, Mich., for processing.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Aug 1944: 1.

Plan Drive To Gather Milkweed

Pulaski county farmers were asked to be on the look-out for patches of milkweed and to notify County Agent C. E. Olson's office, as plans were completed by the local War Board to hold a collection campaign for milkweed pods.

The floss from these pods is needed to make life preservers. Mr. Olson said that all persons interested in picking milkweed pods should contact his office. Empty bags for the collection will be distributed through his office and at schools.

War Hemp, Inc., will advance funds for the payment of pods at the rate of 20 cents a bag (about one bushel in size.)

Picking should not begin until some of the seeds in the pods have turned brown, Mr. Olson added, and pointed out that if picked too green, the floss lacks the desired buoyancy and is worthless for making lifebelts.

As soon as the pods are picked, the bags should be hung up so that they do not touch the ground until they are thoroughly dry. It will take from two to four weeks for the pods to dry thoroughly, depending upon the weather. The bags may be left in the rain without damage to the floss.

When the bags are thoroughly dry, they will be brought to the school or some designated point in the county for storage until transportation is arranged to Petoskey, Mich., where the pods will be processed.

Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Aug 1944: 1.

Milk-Weed Pods for Life Jackets



Scenes like this will be common in Indiana during the coming weeks as school boys and girls respond to the call for help in the gathering of milk-weed pods for the making of life saving jackets. The floss of the pod is being used in place of kapok to fill the all-important jackets.

In most counties of Indiana, the county superintendent of schools is serving as leader of the campaign for collection of the pods, in others the county agent or the local AAA chairman, Oliver C. Lee, of the Purdue University Extension staff, and state leader of the drive reports. The campaign is being conducted aggressively in practically every county with many "bushels" of the pods already being hung up to dry. The children are to get 20 cents per bag, about one bushel, for the pods.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Aug 1944: 6.

Milk Weed Pods Ripe

The milkweed pod crop is ripe now in Pulaski county, advises County Agricultural Agent C. E. Olson, and should be harvested immediately before pods burst and allow the floss to scatter. Bags for picking have been distributed to school and to other groups that are organizing harvesting parties. Those who do not have bags for picking, may obtain them from the school principal, county superintendent or county agricultural agent. Collectors are instructed to pick the entire pod and to use the net bags provided, as the pods may spoil in other types of containers. Bags should be hung on a fence immediately after picking until the pods are dry.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Sep 1944: 1.

Milkweed Pods To Be Brought in This Week

Approximately 1000 school children in Pulaski county will receive their money soon for milkweed pods collected this fall. School leaders have been asked to notify all children who have collected pods to bring them to the schools this week.

Alpha Hoesel, county highway supervisor, stated that the highway trucks will co-operate in hauling the pods from the schools to Winamac for storage. They will be collected by the trucks the latter part of next week.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Nov 1944: 1.

PAY FOR MILKWEED PODS

Approximately 1,000 Pulaski county school children will share in the \$600 being distributed by C. E. Olson, county agent, for their work in collecting milkweed pods for use in the manufacture of life belts.

The money is being distributed through schools as the students bring in the collected pods. Meanwhile Alpha Hoesel, county highway superintendent, announced

that trucks will be available for hauling the pods from these schools to Winamac for storage.

The pods are being stored in the building just north of Von Tobel's lumber yard which was formerly occupied by the Sheridan junk yard.

In announcing the distribution of the funds, Mr. Olson urged everyone who participated in the collection drive to get the pods in before wet weather starts.

Winamac (IN) Republican 16 Nov 1944: 5.

Milkweed Pod Campaign Brings in 2700 Bags

Incomplete tabulations show that approximately 2700 full bags of milkweed pods were collected by the boys and girls of Pulaski county. These have been brought to Winamac by the county highway trucks.

Checks totaling \$540 will be distributed to the school leaders who co-operated in the campaign in payment for the pods, it is announced by County Agent C. E. Olson.

There are approximately 400 empty bags which have not been turned in to date. Anyone having these bags in possession are requested to bring them to the county agent's office as soon as possible.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Nov 1944: 1.

PAY FOR PODS

School students of Pulaski County collected 2,700 full bags of milkweed pods and received checks totaling \$540 for their work in gathering the product which is used in making life belts for the Navy and Merchant Marine.

The pods were brought to Winamac for storage by county highway trucks, C. E. Olson, county agriculture agent, reported.

Mr. Olson added that 400 empty bags have not been turned in as yet. All persons who have these bags are requested to bring them to the county agent's office.

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Nov 1944: 5.

Pick Milkweed Pods

Children of the Walters school picked 205 bags of milk weed pods, for which they received \$43.00. Of this sum, \$20.20 was for bags credited to the school, and was used for the purchase of group pictures of the school for each pupil and a wiener roast. The pupils buy an average of \$10.00 worth of War Stamps weekly. Mrs. Fay Smith and I. E. Bird are the teachers.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Dec 1944: 2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Labor Shortages

The bad news was the labor shortage caused by Our Boys going off to war. The good news was that the unemployment office had closed.

**HOW *Women* HELP TO KEEP THEM ROLLING
ON THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD**



A WAR ROLE FOR WOMEN . . . as a trainman on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Women serve on short runs, as a rule.

RAILROADING has always been regarded as a man's calling.

But when war reached deeply into railroad ranks—taking from the Pennsylvania Railroad alone more than 44,000 skilled and experienced workers for the Armed Forces—women were employed to help keep trains rolling.

Today, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, approximately 22,000 women are serving in a wide variety of occupations—four of which you see illustrated here.

Positions such as trainmen, ticket sellers, train passenger representatives, ushers, information and reservation personnel call for intelligence, courtesy and a high degree of efficiency. Young women fresh from college and high school—after intensive training—have proved they can fill these roles most capably.

So, we're glad to have their help in the greatest job railroads have ever been called upon to do, *moving men and materials to Victory!*



AS A BRAKEMAN in freight yard operations, a woman fills a job that requires strength and coolness—in all weather.



AS AN USHER, a woman posts trains, announces departures and arrivals—answers the questions asked by travelers.



INFORMATION COUNTERS are besieged these days—so a woman's knowledge of travel must be extensive.

BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Pennsylvania Railroad
Serving the Nation

★ 44,565 in the Armed Forces ☆ 125 have given their lives for their country

One of America's Railroads . . . All United for Victory!

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Mar 1944: 3.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

WANTED
BY THE
Pennsylvania Railroad

LOCOMOTIVE FIREMAN
ROAD BRAKEMEN
YARD BRAKEMEN
GOOD WAGES

Apply at Office of Superintendent, Pennsylvania Railroad, Logansport, Ind.

If you are now employed in an essential war industry, please do not apply.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Mar 1944: 8.

The WAC and the Plane Both Meet the Test



RPB-MA-167

Private First Class Pauline W. Stach tests radio and tower connections in planes at Turner Field, Albany, Georgia. Because of their superior performance in the duties given to them, Wacs have recently been entrusted with many new jobs, making a total of 239 Army assignments now open to them.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 May 1944: 7.

The proudest title
in the Army

IT CONSISTS of two simple words.
Yet every soldier who's worth his salt covets it.
This title is simply:
"Good Soldier."

It isn't just happenstance that so many women in the WAC have earned this title—the proudest in the Army.

For wherever Wacs are working, both here and overseas, there you find a job well done. And done with a spirit so gallant and fine that high Army officers everywhere say of the WAC...
"They're soldiers. Good soldiers!"

Good soldiers..
the **WAC**
WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

Making strategy maps for combat

Checking pilots to and from war zones

FOR FULL INFORMATION about the Women's Army Corps, go to your nearest U.S. Army Recruiting Station. Or mail the coupon below.

U. S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION
152 Federal Building
South Bend, Indiana.

Please send me, without any obligation on my part, the new illustrated booklet about the Wacs...telling about the jobs they do, how they live, their training, pay, officer selections, etc.

NAME _____ (s)
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ PHONE NO. _____

Please answer "yes" or "no" to each of the following questions:
Are you between 20 and 50? _____
Have you any children under 14? _____
Have you had at least 2 years of high school? _____

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jul 1944: 6.

Boys Needed For Farm Labor Program

LAFAYETTE, Ind. —(UP)— J. B. Kohlmeyer, Purdue university state supervisor of the Emergency Farm Labor program, Wednesday sent orders to 37 county agricultural agents to recruit 1,400 boys 14-years-old and older to detassel hybrid seed corn in central and northwestern Indiana.

He said detasseling was expected to start around July 15 and would reach a peak Aug. 1. A total of 6,000 persons will be needed, but 4,600 were expected to be recruited in areas nearby the seed field. The youth will live in work camps and be paid for their services.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 22 Jun 1944: 9.

Eight Jamaicans left Monday for southern Indiana after working about three weeks on the Gumz farms in Rich Grove township. These workers are imported by the government and sent to sections where help is needed. County Agent C. E. Olson, who as in charge of the project for Pulaski county, said the employer was warm in his praise of their work and character.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 1.

YOUR COUNTRY

Needs You !

STAY ON YOUR

War Job !!

If you are not employed in an essential War Industry, you are urgently needed to help load ammunition. For details about safe, pleasant jobs, see the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant representative at the

U.S. Employment Service Office

Court House

ALL DAY FRIDAY, OCT. 13

Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Oct 1944: 4.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Kingsbury Ordnance Plant

Kingsbury, the munitions plant north of Winamac, was a major employer. Note that optimism in the September item, “Kingsbury Future is Uncertain” (below), that the D-Day invasion of France guaranteed the end of Hitler. In October, there was another “Open House”. The previous year's event drew 30,000 attendees. In November, there was a “War Film”. (Imagine that in “IMAX” today!).

Kingsbury Sets Record

A production record for 1943 startling in its magnitude was announced today at Kingsbury Ordnance plant by Lt. Col. Stanley Shubart, commanding officer.

“Well over 250,000,000 loaded components, representing many different times, were produced at Kingsbury during the past year,” he said.

The significance of the large scale loading was illustrated by Col. Shubart in his observation that the production record represented “bombs for capacity loads of 6,500 bombers, shells to keep 500,000 various size cannons in action 1 minute, grenades and mines to circle all world battle fronts.”

“At the present time we are loading an average of 14 different items each month. However, only 4 of the items now being manufactured were on our production schedules a year ago,” Col. Shubart said.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Jan 1944: 1.

**War Workers
WANTED**

MEN OR WOMEN

Todd & Brown, Inc.
KINGSBURY ORDNANCE PLANT
LaPorte, Indiana

No Experience Required—Must have statement of availability or U. S. employment referral card, also proof of birth. Persons now employed in essential war industry will not be accepted.

Our Representative Will Interview Applicants at
Commissioner's Room, Court House, every Friday and Saturday from 9:30 to 4 P. M.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Jan 1944: 5.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Bus Service
To The
Kingsbury
Ordnance Plant
COACHES LEAVE CHAPMAN'S
6:15 A.M. 2:15 P.M. 10:18 P.M.
Purchase tickets before boarding coaches.
Suburban Transit

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 May 1944: 4.

SEE NEW - AUTHENTIC
WAR FILMS
HEAR ABOUT
NEW - POWERFUL
SHELLS and EXPLOSIVES
A FREE motion picture show and lecture
presented to your community by
TODD & BROWN, INC.,
Kingsbury Ordnance Plant
WINAMAC HIGH SCHOOL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16—8 p.m.
MEDARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17—7:30 p.m.
Free! **Free!**

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Nov 1944: 4.

KINGSBURY OPEN HOUSE
For the second time in its production history, the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant will open its gates to the public for inspection on Sunday, August 20, Major F. H. Phillips, commanding officer, announced today. More than 30,000 persons visited the plant when it held "open house" last October.

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 Aug 1944: 5.

Gen. Eisenhower:--
In his radio broadcast to America from the German Front on Sunday, Nov. 19, stated:
**"More Than Ever Before
We Need Ammunition"**
Come and Help Us Send It!
Kingsbury Ordnance Plant
Todd & Brown, Inc., Operators
LaPorte, Ind.
NEEDS MALE AND FEMALE OPERATORS
Also Warehousemen
Good Wages. Transportation will Be Available.
Here is an Opportunity for Farmers to
Get a War Job for the Winter
KOP Representative Will Hire at the County
Court House, Court Room
18 YEARS AND OLDER
Every Friday 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
If now employed in essential war activity
do not apply.

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Nov 1944: 5.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Rationing

While Victory Gardens were still encouraged, rationing of meat ended as well as of most farm machinery.



*Now is the time to
**PLANT A
VICTORY GARDEN***

Make your spare time
count for Victory!

Planting a Victory Garden is not only patriotic... but it's thrifty and healthful, too.

PATRIOTIC because food fights for freedom. The food grown in your own garden saves transportation, packing and labor.

THRIFTY because you save points.

HEALTHFUL because you get exercise, sunshine and fresh air and your family will thrive on the tasty vegetables you grow.

If you grew a Victory Garden last year, why not try to manage a bigger one this year?

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED TO THE NATION'S ALL-OUT WAR EFFORT BY NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr 1944: 5.

Most Meats Removed From Rationing List

All meats except beef steaks and beef roasts were removed from rationing last midnight.

All cuts of pork, veal, lamb, and mutton are now point-free, Price Administrator Chester Bowles said in a surprise announcement. The point-free category includes flank steaks, beef hamburger, beef stew meat, all variety meats, sausage of all types, ready-to-eat meats, canned meats, and canned fish.

Points on choice beef steaks and roasts remain at their present levels.

At the same time Bowles ordered the monthly allotment of sixty red points for each individual cut to thirty, beginning May 7.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 May 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II



This little Pig stayed at home!

The government food program in 1943 called for the production of an unprecedented number of hogs, cattle and lambs. Patriotic farmers and ranchers equalled—and surpassed—their quotas, despite shortages of help, equipment, and other restrictions. They did a grand job—but so much more livestock than usual created marketing and meat packing problems.

Ordinarily the heaviest livestock marketing comes in the fall and winter months and that is when the greatest volume reached market in the past year. As a result, some "little pigs" had to stay at home for a week or two. Another heavy run began in the last week in April. Again the markets were oversupplied, so more livestock had to be held back for a time.

New Records Established

We at Swift & Company bought more livestock in these heavy markets than in any comparable periods in our history. We did this by working long hours at top capacity—a 12-hour day was usual for many of our staff—and by operating six and seven days a week. These new records were made in spite of many handicaps and difficulties. We often bought more hogs, cattle, and lambs in a day than we could slaughter in our plants. Sometimes we had on hand several extra days' supply of livestock. That was costly, for held-over livestock shrink and must be fed, and there are bound

to be death losses. But, nevertheless, we bought all we possibly could handle every day.

Many Problems

And in addition to the increased numbers of cattle, hogs and lambs to be handled, we were up against other problems which we have in common with producers. For instance, shortage of help—especially experienced help. More than 18,000 Swift employees are in the armed services. Then, our meat coolers and freezers were often filled to capacity with meats, much of it for the army, navy and lend-lease. Containers and other supplies were difficult to obtain.

Producers should be able to market their livestock at any time according to their own wishes and judgment. That is the way we want it to be. And we hope producers will be able to spread out the sending of their livestock to market in order to avoid "glutted" conditions.

SWIFT & COMPANY
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

Winamac (IN) Republican 11 May 1944: 6.

Rationing at a Glance

Meats, Cheese, Butter, Fats,
All red stamps A8 through Z8, good indefinitely for 10 points

Processed Foods
Blue stamps A8 through Z8 and A-5 in book 4 good indefinitely for 10 points. Tokens may be used for change. Stamps W8 through Z8 and A-5 became valid July 1 and will be good indefinitely.

Sugar
Stamps 30, 31 and 32 in Book 4 good indefinitely for five pounds. Stamp 40 in Book 4 good for five pounds of canning sugar through Feb. 28, 1945. Applications for additional canning sugar may be made by sending Spare Stamp 37 with each application to local rationing board.

Shoes
Book 3 airplane stamps 1 and 2 good until further notice.

Gasoline
12A Coupons are valid for three gallons through Sept. 21. B3, B4, C3, C4 coupons good for five gallons. A, B, C, D and T coupons not valid until endorsed with the automobile license number.

Tires
Commercial vehicle tires must be inspected every six months or every 5,000 miles, whichever is first. No inspection of passenger car tires is required. Tire inspection records for passenger cars must be retained in order to obtain gasoline and tire replacements.

Stoves
Certificates to purchase most heating and cooking stoves that burn coal, wood, oil or gas now must be obtained from local ration boards.

Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Jul 1944: 5.

THE BEER YOU CAN'T GET HAS GONE TO WAR

★ Fifteen per cent or more of all beer is first set aside for the armed forces . . . it means a lot in the foxholes, on the march and in the camps.

Under war-time transportation restrictions, each retailer is limited to only two deliveries of draught and one of bottled beer per week.

Malt, the main ingredient of good beer, and other materials have been sharply curtailed to meet war demands.

Bottles are scarce and cases are wearing out . . . handle them carefully and return them promptly.


Brewers, wholesalers, retailers and dealers are operating on a quota basis, so don't blame them when there's no beer on hand.

On top of all that there just isn't enough beer to go around.

Beer is mighty glad to help, but it asks you people on the home-front to be patient. The big job is to win the war.

BEER IS A BEVERAGE OF MODERATION

THE INDIANA BREWERS ASSOCIATION
712 Chamber of Commerce Building, Indianapolis 4, Indiana



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Aug 1944: 7.

Farm Machinery Off Ration List

All farm machinery except corn pickers was released from rationing today Walde Huddleston, Pulaski County AAA chairman, was informed by telegram.

The information was also broadcast by radio and many Pulaski county farmers called or visited the AAA office in the court house seeking additional information.

A check of county implement dealers revealed that no additional machinery other than allotments already set are expected in Pulaski county. These dealers have little

or no machinery on hand now.

Many farmers and practically all the dealers were mystified by the unlooked for action inasmuch as there is less machinery available today than in 1942 when rationing was started.

The Pulaski County Farm Machinery Rationing Board consists of Mr. Huddleston as chairman; Preston Nice, Charles Ginther, Harvey Hiatt and Herman Bremer.

The board will continue to function for the rationing of corn pickers, the AAA office reported.

AN EDITORIAL

A frantic New Deal party, seeking to head off defeat, committed an unpardonable sin today. It used a war agency in an effort to curry favor with farmers.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's farm advisers announced that all farm machinery except corn pickers are released from rationing.

This action is an insult to the intelligence of farmers. Who knows better than the food producers that the harvest is practically over and that there is no need for equipment now—except the corn pickers and they remain on the ration list. After the corn is picked they will probably be released.

Everyone who knows anything about farming knows that implement dealers do not now have and do not expect to have any appreciable amount of equipment because it is just not being made.

The action is not only an insult to the intelligence of every farmer but it is also an affront to the loyal American citizens, members of both political parties, who have given of their time to get a fair distribution of machinery by serving without pay on farm machinery rationing boards.

Only the simple minded will fail to see through this latest political move by the New Deal.

From this action it is safe to predict that other items will leave ration lists as the frantic bureaucrats seek out the voter.

Winamac (IN) Republican 28 Sep 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

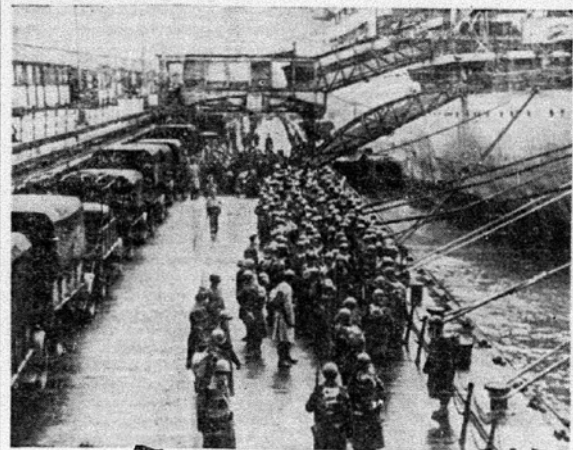
D-Day

Although specifics were kept secret, an Allied invasion of France was expected, and “Invasion Prayers” were planned. The event was exceptional in another way. It was the first time in at least 35 years that these two local weeklies had front-page items about an international event. Although optimism about the quick end to the war was high, Doc Halleck, now a Lt.Col., wrote home, “Do not let your hopes for an early victory get built up....”.



Winamac (IN) Republican 11 May 1944: 1.

D - Day Arrives



(WASHINGTON, D. C., VIA ENGLAND)—American troops embark for the kick-off. Photo shows American troops as they embarked for the invasion of Hitler's Europe on D-Day. (Signal Corps Radio Telephoto).

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Jun 1944: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Jun 1944: 1.

Prayers Follow Invasion News

Pulaski county glued its collective ear to the radio Tuesday to listen with prayerful anxiety to news bulletins that the long-awaited invasion of Europe had begun. Newspaper extras sold fast.

Flags were unfurled and although the news was at first confined to early risers, it traveled fast and at 8 o'clock in the morning the siren was sounded in Winamac for prayer service at the Methodist church. Services were also held at St. Peter's church both in the morning and again Tuesday night.

While most Pulaski county families are affected by the war, with men in service, many were vitally interested because a number of boys are stationed in England and probably now taking part in the invasion.

The Methodist church was filled with people of all denominations in prayerful attitude as were the Catholic services.

All business houses were closed during the prayer service which was preceded by organ music, "Faith of Our Fathers." The Rev. Robert Crosby read the scripture and gave a prayer, followed by prayers by the Rev. David Neilson and the Rev. C. R. Earle.

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Jun 1944: 1.

— This Is the Way It Happened —

Long Awaited 'Second Front' Spells Liberation for Many Occupied European Countries



Nazi sources first broke the story, announcing that naval units were shelling Le Havre, France, and that landing craft were nearing the shores. Landing attempts, general along the English channel coast, followed in reality the arrowed diagram of planes and ships from England to France.

Light broadened on the horizon . . . Thousands of planes blotted out the pale sky as their wings carried them onward to the thunder of their engines . . . Below, more than 6,000 ships of all types moved in a mass over the English channel . . .

Short moments later, hundreds of paratroopers tumbled from the planes and the sky over French Normandy was filled with the little white billows of their 'chutes; big battle-ships opened up a quaking fire on the French coast, and then landing vessels poked their snub-noses onto the sandy beaches and U. S. and British troops poured ashore, with tanks and other equipment unloaded behind them.

The invasion of Europe was on, the second front had been established!

Thus did June 6, 1944, go down in history as the date on which the democratic powers of U. S. and Britain challenged Adolf Hitler's "New Order" on his own battlegrounds of western Europe, the mighty gate to the Nazis' continental fortress, organized under dominion of the German wehrmacht.

Taking place 80 miles across the channel from England, the first Allied landings were made between the great ports of Le Havre and Cherbourg on the French coast, while masses of planes and ships bombarded Dieppe, Abbeville and Boulogne, farther to the east.

From the start, the invasion was a fight to the finish, with German destroyers and E-boats attacking the huge Allied fleet off the French coast. German reservists concentrated behind the lines for emergency service, rushed forward to meet U. S. and British paratroopers descending from the skies, and to combat Allied armored units pressing inland with tanks.

In the thunderous crescendo of the early fighting, the Allies penetrated from seven to ten miles inland, and reinforcements were put ashore to support the attack.


Under supreme command of U. S. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, with British Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery in charge of ground troops and British Adm. Bertram H. Ramsay leading the naval forces, U. S. and British fighting men spearheaded the invasion, receiving support from smaller units of Norwegians, Poles, Dutch, French and Greeks.

As the Allies secured beachheads on the French coast and thrust inland toward Paris, German forces counterattacked vigorously under icy, 69-year-old Field Marshal von Rundstedt and storied Erwin Rommel. Adolf Hitler, himself, reportedly rushed to the invasion area to preside over the enemy's military directorate.

The Critical Hour



GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
Supreme Allied Commander.



LIEUT. GEN. OMAR NELSON BRADLEY
Missouri born, quiet-mannered Bradley was the hero of the American victory at Bizerte. His job is to lead his men from the channel to Berlin.

Ground Force Chief



Beaches like these were first military objectives.



The area indicated in white on the above map is the Nazi defense zone. Continued bombing of key communications lines complicated the enemy's transportation problems and the past months of hammering at the German Luftwaffe so weakened that unit that the Allied air force dictated terms on which they should meet. Several weeks ago it was reported that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had moved approximately a quarter of a million men to that area.

SOFTENED UP

Important factor in the Allied landings on the French channel coast was the prolonged bombardment of enemy positions within the whole area by fleets of thousands of U. S. and British war-planes of all types, from flashy fighter-bombers to the more ponderous Flying Fortresses and Lancasters.

Fortifications, airfields, railroads, power stations—everything of use to the Nazis in the defense against the invasion came under the bomb-sights of Allied airmen.

By hammering at railroad lines, the Allied command sought to disrupt the transport of troops and supplies to the areas where landings might be made. Not only did Vichy's collaborationists plead with French engineers to stay at the throats in the face of the severe bombardments, but the Germans even rushed key transport squads to help in keeping open the battered rail communications.

Thus was the invasion launched only after the most careful and thorough destruction of essential elements in the enemy's defenses.

These Are Our Leaders in Battle . . .

Here are "thumbnail" biographies of the Allied invasion leaders:

Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower, 51, supreme commander of all Allied forces, led the successful operation in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was born in Texas but reared in Kansas. In two years he rose from lieutenant colonel to a full general, and top-man for the invasion.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, 52, wounded in early days of World War I, who successfully commanded Middle East and Allied Mediterranean air forces, is deputy supreme Allied commander.

Lieut. Gen. James H. ("Jimmy") Doolittle, 47, "the man who bombed Tokyo," is in command of the U. S. Eighth air force.

In constructing these defenses far to the rear of the English channel, the once-masters of the "blitz" have recognized the full weight which Supreme Commander Gen. Eisenhower will be able to throw at them. As a result, not only have they built strong fortifications of concrete and steel for miles back of the French coast, but they have also converted the once heralded Maginot line into a defensive bastion, to support their own famed Siegfried or "west wall."

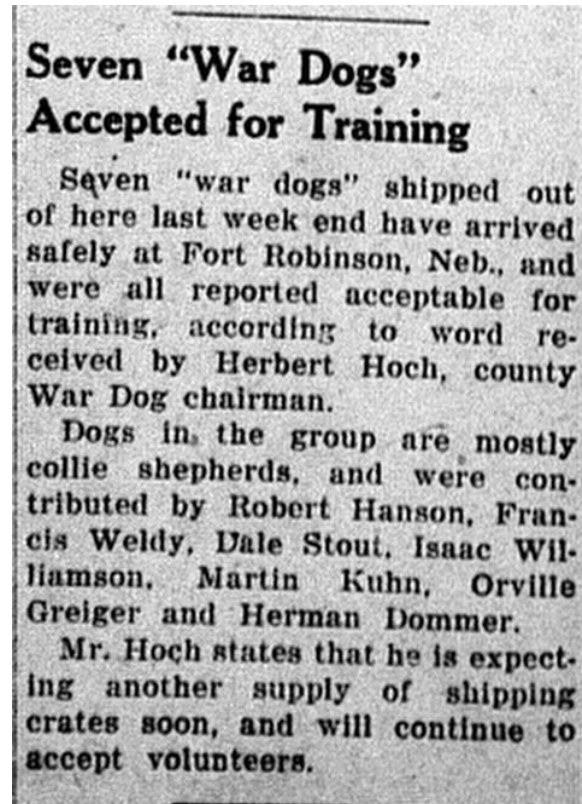
FORTRESS BARRIERS

Despite the extravagant propaganda of Hitler's "Atlantic Wall," the Nazis reportedly have taken no chances on putting all of their chips on it; on the contrary, not only have they spoken of the necessity of launching decisive counter-attacks against the invading forces, but they also have constructed defenses as far back as the German frontier.

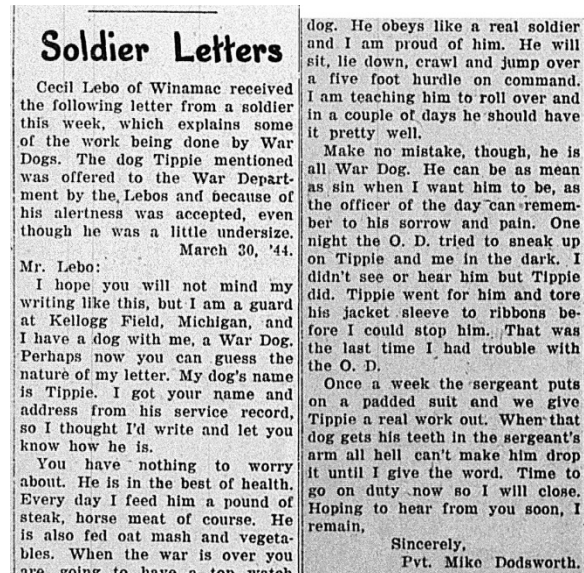
Our Boys: A Community During World War II

War Dogs

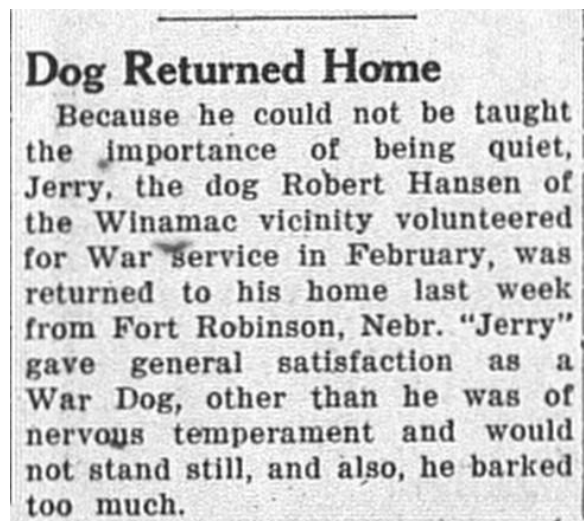
In February 1944, seven "War Dogs" were accepted for training, although Jerry was returned four months later for being "of nervous temperament". Tippie's owner heard nothing but praise in a letter from the dog's handler.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Feb 1944: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Apr 1944: 8.

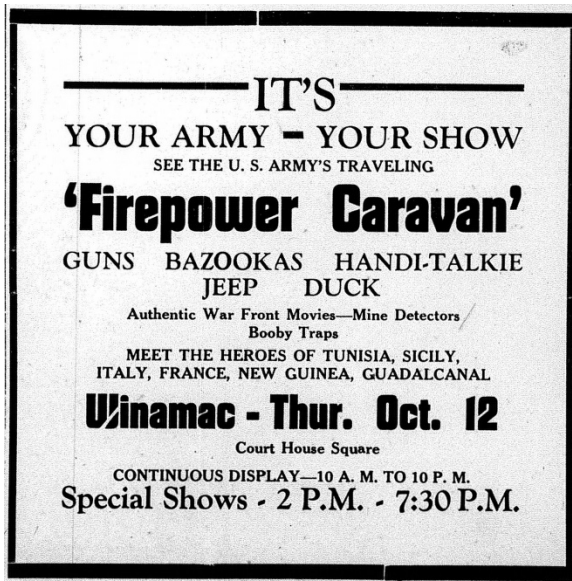


Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Jun 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Weapons on Parade!

In October, a “Firepower Caravan” stopped at the courthouse square. A Jeep, personnel carrier, half-track with a 50-caliber machine gun, and an amphibious “duck,” as well as guns, other weapons, and equipment, were demonstrated by soldiers, many of whom had combat experience and some were Purple Heart recipients.



Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Oct 1944: 6.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

War Bonds

The year 1944 started with letters from Don and Harold, stationed in the Pacific, urging everyone to buy bonds. The full-page bond ads were thought-provoking.

From a Hospital

Few people back home seem to know what is meant by a fox hole. They'd know after they stayed in one for about thirty-six hours without hardly moving. There are always two men in a fox hole, so if one goes to sleep and starts to snore, the other can wake him. The enemy may be close enough to hear.

You must also be careful of shakes. They are awful. I know one fellow here who was bitten on the leg by a snake while he was asleep, and his leg had to come off. Another bad thing is, it's always raining, and the mud is terrible. But the worst is yet to come. That is about the mosquitoes. They're as thick as flies, and nine out of ten carry malaria.

The rations are pretty good, if you can get to them, but lots of times in the day I would catch frogs, pull their legs off and roast them with a match. It was pretty good. Try it some time.

As for entertainment, you haven't any, unless you and your partner draw straws to see which one took guard first, or play cards, gamble, take all his money, then give it back and start over.

No, some people in the states don't know what it's all about. But I would like to ask everyone a favor—buy more war bonds, so we boys can have plenty to fight with so we can get this damn war over.

CPL. DON D. BUDD.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1944: 1.

From the Aleutians

At an outpost like this, our only source of supplies is by boat, weather permitting. This makes our mails very slow. By the time I get the county paper it is a month old.

I have noticed that the sale of war bonds hasn't been so very good sometimes, and I am wondering what attitude people take toward the war. Are they getting used to it, and pass it off as one of those things that will wear itself out some time?

From the North Pacific to the South Pacific our boys are buying all the bonds they can possibly afford, besides giving their service

and possibly their lives to their country. So it seems to me that the least people at home could do is to back them up with war bonds.

I have now been isolated from civilization for nearly two years, most of that in the dreary, wind-swept and fog-bound Aleutians. I know that the boys here are buying lots of bonds every payday, hoping that it will hasten the day that they can get back to civilization again. Some day the boys will be coming home from the battle fronts of the world, looking for jobs to help pay for the peace and democracy they fought for.

Back the bucks with bonds.

PFC HAROLD MCKINLEY.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1944: 1.



BATTLE CRY!

CHINESE SOLDIERS have a battle cry: "Gung-Ho!" Literally translated, means "Working together!"

In Americanese, it means *Teamwork*.

And Teamwork is a word every American understands—in peacetime as in war. In this war, it means perfect understanding among our Government, our service men, our home front.

It means our confidence in our fighters' ability. It means their faith

in us to provide the material to do the job

It means buying War Bonds. And a very good buy they are, too.

For every three dollars we invest in War Bonds, Uncle Sam promises four back in ten years. There's no more honorable promise in the world!


Buy War Bonds. They're a wonderful investment—for you as well as America!

Let's all **KEEP BACKING THE ATTACK!**

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Apr 1944: 7.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Back the Attack! - BUY MORE THAN BEFORE



NOW THAT the chips are down . . . now that our men are writing decisive history with their blood . . . There can be no halfway measures for us.

The greatest battle in the history of the world *must* be matched by the greatest war loan in the history of the world.

That's what Uncle Sam says . . . the same Uncle Sam for whom your brothers and sweethearts


and husbands are fighting and dying this very minute.

They, in the front lines, are throwing in everything they have.

We, behind the lines, must do the same.

Remember, this is the battle for the **WORLD**. Our world. And we've got to win it. That's why Uncle Sam expects every dollar, like every soldier, to do its duty.

Put this Fifth War Loan over . . . buy more War Bonds than you think you can!



BETTER SHOES **SHANK'S** **BETTER CLOTHING**

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 22 Jun 1944: 8.



Old Joe said to Young Joe . . .

" . . . when you get over there in the thick of it, son, you won't have time to think about the fancy ideals you're supposed to be fighting for. You'll be interested mostly in shooting straight, and shooting first.

"But some night when you're lying out under the stars, you'll probably figure the whole thing out—and it will be very simple.

"You'll realize that you're fighting to protect the kind of decency and freedom you were raised in—and will want to raise your kids in, too.

"You'll be fighting to protect the opportunity that all Americans have of starting at the bottom and getting to the top—and that's typically American.

"You're fighting to protect your right to live your own life in your own way without being pushed around by some bright young bureaucrat who wants to do all your planning for you.

"That's about all there is to it, son. But it's mighty worth while—this business of keeping our freedom—of sticking to the things that have made America great.

"I've often thought that our own family was a pretty good example of what can happen in this country—and nowhere else. I started as a chore boy on this very farm, when I was ten years old. Made up my mind I'd own it some day. Nothing in the world to stop me—if I really wanted it.

"We didn't have good roads in those days. No cars or trucks or tractors. No radios. No airplanes. No telephones, movies, or electric lights.

"I didn't have much education—didn't have the time or money to get it. But I made up my mind that my own children would have some of the things I didn't have.

"You've had a good education. You went to agricultural college. You've traveled around the country in your car. You've seen how the other fellow lives and runs his farm. You keep up to date through your radio, your reading—and your various farm associations.

"And, son, it's hard to believe that most of the inventions, advantages and improvements that have made you more efficient and more comfortable, have happened in my lifetime.

"But that's the very thing I'm talking about. That's the power of America. We've got push in this country—and ingenuity—the determination to keep on getting stronger and better all the time. And all of us have got to see that nothing stops that kind of progress—neither enemies from the outside, nor from the inside.

"You're a chip off the old block, son. You think about the way I do. You work hard—very hard. But you've had more advantages than I had. And you're a better man in every way. You'll go farther.

"You're the new type of American farmer. You're running a business when you farm today. It's a mighty important business too—and you've got to know your stuff.

"Just remember this, my boy—you're a free agent. Your future is under your hat. You have seen what our American way of doing things has meant to you and me and millions of others, in opportunity, progress and happiness. That's what you're really fighting for, son. You put the heat on, over there—and I'll put it on over here."

Buy War Bonds and Stamps—and Keep Them!

REPUBLIC STEEL

GENERAL OFFICES: REPUBLIC BUILDING, CLEVELAND 1, OHIO
Export Department: Chrysler Building, New York 17, New York

WOLFE WIRE FENCING • HARDENED WIRE • STEEL FENCE POSTS • ROOFING AND SIDING • BULK TIES • BAILS • STAPLES
BOLTS, NUTS AND RIVETS • PIPES • CARBON, ALLOY AND STAINLESS STEEL • PUMP AND MOTOR EQUIPMENT

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Aug 1944: 5.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Honor Roll

At the start of 1944, the American Legion built a wall to identify "Our Boys" in service. By the end of 1944, a more somber "Honor Roll" had grown to 21 of Our Boys dead. Unknown at the time, there were another 51 lost who had been connected to Pulaski County through blood or marriage.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Feb 1944: 1.

<div>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</div> <div>PULASKI COUNTY HONOR ROLL — World War II —</div>	
Richard S. Freeman, Air Corps, killed in plane crash, February 6, 1941.	Lyle C. Weidner, Marine Corps, killed in action October 1, 1943.
J. Raymond King, killed during training in Air Corps, February 27, 1941.	Edward F. Osborn, Air Corps gunner, killed in action October 8, 1943.
David Jones, Navy, killed in action off North African coast, November 8, 1942.	David Williams, anti-aircraft, killed in action in Italy, October 21, 1943.
Ivan Tieman, gunner on a bomber, killed in action over Europe, June 25, 1943.	Elbert R. Howe, Army band, died November 21, 1943, in England.
John Hickman, Navy, killed in action in Salerno battle, on September 11, 1943.	Charles Miller, glider division, killed on maneuvers, December 8, 1943.
	PFC Ralph Steffel, infantry, died February 24, 1944, of wounds received February 2 in Italy.
	Raymond Robinson, field artillery, killed in action in Italy, March 6, 1944.
	Edward A. Liebing, Air Corps, killed in plane crash in Italy, March 16, 1944.
	R. Wayne Degner, Air Corps, killed in plane crash in England, April 29, 1944.
	S Sgt. Ora L. Harrell, Air Corps, killed in action in Europe March 18, 1944.
	Albert Ross Jr., Air Corps pilot, killed in flight over Europe in April, 1944.
	Jesse Brown, killed in action in France, June 27, 1944.
	Harold Hartman, field artillery, killed in action in Italy, February 13, 1944.
	Marion Appel, Marine Raiders, died from wounds received in southwest Pacific July 22, 1944.
	Robert Baske, infantry, killed in action in France in August, 1944.
	Robert E. Fahler, infantry, killed in action in France, August 6, 1944.
<div>★ ★ ★ ★ ★</div>	

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 21 Sep 1944: 2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Our Boys started to come home!

By 1944, some of the veterans had returned home, typically due to battle wounds. The government had begun providing benefits to its veterans.

<h3>Returning Vets To Be Schooled</h3> <p>Under provisions of recent legislation known as the G. I. Bill, any World War II veteran with 90 days or more of active service whose education was interrupted by war service is eligible for educational benefits, according to Mrs. Annabell Mangold, Red Cross Home Service secretary.</p> <p>Such veterans are eligible to receive at least one year of schooling in high school, college or other educational institutions with additional years depending upon the length of war service and school success.</p>	<p>The U. S. Government will pay school expenses plus \$50 a month subsistence allowance and \$75 a month to veterans with dependents.</p> <p>All eligible veterans may attend the school or college of his choice. Honorable discharges are required.</p> <p>All persons desiring additional information on such education benefits may call at the Red Cross office located on the second floor of the Keller building, next door to the telephone office.</p>
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Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jul 1944: 8.

<h3>New Veterans' Law Effective Next Week</h3> <p>Veterans of World War II in this area who are unemployed may file claims for readjustment allowances under the G. I. Bill of Rights at the Indiana Employment Security office in Logansport, 408½ E. Broadway, Gordon E. Vertz, manager, said this week.</p> <p>In Indiana, the readjustment allowances feature of the bill goes into effect in the week beginning September 10, 1944, Mr. Vertz said.</p>	<p>The allowance for a totally unemployed veteran who qualifies is \$20 a week. A partially employed veteran, with earnings of less than \$20, may claim partial allowance. Depending upon the length of service, unemployed veterans may receive up to 52 weeks for readjustment allowances.</p> <p>Every veteran who files for readjustment allowances will be registered for work with the United States Employment Service.</p>
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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 8.

<h3>Allowance For Jobless Veteran</h3> <p>Unemployed World War II veterans in Pulaski county may file claims for readjustment allowances beginning Sept. 10, in the Indiana Employment Security office in Logansport, Gordon E. Vertz, manager, announced yesterday.</p> <p>The allowance for a totally unemployed veteran who qualifies is \$20 a week. A partially employed veteran, with earnings of less than \$20 a week may claim a partial allowance.</p>	<p>Unemployed veterans may receive up to 52 weeks for readjustment allowances, depending upon the length of their service. Every veteran who files for readjustment allowances will be registered for work with the United States Employment Service.</p> <p>Mr. Vertz said that applications may be made to the Logansport office by mail, but veterans must make personal visits to the office when asked to do so.</p>
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Winamac (IN) Republican 7 Sep 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – Community Climate

News for the Future

There were events, great and small, that were unknown to residents of Pulaski County in 1944 but would prove important in the future.

In January, the Battle of Monte Cassino began. The Allies assumed that German artillery was directed from this eight-century-old mountaintop monastery. Therefore, the monastery was demolished, after which it was discovered that it was not the case.

Hungarian Jews were starting to be deported to the concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland. Hiding in Amsterdam, Ann Frank's family was discovered, arrested, and sent to Auschwitz; she and her sister were soon transferred to the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen in Germany, where she died in 1945, aged 15.

In August, the foundation of the United Nations was laid by representatives from the U.S., Britain, China, France, and the Soviet Union.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf near the Philippines was the largest and last naval battle of World War II, and a victory for the Allies.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

The popular music of 1944 included:

Pistol Packin' Mama	Al Dexter	In the Blue of the Evening	Tommy Dorsey & Frank Sinatra
Pistol Packin' Mama	Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters	All or Nothing at All	Frank Sinatra
Paper Doll	The Mills Brothers	For Me & My Gal	Judy Garland & Gene Kelly
You'll Never Know	Dick Haymes	Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'	Bing Crosby & Trudy Erwin
I've Heard That Song Before	Harry James with Helen Forrest	You'd Be So Nice to Come Home to	Dinah Shore
Sunday, Monday or Always	Bing Crosby	Brazil (Aquarela do Brasil)	Xavier Cugat
That Old Black Magic	Glenn Miller	Don't Get Around Much Anymore	Duke Ellington
As Time Goes By	Rudy Vallee	People Will Say We're in Love	Bing Crosby & Trudy Erwin
Comin' in on a Wing & a Prayer	The Song Spinners	Why Don't You Fall In Love With Me?	Dinah Shore
Taking A Chance On Love	Benny Goodman	It Can't Be Wrong	Dick Haymes

The most popular movies of 1944 were:

Going My Way	Bing Crosby
Meet Me in St. Louis	Judy Garland
Since You Went Away	Claudette Colbert, Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotten, Shirley Temple
Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo	Van Johnson, Robert Walker, Spencer Tracy
The Story of Dr. Wassell	Gary Cooper, Laraine Day
The White Cliffs of Dover	Irene Dunne
A Guy Named Joe	Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne
Hollywood Canteen	Joan Leslie, Robert Hutton, Dane Clark
To Have and Have Not	Humphrey Bogart, Walter Brennan, Lauren Bacall
Bathing Beauty	Red Skelton, Esther Williams

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Charles David "Buck" Ginn

Buck's plane was found in India 62 years after it crashed.

Born: 1/2/1922

Entered: 12/30/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,15084114,SSGT

Medals: Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart

Died: 1/25/1944

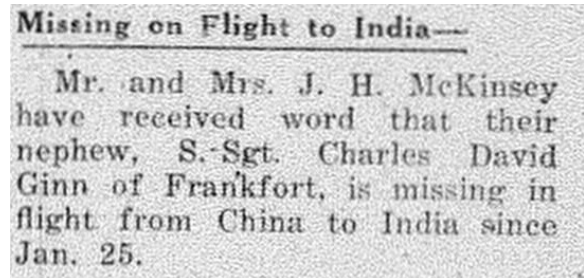
Parents: William Uriel "Jack" and Ruth Ester Knecht Ginn

On 25 January 1944, Buck Ginn, 24, was reported missing in action as engineer of a B-24 Liberator bomber on a flight from China to India. Two years later, he was declared dead. He served 37 months, including in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He had an uncle in Winamac. He was memorialized on the Walls of the Missing, Manila American Cemetery, Taguig City, Philippines.

On 7 December 2006, his plane, B-24J #42-73308, was located in Damrah, Arunachal Pradesh, India. His body was likely at the scene of the crash.



Buck Ginn (Collection of B24CoPilotNiece) -
findagrave.com/memorial/56770276/charles-david-ginn#view-photo=131768664.



Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Feb 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II



Buck Ginn (Kneeling right) (Collection of B24CoPilotNiece) - findagrave.com/memorial/56770276/charles-david-ginn#view-photo=131721077.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Cameron Neil Somsel

In a recent letter sent home, Cameron reported 10 successful bombing runs.

Born: 2/20/1924

Entered: 8/19/1942

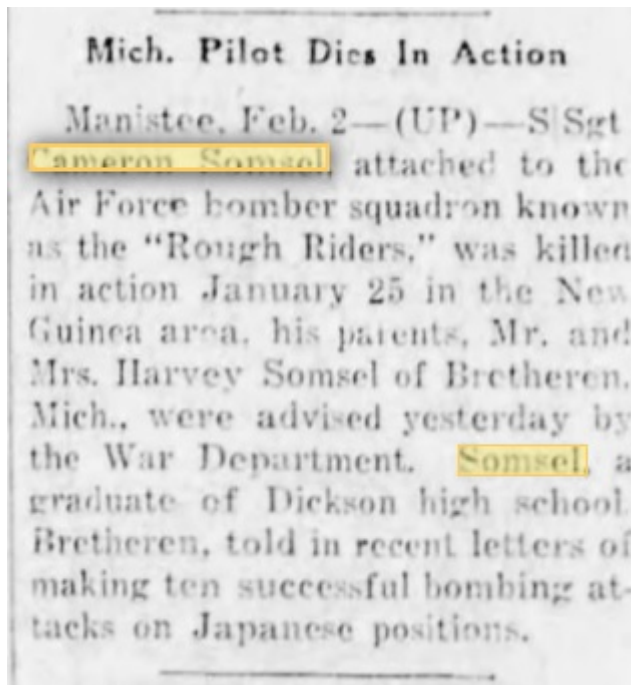
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,16085547,SSGT

Medals: Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 1/25/1944

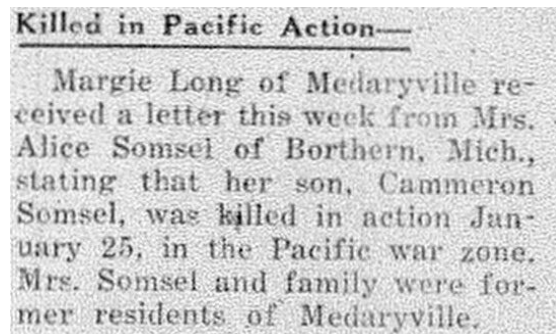
Parents: Harvey Othnel and Alice Hester Brewer Somsel

On 25 January 1944, Cameron Somsel, 20, was killed in action in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. His family formerly resided in Medaryville. He was memorialized on the Walls of Missing in Action at the Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines.



Petoskey (MI) News-Review 2 Feb 1944: 3.

Webpage (newspapers.com).



Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Feb 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Charles Milton Caster

According to the 1934-1936 California Voter Registration, Charles Caster was a printer in Bakersfield, CA, and according to the 1941 and 1944 Bakersfield City Directories, he was a mechanic.

Born: 12/15/1904

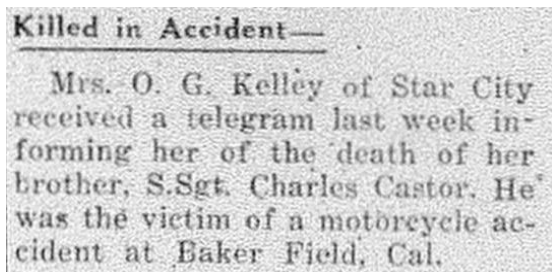
Entered: 2/20/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,39020056,SSGT

Died: 2/1/1944

Parents: Charles M and Susie R. Cronson Caster

On 1 February 1944, Charles Caster, 40, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Bakersfield, CA. He served 24 months. He had a married sister living in Star City. He was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery and Mortuary, Bakersfield, CA.



Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Feb 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Richard James Roth

Once before he died, Richard, a bombardier, got to see his daughter through his bombsight as his plane flew over Pulaski during a training flight.

Born: 3/17/1917

Entered: 3/22/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USACC,15080200/O-739117,1LT

Medal: Air Medal

Died: 2/3/1944

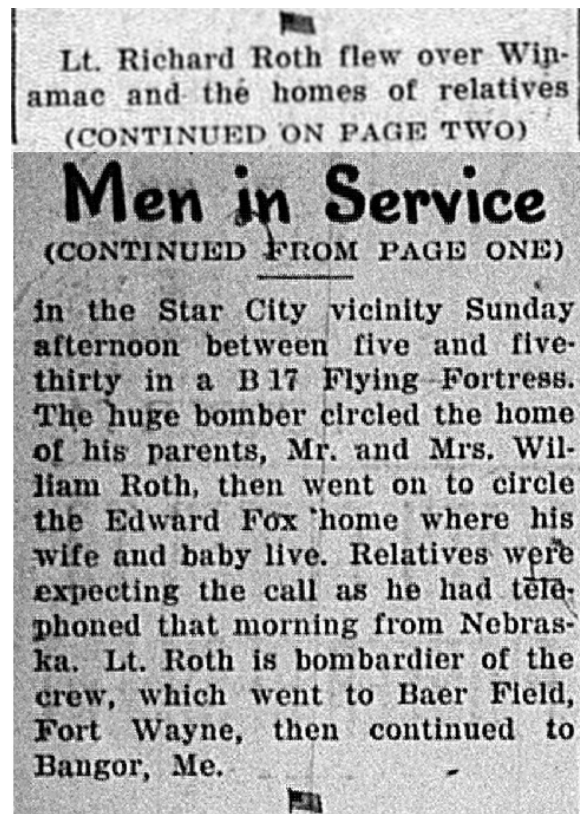
Spouse: Dorothy I. Fox Roth

Parents: William Theodore and Gertrude Mary Senn Roth

On 3 February 1944, Richard Roth, 27, initially reported as missing in action, was killed as the plane on which he was bombardier collided with another over the North Sea. The plane was returning to England after bombing Wilhelmshaven, Germany. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He served 18 months, including 8 months in the European war zone. He was from Winamac. He was buried at the Tablets of the Missing at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Cambridge, England. He was married with one child.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 Sep 1943: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Jun 1943: 1&2.

LT. R. ROTH FLIES OVER HOME PLACE

The William Roth family in Indian Creek township received quite a thrill Sunday afternoon when their son, Lt. Richard Roth, flew his bomber and complete crew over their farm several times and dropped a message to them. Although he could not land the plane, he was flying low enough that the family got a glimpse of him.

Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Jun 1943: 1.

Pulaski Man Is Bombardier in Dangerous Flight

"Lady Anne, the battered fortress of Lt. Leo LaCasse of Manchester, N. H., was leaking gasoline. He thought it might blow up in the tight flying formation. So the Lady Anne pulled out of the flight and went on alone to bomb the target. Alone the Lady Anne knocked down Nazi fighters before and after blasting the target, and returned safely to England." This is the dangerous mission in which Lt. Richard Roth of Pulaski, bombardier of the Lady Anne, took part.

The story told in an item from an English newspaper received by Lt. Roth's wife, the former Miss Dorothy Fox. "Pilot LaCasse told about the job. Flack was heavy and at one point more than a hundred fighters jumped up. 'They came from all positions,' he said, 'and a 20 mm shell went through one wing, tearing through a gas tank.

" 'Gasoline was leaking all over and there was lots of danger of our blowing up, so rather than risk the necks of any of the others in our formation, we decided to leave and take our chances alone with those fighters.

" 'That was when we started playing peek-a-boo with them through the clouds. Every time we came out of a cloud, a bunch of them were waiting, so we'd tussel a little, then go on to the next cloud, until we got to the target.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Oct 1943: 4.

REPORTED "MISSING" ON HIS 25TH RAID

Mr. and Mrs. William Roth of the Pulaski vicinity received a cablegram Feb. 3 stating that their son, Lt. Richard Roth, was missing in action over European territory. Monday they received a letter confirming the cablegram, saying that he was missing over the North Sea.

Lt. Roth had been stationed in England since May. He was a bombardier on a flying fortress and this was his 25th mission. On his return from this mission he was to receive a furlough and he hoped to arrive home in time to celebrate his 27th birthday, March 17.

His wife, the former Miss Dorothy Fox, and their 14 month old daughter reside with her parents in the Star City vicinity. The only time Lt. Roth has seen his child was when he saw her through his bomb sight as he flew over home. She was five months old at the time.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Feb 1944: 1.

[A nephew tries to reassure his uncle and aunt of his cousin's status.]

Airman Reported 'Missing' Visits Relatives Here

A tall gunner in an American airplane who was shot down in the European war theater last September and reported "missing in action" a few days later, but who wrote a letter to his family the fore part of January to state that he was safe and sound, visited relatives here over Sunday.

He is Ivan Schrader of Peoria, Ill., nephew of Mr. and Mrs. William Roth of Winamac. Numerous acquaintances hereabout, gained by Ivan while visiting on the Roth farm in Indian Creek township, know him as "Butch." He made the trip here with his cousin, Vincent Roth, now attending watchmakers' school at Peoria, who spent Sunday with the home folks.

Ivan reveals no military secrets in connection with his experience. He and his companions bailed out of the plane from a height of 26,000 feet, he said, after it had been seriously damaged by enemy fire. He added that he "lit in a cabbage patch then ran like hell." The location of the cabbage patch, and how he got back to this country, are all parts of the untold story.

His safe return is of particular interest to the Roth family, since word reached here on February 15 that their son Richard, a bombardier, was missing in action. The home folks are cheered by the fact that his cousin, similarly reported, escaped without a scratch and was able to write home four months later.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Mar 1944: 1.

In a letter received this week from Major General J. A. Ulio by Mr. and Mrs. William Roth, the War Department revealed it had given up hope for Lieut. Richard J. Roth, who was reported missing in action on February 3, 1944.

The letter said, in part, "The record concerning your son shows that he was a crew member of a B-17 (Flying Fortress) aircraft which took part in a successful bombardment mission over Wilhelmshaven, Germany on February 3, 1944.

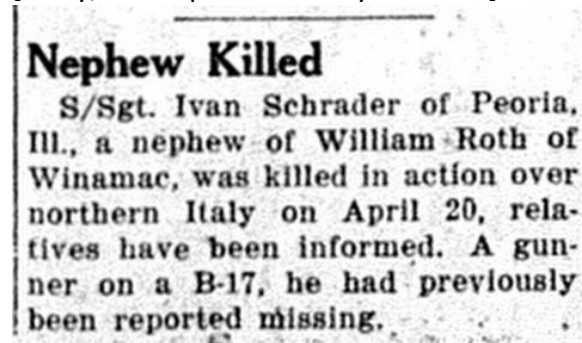
"His plane was damaged in a collision with another aircraft of the same squadron over the North Sea. It continued on its course for sometime, but eventually dropped out of formation and was last sighted about 50 miles northeast of Cromer, England. Intensive search by both the British and American Air Sea Rescue Service failed to reveal any trace of the plane or its crew.

"In view of the fact that twelve months have now expired without the receipt of evidence to support a continued presumption of survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Feb 1945: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

[Sadly, the nephew died a year later.]



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Jul 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Harold Alfred Hartman

While his picture appeared in the July 27 issue of the *Democrat*, Harold was missing in action in February.

Born: 2/25/1921

Entered: 2/4/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35090727,PFC

Died: 2/13/1944

Spouse: Dorothy Lizenby Hartmann

Parents: Herman Albert "Albert" and Anna Kotschke Hartman IL

On 13 February 1944, Harold Hartman, 23, after being reported missing, was killed in action in Italy. He served 12 months, including 4 months in the North African and European war zones. He lived in Denham and Medaryville. He was buried in the Denham Cemetery. He was married with a child.



Pvt. Harold Hartman, in field artillery in Italy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hartman, formerly of Denham. His wife was Dorothy Lizenby of Medaryville.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jul 1944: 1.

Mrs. Dorothy Hartman was informed that her husband, Harold Hartman, has been missing in action since February. Hartmann's father, Albert Hartmann, who now resides in Chicago, is a former resident of near Denham.

Other details of the report were lacking because Mrs. Hartmann, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lizenby of near Medaryville, is in Chicago.

Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Aug 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

**Medaryville Man,
Reported Missing,
Now Listed Killed**



Mrs. Dorothy Hartman of Medaryville received word this week from the War Department that her husband, Pvt. Harold Hartman, was killed in action in Italy on February 13. She had been notified previously that he was missing.

Twenty-three years old, he is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hartman of Chicago, former residents of Denham. He spent most of his life in this county. On March 2, 1941, he was married to Miss Dorothy Lizenby at Medaryville. A brother Henry is on duty in the southwest Pacific.

PVT. HAROLD HARTMAN.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Robert Warren "Bob" Gustin

Bob's momma donates blood on the first anniversary of his death.

Born: 10/19/1923

Entered: 3/1/1943?

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 2/20/1944

Parents: Marion Elmo "Elmo" and Ada Fern Parker Gustin

On 20 February 1944, Bob Gustin, 20, initially reported as missing in action, was killed in Italy. He served for 11 months, including 5 months in the European war zone. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He lived most of his life in Winamac. He was buried in the Cemetery in Elwood.

MAIL BAG

The Call-Leader All-Star game to be played Monday, July 22, can now claim a supporter from as northern a point as Winamac, Indiana: Bob Gustin, a former resident of the city and a softball fan of the highest degree, has taken up his residence in Winamac, but still follows the softball wars with enjoyment.

As you may recall his father, Elmo Gustin, was the nice gentleman who sent his basketball picks from New York City and other far points.

Bob's letter goes in part:

"Dear Jim:

I am sending in my choice of players for the All-Star team. We take the paper up here and I follow the league standings every day.

Personally, I think the Aurelius A. C. will make a comeback and join the ones in the top of the standings. *

Sincerely yours,
Robert Gustin

P. S.—You can put this in the paper if you want to."

(Elwood IN) Call-Leader 12 Jul 1940: 5.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Dies In Italy



Pfc. Robert Gustin, 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Gustin of Elwood, former Winamac residents, was killed in action in Italy recently, according to a letter received this week by Earl D. Roudebush from the father.

Young Gustin graduated from Winamac high school in 1941. The family lived here three years ago when the father was associated in business with John Russell. Mr. Gustin is a brigadier-general of the Indiana Odd Fellows Lodge.

The parents and two grandmothers, Mrs. Carrie Gustin of Elwood, and Mrs. Charles Parker of Kokomo, survive.

PFC. ROBERT GUSTIN

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Jun 1944: 1.

Mrs. Elmo Gustin gave a pint of blood in memory of her son, Pfc. Robert Gustin, who gave his life for his country.

(Elwood IN) Call-Leader 19 Feb 1945: 1.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Nemo Conceil Hancock, Jr.

Nemo was wounded nine months before his death.

Born: 11/1/1922

Entered: 12/30/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,349131,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

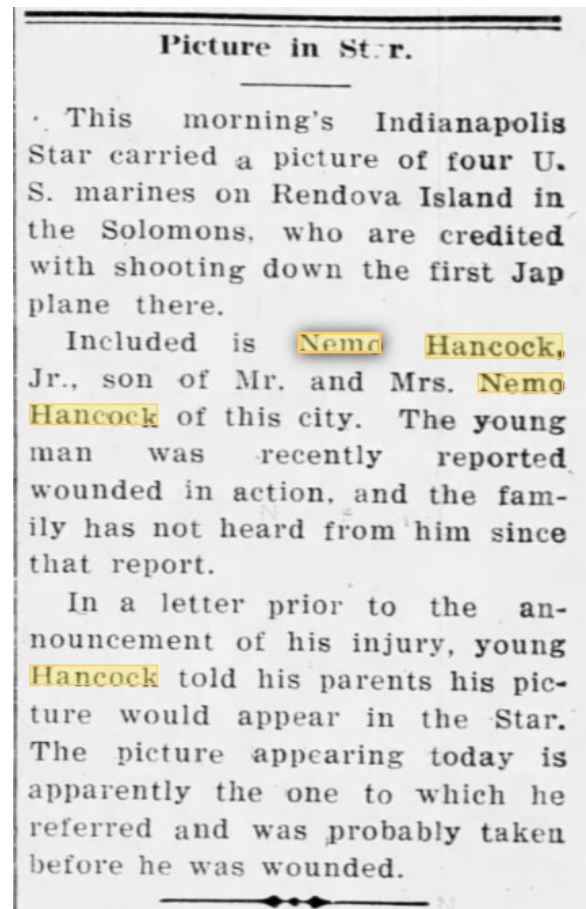
Died: 2/20/1944

Parents: Nemo C. and Effie Lorraine Puckett Hancock

On 20 February 1944, Nemo Hancock, 21, drowned in the Solomon Islands, likely on Russell Island near Guadalcanal. He served 27 months, including 25 months in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was known in Winamac based on visits to an aunt. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Tipton.



Nemo Hancock (Collection of AnnaMSheets) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/85519582/person/34523791535/me-
dia/4eb73e1e-396a-49e8-81d7-7e173d510f66



Tipton (IN) Daily Tribune 16 Aug 1943: 4.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Hoosier Helps Down First Jap Attack Plane



This United States Marine Corps anti-aircraft crew stands at the alert behind its 50-caliber gun which it manned to share with another gun crew the honor of the first kill of an attacking Japanese plane on Rendova island, the Solomons, southwest Pacific. Left to right: Lieut. William A. Buckingham, Towson, Md.; Private First Class Ernest E. O'Brien, Milford, Mass.; Corporal Paul W. Duhamel, Mills, Mass., gunner, and Private First Class Nuno Hancock, Tipton, Ind. (Associated Press Photo from United States Marine Corps.)

Indianapolis (IN) Star 16 Aug 1943: 10.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

JAG: I need to see
JAG: I need to see
(100) 7000 113053

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES
WAR
BONDS
AND
STAMPS

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

27 JUN 1944

End--2

To: MarCorps
Via: BuMed
Subj: Admin. Rpt. - Death of Nemo Hancock, Jr., PFC, USMC,
sub. by CO, SpecWesGrp., 9th DefBn., FMF, 21 Feb. 1944.

1. Forwarded for recommendation.
2. The decedent and two other enlisted men, left their camp without authority and using a small boat visited a ship in the harbor for the purpose of buying rum. They were unable to find anyone who would sell them rum so they began their return to camp. Enroute the boat shipped water and sank. Hancock was unable to swim the distance to shore and drowned. The reporting officer expressed no opinion on the subject of misconduct. The forwarding officer was of the opinion that since the decedent was absent without leave for the purpose of buying rum his death occurred not in line of duty and as the result of his own misconduct. From the evidence it appears that the area of the harbor in question was within U. S. naval jurisdiction. While the decedent may have violated instructions by leaving the camp, such violation was not the proximate cause of his death. That the deceased departed for the purpose of buying rum is immaterial in the determination of the question of misconduct. There is no evidence that either negligence of the decedent or a wilful act of misconduct on his part contributed in any way to his death. That he violated instructions is not in itself conclusive as to misconduct. It does appear, however, that the intervening and unexpected swamping of the boat in which he was returning to camp was the proximate cause of his drowning. Accordingly, it is the opinion of the Judge Advocate General that the death of Nemo Hancock, junior, late private first class, U.S.M.C., occurred on 20 February 1944, not as the result of his own misconduct.
3. Subject to the above remarks, and to the remarks of the forwarding officer, the attached administrative report is legal.

L. L. Gatch
T. L. GATCH
Judge Advocate General

RESTRICTED
CONFIDENTIAL

1944-02-21 - Nemo's death - vetrecs.archives.org.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

**NEMO HANCOCK
IS DROWNED IN
PACIFIC THEATRE**

**Parents Receive
Word of Death of
Marine Private.**

Pfc. **Nemo** Hancock, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Nemo Hancock, Sr., 327 Maple street, has been reported drowned in the Pacific area, according to word received by the parents Monday night.

The telegram received from the war department at 6 o'clock, stated that Hancock had drowned but gave no further details. A letter is to follow, however, when details are obtained.

Hancock was graduated from Tipton high school in 1940 and was employed at the Delco-Remy plant in Anderson, until he enlisted in the marine corps Dec. 15, 1941. He was 21 years old.

Pfc. **Hancock** received his boot training at Parris Island, S. C., and after 43 days in the United States was sent overseas. He has been in the southwest Pacific area.

Last summer Pfc. Hancock suffered shrapnel wounds that sent him to a hospital and he subsequently received the Purple Heart medal after action at Rendova island. He had recovered, however, and again was on duty at the time of his death.

According to Mr. Hancock his son had participated in at least three island invasions since he had arrived in the Pacific area. He was last believed to be on Russell island near Guadalcanal, in the Solomons group.

The Hancocks received the last letter from their son last week but 12 days had elapsed since it had been written.

Another son, William, is attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he is in a "servicemen's" training unit. Other survivors are two sisters, Wilmetta and Dorla, both school students here.

Tipton (IN) Daily Tribune 7 Mar 1944: 1.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Marine Related Here Drowns in South Pacific

Mrs. Stella Reading, west of Winamac, has received word that her nephew, PFC Nemo Hancock of the Marines, was drowned in the Southwest Pacific area, where he had been stationed for nearly three years. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nemo Hancock Sr. of Tipton, received a telegram Tuesday from the War Department which gave no details, but stated that a letter would follow. He was wounded in combat last July 2, and the last letter received by his parents was dated February 15. A brother of the young Marine, William Hancock, has returned to the states after nearly three years in the Southwest Pacific with the Seabees, and is now at Madison, Wis. The young men, only children of Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, are known here through visits in the Reading home. Their mother formerly lived in Franklin township.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 Mar 1944: 1.

CAPTAIN LAUDS NEMO HANCOCK

Letter to Parents Tells of Their Son's War Accomplishments

A letter recently was received by Mr. and Mrs. Nemo Hancock, Sr., from B. F. James, navy chaplain, who officiated at rites for their son, Nemo Hancock, Jr., who died in the Pacific war theater.

The letter contained a vivid description of the burial of their son, Pfc. Nemo Hancock. It stated that he was buried on February 20, at 2:27 p. m. It also expressed the personal regret of Pfc. Hancock's battery as a result of his death.

Another letter also was received from Capt. William A. Buckingham, of the marine corps. It read as follows:

"My dear Mr. and Mrs. Hancock:
"It was my privilege to command the platoon in which your son, Nemo, served so well at Rendova.

(Continued on Page 6).

CAPTAIN.

(Continued From Page 1).

"Although he was wounded in action at the time, he continued his duties with the outfit, never uttering a word of complaint.

"I took great pride in the group of men from the beginning; and as you know by now, that particular gun crew, of which Nemo was a member, distinguished itself.

"Your son always did his job well, and you have every reason in the world to be very proud of him. He won the respect of his fellow crew members, and was well liked by all of the officers he served under. I consider him one of the best.

"I do hope this letter has been of some comfort to you; and if there is anything that I can do, please do not hesitate to write me.

"Very sincerely,

"WM. A. BUCKINGHAM.
"Captain, U. S. M. C. R."

Tipton (IN) Daily Tribune 24 May 1944: 1&6.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Memories of Former Students Remain With Today's Youth

By MARY JANE O'BANION

Raymond Barnes, Robert James Corwin, Dayton Dugan, Claud Gaiser, Floyd Griggs, Nemo Hancock, Jr., James Hannah, Joe James, Herbert Jones, Tellace Lee, Donald W. Manlove, Robert McIntosh, Harold Martin, Carl Frederic Nieman, William Earl Flake, John Rogers, Robert Spradling, Herschel Stainbrook and Mandron C. Thomas.

These men are now names on a wood, glass and gold case-like plaque hanging on the wall of the Tipton high school.

Each one is dear and each one holds special meaning for they are gold star names of students, friends of the instructors and students of the high school they once attended.

From those who will not return, instructors and students must take faith in themselves and their generation and hope and determination that this nation will be even greater and more liberty-loving as it continues its future dealings with the world of many nations.

Forgotten Much

It may seem to some of us that the younger generation has forgotten much of the past six years.

Ten years ago would bite deeply into the memory of today's youth.

Understandably, they can not remember the early rumblings and the beginning of World War II when it was "Europe's war" and America was not going to fight it.

Or when someone dug the Monroe Doctrine from America's past diplomatic greatness and this nation assumed security behind its paper barricade.

Regardless that these and many more events now are falling into the pattern of history

to be more easily studied, the adults of tomorrow have not forgotten the results of those diplomatic and physical struggles.

Taste Life of Those Before

During the time 'teen-agers are in service for their country, they will taste some of the life of those before them. When their older brothers put aside their zoot suits and jitterbugging to hot licks from name bands to become warriors.

They credited themselves with heroes of Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and with their fathers who fought in World War I. The youth of yesterday proved themselves. Now this nation must help the youth of today, after years of neglect, to find its place in the world if we are to remain great.

Four members of the Tipton high school faculty served during World War I. C. B. Stemen, George Cline, J. B. Oyler and O. A. Beerbower. They undoubtedly know better than most of the instructors the strain and time it takes for the returning recent veterans to become adjusted to civilian and school life.

Mr. Stemen, through funds left the school by the class of 1945, ordered and purchased the plaque which was selected (Continued on Page 6)

MEMORIES REMAIN

(Continued from Page 1)

by Mr. Cline. The plaque was hung in the high school hall this fall. Mr. Cline reported that 627 students of the Tipton high school are veterans of World War II—Nineteen of them have gold stars.

Eagle Graces Plaque

The gold discharge eagle encrusts the top of the plaque. From the eagle's feet are draped two gold palm leaves and under it, just above the glass enclosed, rectangular thick, gold name plates is written, "In Memoriam World War II."

The wooden and gold plaque is a fitting memorial from students whose friends' names of latter school days rest side by side in gold. It is also fitting that this nation lead its youth gently but firmly to their place in the world for they have the living of two generations before them.

Tipton (IN) Daily Tribune 26 Oct 1946: 1&6. Webpage (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Ralph Fredrick Steffel

Ralph was a star basketball player and the first of three Francesville boys to die within three weeks of each other.

Born: 5/13/1918

Entered: 10/9/1940

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,15059736,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 2/24/1944

Parents: James and Mary Belle Harper Steffel

On 24 February 1944, Ralph Steffel, 25, died of wounds in a hospital incurred on February 2 in Sicily. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a native of Francesville. He served 41 months, including 16 months in the North Africa and European war zone. He was from Francesville. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville.



Ralph Steffel (Collection of Richard Blunk) -

findagrave.com/memorial/145107571/ralph-fredrick-steffel#view-photo=268675255

Soldier from Here Loses Life in Italy

PFC Ralph Steffel of Francesville Dies of Wounds February 24.

PFC Ralph Steffel of the Francesville vicinity died February 24 in a hospital in Italy from wounds received February 2, in action. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Steffel, living west of Francesville, were notified of his death Tuesday by a telegram from the War Department.

The young man, a native of the Francesville community, had spent all his life there until entering the Army. He would have been twenty-six years of age next May 13. After enlisting in the Army on October 8, 1940, in Jasper county, he was sent overseas with the infantry in October of 1942. He was wounded in Tunisia on April 7 of last year. Following four months' hospitalization, he returned to active duty and took part in the original invasion of Italy.

PFC Steffel was a graduate of Francesville high school, where he was active in basketball and 4-H club work. Surviving are the parents and six brothers and sisters—Mrs. Kathryn Driespentrog of Shabbona, Ill., James, Frank, Mildred, Dorothy and Phyllis, at home.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Mar 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Howard Macklin Blomberg

Howard had just earned his wings two months before.

Born: 12/25/1921

Entered: 8/10/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,16080699,2LT

Died: 3/4/1944


Spouse: Gertrude Rater Blomberg

Parents: Paul Stanley and Thelma "Talma" Bertine Torgersen Blomberg

On 4 March 1944, Howard Blomberg, 23, died in a plane crash at Tallahassee, FL. He served 19 months. His wife was from Denham. He was buried in Fairmont Willow Hills Cemetery in Willow Springs, IL. He was married.

**FIGHTER PILOT
FROM CHICAGO
DIES IN CRASH**

Lt. **Howard M. Blomberg**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. **Blomberg**, 7049 Indiana av., was killed last Saturday in a crash of his plane at Dale Mabry field, Tallahassee, Fla., his parents have been notified. A fighter pilot, he was commissioned on Dec. 5, at Moore field, Mission, Tex. He



Lt. H. M. Blomberg. was a graduate of Parker High school and was married to the former Gertrude Rater, **Chicago**. A brother, Pvt. Paul S. **Blomberg Jr.**, Keesler field, Biloxi, Miss., also survives.

Chicago (IL) Tribune 8 Mar 1944: 7. Webpage (newspapers.com).

Killed in Plane Crash

Mr. and Mrs. John Rater of Denham received word this week of the death of their son-in-law, Air Cadet Howard Blomberg, in a plane crash at Tallahassee, Fla. Mrs. Blomberg is the former Miss Gertrude Rater. A/C Blomberg was from Chicago, and funeral arrangements will be made after the arrival of the body in Chicago.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 Mar 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Albert Charles “Junior” McLochlin Jr.

Upon learning of Junior’s death, his aunt made efforts to locate his father, working in South Bend.

Born: 8/30/1924

Entered: 9/2/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,15331134,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

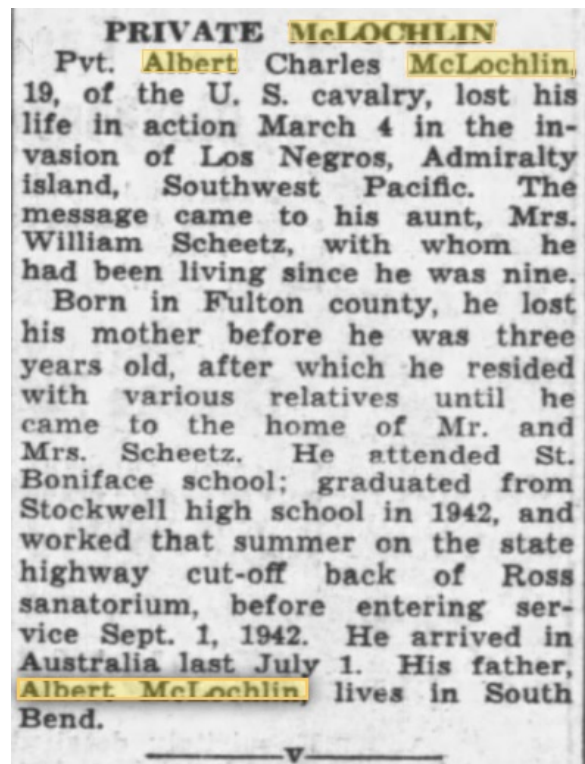
Died: 3/4/1944

Parents: Albert Charles (Mabel Emma Musselman[deceased]) McLochlin

On 4 March 1944, Junior McLochlin, 19, was killed in action during the invasion of Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 18 months, including 8 months in the Pacific war zone. His parents formerly lived in Star City. He was buried in St. Anne's Cemetery in Kewanna.



Junior McLochlin (Collection of pmclark) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/2949630/person/6153463668/media/299e748d-2375-44da-9e85-e8ba17434ff3



(Lafayette IN) Journal and Courier 18 Apr 1944: 1.
Webpage (newspapers.com).

[His death was not mentioned in the local weeklies at the time.]

Killed in Pacific

Final rites for Pvt. Albert C. McLochlin were held Saturday at St. Ann's church in Kewanna. The Rev. Edward Holland officiated, and military ceremonies were conducted by Don Moore post of the American Legion.

The young soldier, nineteen years of age at the time of his death, was a son of Albert McLochlin of the Star City vicinity. Other survivors include step-mother and several aunts and uncles.

He was killed in action during the invasion of Los Negros, in the Admiralty Islands, on March 4, 1944. Having entered service on Aug. 30, 1942, he served with the First Cavalry division under General Wainright.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Jul 1949: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Raymond Keith Robinson

Killed on the Monte Cassino battlefield, Raymond was married for five days when he entered, and the second of three Francesville boys to die within three weeks of each other.

Born: 9/22/1918

Entered: 7/18/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35164679,SGT or T/5

Medals: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 3/6/1944

Spouse: Ilene Holl Robinson

Parents: True Ivel Orville and Hazel Lowry Robinson

On 6 March 1944, Raymond Robinson, 25, was killed in action in Cascina, Italy. He served 45 months, including about 12 months in the European war zone. He lived in Francesville. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville. He was married.



Sgt. Raymond Robinson, overseas with the field artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. True Robinson of Francesville. Mrs. Robinson was formerly Miss Ilene Holl.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Jun 1943: 1.

<h3>War in Italy Takes Another West Side Boy</h3> <p>Cpl. Raymond Robinson Killed in Action; Wife Lives in Medaryville</p> <p>Cpl. Raymond Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. True Robinson of the Francesville vicinity, was killed in action in Italy on March 6, it was revealed in a message from the war department, received last evening by the parents.</p> <p>The soldier was twenty-five years of age last September. Just previous to his entrance into the Army two years ago last July he was married to Miss Ilene Holl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holl of Medaryville, in a ceremony solemnized at the Evangelical parsonage in Francesville. The wife lives at Medaryville.</p>	<h3>West Side Casualty</h3>  <p>CPL. RAYMOND ROBINSON</p> <p>A native of the Francesville vicinity, Cpl. Robinson spent all of his life there until leaving for Army service. He was a graduate of the Francesville high school, in the class of 1936. Surviving, besides the wife and parents, is one brother, Wayne Robinson, living at home.</p>
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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 30 Mar 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

William Martin "Nick" Wason

A year into service, Nick was killed without seeing his baby daughter.

Born: 5/11/1911

Entered: 3/6/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36476004,PFC

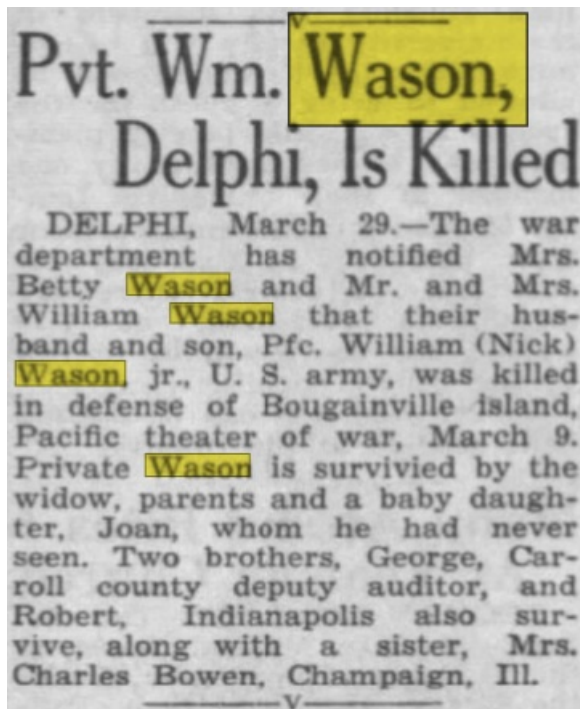
Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 3/9/1944

Spouse: Ellen Elizabeth "Betty" Wason

Parents: William B. and Celia Newcomer Wason

On 9 Mar 1944, Nick, 32, was killed in action on Bougainville Island. He served 12 months, including in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He had relatives in Pulaski County. He was married with children. He was buried at Fort William McKinley/Manila American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines.



(Lafayette IN) Journal and Courier 30 Mar 1944: 11. Website (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Edward Albert “Eddie” Liebing

Eddie was the last of three Francesville boys to die within three weeks of each other.

Born: 11/12/1920

Entered: 3/19/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,0-736264,1LT

Medals: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal

Died: 3/16/1944

Parents: Johanna A. Schubert (Carl Albert[deceased]) Liebing

On 16 Mar 1944, Eddie Liebing, 23, was killed in action piloting a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter in Italy. He served 23 months, including in North African and European war zones. He had moved to Francesville as a child. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville.

Plane Crash Is Fatal to County Pilot

**Lt. Edward Liebing of
Francesville Killed
Somewhere in Italy**

War took another Pulaski county young man when Lt. Edward Liebing of Francesville was killed in a plane crash somewhere in Italy on March 16. This word was received Saturday in a telegram from the War Department sent to his mother, Mrs. Johanna Liebing of Hart, Mich.

The young man, twenty-three years old, was born November 12, 1920, coming to Francesville from Detroit when he was ten years old. He graduated from the Francesville high school in 1939, and enlisted in the Air Corps in April of 1942. After receiving training in California, Lt. Liebing served in both the African and Italian campaigns.

The telegram gave no particulars of his death, stating that a letter would follow. The last his mother knew, he was piloting a P-47 plane, having recently returned to duty after spending two weeks in a rest home.

War Casualty



LT. EDWARD LIEBING
—Courtesy Francesville Tribune

Surviving are his mother, brothers Pvt. Richard Liebing of Foster Field, Texas, Philip and Arthur and sister Lydia Lou, all at the home in Hart, to which city the family moved from Francesville about three years ago. The mother was formerly Miss Johanna Schubert.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Ora Lee "Bliz" Harrell

A month after receiving the Air Medal, Ora was gone.

Born: 7/25/1921

Entered: 10/15/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35374677,SSGT

Medal: Air Medal

Died: 3/18/1944

Spouse: Betty Saberniak Harrell

Parents: Ross D. and Dessie Pearl Elea Harrell

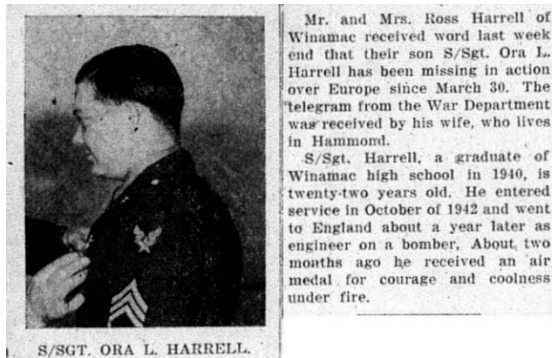
On 18 March 1944, Bliz Harrell, 23, reported missing in action, was killed in action near Freiberg, Germany. He was an engineer on a B24 Liberator bomber. Just months before, he was awarded the Air Medal. He served 21 months, including 9 months in the European war zone. He was from Winamac. He was buried in Winamac (IN) Cemetery. He was married with a child.



Standing left to right: S/Sgt Jimmie C. Byrd, tail gunner; S/Sgt Ora L. Harrell, waist gunner; T/Sgt Hugh M. Hinshaw, engineer; S/Sgt Enoch E. Masters, ball turret; S/Sgt Leon G. Hancock, waist gunner; T/Sgt Eugene M. Rosko, radio operator. Kneeling left to right: 2/Lt Edmund J. Brown, bombardier; 2/Lt Russell I. Vrieling, copilot; 1/Lt Clifford L. Peterson, pilot; 2/Lt Cliff Fremstad, navigator.

Bliz Harrell and crewmates (Collection of John Dowdy) - findagrave.com/memorial/26171433/ora-l-harrell#view-photo=86125057

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 May 1944: 1.

Notes About Home Folks in Armed Forces

S/Sgt. Ora L. Harrell, In "Missing" Report, Now Listed as Dead

Word reached here Saturday that S/Sgt. Ora L. Harrell, reported a few weeks ago as missing in action, actually lost his life on March 18 of this year. A message to that effect reached his wife, who lives at Hammond, and she notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Harrell of Winamac. The message carried no details.

A graduate of Winamac high school in the class of 1940, S/Sgt. Harrell entered service in October of 1942 and went to England about a year later as engineer on a bomber. A few months ago he received an air medal for courage and coolness under fire.

His marriage to Miss Betty Saberniak of Hammond took place in Winamac on May 28, 1942. He was then employed as a shipping clerk at Hammond.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Jun 1944: 1.



(Munster IN) Times 22 Jun 1944: 1. Web (newspapers.com).

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

William Eugene Bloom

William's mother in Canada missed his Winamac funeral due to a heart attack.

Born: 8/4/1923

Entered: 10/1/1942?

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,19146431,SGT

Medals: Presidential Unit Citation, Purple Heart

Died: 3/29/1944

Parents: Riley C. and Loroe Mae Carlin Bloom

On 29 March 1944, William Bloom, 20, was killed in action as a waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He served from 1942, including one month in the European war zone. He was awarded a Purple Heart. Born in Canada, he lived as a child in Jefferson Township, then moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, at the age of five. He was buried in the Winamac Cemetery.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Jul 1944: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 22 Jun 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Albert Theodore Ross, Jr.

Albert's remains were buried together with two of his crewmates in Louisville, KY, equidistant from each of the three families. His momma and Foster Vogel's momma were sisters as well as Gold Star Mothers.

Born: 10/28/1915

Entered: 1/21/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,O-747550,2LT

Medals: Silver Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 4/3/1944

Parents: Albert T. and Florence Pearl Demoss Ross Sr.

On 3 April 1944, Albert Ross, 28, initially reported missing in action, was killed as pilot on a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber over Hungary. He served 26 months, including in the European war zone. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He was from Monterey. He was buried in Zachary Taylor Military Cemetery in Louisville, KY.



Lieut. Albert Ross, Jr.

Winamac (IN) Republican 3 Aug 1944: 1.

Lieut. Albert Ross, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross of Tippecanoe township, was reported killed in action by the War Department. Details were not given in the telegram.

Lieut. Ross, a pilot of a B-17 bomber, was 26 years old. He was reported missing after a flight over Bulgaria on April 3.

One of his squadron comrades wrote the parents, after Lieut. Ross was missing saying that Ross' plane was hit and left the formation to land in enemy-held territory.

A graduate of Monterey high school, Lieut. Ross attended DePauw University. He received his wings as a bomber pilot at Marfa Air Field, Texas on June 28, 1943.

Mrs. Florence E. Ross received the following letter from the War Department recently.

"I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Silver Star and the Air Medal have been posthumously awarded to your son, Lt. Albert T. Ross, Jr., Air Corps. The citations are as follows:

Silver Star: "For gallantry in action as pilot of a B-17 type aircraft. On April 3, 1944, Lt. Ross participated in a bombing mission against a vital strategic enemy installation in Hungary. Approaching the objective one engine of his aircraft was rendered inoperative due to mechanical failures, however, Lt. Ross determinedly held his aircraft on course. Despite intense enemy fighter opposition on the bombing run which rendered a second engine inoperative, Lt. Ross skillfully maneuvered his crippled plane through for a highly successful attack on the target, inflicting great damage to enemy installations and supplies. Leaving the objective and enroute to base, anti-aircraft fire rendered a third engine of his aircraft inoperative, and Lt. Ross immediately gave the order to abandon the stricken aircraft. Observing that all but two of his crew had safely cleared the plane, dis-

playing outstanding courage and devotion to duty, Lt. Ross remained at the controls of his aircraft to allow sufficient time for the remainder of the crew to parachute to safety. Despite his gallant efforts the three crew members crashed with the aircraft. By his conspicuous gallantry, fortitude, and intense devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout his combat career, Lt. Ross has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy from March 12, 1944, March 30, 1944."

The decorations will be forwarded to the Commanding Gen. Fifth Service Command, Ft. Haynes, Columbus, Ohio, who will select an officer to make the presentation. The officer selected will communicate with you concerning your wishes in the matter.

My deepest sympathy is extended to you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,
Robert H. Dunlop
Brigadier General
(Continued on Page 5)

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Winamac (IN) Republican 18 Oct 1945: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Officer To Be Buried with Crew Mates

Services for Lt. Albert Ross Next Week

Funeral services for Lt. Albert T. Ross Jr. of Tippecanoe township are to be held at 11:00 a.m. next Wednesday, June 23, at Louisville, Ky., with burial in the Zachary Taylor Military cemetery, there.

As detailed in The Democrat a month ago, when it was learned that the body of the war victim was on its way to the States, Lt. Ross was one of three American flyers who lost their lives in a plane crash in Hungary on April 3, 1944.

All three men were so badly burned, when the machine exploded and crashed, that identification of the bodies was impossible. They were buried together in a temporary cemetery at Bratislava,



LT. ALBERT ROSS JR.

Yugoslavia. All have been kept together in the removal to this country, and the service next week will be for the group. Veterans' organizations at Louisville will be in charge.

The other two victims were from Pennsylvania and Missouri, and the Taylor cemetery was chosen as one about equidistant from their respective homes.

Six Escape; Three Die

Lt. Ross was first pilot and commander of a Flying Fortress based in Italy. While it was on a mission over Hungary, fire broke out and the nine men in the crew were ordered to parachute out. Six were able to do so, but the explosion took place before Ross, his copilot and bombardier could make their escape. They fell to earth in the burning mass.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Ross Sr., the young man graduated from Monterey high school in 1934, then attended DePaul university. He enlisted in the air corps in 1942, receiving his commission as a second lieutenant during the following year.

The parents are planning to attend the service at Louisville. They will be accompanied, according to present plans, by a group of relatives including Mr. and Mrs. Harold Staffeldt of Winamac, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ross of Hammond, Miss Bertha Ross and Ross Riemenschneider of Chicago, Eull Ross and daughter Ruth of Fort Wayne. Several friends have also expressed the intention of attending.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Jun 1949: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Ralph Wayne Degner

Wayne earned his wings and commission a year before his death.

Born: 6/9/1920

Entered: 5/13/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,15095675/O-801839,2LT

Died: 4/29/1944

Parents: Rowe Omer and Iva Mae Wilson Degner

On 29 April 1944, Wayne Degner, 23, was killed during a training flight in England. He served 23 months, including one month in the European war zone. He was a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. He was buried in Winamac Cemetery.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Feb 1940: 2.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 May 1943: 1.

Plane Crash Takes Life of Pulaski Pilot


**Lt. R. Wayne Degner
Killed in Training
Flight in England**

Lt. Ralph Wayne Degner, well known Pulaski young man, was the victim of an airplane crash April 29 during a training flight in England. Such was the notification which reached his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Degner of the Pulaski vicinity, on Monday from the War Department.

The young man would have been twenty-four years old next June 9 and had spent all his life in Indian Creek township. A graduate of the Pulaski high school in 1938, he entered the armed service in May of 1942. His death occurred exactly a year after he had received his pilot's wings and second lieutenant's commission at Marianna Army Air Field, Fla. He was sent overseas about four weeks ago.

Surviving are the parents, brothers Carl of Michigan and John of the Pulaski vicinity, sisters Mrs. Lucile Roth of Pulaski, Dora Dean and Betty Lou, at home.

War Casualty



L.T. R. WAYNE DEGNER.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 May 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

James Herbert "Herb" Fletcher

Herb worked his way up from National Guard infantry to Air Corps aircraft mechanic, then pilot, and had just arrived at the air base the week before his fatal flight.

Born: 3/8/1920

Entered: 4/24/1941


Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,O-819677 or 20506741,2LT

Died: 5/2/1944

Parents: John Roy and Golda May "Goldie" Henninger Fletcher

On 2 May 1944, Herb, 24, died piloting a B-24 bomber that crashed out of Charleston Army Air Force Base. He had served for 44 months, including time in the infantry and as an aviation mechanic. He had an uncle and three cousins in Pulaski County. He was buried in Abbottsville, OH.

Lt. James H. Fletcher, 744 Central avenue, Greenville, became a B-24 bomber pilot the hard way. Fletcher enlisted in the National Guard and left for camp with one of the first units, the outfit from Covington. After a year and a half of slogging it in the infantry he transferred to the Air Corps and received training as an aircraft mechanic at Keesler Field. Following another year of grooming bomber engines, Jim decided that he'd like to fly those craft upon which he had been manfuring the motors. He thereupon passed the qualifications and attended pilot school which terminated recently after a nine-weeks' pilot transition training course on four-engine Liberators at Maxwell Field, Ala. He was home a few weeks ago and then left for the east where he picked up his bomber crew and now possibly is in the European theatre of operations piloting his four-engined battle craft.



J. Fletcher
Lt., AA
Greenville

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 14 Apr 1944: 3.

GRADUATES FROM AIR MECHANICS SCHOOL

Private James H. Fletcher, son of Mrs. Roy Fletcher, 744 Central avenue, Greenville, was graduated recently from an air mechanics school at Chanute Field, Ill., and has been assigned to active duty with the army air corps at Ft. Logan, Denver, Colo. He enlisted in the air corps on April 25, 1941.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 20 Oct 1941: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

The following letter has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher, 744 Central Avenue, Greenville, from their son, Private James Herbert Fletcher, who is now stationed with the 36th School Squadron, U. S. Army Air Corps, at Lowry Field, near Denver, Colo.

November 17, 1941.
Monday afternoon.

Dear Folks:

Just came back from dinner. Had chicken, too. That's pretty good for Monday. Ha!

Before I forget it, I got my shoes okay. I forgot to mention it until now. When the box came, all the fellows thought it was candy. I recognized what it was, though. They were all disappointed. Guess that will teach them a lesson. Ha!

Weather here is a little cooler today. Looks like snow, too. I wouldn't be surprised, because it has really been nice for the last week. They say that it sometimes stays nice until Christmas, though.

Well, I finally got to the mountains. We went up to the Recreation Center in Denver yesterday and signed up. In a little while a lady came in and asked for two soldiers. Ed Wright, Kenneth Ochs and I were together though, so she said that three would be alright. Just she and her husband and two small children, so we weren't crowded. They had a 1941 Hudson, too. Anyway, away we went. Drove out through Golden, a small town, then turned and went up Lookout Mountain. The road winds back and forth, all the way up, and the scenery is beautiful. We could look clear back to Denver about 30 miles. We took several pictures. Then we went on up to Buffalo Bill's grave. It's very pretty, and rests clear on the top of Lookout Mountain. I'll enclose a card, showing it. The view from there is wonderful. The air up there is a lot thinner, too. We were gasping for breath after climbing a few steps.

From there, we drove on to Idaho Springs, a gold mining town. All the mountains around there are dotted with mining shafts and mining caves. We stopped there and looked at some rocks, but didn't find any gold. Ha! We were entirely surrounded there by mountains, and I can't begin to describe the beauty of it. On one side of the road would stand high rounded peaks, entirely covered with green fir trees, looking like huge Christmas trees. Then directly on the other side would loom huge, rocky cliffs with not a sign of any plant growth at all. The road wound back and forth through the valley.

We drove around past Evergreen Lake then. It was entirely frozen over, but not solid enough to skate on. Seemed funny to stand in snow and look at ice, and still not be a bit cold. In fact, our blouses were too warm. The sun was shining, and it seemed like Spring, but the ice disproved that. It's a nice size lake, too.

From there, we left the main highway and followed a little winding road down through Bear Creek Canyon. That was the prettiest part of all. We just seemed to leave civilization behind there, as we drove along. The canyon was just wide enough for the road and Bear Creek itself. At times, the rocky cliffs rose straight up on both sides, with not more than 60 or 75 feet between them. In the order places, people had cabins built along the side of the stream. All along, we saw many blue spruce trees, and they're really beautiful. They looked like a frost tinted fir tree. That's the best way I can describe them. Then we drove on down to the Red Rocks, and they're really red, too. The CCC boys are building a big natural amphitheatre right between two huge rock formations. It's really pretty but after climbing about 100 yards up to it, we were too worn out to appreciate it.

From there, we drove back to Denver. All together, we drove over 80 miles. They (Mr. and Mrs. Allomong) then took us down to their house for supper. They're swell people, too. They have a boy in the Navy, stationed at Great Lakes Training Station. After supper, they drove us back to the Center. When we got there we discovered that they were looking for some soldiers to go to a supper at the Green Gables Country Club, so we piled in and went along.

The hostess insisted that we go, because they needed 50 soldiers, and only had about 40. (Knowing us, you can imagine how much they had to insist). Anyway, we all had a grand time. It's one of the classiest places around Denver. They served us supper, had a swell floor show, and then brought us home.

Listen to this: When we rode out there, we rode with a Mr. Meyers, driving a big La Salle. When

we got ready to leave, Ed, Kenneth and I got into another big La Salle which was sitting right behind Mr. Meyer's car. It was driven by a colored chauffeur. When we mentioned riding out with Mr. Meyers, the colored boy laughed and said, "Oh yes, both of these cars are his. I drive for him." Yipe! Getting up in the world, aren't we?

Well, I guess I talked enough for this time, so I'll sign off. Answer soon, and tell everyone hello. Don't forget, you promised to send some candy. We'll be waiting. So long.

Love,

Herb.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 25 Nov 1941: 6.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Fletcher Is Air Cadet
Cadet James Herbert Fletcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher of 744 Central avenue, Greenville, recently reported to Greenwood Army Air Field as a student in basic flight training. He was graduated from Greenville high school where he was a member of the Spanish Club and the Fauna and Flora Society. He was accepted as aviation cadet at Morrison Field, Fla., on Feb. 22, 1943.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 20 Sep 1943: 5.

Fletcher Is Pilot Officer
James Herbert Fletcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher, of 744 Central avenue, Greenville, was a member of the 21st class to graduate from the new Columbus Army Air Field near Columbus, Miss., on Jan. 7, 1944. He received the silver wings of a flying officer and commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces.
Lt. Fletcher entered pilot training last March, and attended flying schools at Arcadia, Fla., and Greenwood, Miss., before his graduation at the advanced flying school near Columbus, Miss.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 7 Jan 1944: 3.

Fletcher Begins 4-Engine Training
Maxwell Field, Ala.—Among those now beginning a nine weeks pilot training course on four-engine Liberator bombers here is 2nd Lt. James Herbert Fletcher, of 744 Central Ave., Greenville Ohio.
Lieutenant Fletcher was hand-picked by Army Air Forces experts as having those qualities needed to become a commander of four-engined battle-craft, and his training will be as complete and thorough as the AAF can make it. On completion of the course here, he will receive further training within the AAF Training Command.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 5 Feb 1944: 6.

CASUALTIES IN BOMBER CRASH

Charleston, May 3.—(AP) Names of eight men killed in an Army bomber crash Tuesday near Meggett, and their next of kin, were announced by the Public Relations officer at the Charleston Army Air Base as follows:

Sergeant William Hugh Reilly, radio operator; wife, Mrs. Helen T. Reilly, 5 Maple Avenue Maple Shade, N. J.

Corporal Roineo Crecco, engineer; mother, Mrs. Eleanor Crecco, 298 S. Seventh street, Newark, N. J.

Second Lieut. **James Herbert Fletcher**, pilot; Father, Roy Fletcher, 744 Central Avenue Greenville, Ohio.

Second Lieut. Russell Loren Barton, co-pilot; wife, Mrs. Jeanne May Barton, 149 Sixth street, Fond Du Lac, Wis.

Second Lieut. Roy Richard Beard, bombardier; father, Roy R. Beard, 902 Salem avenue, Hagerstown, Md.

Second Lieut. David Oswald, navigator; wife, Mrs. Frances K. Oswald, 107 1-2 N. Sweetzer Avenue, Los Angeles.

Sergeant Lloyd W. Wade, instructor engineer; wife, Mrs. Eoris C. Wade, 173 South street, Waltham, Mass.

Second Lieut. Von D. Rider, instructor pilot; mother, Mrs. Denizil Rider, 1452 E. Fillmore, Phoenix, Ariz.

Florence (SC) Morning News 4 May 1944: 4.

Greenville Pilot Killed In Crash

GREENVILLE, May 4.—(Spl.)—Second Lt. James Herbert Fletcher, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher, 749 Central avenue, was one of eight flyers killed in the crash of a B-24 Liberator bomber Tuesday near Meggetts, S. C., Army officials disclosed.

No other details of the mishap were announced. Fletcher was pilot of the ship, which was based at Charleston, S. C.



Lt. Fletcher

Lieutenant Fletcher entered the Army Oct. 21, 1940, after having served with the national guard unit at Covington. Transferred to the air forces, he trained as an aircraft mechanic before entering pilot training. He received his wings and commission Jan. 7, 1944, and had arrived at Charleston only a week ago.

Surviving are his parents, a sister, Mrs. Ralph Stephens of Gettysburg, and a brother, Billie, at home.

The Dayton (OH) Herald 4 May 1944: 16.

FLIER'S BODY WILL ARRIVE HERE MONDAY

Services Being Arranged For Lt. James H. Fletcher

Arrangements for funeral services were being completed here today for Lt. James Herbert Fletcher, 24, who was killed Wednesday in an airplane crash near Charleston, S. C., following receipt of word that his body would leave Charleston tonight for Greenville.

The body will arrive here at 5:45 a. m. Monday and will be removed to the Miller Funeral Home, 124 West Fifth street.

The accident victim, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher, 744 Central avenue, was the pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber which crashed in the vicinity of Meggetts, S. C. Seven crew members are also reported to have been killed but Army officials have not yet disclosed any details about the accident.

Lt. Fletcher had served in the armed forces since October, 1940, first as an infantryman, then as an aircraft mechanic before obtaining his wings as a bomber pilot.

Besides the parents, he leaves a sister, Mrs. Ralph Stephens, of Gettysburg, and a brother, Billie, at home.

The (Greenville OH) Daily Advocate 5 May 1944: 1.

Cousin Dies in Crash

Misses Lula, Bessie and Mamie McConnell and Harry McConnell were at Greenville, Ohio, the first of this week because of the death of a cousin, Lt. Herbert Fletcher. The young man, twenty-four years old, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. Roy Fletcher of Greenville. He was one of eight airmen killed when their plane crashed near Charlestown, S. C. Surviving are the parents, a brother and a sister.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 May 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Richard "Richard" Cook

Richard died on his sixth bombing mission.

Born: 12/21/1921

Entered: 7/1/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC, 15095982/O-698870,2LT

Medals: Air Medal, Purple Heart

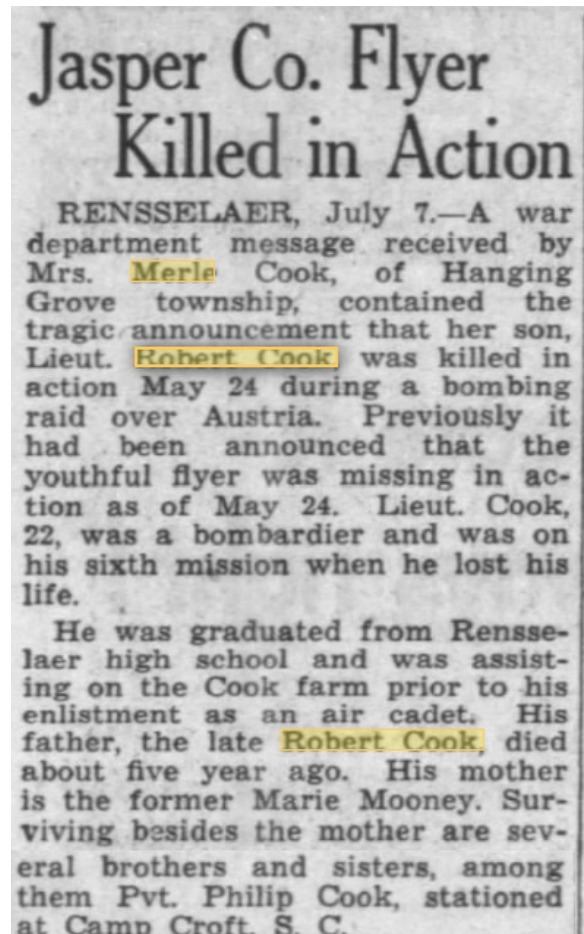
Died: 5/24/1944

Parents: Ruby Merl Mooney (Robert[deceased]) Cook

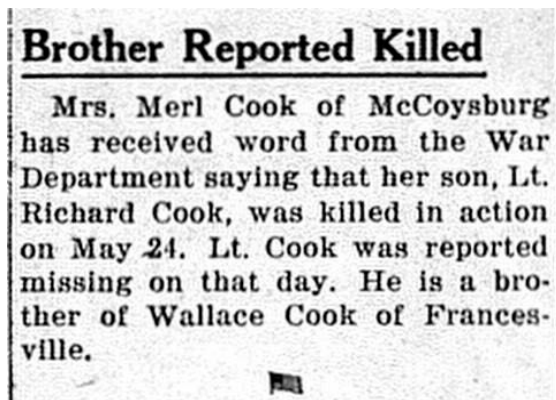
On 24 May 1944, Robert Cook, 22, initially reported as missing in action, was killed in action over Lanau, Austria. He served 23 months, including a few months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He had a brother in Francesville. He was buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery in St Avold, France.



Richard Cook (Collection of Dwight 'Andy' Anderson)
findagrave.com/memorial/56653943/robert-richard-cook#view-photo=181772382



(Lafayette IN) Journal and Courier 7 Jul 1944: 4.
Webpage (newspapers.com).



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Jul 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

James Franklin Barnard

James' fiancée found out about his death from the newspaper!

Born: 12/29/1920

Entered:

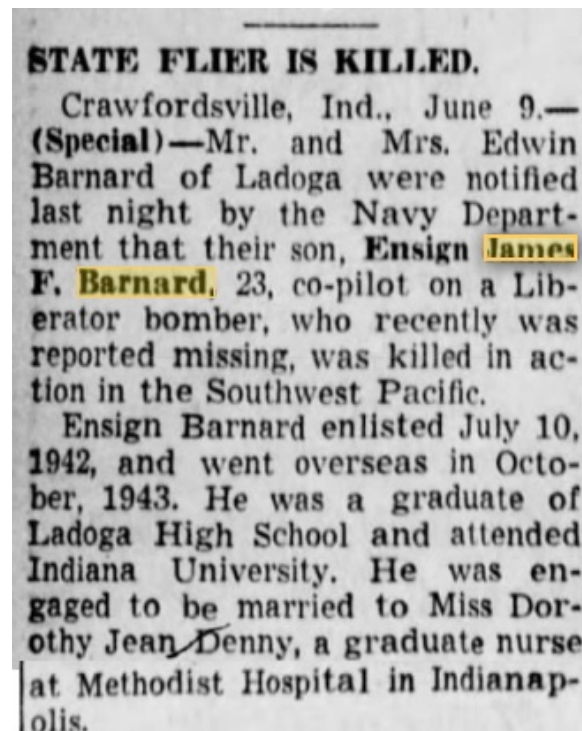
Branch,SN,Rank: USN,315504,ENS

Died: 5/27/1944

Parents: Edwin and Mollie Ruth Seybold Barnard

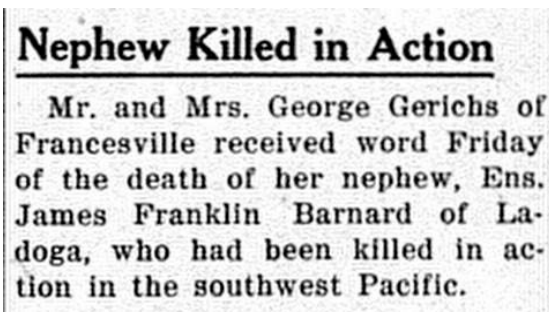
Fiancée: Miss Dorothy Jean Denny

On 27 May 1944, James Barnard, 24, died in Manila, Philippines. He had relatives in Francesville. He was buried in Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines.

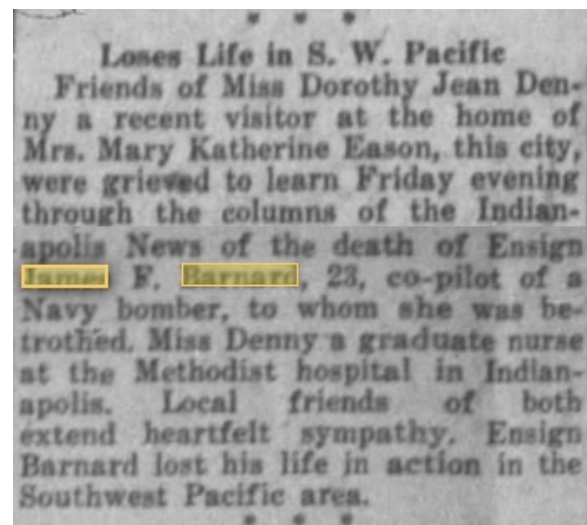


Indianapolis (IN) Star 10 Jun 1944: 24.

Webpage (newspapers.com)



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Jun 1944: 1.



(Knightstown IN) Tri-County Banner 16 Jun 1944: 8.

Webpage (newspapers.com)

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Edward Alvin "Edwin" Troutman

On its first mission to the Politz oil refineries, Edwin's plane was hit, and he did not survive the mid-air explosion.

Born: 6/29/1914

Entered: 4/18/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35352584,SSGT

Medals: Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 5/29/1944

Parents: Charles O. and Josephine "Josie" Emily Barnett Troutman

On 29 May 1944, Edward Troutman, 30, previously reported as missing in action, was killed over Gueltz, Germany. He served 25 months, including 6 months in the European war zone. He was a gunner on a B-24 Liberator. He was awarded the Air Medal. He had family in Kewanna. He was buried in Shaffer Cemetery in Kewanna.



Edwin Troutman (Collection of Katrina16) - ancestry.com

Staff Sergeant Edward A. Troutman who was previously reported as missing in action over Germany on May 29th, is now listed as killed in action over Germany on May 29th. At the time of his death he was acting as bombardier on a B-24 Liberator. He received the Air Medal, four Oakleaf Clusters and a citation and sent his Air Medal to his parents.

Winamac (IN) Republican 13 Jul 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Gunner S/Sgt. Edward A. Troutman KIA
Hometown: Valparaiso, Indiana
Squadron: 576th BS 392nd Bomb Group
Service # 35352584
Awards: Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart
Pilot 1st/Lt. Ace W. Tyler KIA

Target: Politz Germany
MISSING AIRCREW REPORT: #05212
Date Lost: 29-May-44
Serial Number: #42-95136
Aircraft Model B-24
Aircraft Letter: "A"
Aircraft Name: (NO NICKNAME) 7th Mission
Location: near a village named Gueltz
Cause: German fighters Crew of 10 KIA 1POW

This mission would be the first to this tough and heavily defended target - the oil refineries at Politz. The 392nd would suffer high casualties on this raid. The 578th and 577th were assigned lead with Bombardiers, Lieutenant Joachim and Captain Colburn, respectively. At 0430 and 0500 hours, (27) crews were briefed and at 0749 take-offs began. A total of (26) ships bombed the target area, releasing (260) 500# GP weapons, but good bombing was hampered by an effective smoke screen over the target and the ensuing fighter encounters. An estimated 75-100 enemy fighters attacked the Group comprised of about (75) single-engine ME-109s and FW-190s and (25) JU-88s and at least (1) twin-engine ME-410. The severe fighter attacks were encountered for about thirty-five minutes near the target between 1150 and 1225 hours. The Group lost (6) aircraft on this mission with many casualties

MISSION LOSS CIRCUMSTANCES: A returning eye-witness reported, "ship turned over with two engines out, altitude 21,700", and no further details were related on this aircraft loss. A German Report KU #2086, Air Base Hqs at Greifewald reported that this plane had crashed near a village named Gueltz, and the railroad Demmin-Altentreptow, about 1145 hours, 29 May. The crew had been shot down by a fighter, and was 99% destroyed from an air explosion and fire engulfing unexploded bombs at the crash site. Nine (9) crew members were found dead and identified at the site above. One, the Navigator Lt. Bassett, who had bailed out successfully, was taken prisoner immediately in the area. It was reported that the prisoner was transferred the next day, 30 May, from the Commanding Officer at Tutow (Berlin area) to Oberursel (Dulag Luft). Local burial of the casualties was carried out.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS OF CREWMEN FATES/BURIAL RECORDS: Lt. Bassett, the only survivor, gave a brief account on a casualty Interrogation (U.S.) form dated 27 July 1945. He stated that the plane had been attacked by enemy fighters and the nose section had been set afire; that he bailed out but saw no more parachutes coming down, although he was in a position to see them had others gotten out. That was the extent of his report (in this MACR file record).

German report of 1 June 44, message AF 965/64, Air Base Hqs Griefewald, 2/III gave account of the burials of the crew casualties: all were buried at the village of Gueltz, (800) meters from the Gueltz Estate, as recorded: Metz (Grave 1); MacDonald (Grave 3); Powell (Grave 4); Tyler (Grave 5); Troutman (Grave 6); Podolski (Grave 7); Blaida (Grave 8); Brown (Grave 9); and Ricci (Grave number not given). The Germans identified one of the deceased as Sgt Corbett X. Miller after they found his Soldier's Individual Pay Record. Although Miller was originally a member of 1/Lt Tyler's crew, he had been seriously wounded on the Hamm mission (April 22, 1944) and hospitalized. He was eventually returned home. Why his Pay Record was at the crash site is a mystery. U.S. National Cemetery records account for the following re-interments for certain members of this crew. These members were re-buried at the ARDENNES Cemetery, near Liege, Belgium: Podolski (Grave B-27-7); Metz (Grave D- 7-50); Blaida (Grave D-7-49) and Powell (Grave D-7-47). Podolski was awarded the Air Medal with (2) Oak Leaf Clusters and Purple Heart; Metz and Blaida both an Air Medal with (1) Oak Leaf Cluster with Blaida's being also a posthumous Purple Heart, but the latter award not in the case of Metz; and Powell is noted to have an award of the Purple Heart, posthumously as well. No other record connected with the MACR exists as to the subsequent reburials of the other crew men.

The #42-95136 crew
1st/Lt. Ace W. Tyler Pilot KIA
2nd/Lt. Joseph A. Ricci Co Pilot KIA
1st/Lt. Earl F. Bassett Navigator POW
T/Sgt. George E. MacDonald Jr. Engineer
T/Sgt. William Metz Radio Op. KIA
S/Sgt. Paul D. Podolski Gunner KIA
S/Sgt. John M. Blaida A Radio Op. KIA
S/Sgt. Gilbert A. Brown Gunner KIA
S/Sgt. Edward A. Troutman Gunner KIA
Sgt. Marvin L. Powell Gunner KIA

(Information contributed by Find A Grave member #47791572)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67801484/>

Details of death (Collection of Member #47791572) [findagrave.com/memorial/67801484/edward-a-troutman](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67801484/edward-a-troutman)

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Ralph H. Koebcke

Ralph had only seen his son in a photograph a month before he was killed in action.

Born: 4/12/1919

Entered: 3/15/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,15095168,TSGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 6/3/1944

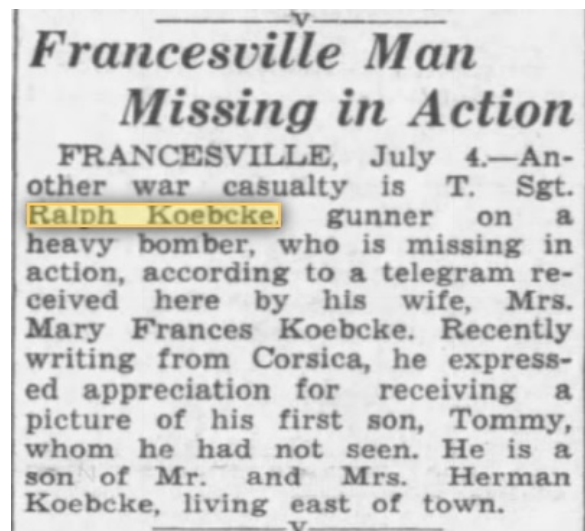
Spouse: Mary Frances "Tootie" Fitzpatrick Koebcke

Parents: Herman Carl Martin and Ida Wilhelmina Christina Jentz Koebcke

On 3 June 1944, Ralph Koebcke, 24, reported missing in action, was killed in action near Milan, Italy. He was the radioman/gunner on a bomber returning from a mission. He served 32 months, including 14 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was from Francesville. He was buried in the Florence American Cemetery in Impruneta, Italy. He was married with a child.



Ralph Koebcke in flight suit (Collection of Richard Placke) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/169373028/person/322221161193/
media/8fcd2991-b8a7-4d65-89da-0caf84d8dfb0



(Lafayette IN) Journal and Courier 4 Jul 1944: 13.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

T-Sgt. Ralph Koebeke, 24 years old, of Francesville.

Sgt. Koebeke, husband of Mary Frances Koebeke and son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Koebeke, residing East of Francesville, was reported missing June 3. A War Department telegram reported this week that he had been killed in action. / The Red Cross confirmed this information.

He was serving as a radio man-gunner aboard a bombing plane and had served in some 40 missions over enemy territory. He entered the Air Corps on March 25, 1942 and had been overseas since Sept. 13, 1943.

Married in June, 1941, a son, Thomas Ralph, was born to the couple last December 4, the father's birthday.

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Junior "Junior" Foust

Junior lost his life during Operation Overlord on D-Day.

Born: 2/6/1922

Entered: 11/5/1942

Branch,SN,Rank:,,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 6/6/1944

Parents: Worden Beecher "Red" and Vesta Mae Fanning Foust

On 6 June 1944, Junior Foust, 22, initially reported as missing in action, was killed in action in France on D-Day. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He was a former resident of Pulaski County. He was buried in the Jefferson Cemetery in Upland.



Pvt. Robert J. Foust, a paratrooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Foust, formerly of Jefferson Twp. He was reported missing in France in August.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 19 Oct 1944: 1.

Former Jefferson Man Is Missing in France

Pvt. Robert J. Foust, a Paratrooper, has been listed as missing in action in France since June 6, according to word received from the War Department by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Foust of Marion. They are former residents of Jefferson township. Pvt. Foust, who received his training at Toccoa, Ga., Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Mackall, N. C., has been overseas since January of this year. He received his wings at Fort Benning.

Pvt. Foust attended Jefferson Center and Brush College schools and completed high school at Marion. A brother, First Class Petty Officer Charles Foust, is stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas, and another brother Raymond is in the Signal Corps at Camp Fanning, Texas. His sisters are Mrs. David Hatcher of Detroit and Mrs. Francis Franks of Marion.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Harold Vance "Buddy" Duggleby

Buddy is specifically named by the French at the 1st and 14th Pilot Memorial near Camaret-sur-Mer, France.

Born: 4/2/1923

Entered: 12/7/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,16079211,1LT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 6/15/1944

Parents: Alfred Waldby "Wad" and Ruby Grace White Duggleby

On 15 June 1944, Buddy Duggleby, 21, was killed in action by anti-aircraft fire over Plan de Dieu airfield in France as the pilot of a P-38 fighter. He served 24 months, including in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His uncle lived in Winamac. He was buried in Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer.



Harold Duggleby in flight suit (Collection of Jennifer Boorman) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/111878962/person/342229042638/
media/3063b8fc-be4c-4dcd-8db8-801467a2b0a0

Memorial rites were held Sunday for Lieut. Harold Duggleby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walby Duggleby, of Tefft, at the Tefft Methodist church. Lieut Duggleby was born in Tefft, April 2, 1923. He spent his lifetime in that community until he enlisted for the Army Air Corps service in June, 1942. He entered service December 7, of the same year.

Lieut. Duggleby died after being hit by anti aircraft slugs, a letter to his parents revealed. He was on a straffing mission at the time as pilot of a P-38 Fighter plane. He was alone in the craft.

Survivors are his parents and grandparents and other relatives. The young man was a nephew of Charles Duggleby.

Winamac (IN) Republican 17 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

1st and 14th FG Memorial



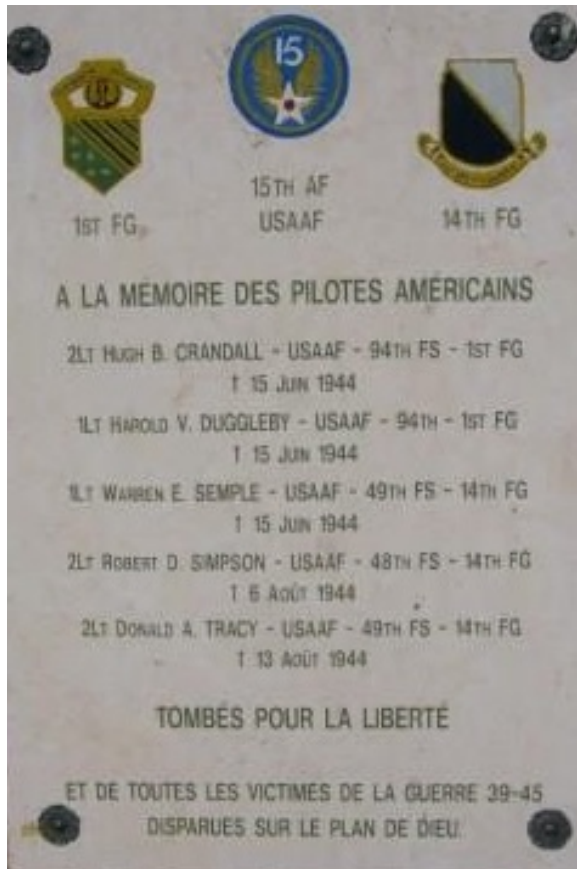
16 Apr 2005. Webpage(uswarmemorials.org).

1st and 14th FG Memorial (detail #2)



16 Apr 2005. Webpage(uswarmemorials.org).

1st and 14th FG Memorial (detail #1)



16 Apr 2005. Webpage(uswarmemorials.org).

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Horace Allan "Allan" Lawler

A West Point graduate, Allan was declared dead two years after he was missing in action in Burma, and with his older brother, Jack, killed in action, their parents are left to mourn their only children.

Born: 6/1/1919

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,0024711,1LT

Medals: Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 6/19/1944

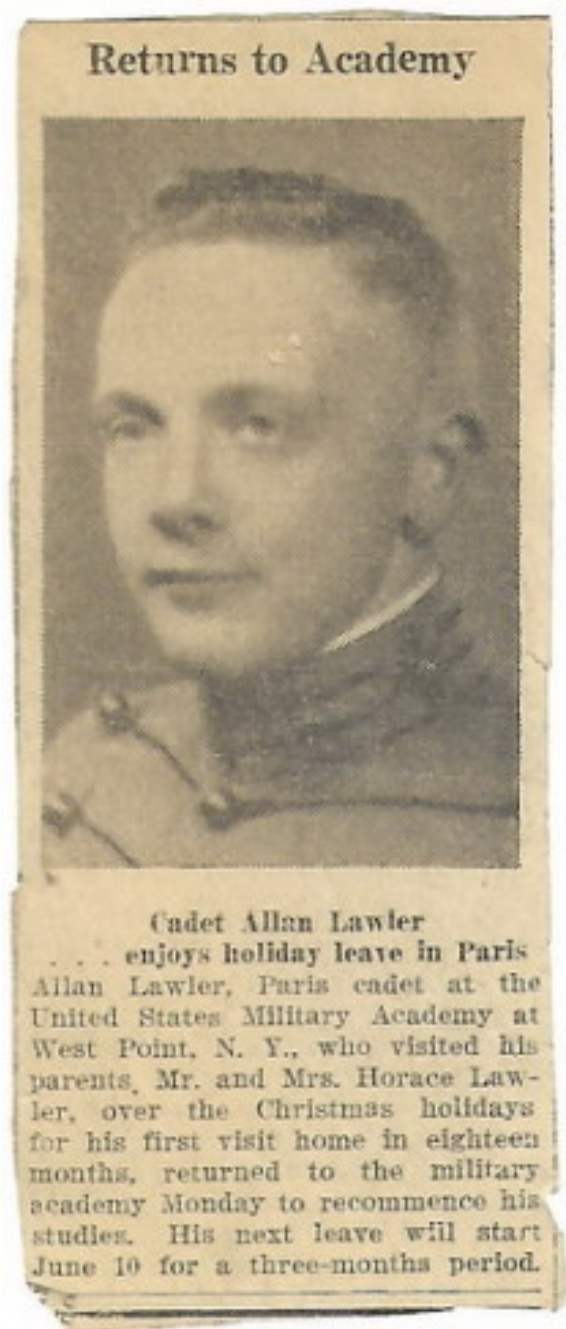
Parents: Horace Joseph "Curley" and Bess A. "Bessie" Mopps Lawler

On 19 June 1944, Allan Lawler, 25, was reported missing in action in Burma. He was declared dead on 8 February 1946. He had relatives in Winamac. He is memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Manila, Philippines.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead



Allan Lawler, 1942 (Collection of Kevin Davenport) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/208891/person/301177149/media/ed40aa06-24bc-4545-814c-9f8c364baaaa



Allan Lawler (West Point) (Collection of Kevin Davenport) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/208891/person/301177149/media/055ef7ad-8a49-4558-94a8-0d062983dae9.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Mrs. Amanda Bartlett of Winamac has been notified that her great nephew, Major Jack Lawler of Paris, Ill., was killed in action in Europe. He was a paratrooper in the 51st Airborne Division. A brother, Lt. Allen Lawler, a graduate of West Point, has been missing over Burma since last June. The young men are the only children of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lawler of Paris.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Apr 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Jesse Martin Brown

Jesse's mother received a letter from an English family who hosted her son for Christmas, but did not know of his death the following year.

Born: 9/23/1923

Entered: 2/12/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35092572,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 6/27/1944

Parents: Elmer Leroy and Ella May Shackelford Brown

On 27 June 1944, Jesse Brown, 21, who was first reported missing in action, was killed in action in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 16 months, including 13 months in the European war zone. He was from Monterey. He was buried in the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Jesse Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brown of Monterey have received word from the War Department that their son Jesse, twenty years old, was killed in action on June 27 in France. A previous report had reached them July 7 stating he was missing on June 15, but the telegram sent more recently informed them that the first report had been erroneous. A later letter from Washington stated that details and place of burial would be revealed when it was possible.

The young man was born September 26, 1923, at Agosta, Ohio. He attended Monterey school and was employed at Kingsbury prior to his induction in the Army on February 19, 1943. He received his basic training at Camp Wheeler, Ga., leaving the states a year ago last month. He took part in the Sicilian invasion, went to England in December and was in the initial invasion of France.

Surviving, besides the parents, are brothers Howard, in England, Mervin, in the Army, and Lowell, at home; grandfather, Jesse A. Shackelford, who is critically ill at the Brown home.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Aug 1944: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Brown of Monterey recently received a letter from Hampshire, England, telling of visits of their son Jessie, (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

NEWS OF MEN & WOMEN IN UNIFORM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

who was killed in action June 27, in the home of one of his buddies there. The letter read in part: "Just a line, hoping you are quite well and that your son, who was here last Christmas, is O.K. My son met yours while he was here, and he used to come to tea and supper. Before your son left he came over to see us for the day. He was a very nice young man and he used to enjoy a game of Whist. We do not know where he is now, but, I can guess. Let us hope that he is safe and O. K." J. C. Swatton, author of the letter, did not know of the casualty report that the Browns recently received.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Aug 1944: 1&2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Forrest Leroy Kelly

Forrest's momma entered the Air WACs as a "crypto-technician" three months before he was killed.

Born: 1/26/1917

Entered: 9/23/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,1LT

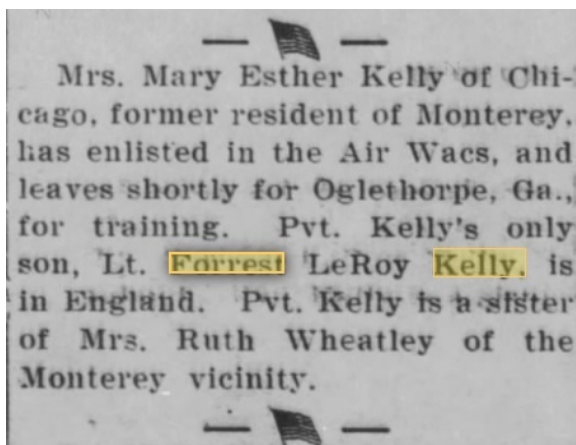
Medals: Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart

Died: 6/30/1944

Spouse: Carlyn Rose Younker Kelly

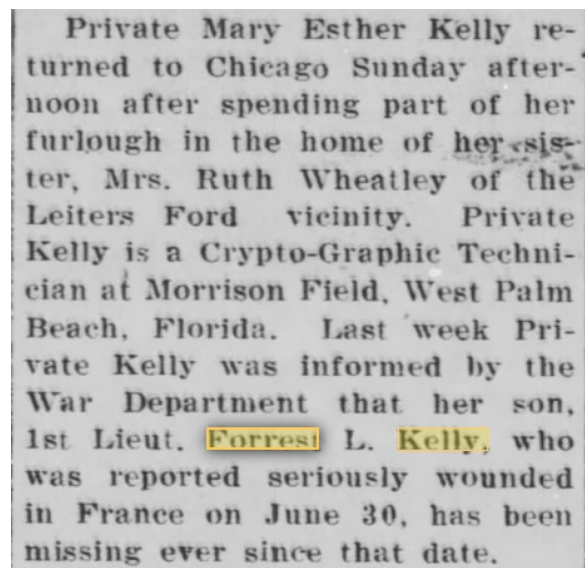
Parents: Mary Esther "Esther" Hickin (James Ulric) Kelly (?) von Son

On 30 June 1944, Forrest Kelly, 27, was seriously wounded and assumed dead after capture at St. Lo, France. He was declared dead in July 1945. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. He had relatives in Monterey. He was buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France. He was married.



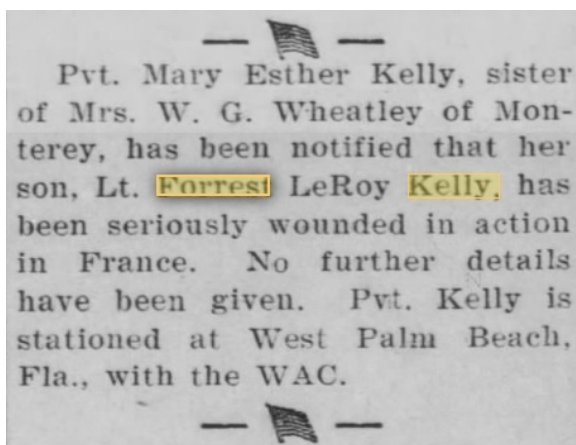
Mrs. Mary Esther Kelly of Chicago, former resident of Monterey, has enlisted in the Air Wacs, and leaves shortly for Oglethorpe, Ga., for training. Pvt. Kelly's only son, Lt. **Forrest** LeRoy **Kelly**, is in England. Pvt. Kelly is a sister of Mrs. Ruth Wheatley of the Monterey vicinity.

Culver (IN) Citizen 5 Apr 1944: 5. Webpage (newspapers.com).



Private Mary Esther Kelly returned to Chicago Sunday afternoon after spending part of her furlough in the home of her sister, Mrs. Ruth Wheatley of the Leiters Ford vicinity. Private Kelly is a Crypto-Graphic Technician at Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida. Last week Private Kelly was informed by the War Department that her son, 1st Lieut. **Forrest** L. **Kelly**, who was reported seriously wounded in France on June 30, has been missing ever since that date.

Culver (IN) Citizen 17 Jan 1945: 7. Webpage (newspapers.com).



Pvt. Mary Esther Kelly, sister of Mrs. W. G. Wheatley of Monterey, has been notified that her son, Lt. **Forrest** LeRoy **Kelly**, has been seriously wounded in action in France. No further details have been given. Pvt. Kelly is stationed at West Palm Beach, Fla., with the WAC.

Culver (IN) Citizen 9 Aug 1944: 10. Webpage (newspapers.com).

Officer, Missing A Year, Now Declared Dead

PFC Mary Esther Kelly of West Palm Beach, Fla., former resident of Monterey, has been informed by the War Department that her son, 1st Lt. Forrest LeRoy Kelly, has been declared dead. Lt. Kelly was wounded and captured by the Germans at St. Lo, France, on June 30, 1944, while leading his platoon into action. No word of him has been received since. PFC Kelly is a sister of Mrs. William G. Wheatley of the Monterey vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Jul 1945: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

William "Bill" Charles Eugene Mayfield

Bill was the son of a physician.

Born: 10/23/1921

Entered: 4/26/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,15400507,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 7/13/1944

Parents: Viola Laura Gates (Dr. Charles Eugene[deceased]) Mayfield

On 13 Jul 1944, Bill Mayfield, 22, was killed in action. He served 16 months, including in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He had friends or relatives in Pulaski County. He was buried in Walnut Ridge Cemetery in Jeffersonville. He was married.



MayfieldW - Bill Mayfield class picture (Collection of klevier28) - ancestry.com/mediaui-

viewer/collection/1030/tree/65290735/person/352218423638/media/95284a3b-81a5-4aa3-bb9b-3004c2395997 - World War II, gp

The community was shocked Saturday when news came that P.F.C. **William Mayfield** was killed in action on July 13. He was the son of the late Dr. C. E. **Mayfield**, for many years a physician here, and of Mrs. **Mayfield**, now of Bloomington, Ind. Bill, as he was known here, was attending Indiana university prior to entering service.

(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger 10 Aug 1944: 10.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Mrs. Hilda Fenstermaker, daughter Mona and son Jim of Francesville attended the Memorial services for Pfc. Bill Mayfield held Sunday afternoon at the Evangelical church in Wanatah. Pfc. Mayfield was killed in action in France on July 13.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Howard Kenneth White

Howard was among the first to join after Pearl Harbor.

Born: 3/14/1917

Entered: 1/20/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35253750/O-1168133,2LT

Medals: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 7/14/1944

Parents: Harrison "Harry" and Flora Fay "Flossie" Veirs White

On 14 July 1944, Howard White, 27, was reported as missing in action as co-pilot of a returning B-24 Liberator bomber over Budapest, Hungary. After 1 year, he was declared dead. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He served 30 months, including 4 months in the European war zone. He was from Beaver Twp. He was buried in the Tippecanoe Cemetery near Winamac.



Howard K. White Website (honorstates.org).

Beaver Flyer Reported Missing Soon After Receiving DFC

A message informing Mr. and Mrs. Harry White of Beaver township that their son Lieut. Howard White was missing in action over Hungary, as of July 14, reached them last week end, only a short time after receipt of word that he had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, together with an air medal and promotion from co-pilot to pilot.

The young officer has been in service for two and one-half years, and overseas since last April. He was based in Italy and participated in about thirty missions.

Following his graduation from Pulaski high school in 1936 he attended Manchester college for two years, then taught in Beaver township for four years.

His citation for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, a copy of which has reached the family, reads as follows: "For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as co-pilot on a B-24 type aircraft. On May 24 Lieut. White participated in a bombing mission against an important enemy aircraft factory in Australia. Approaching the target, his aircraft sustained severe damages from intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire. The navigator and bombardier were severely wounded and his pilot became extremely dazed. Immediately assuming control, Lieut. White skillfully brought his crippled aircraft through the enemy fire for a highly successful



LT. HOWARD WHITE

bombing run, sharing in the utter destruction of the target. Forced to drop from the comparative safety of the formation, displaying outstanding courage and determination, Lieut. White brought his sickened aircraft through enemy territory for a safe landing at base without further damage to his plane or injury to the crew. By his outstanding devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout his combat career, Lieut. White has reflected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States of America."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Aug 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Mr. and Mrs. Harry White of Beaver township have received word from a superior officer at the base in Italy where their son Lt. Howard White was stationed, stating the possibility that Lt. White may have parachuted to safety when his bomber was shot down over Hungary. He was listed as missing as of July 14. Eight men of the crew were seen to have left the burning plane in parachutes as it was returning from a flight to the Ploesti oil fields in Romania.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Sep 1944: 1.

Pilot Missing A Year Now Declared Dead

**Lt. Howard White of
Beaver Twp. Presumed
Killed Over Hungary**

Lt. Howard White, who has been missing since July 14, 1944, following a bombing mission over Budapest, Hungary, has now been declared dead by the War Department. This word was received this week by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry White of Beaver township.

The young officer was born March 14, 1917, and graduated from Pulaski high school in 1936. He attended Manchester college and taught for four years before entering service in 1941. Lt. White attended officers' candidate school at Ft. Sill, Okla., and was an instructor before transferring to the Air Corps in April, 1943, receiving his wings the following December. Going overseas in April, 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and oak leaf cluster during his eleven weeks with the Fifteenth Air Force in Italy. The mission in which his plane was downed was his thirtieth.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Jul 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Harold Joseph Jolly

Harold was one of four brothers in service.

Born: 2/3/1924

Entered: 3/2/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35094957,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 7/17/1944

Parents: Elizabeth Catherine Braun Jolly and Peter "Pete" Daniel Jolly

On 17 July 1944, Harold Jolly, 20, was killed in action in Saint-Patrice-de-Claids, France. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 15 months, including 10 months in the European war zone. He was a former resident of Winamac. He was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Logansport.

PFC Harold Jolly-

PFC Harold Jolly, twenty years old, was killed in action in France on July 17, according to a message received last Thursday afternoon from the War Department by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jolly of Logansport.

A native of the Winamac vicinity, he was employed on the farm of his uncle Henry Braun, east of Winamac, when he entered service.

PFC Jolly had served in the infantry since September, 1943, and in March of last year was sent overseas, where he was stationed in northern Ireland. The parents did not know he was with the invasion forces.

PFC Jolly was born on a farm west of Winamac and attended St. Peter's school, the family moving to Logansport in 1939. Three of his brothers are in service, Edward and Charles with the Army overseas, and Frank in the Navy; another brother Henry lives near Monterey and Eugene is at home. There are also two sisters, Mrs. Genevieve Schrimsher of Logansport and Sister M. Pierre of Tipton.

The young man was also a nephew of Mrs. William Shorter of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Aug 1944: 1.

Pfc. Harold Jolly, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jolly of Logansport, former residents of Winamac, was reported killed in action in France on July 17.

Pvt. Jolly worked on the farm of his uncle, Henry Braun, near Winamac, before entering the service.

He had been in the infantry since March 3, 1943 and overseas since September, 1943.

Survivors besides the parents are two sisters, Mrs. Genevieve Schrimsher of Logansport and Sister M. Peirre of Tipton.

Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Aug 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Allen Keith Sanders

Keith's sister, 16, was killed in an automobile accident four months earlier.

Born: 4/19/1925

Entered: 4/1/1943?

Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,868626,PFC

Died: 7/21/1944

Parents: Ozie Leonard and Ferry Mae Ballard Sanders

On 21 July 1944, Keith Sanders, 19, was killed when hit by gunfire in action on Guam. He served 16 months, including 8 months in the Pacific war zone. He had relatives in Medaryville. He was buried in the Independence Cemetery in Baileys Corners.



Allen Keith "Keith" Sanders. 15 Jul 1943. National Personnel Records Center, National Archives.

Marine Related in Medaryville Dies

Mrs. Ella Ballard of Medaryville received word this week that her grandson, PFC Allen Keith Sanders, had died on one of the south Pacific islands. The message was sent by the War Department to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ozie Sanders of Cedar Lake, formerly of Medaryville. The report stated that the time and place of his death could not be revealed at this time.

Allen, nineteen years old, entered the Marine Corps in April of 1943, and was sent overseas in December. His sister, Ordell, was killed in an automobile accident last March. Surviving are the parents, two sisters and a brother.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Proof that the victory is still ahead was received this week, when Mr. and Mrs. Ozzie Sanders of Cedar Lake, former residents of Medaryville, received word that their son, Pfc. Keith Sanders, had died on one of the South Pacific islands.

Young Sanders, who was born in Medaryville, was 19 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanders' daughter, Ordell, was killed in an automobile accident on March 1, 1944.

Survivors besides the parents include two sisters, a brother, and a grandmother, Mrs. Ella Ballard of Medaryville.

Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Oct 1944: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Ozie Sanders of Cedar Lake recently received letters from the captain and two buddies of their son Allen, stating that he had been killed in action on July 21 during the invasion of Saipan. The first message that the family received did not give the details of his death. They are related in the Medaryville vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 30 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Marion Henry Appel

Marion's momma frequently received letters from him, and after he was killed, she received letters from his Captain, a visit from his buddy, and pictures of his grave.

Born: 5/7/1922

Entered: 10/15/1942

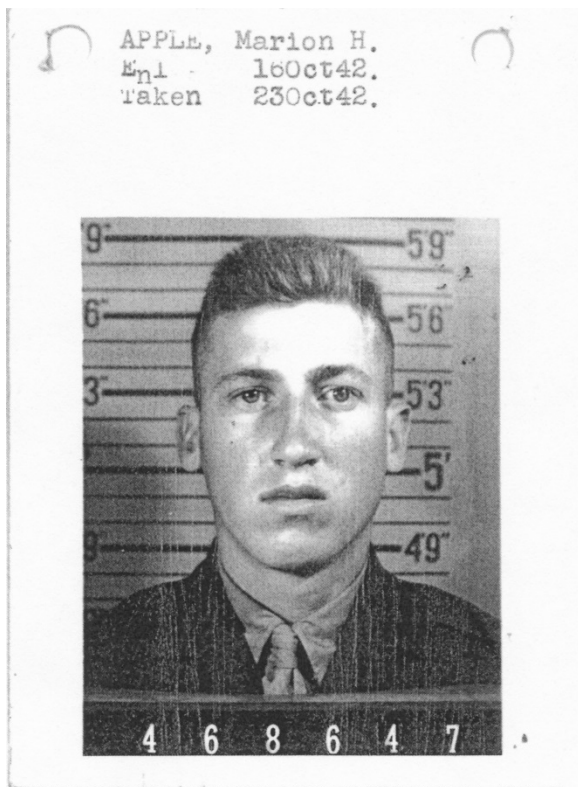
Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,468647,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

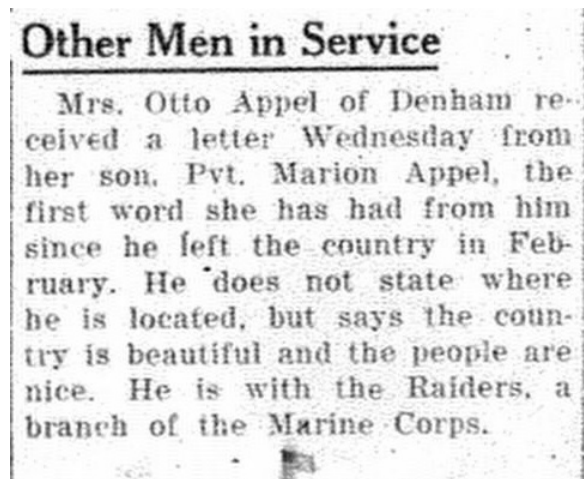
Died: 7/22/1944

Parents: Nellie Delight Disinger (Otto Konstanzer[deceased]) Appel

On 22 July 1944, Marion Appel, 22, was killed in action by a hand grenade the day after landing in Guam. He was a machine gunner. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He served 22 months, including 18 months in the Pacific war zone. He attended grade school and high school in Ripley. He was buried in the cemetery in Winamac.



1942-10-23 - Marion Appel (DD-214) - National Personnel Records Center



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Apr 1943: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Mrs. Otto Appel of Denham has received a letter from her son, Pvt. Marion Appel, stating that he had been in New Zealand, but has been moved to another island. He said that it is warm there now, and that the country is beautiful. In the Marine Corps, Pvt. Appel has been overseas since February.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Sep 1943: 2.

Mrs. Otto Appel received a letter the first of the week from her son, Pvt. Marion Appel, with the Marine Raiders on a Southwest Pacific outpost, stating he was in the best of health. It was written October 4. He also sent his sister Mary Lou a bracelet which he had fashioned from aluminum salvaged from a wrecked Jap plane and hand engraved by a friend in the service.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Oct 1943: 2.

PFC Marion H. Appel writes his mother, Mrs. Otto Appel of Winamac, that recently while in conversation with several other soldiers one of them mentioned that he had been a truck driver before entering the Marines and that on one of his trips he went through a small town in Indiana which he thought one of the prettiest he had ever been in. He described a parade they were having at the time, and on further questioning Marion found that he was talking about Winamac during the Centennial celebration five years ago.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Mar 1944: 2.

Pulaski County Youth Killed in Pacific Area

**Marion Apple, 22, Meets Death
While Fighting With U. S.
Marines Overseas**

WINAMAC, Ind.—Marion Apple, 22, of the Marines, has been killed in action in the Pacific war theatre, according to a war department telegram received by his mother, Mrs. Otto Apple, residing northwest of Winamac.

Mrs. Apple's last word from her son came on June 1. No date was given in the telegram, which stated that further details would follow.

He has been overseas for 18 months. He enlisted in the Marine corps on October 1, 1942.

He was born on May 7, 1922.

Surviving are the mother; two sisters, Mrs. Oliver Whybrew, of Pulaski county, and Miss Mary Apple, at home, and three brothers, Otto, Jr., Hilbert and Donald, all at home.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 21 Aug 1944: 5.



PVT. MARION APPEL

Pvt. Marion Appel, twenty-two years of age, is dead as the result of wounds received in fighting in the Pacific. The terse telegram from the War department, telling of her son's death, was received by Mrs. Otto Appel on Saturday, and gave no other information, except that he had been temporarily buried.

Pvt. Appel had been overseas eighteen months with the Raiders, a branch of the Marine Corps. He enlisted in the Marines October 1, 1942, and had been in the thick of the Pacific fighting after leaving the base in New Zealand. He was at Bougainville, but his letters for several months had been infrequent and did not disclose his location. The last letter received by the family was on June first.

Born in Gary, May 7, 1922, Marion came to the Winamac vicinity with his parents eleven years ago, and after completing school at Ripley assisted his father on the farm. After the death in 1940 of Mr. Appel, a veteran of World War No. 1, and overseas fourteen months, Marion remained at the family farm for a time, then went to Gary where he was employed at the time he enlisted.

Surviving besides the mother are sisters, Mrs. Katherine Whybrew and Mary Lou; brothers Hilbert, Donald and Otto, all at home; also the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Pugh of the Kewanna vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Aug 1944: 1.

Dead

**Pvt. 1-c Marion H. Appel,
22-year-old Marine of near
Ripley who died of wounds
suffered in an undisclosed
South Pacific action:**

Pvt. Appel was serving with a Marine Raider battalion when wounded. He was the son of Mrs. Otto K. Appel and had been overseas for 18 months.

Survivors include the mother, and the following brothers and sisters, Mrs. Oliver Whybrew, Otto Appel, Jr., Mary Lou Appel, Hilbert Appel, Donald Appel and a grandmother, Mrs. Joseph Pugh of Kewanna.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Mother of War Victim Receives Officer's Letter

Mrs. Otto Appel of the Winamac vicinity has received the following letter from the captain of the company of which her son Marion was serving when he suffered fatal injuries last July:

Dear Mrs. Appel:

This letter is written to express the deep sympathy of the officers and men of this company for you in the loss of your son, Private First Class Marion H. Appel. I realize that this letter is late, but we were not sure that you had been notified.

Your son was killed during an enemy night attack on July 22, 1944. It was the day after our landing on Guam. Marion was serving as a machine gunner when a Japanese hand grenade exploded near him, causing severe wounds. His buddies gave him first aid but were unable to save him and he died within a few minutes.

I had known Marion since he joined the battalion in December, 1942, and was his platoon leader for over a year. All of us who knew him will long remember him as a willing, intelligent Marine and a cheerful, loyal, brave comrade.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES N. PUTNAM,
Captain, USMCR.

An enclosed card stated that PFC Appel had been buried in the Army, Navy and Marine cemetery in Guam.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Feb 1945: 2.

Col. John Remaklum of Dayton, Ohio, spent a few days last week in the home of Mrs. Otto Appel, northwest of Winamac. Now at the hospital at Great Lakes for treatment, he was one of four men wounded at the time PFC Marion Appel was killed on Guam. Two other men of the gun crew were also killed. The visiting Marine, who was wounded again on Iwo Jima, said he and Marion were pals and had made a promise if only one got home he would visit the other's parents. The two Marines were together in New Zealand, Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Guam.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Aug 1945: 2.

Picture of Son's Grave

Mrs. Otto Appel received several pictures of the military cemetery on Guam where her son, Pvt. Marion Appel, lies. It was sent by a friend of her son who took the snapshots while stationed on the island. Marion's name shows distinctly on the cross.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Mar 1946: 8.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Orlando Bapst

According to the 1930 US Census, Orlando was one of sixteen children.

Born: 4/5/1922

Entered: 10/11/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35449196,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 7/24/1944

Parents: Philip William and Margaret Ophellia Offenbaker Bapst

On 24 July 1944, Orlando Bapst, 22, died leading his squad against the Germans. He is recorded to have entered from Pulaski County, Indiana, but his life appears to begin and end in Ohio. He was buried in Beaver, OH.



Washington Court House (OH) Record-Herald 15 Jun 1945: 3. Website (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Robert Lee “Bobby” Baske

Bobby was the first Winamac boy to be killed in the war.

Born: 4/24/1925

Entered: 9/2/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35893764,CPL

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 8/2/1944

Parents: Harry Chester and Irene Emma Bracher Baske

On 2 August 1944, Bobby Baske, 19, was killed in action in France. He served 11 months in the infantry, including 4 months in the European war zone and D-Day. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a resident of Winamac. He is buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.



Pvt. Robert L. Baske, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baske of Winamac, in the Infantry.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Dec 1943: 1.

Robert Baske, in 'Missing' List Last Week, Reported Dead

Cpl. Robert Baske, well known lad whose energy and pleasant demeanor had endeared himself to friends and acquaintances here in his native town, is the first actual resident of Winamac to make the supreme sacrifice in the European war.

Word came early last week to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baske, that he was "missing in action." This message was followed by another one Sunday reporting that he had been killed.

Only nineteen years of age, and a graduate of the Winamac high school in the class of 1943, Robert gave up his budding business as a photographer in September of last year to answer the Army's call. He completed his basic training in March of this year at Fort McClellan, Ala., meantime winning promotion to corporal in an infantry company. His outfit went to Ireland for further training in April, was later transferred to England, then went to the scene of action in France during June or July.

The young man was born in Winamac on April 24, 1925, and spent all of his life here until entering service. Besides the parents he leaves a brother and sister, Dick and Alma Jean.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 31 Aug 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert E. "Bob" Fahler

Bob was one of three Star City fatalities honored with a memorial flagpole at the Star City school.

Born: 7/21/1925

Entered: 12/20/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35899874,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 8/6/1944

Parents: William Edward "Ed" and Amy Fern Thomas Fahler

On 6 August 1944, Bob Fahler, 19, was killed in action in France. He served 8 months, including 2 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a lifelong resident of Star City. He was buried in Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie Saint Martin, France.



Veterans of Pulaski County.

Robert Fahler War Victim

**Pulaski County Youth in Army Re-
ported Killed in France on
August 6.**

WINAMAC, Ind., Aug. 29—Pvt. Robert Fahler, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fahler, of a mile north of Star City, was killed in France on August 6, according to a War department message received by the parents.

Private Fahler entered the service last December and had been overseas since June, going to France last month. The last letter the parents received from him was written in France on July 25. He had his training in Alabama and Maryland.

Born July 21, 1925, in Star City, he attended the Star City high school and was a member of the Christian church there. He was employed at the Strong dairy here before entering the service. The parents are the only survivors.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 29 Aug 1944: 7.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

War Memorial Is Dedicated At Star City

**Stone and Court Are
Erected as Tribute to
Servicemen of Community**

(By Mrs. C. L. Reed)

The dedication of the Star City War Memorial Court, in connection with the Memorial Day program Sunday afternoon, was an impressive event. The memorial embraces the area on the school grounds between the school building and the gymnasium. The main feature of the court is a native boulder set far back into the enclosure. A bronze tablet on the stone carries this inscription:

"In honor of the men and women who left the Star City community to serve their country in World War II and in memory of the three who gave their lives.

Robert E. Fahler, Inf.
David L. Jones, Navy
Richard B. Reed, A.A.F.

They fought for Peace with Honor."

A long narrow cement walk connects the boulder part of the memorial to a circular base for the 60-ft. flag pole. On three sides of this are curved benches of Bedford stone, each with a gold star for the three young men who gave their lives. Shrubs and plants next to the buildings add beauty along the sides and front. The space behind the boulder forms a stage, and laurel and flower boxes outline the front of the area.

Honored at Services.

This was the setting for the services Sunday afternoon. American flags on standards and potted red geraniums around the flag pole made up the decorations. Music was furnished by the Star City band and a male trio.

The Rev. O. B. Davis gave the Memorial Day address, and the Rev. John Paul Jones, formerly of Star City, gave the dedication talk. A folded flag lay on each stone bench until being presented to the families of the deceased veterans by former members of the same branches of service—Darwin Sayers, A.A.F.; Roger Lincoln, Navy, and George Hoesel, infantry. Mrs. Clark Reed placed the wreath on the memorial.

The War Memorial committee was made up of representatives of each community organization, including churches and school, and the construction was financed with subscriptions by interested groups. Suitable plantings will be made from time to time. The committee consisted of Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Mauf Wirick, Mrs. Frank Stephens, Floyd Knebel and Dwight Surber. In charge of the Memorial program this year and dedicatory services were Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Sylvia Geier, Mrs. Tom Densborn and Mrs. Fred Cords.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Jun 1948: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Chester Norbert "C.N." Czuchalski

C.N. was granted leave to sit for his bar exam.

Born: 5/31/1918

Entered: 5/28/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36666142,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 8/12/1944

Parents: Lawrence Edwin and Janina Margarita Smielewski Czuchalski

On 12 August 1944, "C.N." Czuchalski, 26, was killed in action in France. He served 15 months, including in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He had a cousin in Pulaski County. He was buried in the Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, IL.



Chicago (IL) Tribune 11 Jul 1943: 127.

Webpage (newspapers.com).



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 19 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Howard Francis Jordan

In a letter to his momma a week before his death, Howard wrote that the phase of the war was “serious business”.

Born: 1/1/1914

Entered: 1/11/1944

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35901240,PVT

Died: 8/18/1944

Spouse: Virginia Faye Hazelgrove Jordan

Parents: Maude Ethel Casey (George Mount[deceased]) Jordan (Philip) Bergdolt

On 18 August 1944, Howard Jordan, 30, initially reported as wounded, was killed in action in France. He served 8 months, including 1 month in the European war zone. Until adolescence, he lived in Pulaski County. He was buried in the cemetery in Remington. He was married with four children.

Casualty Message Tells of Death Of Howard Jordan

Details were received this week concerning the death of Pvt. Howard Francis Jordan, son of Mrs. Philip Bergdolt, living south of Winamac on the White county line, who was killed in action in France on August 18.

Pvt. Jordan's wife, who lives in Gary, received a telegram from the War Department on September 1, stating that he had been wounded on August 18. Another message on September 7 revealed that he had been killed in action on that date.

In his last letter to his mother, written August 11, he stated that he had arrived in France and that the phase of the war there was “serious business.” Pvt. Jordan entered service on January 4 of this year and was in the infantry. He only had been overseas since July.

Father of Four Children.

Thirty years of age, Jordan was born January 1, 1914, in Beaver township. During his early school years he attended a country school in Beaver township and Pulaski school. After the family moved to White county, he attended Royal Center high school. Before entering the Army, he was employed in the Gary steel mills.

Survivors, besides his mother and wife, include four children—Howard Jr., six; Jean, five; Ruth, two; and Sharen, born July 9, whom he never had seen; two brothers — Cpl. George, now in France; Alfred of Beaver township; a sister, Mrs. Edna Cartmell of the Monticello vicinity. His father died in 1918.

Services To Be Sunday

The remains of Pvt. Howard F. Jordan, formerly a resident of Beaver township, are to reach here Friday noon and will be taken to the Kennedy funeral home, where final rites will be held Sunday afternoon at one o'clock.

Born Jan. 1, 1914, he attended school in Beaver township and Pulaski, then took employment at Gary. He entered the Army from there early in 1944, just after his thirtieth birthday; was sent to Europe in July of that year, and was killed in action the next month—Aug. 8, 1944.

The soldier's mother, Mrs. Philip Bergdolt, lives south of Winamac on the White county line. His widow is a resident of Hobart. He was the father of four children, the youngest of whom was born after he entered service. Alfred Jordan of Beaver township is a brother; there is one other brother, George, and a sister, Mrs. Etna Cartnell of Monticello.

Mothers of World War II are to hold a memorial service at the Kennedy chapel Friday evening.



PVT. HOWARD F. JORDAN.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 1.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1949: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Foster D. Vogel

Foster's momma got a letter from him a week before his death. His momma and Albert Ross's momma were sisters, as well as both Gold Star Mothers.

Born: 9/25/1913

Entered: 10/2/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35895974,CPL

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 8/30/1944

Spouse: Hilda Houghton Vogel

Parents: Eva L. Demos (Martin L.[deceased]) Vogel

On 30 August 1944, Foster Vogel, 30, was killed in action in Bretagne, France. He served 11 months, including 3 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He lived most of his life in Monterey. Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie Saint Martin, France. He was married.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 May 1944: 1.

PFC Foster Vogel Of Monterey Killed In France August 30

The death of PFC Foster D. Vogel of Monterey was announced in a telegram from the War Department received last week end by his wife, who lives in Culver. The message stated that he had

been killed in action in France on August 30. He was a son of Mrs. Martin Vogel of the Monterey vicinity.

Thirty years of age, PFC Vogel entered the service a year ago next month, completing his basic training in March of this year at Camp Blanding, Fla. He arrived in England the latter part of June and in France the middle of July. A letter written to his mother on August 23, a week before his death, stated he had seen action then.

Cousin Killed in April.

He was born in the Monterey vicinity and spent most of his life there. He was married to Miss Hilda Houghton of Culver in November of 1936. A first cousin of PFC Vogel's, Lt. Albert Ross Jr. of Monterey, was killed last April. Surviving Foster, besides his wife and mother, are a brother Hubert of Gary and sister Mary Jane Zechel of Monterey.



PFC FOSTER D. VOGEL

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Charles Harvie Hill

Charles left a wife and two children, aged 4 years and 18 months.

Born: 8/20/1915

Entered: 2/1/1944

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35243921,PVT

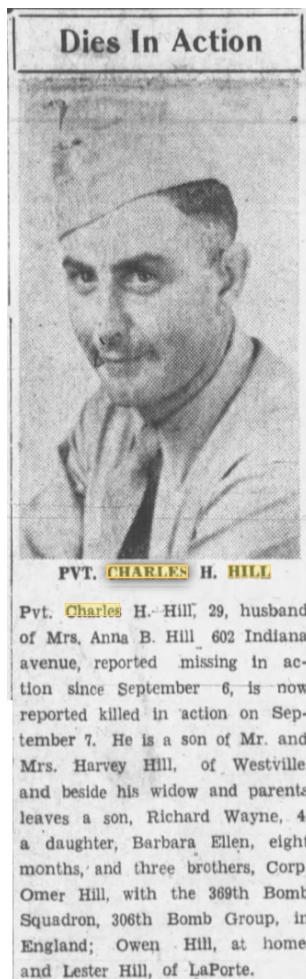
Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 9/7/1944

Spouse: Annabelle Bochtler Hill

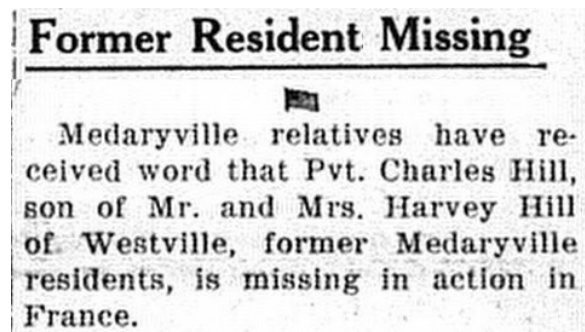
Parents: Harvie Sharp and Lena Smith Hill

On 7 September 1944, Charles Hill, 29, reported missing in action the previous day, was reported killed in action in France. He served 7 months, including 2 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was formerly from Medaryville. He was buried in Westville. He was married with two children.

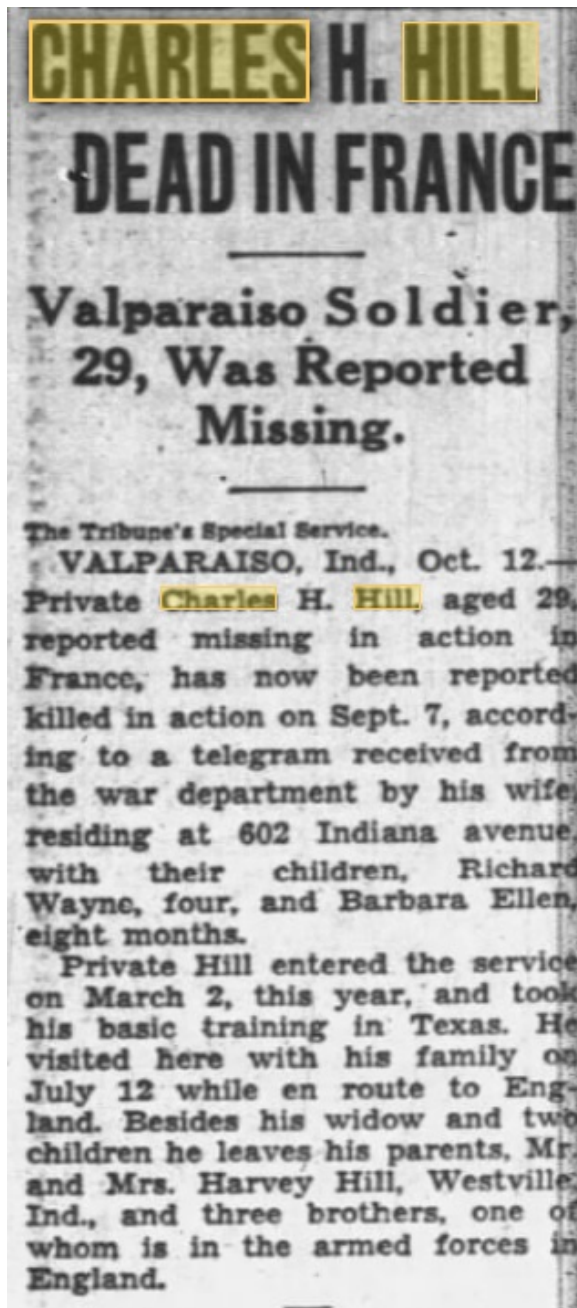


(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger of Porter County 17 Oct 1944:

1. Webpage (newspapers.com)



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Oct 1944: 1.



South Bend (IN) Tribune 12 Oct 1944: 30.

Webpage (newspapers.com)

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Lester Earl Okeley

Lester wrote his folks 3 days before he was declared missing in action and declared killed in action another 4 days later.

Born: 6/28/1920

Entered: 12/16/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35574714,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 9/10/1944

Parents: Chester Lee "Lee" and Josephine "Josie" Galaskey Okeley Sr.,

On 10 September 1944, Lester Okeley, 24, after being reported missing in action, was killed in action in France. He served 22 months, including 3 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was formerly from Denham. He was buried in Highland Cemetery in North Judson.



LESTER OKELEY.
Entered service December 23, 1942.
Embarkation June 30, 1944.
Killed in France on September 10, 1944.

Lester Okeley (Collection of Melinda Okeley) -

[ancestry.com/mediaui-](https://ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/177789918/person/182312404817/media/f0e3b2f4-caf8-44ac-b4a5-b0fb5360e9f2)

[viewer/collection/1030/tree/177789918/person/182312404817/](https://ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/177789918/person/182312404817/media/f0e3b2f4-caf8-44ac-b4a5-b0fb5360e9f2)

[media/f0e3b2f4-caf8-44ac-b4a5-b0fb5360e9f2](https://ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/177789918/person/182312404817/media/f0e3b2f4-caf8-44ac-b4a5-b0fb5360e9f2)

Former Resident Missing

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Okeley of North Judson, formerly of Denham, received a telegram last week from the War Department stating that their son, PFC Lester Okeley, has been missing in action in France since September 6. They received a letter from him the day before the telegram arrived, dated September 3, in which he said he was on the move and had little time to write. He has been overseas since July of this year.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Oct 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

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Mr. and Mrs. Lee Okeley of the Denham vicinity received a telegram from the War Department last Thursday afternoon stating that their son, PFC Lester Okeley, was killed in action on September 10. He was twenty-four years of age.

On September 20, Mrs. Okeley received a letter dated September 3, and that afternoon she was notified that Lester had been missing in action since September 6. In the infantry, he had been in service for two years, and had been overseas since July.

Mr. and Mrs. Okeley have two other sons in the Army — Pvt. Claude, in England, and PFC Chester, in the Netherlands, East Indies.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 Jan 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Harold Leroy McWherter

Harold died three months after incurring a head wound.

Born: 3/11/1911

Entered: 9/16/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35371854,CPL or T/5

Died: 9/16/1944

Spouse: Forest Genevieve Vanaman (Harold Leroy[deceased]) McWherter (Harry) Conn

Parents: Wilson Derrick (Clara Esther Ware[deceased])

On 16 September 1944, Harold McWherter, 33, died of head injuries sustained on June 17 in Hollondia, New Guinea, after expecting his return home after a hospital stay. He served 24 months, including 17 months in the Pacific war zone. He spent his childhood in Winamac. He was buried in Winamac Cemetery. He was married.



Pvt. Harold McWherter in the engineering Corps, son of Wilson McWherter. His wife is the former Miss Forrest Vanaman.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Apr 1943: 1.

Pvt. Harold McWherter stated in a letter received recently by his wife that he is recovering from a serious head injury sustained June 17. He is still confined to a hospital in New Guinea but the injury is healing and he is feeling better, he said. Mrs. McWherter is living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Vanaman of Franklin township.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 1.

Pulaski Man Reported Dead

Harold McWherter, Previously Reported Wounded, Dies in New Guinea.

WINAMAC, Ind., Sept. 26—Harold McWherter, 30, of near Winamac, an army engineer stationed in New Guinea, died Sept. 16, according to a War Department message received yesterday by his wife, Mrs. Forrest McWherter, who resides northeast of here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Vanaman.

Mrs. McWherter had received word sometime ago that her husband, who operated a bulldozer, had been wounded on June 17, but she does not know if that was the cause of his death.

She had received several letters from him since he was wounded, the last one stating that he would soon be on his way home.

Surviving besides the widow are his father and a brother.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 26 Sep 1944: 1.

Harold McWherter Dies of Injuries In South Pacific

Mrs. Forrest McWherter of Winamac received a telegram from the War Department Monday stating that her husband, Cpl. Harold McWherter, had died on September 16. He was stationed at Hollandia



CPL. HAROLD McWHERTER

in New Guinea, where he had been confined to a hospital since June 17 because of a head injury.

The same day Mrs. McWherter received the telegram a letter arrived from her husband stating he had been released and that he expected to start home soon. It was written on August 30.

In Action Two Years.

In the engineering corps, Cpl. McWherter had been in the Southwest Pacific action for more than two years. He was born March 11, 1911, a son of Wilson McWherter, formerly of Winamac and now living in Michigan. A brother Lester lives southeast of Winamac.

His marriage to Miss Forrest Vanaman took place September 15, 1935, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Vanaman of Franklin township, where she is now living. They have no children.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Roy Thomas Hyatte

Roy was farming with his dad before he was called into service.

Born: 8/7/1923

Entered: 3/31/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35138508,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 9/18/1944

Parents: Abraham Jonathan "Jack" and Edith Minnie Berg Hyatt

On 18 September 1944, Roy Hyatte, 21, was killed in action in Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served for 18 months, including in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was from Francesville. He was buried in the Florence American Cemetery in Impruneta, Italy.



Roy Hyatte (Collection of Ilaine Church) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/21909622/person/1152109859/media/1475bba2-3ebc-4102-8afd-8d639ef84c80

County Boy Dies In Action

Pfc. Roy Hyatte, 21 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Hyatte of Beaver township, was killed in action on September 18, according to a War Department telegram to his parents. The family had lived north of Winamac on route 3 until recently when they moved to another farm on Francesville, R. R. 2 in Beaver township.

Pfc. Hyatte was the youngest of a family of three sons and had been fighting in Italy. He entered the service in March, 1943. Pfc. Hyatte was working with his father as a farmer before he was called to the service. The eldest brother, Ira Hyatte, is at home while a third brother is also in the service.

Winamac (IN) Republican 5 Oct 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Alvin Frederick Copeland

Alvin had eight sisters as well as a brother named Shirley!

Born: 7/29/1910

Entered: 3/23/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35044743,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 9/27/1944

Parents: Elwood and Mary Taylor Copeland

On 27 September 1944, Alvin Copeland, 34, was killed in action near Nymegen, Holland. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 30 months, including in the European war zone. He was a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. He was buried at Bruce Lake Cemetery in Kewanna.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Jul 1943: 1.

Monterey Soldier Is Mentioned in Time Magazine

A recent issue of Time magazine, in telling about the war in Italy, mentions the name of Cpl. Alvin Copeland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Copeland of the Monterey vicinity. He was one of three enlisted men with Lt. Col. Edwin Stephenson when they saw a German tank running down the road, headed for them.

As Time reports it, "The Colonel said: 'Boys, let's stay.'

"'Yes, sir,' they said. They and the Colonel crawled into a ditch by the road, fired when the tank was ten feet away. The tank began smoking and the German crew started to climb from the turret. Colonel Stephenson said: 'My men cut them down one by one with rifles as they climbed out.'"

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 21 Oct 1943: 1.

Paratrooper From County Killed in Action

**Pvt. Alvin Copeland of
Tippecanoe Township
Is Holland Casualty**

A telegram from the War Department Wednesday notified relatives of the death of Pvt. Alvin Copeland, which occurred in action in Holland on September 27. The message came to the soldier's brother, Shirley Copeland of Winamac because of the advanced age of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Copeland of Tippecanoe township. The message stated a letter would follow.

Pvt. Copeland entered the Holland campaign with the paratroopers and it is assumed he was with the trapped division which suffered heavy casualties. He recently told in a letter of going with the glider troops to France. He was in the Sicilian campaign, and had seen service also in Ireland and Africa during his more than two and a half years in the Army. He was inducted March 23, 1942.

Dies in Holland



PVT. ALVIN COPELAND

A native of the Monterey vicinity, Pvt. Copeland was thirty-four years of age last July 10. He spent his entire life in the vicinity of his birth, farming until a year or so before entering service, when he took employment at the Kingsbury ordnance plant. He never married.

Surviving, besides the aged parents and brother Shirley, are eight sisters—Mrs. Minnie Staley of Hammond, Mrs. Iva Vinson of Knox, Mrs. Rose Sheane of Chicago, Mrs. Anzy Rasmussen, of Indianapolis, Mrs. Amanda Wentzel of Lake Bruce, Mrs. Madeline Gilchrist of Detroit, Mrs. Grace Wright of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Peggy Fout at home.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

County Soldier Dies In Holland

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Copeland of Monterey, received word yesterday that their son, Alvin F. Copeland, 34 years old, was killed in action Sept. 27 in Holland. He was a brother of Shirley Copeland of Winamac.

Pvt. Copeland, a native of Pulaski county, spent most of his life in Tippecanoe township. He attended Monterey schools and entered military service in March, 1942.

The War Department telegram did not give details of his death.

Survivors besides the parents and brother are eight sisters: Mrs. Minnie Staley of Hammond; Mrs. Ivy Vinson of Knox; Mrs. Rose Sheane of Chicago; Mrs. Grace Wright of Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Anzy Rasmussen of Indianapolis; Mrs. Peggy Fouts at home; Mrs. Amanda Wentzel of Lake Bruce vicinity, and Mrs. Madeline Gilcrest of Detroit, Mich.

Winamac (IN) Republican 12 Oct 1944: 1.

Parents Receive Letter from Son's Chaplain

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Copeland of the Monterey vicinity received a letter last week from the chaplain of their son's unit, parts of which follow.

My dear Mrs. Copeland:

In the season of sorrow occasioned by the death of your son Alvin, killed in action in Holland on September 27, 1944, may I extend to you my deep sympathy. I was his chaplain, and I assure you that your loss and sorrow is also our loss and sorrow. The officers and the enlisted men of the division join me in this expression of sincere sympathy. Your son was a part of the 82nd Airborne division. We miss him even as you do. We are proud to have had him with us.

To the 82nd Airborne division he rendered needed service in battle. To the last fatal moment he was a dependable and efficient soldier. PFC Copeland was cheerful even under adverse condition; his friendliness was sincere—in combat he was one of the best liked soldiers in the battalion. He was proficient in the service to which he was assigned and he was courageous in the discharge of duty.

His body was buried in an American cemetery in Holland, a chaplain of his own religious faith conducting the final rites. At some later date the War Department will notify you of the location of the grave.

Now that Alvin has been transferred to "that land from whose bourne no traveller returns," I pray that the Supreme Commander, our Father in heaven, will grant unto him joy and peace more than we can ask or think; and, unto you, the grace of His comfort and strength.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. REID
Chaplain, 82nd Abn. Div. Arty.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Apr 1945: 2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Woodrow Ralph “Woody” Steenstrup

Woodrow died on his birthday.

Born: 9/30/1918

Entered: 11/2/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,908572,PFC

Died: 9/30/1944

Spouse: Marion Hansen Steenstrup

Parents: Ralph and Lillian _ Steenstrup

On 30 September 1944, Woodrow Steenstrup, 25, was killed in action on Peleliu Island within the Palau Islands. He served 5 months, including in the Pacific war zone. He was married to a former Winamac girl. He was buried in Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, IL. He was married with one child.



Woodrow Steenstrup, Dec 1937 (Collection of valminocqua) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/12166779/person/1646770104/media/4fede6b8-08fe-4739-84f8-957d33ab3857/



Woodrow Steenstrup, 19 Nov 1943. vetrecs.archives.gov

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Pfc. Woodrow Steenstrup, husband of the former Marian Hansen of Winamac, now living in Elgin, Ill.

Pfc. Steenstrup was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific fighting while serving as a gunner on a landing barge. His widow, the former Marian Hansen, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hansen, formerly Winamac residents now living in Elgin, Ill.

Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Oct 1944: 1.



Woody's grave on Palaliu (Collection of valminocqua) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/12166779/person/1646770104/media/2f89b41a-9253-4900-a28e-9bdf76b51727.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Richard E. "Dick" Long

Dick had a son whom he never saw.

Born: 12/25/1916

Entered: 2/1/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35152636, O-1035087,CPT

Medal: Bronze Star

Died: 10/2/1944

Spouse: Maryalice Robbins Long

Parents: Curtis Edgar "John" and Maude Sanders Long

On 2 October 1944, Dick Long, 27, died of wounds received in action in Sansapor, Papua, Indonesia. He served 42 months, including 15 months in the Pacific war zone. His parents were former Winamac residents. He was buried in Logansport. He was married with a child.



Dick and Maryalice Long 11 Jan 1942 (Collection of jennifer long) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/5427974/person/-1454863186/media/63ac32ef-0c18-4afa-aa8c-6a147958c731

Husband of Former Resident Killed in Action

Mrs. **Richard E. Long**, of Kewanee, formerly Miss Mary Alice Robbins of this city, received word Saturday from the War Department, that her husband, Captain Long, had died of wounds received in action in the South Pacific on Oct. 2.

Mrs. Long is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Robbins, of Kewanee, who were residents here for several years while Mr. Robbins was ticket agent at the depot. She and her baby son, a year old, are making their home with her parents.

Culver (IN) Citizen 18 Oct 1944: 1. Webpage (newspapers.com).

Kewanna Captain Dies Of Wounds in New Guinea

Capt. Richard E. Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Long of Kewanna, died October 2 as a result of wounds suffered in action in New Guinea. His mother is the former Miss Maude Sanders of Winamac, and he is a grandson of Mrs. Cora Sanders of Merton, Ill., also a former Winamac resident.

In the chemical warfare service, Capt. Long was twenty-seven years of age. Besides the parents he is survived by his wife, the former Mary Alice Robbins of Kewanna, and son Richard E. Jr., eleven months old, whom he never saw.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Oct 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Walter John Paulsen

Walter was in the honor guard, welcoming Sgt. Alvin York to Camp Claiborne.

Born: 4/4/1913

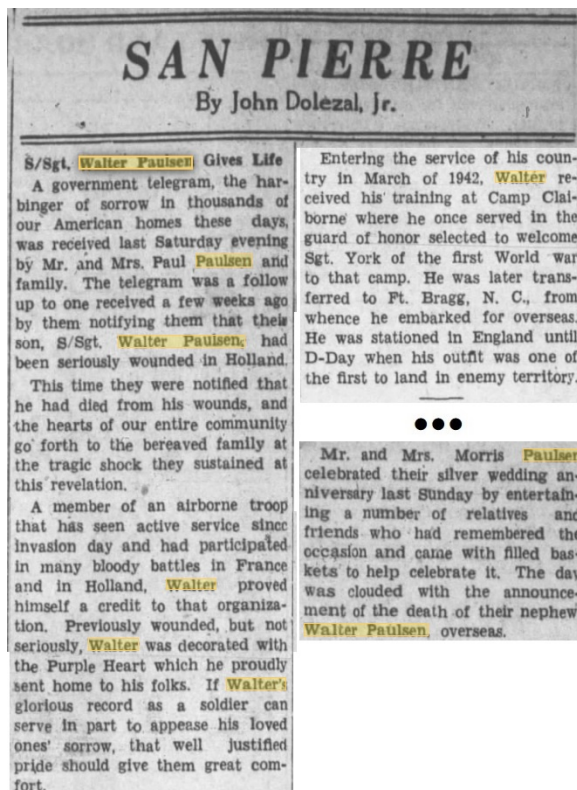
Branch,SN,Rank: 3/24/1942USA,35110894,SSGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/2/1944

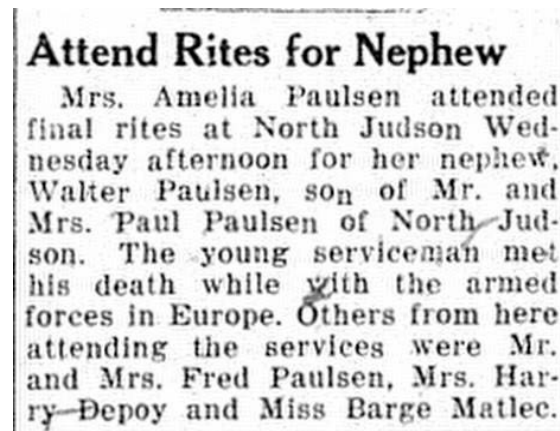
Parents: Paul C. and Anna B. Kalina Paulson

On 2 October 1944, Walter Paulsen, 31, died of wounds sustained in service in Holland. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 19 months. He had relatives in Winamac. He was buried in Highland Cemetery in North Judson.



(Valparaiso IN) Videtter-Messenger 14 Nov 1944: 8.

Webpage (newspapers.com).



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1949: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

William Gene “Billy Gene” Campbell (née Hobart Ward Dilks)

William was adopted after his mother died 13 months after his birth.

Born: 10/15/1922

Entered: 9/4/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,15331308,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/4/1944

Parents: Elza E. and Ethel Fleming Campbell(adoptive)

Henry Clifton (Ada May Biddle[deceased]) Dilks (biological)

On 4 October 1944, Billy Gene Campbell, 21, was killed in action in Germany. He had served 25 months, including in the European war zone. He worked in Rich Grove Twp. He was buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Liege, Belgium.

[viewer/collection/1030/tree/83502957/person/44486458179/media/1e7d2dda-63c7-49fd-89c8-49dbda7cac2c](#)



William Campbell (seated) (Collection of hoosierjo) - ancestry.com/mediaui-

Mrs. Lewis Lange of Rich Grove township received word this week that PFC William Campbell of Kokomo was killed in action in Germany on October 4. He was in a tank corps division. Twenty-two years of age, he worked on the Lange farm before he entered the service.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Lee “Bob” Fagner

Bob’s mother received a letter two days before his death, and he was able to meet with his brother in Italy four times earlier.

Born: 10/24/1924

Entered: 3/25/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35130505,SGT

Medal: Purple Heart

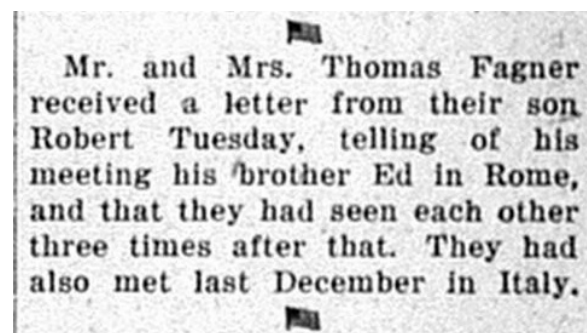
Died: 10/4/1944

Parents: Thomas Lee and Emma Dahl Fagner

On 4 October 1944, Bob Fagner, 20, died from wounds received in action in southern France. He served 18 months, including 12 months in the European war zone. He had previously been awarded the Purple Heart. His parents lived in Pulaski County. He was buried in the Epinal American Cemetery in Dinozé, France.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Jun 1944: 1.

Wounds Fatal to Sgt. Robert L. Fagner Of Jefferson Twp.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fagner of Jefferson township received word Sunday from the War department that their son, Sgt. Robert Lee Fagner, died on October 4 from wounds received in action in southern France. The young sergeant, who would have been twenty years of age had he lived until October 24, has served in Africa, Italy and France during a year overseas. He was in the infantry.

Sgt. Fagner was born near Fulton on October 24, 1924, but had spent most of his life in this vicinity. The family lived northeast of Winamac for a time, later moving to the farm west of town where they now live. Before entering service, he was engaged in farming and trucking. He attended Francesville high school, and entered service March 31, 1943.

Holder of Purple Heart.

The last letter received from Sgt. Fagner was written October 2, two days before his death. He said he was then in a rest camp for two or three days, but made no mention of having been wounded. It was received by his family last week. In January of this year he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Italy.

A brother, S/Sgt. Edward Fagner, who is at the Italian front, met Sgt. Fagner in Rome after its fall, and the brothers planned to meet in Paris at the first opportunity. They had previously met once in Italy when they were stationed but fifteen miles apart.

Surviving, besides the parents and brother Edward, are brothers, Sgt. Raymond Fagner in New Guinea; Richard and Wayne at home, Russell of Jefferson township; sisters, Mrs. Gladys Wittkamper of Hobart, Mrs. Viola Borgman of Chicago and Miss Marguerite Fagner of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Oct 1944: 1.

Soldier's Letter

How Robert L. Fagner was baptized before being killed in action in France October 4th is told in this revealing letter written to his brother.

Italy

Feb. 13, 1944

Dear Richard:

Just received forty letters of back mail, but old or new I still enjoy them. But best of all I received Christ as my Savior about five weeks ago. This is how it happened.

You see, I knew we were making a landing somewhere, but it didn't worry me much till we got aboard the ships and were on our way. Then I began to fear what would happen to me if I were to be killed and of the awful place where I would have to spend my life after death. I knew I was on the road to Hell and that if I didn't trust Him then and there it might be too late. You know that the Gospel had been preached to me many times. That fact bothered me a great deal too. As we came within three miles of this Anzio beach head I finally gave in and trusted and believed in Christ. He saved me, and I was baptized later in the Tyrrhenian sea. I know I'm saved for John 3:16, John 5:24 and many other scriptures tell me so.

I don't know what I would do without Him here. Only wonder why I didn't accept the Lord long ago for He certainly is a wonderful Savior to me.

Before I was saved I often wondered how the rest of you that were Christians at home could keep away from the evil things of the world and yet be so happy, but I can see it plainly now. Didn't think I could ever be like that and I wouldn't be had the Lord not saved me.

The Bible is a constant comfort and a means of courage and strength in this awful war. I wish the Christians back home would pray that this war cease. It will end when the Christians have had enough. God is able to put to naught the wisdom of men and bring this slaughter to a close—Trust Him to do so.

Please send me tracts—that I may better understand and lead others to Christ. Many of the boys are reading their Bibles, but do not know Him, whom to know is life eternal. Pray that I may lead many to a saving knowledge of the Lord. So many are lost and life is so uncertain here.

Pray that I may come through these battles in safety so that I can come home, and be a witness for Him there. If that is not His will I'll see you in Heaven some day.

Love in Christ,
ROBERT.

Winamac (IN) Republican 2 Nov 1944: 6.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Harry Watson

Harry described his platoon's attack on a German position.

Born: 4/25/1924

Entered: 3/25/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35654899,SGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/4/1944

Parents: Rawleigh and Stella Jackson Watson

On 4 October 1944, Harry Watson, 20, was killed in action in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served for over 28 months, including 13 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His parents lived in Rich Grove township. He was buried in Raleigh Watson Cemetery in Carver, KY.



Harry Watson (Collection of Dylan Hayn) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/106669142/person/340052830419/media/830e8bf3-7fb8-4461-8984-3bb3ab6a8041

Ordered to capture 2,000 yards of a wooded area, 3rd Division troops ploughed through mud four inches deep to do the job according to an army correspondent.

Sgt. Harry Watson of Winamac, a machine-gun leader, described the action this way.

"We were shivering and soaked but we knew the Krauts were too. A strong-point was ahead. So someone said to yell and keep shooting.

"I heard one guy yell 'Hi ho, Silver, away.' Before we knew it, it was all over."

Results of the action showed a command post wiped out along with one field officer and 34 Germans captured.

Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Oct 1944: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Rawleigh Watson of Rich Grove township received word this week that their son, Sgt. Harry Watson, was killed in action in France on October 4. Twenty years old, Sgt. Watson had been overseas since September of 1942.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Nov 1944: 1.

Action With Seventh Army in France Told by Winamac Sergeant Now Listed as Killed in Battle

(Editor's Note—Since the following dispatch reached The Democrat, word of Sgt. Harry Watson's death has reached his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rawleigh Watson of Rich Grove township.)

By Pvt. Macy I. Broide.

WITH THE 3RD DIVISION OF THE SEVENTH ARMY, France—

It takes more than bad weather to hold up the American infantry, as a group German prisoners taken on a recent Yank drive learned to their regret.

The 3rd Division doughboys were recently ordered to take 2,000 yards of difficult wooded area for future use, just when the terrain was covered with a layer of mud four inches deep and the air was cold and damp.

"Jerries," said Sgt. Julian Bousard of Youngsville, La., "were sleeping only 100 yards from where we started. We jerked the Krauts out of their holes and kept shoving them to the rear. A total of twelve prisoners were taken on the first attack."

This only whetted the appetite of the men led by T/Sgt. Sorrell Holder of Bay Springs, Miss. They bypassed pockets and uncovered a platoon of enemy mortars set up and ready—except for the men.

The attack hadn't moved along far before the outfit ran into a well-defended house. "About a hundred rounds from my squad," said Sgt. Garvice McCallum of Bernice, La., "did the trick."

The haul described by two of the gunners, PFC Harold Keller of Pittsburgh, Pa., and PFC Robert Stennard of Staten Island, N. Y., included one flak wagon, several snipers killed, the surrender of the strong-point. "This," said PFC Keller, "came after one of

the Kraut officers fished out a bed sheet and waved it. We found four dead and took twelve more prisoners at the house."

Still, the tired, unshaven and shivering Yanks probed forward and finally climaxed the job by taking a strong-point farther ahead.

Sgt. Harry Watson of Winamac, a machine-gun squad leader, told the story this way.

"We were shivering and soaked but we knew the Krauts were too. A strong-point was ahead. Someone said to yell and keep shooting."

"Everybody just got up and kept going, blazing away and screaming. I heard one guy yell 'Hi ho, Silver, away!' They hollered everything. The Jerries must have thought it was an Army. Bullets splattered mud all over, but we must have scared most of them."

"Before we knew it, it was all over."

Results showed up in the prisoner toll from this last objective. Still the men weren't dry. They huddled around small gasoline-wood blazes while the rain continued.

"Those Americans," exclaimed one German prisoner taken in the attack, "were crazy. They would just holler and shoot, holler and shoot. They're crazy!"

Cpl. Vyrone Drake of Seminole, Okla., who saw it from the Yank side, described "tired, wet, weary GIs standing and yelling and going after the Jerries just like the movie versions."

The total result of the action: The best part of a Kraut battalion was pocketed, killed or captured; a command post was polished off; Hitler's books, along with one field officer and thirty-four men, who found their way into the cage of the 30th Infantry Regiment.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 Nov 1944: 8.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Paul Eugene Crowe

Paul had written two weeks before that he had seen little action.

Born: 4/14/1921

Entered: 7/3/1942

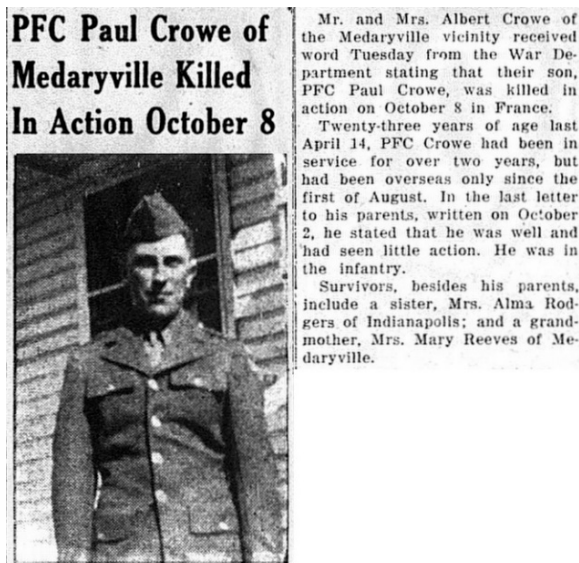
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35359156,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/8/1944

Parents: Albert W. and Goldie Geneva Reeves Crowe

On 8 October 1944, Paul Crowe, 23, was killed in action in France. He served 25 months, including one month in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. He was buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Lorraine, France.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

William Herbert “Bill” Strickler

William married, for the second time, six months before his death.

Born: 2/12/1907

Entered: 6/7/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35356583,SGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/14/1944

Spouse: Ruby Maxine Jones Strickler

Parents: Mrs. Edna Anna Foster (George Vasco[deceased]) Strickler

On 14 October 1944, Bill Strickler, 37, was killed in action in Europe. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 28 months, including in the European war zone. He was a resident of Pulaski County at the time of his enlistment. He was buried in Epinal American Cemetery in Lorraine, France. He was married.

(There is no mention of his death in either the *Pulaski County (IN) Democrat* or the *Winamac (IN) Republican*.)



Bill Strickler (Collection of Ivor Foster) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/166038462/person/162159457667/media/dc94cedb-c423-49d4-9452-0e4964f3dadd.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Raymond Lewis Hartle

Raymond's commanding officer wrote a heartfelt letter about his last moments.

Born: 4/23/1925

Entered: 10/19/1942

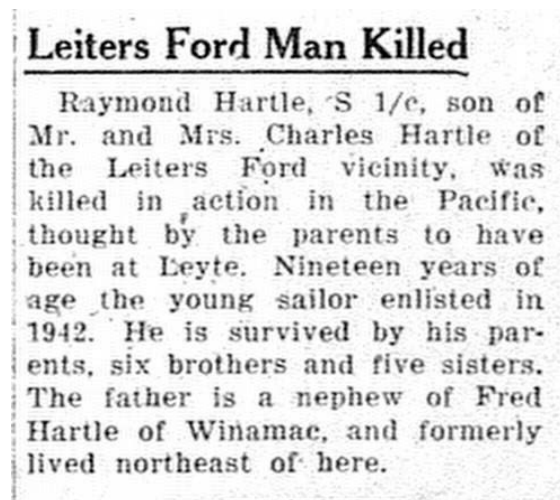
Branch,SN,Rank: USNR,6273606,S1c

Medal: Purple Heart

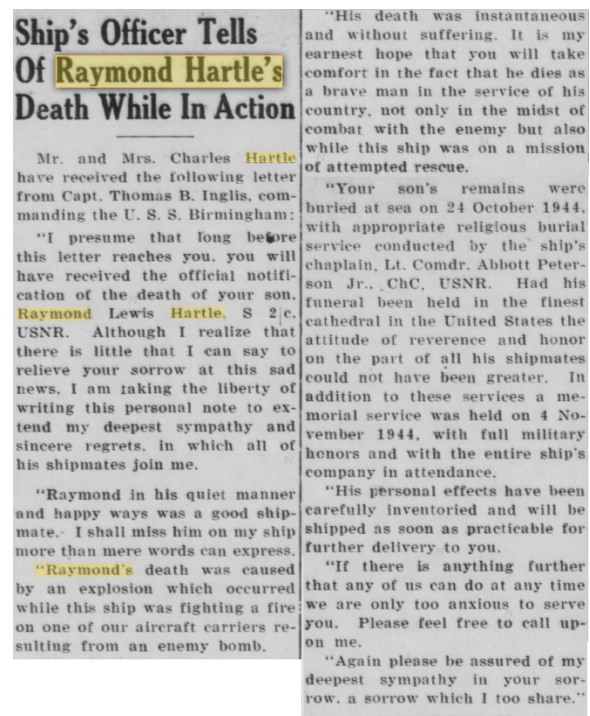
Died: 10/24/1944

Parents: Charles Lewis and Clara Elizabeth Kepfer Hartle

On 24 October 1944, Raymond Hartle, 19, was killed in action (lost at sea) in the Pacific while fighting a fire on an adjacent ship resulting from an enemy bomb. (This was likely the last and largest naval Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.) He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 24 months, including in the Pacific war zone. His father lived in Pulaski County. He was memorialized at the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines, and in the IOOF Cemetery in Leiters Ford.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Nov 1944: 1.



Culver (IN) Citizen 6 Dec 1944: 4. Webpage (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Harry Alfred Kocher

Harry had a daughter he never saw.

Born: 6/21/1908

Entered: 2/26/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USNR,6262132,PO1c

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 10/25/1944

Spouse: Margaret Katherine "Pegge" McLaughlin Kocher

Parents: Alfred Emanuel and Mary Magdalena "Mamie" Keller Kocher

On 25 October 1944, Harry Kocher, 36, was killed in action on the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Suwanee, in the Philippines. (This was likely the last and largest naval Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines.) He served 33 months, including in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a lifelong resident of Winamac. He was buried at sea and memorialized at the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines. He was married with one child.

Miss Pegge McLaughlin Becomes Bride of Harry Kocher in Virginia



PETTY OFFICER AND MRS. HARRY KOCHER

The marriage of Miss Pegge McLaughlin and Petty Officer Harry Kocher was solemnized last Thursday evening at eight o'clock at the rectory of St. Vincent's church in Hampton, Va. The Rev. Father Dill read the ceremony.

The bride is a daughter of Mrs. Olive McLaughlin of Winamac, and was employed in Kruger's grocery in Winamac until leaving for Virginia last week. The groom is

the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kocher of Winamac. He graduated from the Winamac high school in 1926 and was associated with his father and brother Arthur in the Kocher Wholesale Beverage Co. previous to enlisting in the navy last February.

Mr. and Mrs. Kocher will live in Hampton until Mr. Kocher resumes duty on an aircraft carrier, which is being refitted for service there.

A happy meeting of two brothers who had not met for more than a year took place last week somewhere overseas when Petty Officer 1-c Harry Kocher and Petty Officer 3-c Arthur Kocher met, and spent the day together. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kocher of Winamac.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 25 Aug 1943: 10.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Oct 1942: 1.

CAN YOU IMAGINE SUCH A MEETING

Suppose you are a member of the Navy, had spent more than a year on active duty, most of that time actually at sea. Your ship puts in at an unnamed Pacific port, 7,000 miles from home. You go ashore. The first man you see is your bewhiskered kid brother. Are you surprised? Did Harry and Arthur Koche~~r~~ celebrate? According to Harry's letter they sure did.

Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Aug 1943: 1.

Brothers Meet in Pacific

Precisely a year to the day after their last meeting, two Winamac brothers were recently able to visit with each other for a few hours on an island in the Pacific. They are AMM 2/c Arthur Koche~~r~~, stationed on the island, and SC 1/c Harry Koche~~r~~, assigned to a vessel which called there. Word of the meeting came this week to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Koche~~r~~.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 31 Aug 1944: 1.

Prominent Winamac Man Killed in Action

Message Sunday Reveals
Death of Harry Koche~~r~~
In Southwest Pacific

Harry A. Koche~~r~~, S.C. 1/c, well known Winamac young man, has been killed in action in the Pacific war theatre. This was the word received Sunday from the Navy department by his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Koche~~r~~, all of Winamac. The news came as a sudden shock to the community, where Harry had spent his entire life and where he was known by a host of friends.

Thirty-six years of age, Petty Officer Koche~~r~~ had enlisted in the Navy in February of 1942. He was born June 21, 1908, and graduated from Winamac high school in 1926. Prior to his enlistment, he was associated with his father and brother in the Koche~~r~~ Wholesale Beverage Co.

On September 24, 1942, he was married to Miss Pegge McLaughlin. Soon after that he was as-

Navy Victim



S.C. 1/c HARRY A. KOCHER

signed to an aircraft carrier, and had been on duty in the Pacific for some months. The official notification did not disclose the date nor place of his death.

Surviving, besides the parents and wife, are a daughter, Jane, five months old, and two brothers—William, at home, and Arthur, in the Navy and now stationed at Great Lakes for medical treatment.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Nov 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Henry J. “Heine” Hockelberg, Jr

After surviving D-Day and then contracting tuberculosis in France, Heine was moved to a hospital in New Mexico, where he died.

Born: 9/17/1912

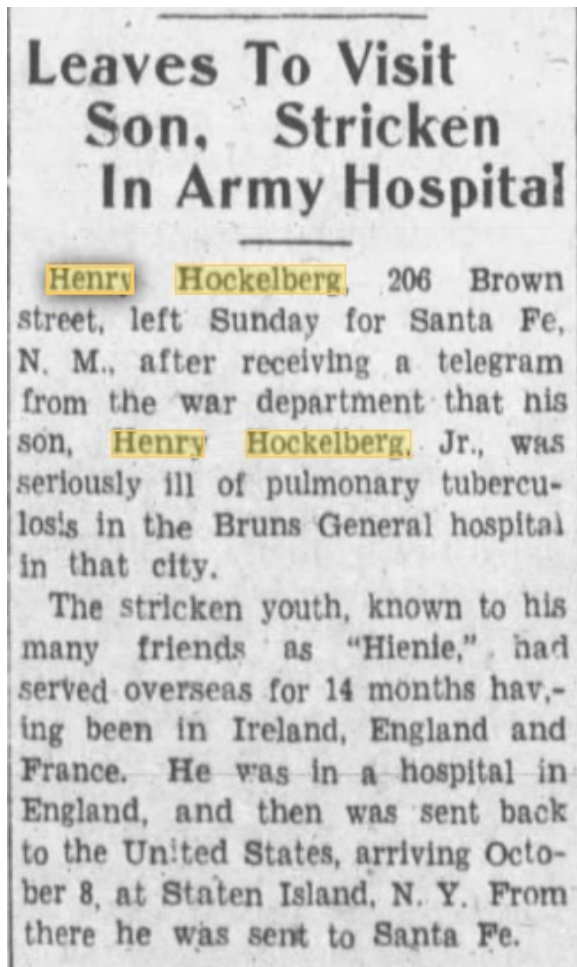
Entered: 6/28/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35162972,T5

Died: 11/7/1944

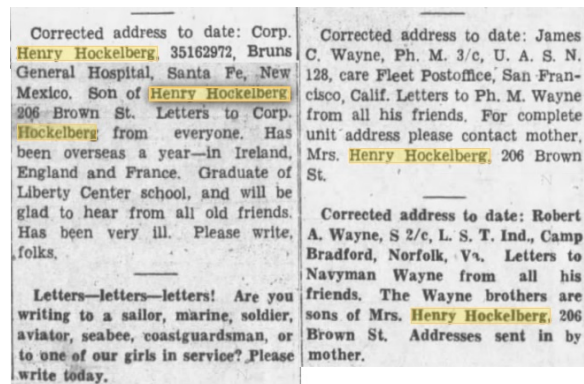
Parents: Henry J. (Anna M Ludtke[deceased]) Hockelberg Sr.

On 7 November 1944, Heine Hockelberg, 32, died of pulmonary tuberculosis after being transferred to New Mexico from France. He had participated in the D-Day invasion. He served 41 months, including 11 months in the European war zone. He had relatives in Medaryville. He was buried in McCool Cemetery in Portage.



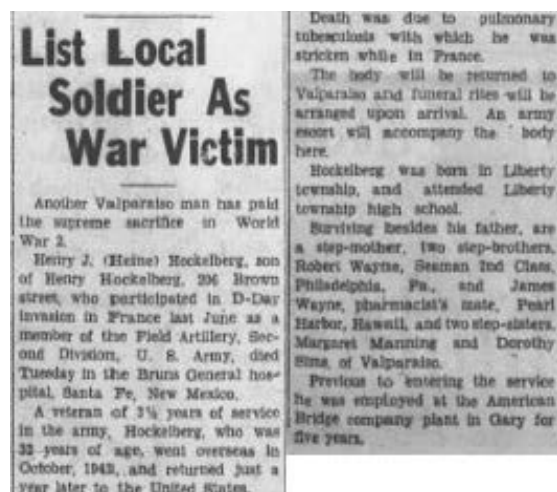
(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger of Porter County 16 Oct 1944:

1. Webpage (newspapers.com).



(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger of Porter County 1 Nov 1944:

3. Webpage (newspapers.com).



(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger of Porter County 8 Nov 1944: 1.

Webpage (newspapers.com)

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Dale Emerson Clark

Dale had received shoulder wounds just three weeks before and had just returned to duty.

Born: 11/26/1921

Entered: 7/2/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35330355,SGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 11/8/1944

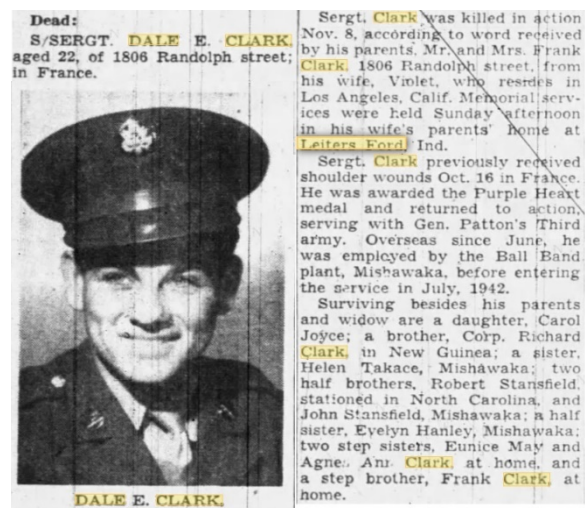
Spouse: Violet Mae Woodward Clark

Parents: Frank Benjamin and Bessie Louise Schrader (James E.) Smith Clark

On 8 November 1944, Dale Clark, 23, was killed in action in France. He served 26 months, including 5 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was from Leiters Ford, just over the eastern county line. He was buried in South Bend. He was married with one child.



(Collection of William Taber). Webpage (findagrave.com).



South Bend (IN) Tribune 28 Nov 1944: 11.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Leiters Ford Man Is Killed in France

Sgt. Dale E. Clark of Leiters Ford was killed in action on November 8 in France, his wife, the former Miss Violet Woodward, was informed, by the War department last Thursday. Sgt. Clark, with the Third Army, had been overseas since last July, and had returned to duty after being wounded. Besides his wife, Sgt. Clark is survived by a daughter Joyee, two years of age, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clark of South Bend, and a brother Richard, serving in New Guinea.

Prayer services, attended by immediate relatives, were held Sunday at the W. E. Woodward home in Leiters Ford. Sgt. Clark would have been twenty-three years old that day.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 30 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

James Bernard Perry

James had just visited his folks a month before his death.

Born: 9/3/1919

Entered: 4/10/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35175618,SGT

Died: 11/10/1944

Parents: Meddie Henry and Delina M. Cyr Perry

On 10 November 1944, James Perry, 25, was killed in a bomber crash near Clovis, New Mexico. He was a radio operator on a B-29 Superfortress bomber. He served 43 months. He was born in Winamac. He was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Mishawaka.

**15 Killed in
Crash Of
CAAF Plane**

Six officers and nine enlisted men were killed Friday when a four-engine bomber crashed and burned while on a routine combat training mission about 25 miles southeast of the Clovis Army Air Field. This announcement was made Sunday morning by the Station Commandant, Colonel James N. Peyton.

Those dead are:
First Lt. Noble J. Klink, son of R. 4, Box 3350, Tampa, Florida; Captain John S. Baldwin son of H. Streett Baldwin, Hydes, Maryland; Captain Thomas R. Opie, husband of Mrs. Thomas R. Opie, Elkton, Virginia; 2nd Lt. Charles H. Ziegel, son of Mrs. Johanna Ziegel, Rockwell City, Ia.; Sgt. James B. Perry, son of Mrs. Delina Perry, 314 W. 3rd St., Mishawaka, Ind.; T-Sgt. John K. Crowther, husband of Mrs. Mary M. Crowther, Powder River, Wyoming; Corp. Wilbur E. Miller, husband of Mrs. Irene E. Miller, 538 Central Ave., Cumberland, Maryland; Pfc. William E. Harris, son of Mrs. Anella Harris, RFD 1, Flat Rock, North Carolina; Pfc. John A. Nelson, son of Mrs. Clarinda R. Nelson, Box 183, Mountain Home, Idaho; Pfc. Duane W. Duman, son of Mrs. Duman, 209 E. High St., Ebbsburg, Penn.; Pfc. Max Freund, son of Mrs. Sarah Freund, 655 Fox St., New York City, N. Y.; Pvt. Franklin B. Jackson, husband of Mrs. Verna M. Jackson, 210 S. York Ave., Oberlin, Kansas and T-Sgt. Walter Lewkowicz, son of Mrs. Rosena C. Lewkowicz, 367 Park St., Holyoke, Mass.

NO. 28—
Mrs. Emma D. Klink, Gladbrook, Ia.; Second Lt. Robert J. Creecy, husband of Mrs. Martha D. Creecy, Terrell, Texas; Second Lt. Anselmo Quiñan, son of Antonio Quiñan,

**Sgt. James Perry,
Winamac Native,
Air Crash Victim**

Sgt. James B. Perry, born in Winamac twenty-five years ago to Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Perry, was one of fifteen men who lost their lives last Friday night in the crash of a four-engine bomber near Clovis, New Mexico.

The young man has been in the Army air forces for four years, and was stationed at the Clovis base as a radio operator on a B-29. Three weeks ago he spent a furlough in the home of his parents, who now live in South Bend. They moved from here to Mishawaka fifteen years ago.

The plane, which crashed and burned, was on a routine training flight, according to a report issued by the war department which added that the body of Sgt. Perry would be returned to South Bend.

Besides the parents he leaves four sisters and a brother—Mrs. Edward Breiler and Miss Agnes Perry of South Bend, Mrs. John Edwards of Washington, Miss Wilma Perry of Muncie, and Robert E. Perry, in the Navy in the South Pacific.

The tragedy was the second air fatality in the Perry family. Several years ago another son, Edward, was killed in a plane crash near Bridgman, Mich.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Nov 1944: 1.

Clovis (NM) News-Journal 13 Nov 1944: 6.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Joseph Norman Huffman

Joseph participated in D-Day.

Born: 4/17/1917

Entered: 7/6/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35359460,SSGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 11/16/1944

Spouse: Doris Grace Brown Huffman

Parents: Thurman Albert and Vera E. Lower Huffman

On 16 November 1944, Joseph Huffman, 27, was killed in action in France, after having been previously reported as missing in action. He served for over 2 years, including 5 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was from Grass Creek Twp. He was buried in the Grass Creek Cemetery. He was married with one child.

(Rochester IN) News-Sentinel Dec 13 1944.

Joseph Huffman

S/SGT. JOSEPH HUFFMAN IS NOW REPORTED KILLED

The War department on Tuesday amended a previous report to inform Mr. and Mrs. Thurman HUFFMAN, R. 2, Kewanna, that their son, S/Sgt. Joseph HUFFMAN, 27, was killed in action on November 16, in the invasion of Germany. Huffman had previously been reported missing.

Huffman was one of four brothers serving in the armed forces: Albert [HUFFMAN], in the Navy, stationed at Mantoloking, N.J.; Carl [HUFFMAN], with the Navy, is at Northport, Va.; and Don [HUFFMAN], with the Navy, is somewhere in the South Pacific. Other survivors are his wife, Doris [HUFFMAN]; a son, Davie [HUFFMAN]; the parents, and a sister, Helen [HUFFMAN], at home.

Huffman, serving in the Infantry, had been overseas since last July and had participated in the invasion of France. In civilian life he had been associated with his father in farming. He was a graduate of the Grass Creek high school, and was a member of the U. B. church.

[NOTE: Joseph Huffman, 27, Kewanna, killed in action in Germany, November 16, 1944 - Rochester Sentinel, Saturday, May 27, 2000.], May 27, 2000.]

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Rochester (IN) News-Sentinel 12 Dec 1944.

Webpage (http://www.fulco.lib.in.us/genealogy-files/obituaries/obits_1944.htm).



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 13 Dec 1944: 3.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Lewis Eugene Werner

Lewis' sister learns of his death on what would have been his 26th birthday.

Born: 11/16/1918

Entered: 10/8/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USNR,390595,LTJG

Died: 11/16/1944

Spouse: Pauline Virginia Phillips Werner

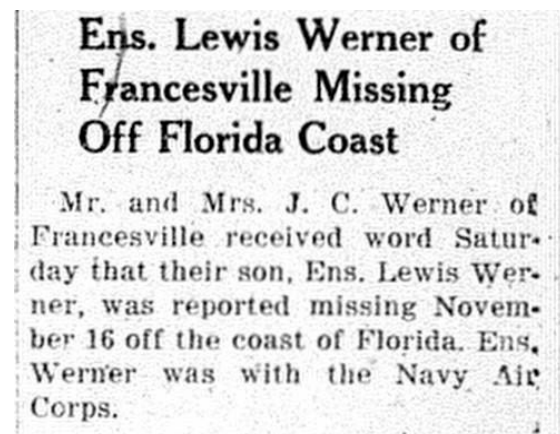
Parents: John Carl and Augusta Anna Grieger Werner

On 16 November 1944, Lewis Werner, 26, was killed in patrol bomber on which he was copilot crashed into the sea near Key West FL. He served 24 months. He was from Francesville. He was memorialized in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville. He had married less than 3 weeks before his death.



Lewis Eugene Werner (Collection of geoff_bailey1) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-

viewer/collection/1030/tree/27732371/person/13253726787/me
dia/02cbcaac-05c3-443b-bb45-d11faecb8fdf.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Nov 1944: 1.

Navy Says West Side Youth Lost

Ensign Lewis Werner, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Werner of Francesville, was reported missing this week while on patrol duty off the Florida coast.

Ensign Werner, who has been with the Naval Air Service, has been stationed in Florida for some time patrolling the coast line from the air.

His parents reported that further details are lacking.

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Nov 1944: 1.

Loses Life in Cuban Waters
Knightstown friends of Mrs. Geo. Hardy Jr., will be sorry to learn that her brother **Lewis** Werner, has been killed in service presumably in Cuban waters while piloting his plane. Neither the wreckage or bodies of those on the plane have been found up to this time. **Lewis Werner** was a graduate of Purdue, and had a fine record of high grades throughout his training period. The report announcing the above was received on his 26th birthday. Survivors are the parents, a brother and four sisters, one his twin. Last summer the parents enjoyed three weeks with him in Florida. The Werner home is in Francisville, Ind., near Chicago.

(Knightstown IN) Tri-County Banner 24 Nov 1944: 8.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Francesville Young Man Is War Casualty

**Ens. Lewis E. Werner
Dies in Air Crash
Off Florida Coast**

Ens. Lewis E. Werner of Francesville was one of ten men killed November 16, when a large patrol bomber plunged into the sea near Key West, Fla., during a routine training flight. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Werner of Francesville, had received word last week that he was missing and the death message came later. The accident occurred on his twenty-sixth birthday anniversary.

Ens. Werner enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and entered the University of Miami in the V-5 training program. He received pre-flight training at Athens, Ga., and additional training at Memphis, Tenn., and Pensacola, Fla., receiving his wings on May 2 of this year. He was a graduate of Francesville high school and Purdue university.

On October 26 of this year, three weeks before his death, he was married to Miss Pauline Virginia Phillips. Also surviving are a brother, Clarence, of Francesville; four sisters, Mrs. Lester Wilson, a twin, and Mrs. Glen Sprinkle of Fort Wayne, Mrs. Charles Warnell of Chicago and Mrs. George Hardy of Dayton, Ohio.

Memorial services were held Sunday morning at the Lutheran church at Reynolds, of which he was a member.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 30 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

James Edward Leitch

James had relatives in Denham.

Born: 7/29/1924

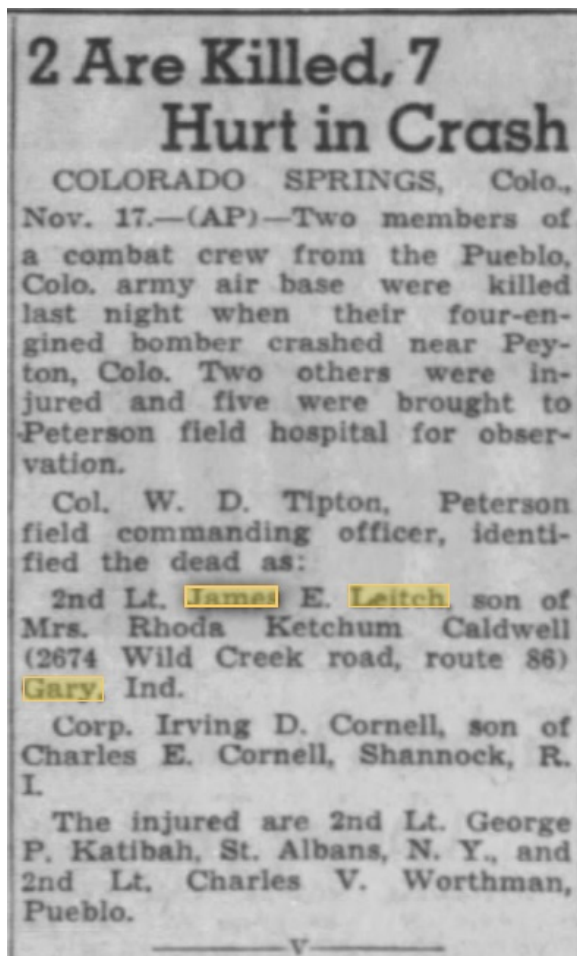
Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,O-835987,2LT

Died: 11/16/1944

Parents: Rhoda Fraser Ketchum (James Reuben) Leitch (Harold O.) Caldwell

On 16 November 1944, James Leitch, 20, was killed in a bomber crash in Peyton, CO. He had relatives in Denham. It is unknown where he is buried.

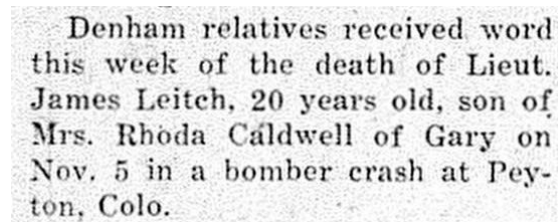


(Lafayette IN) Journal and Courier 18 Nov 1944: 2.

Webpage (newspapers.com).



(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger of Porter County 20 Nov 1944: 1.



Winamac (IN) Republican 7 Dec 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Walter Elmer Schini

Walter had been acting as an interpreter.

Born: 3/24/1920

Entered: 1/21/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35254005,SGT

Died: 11/17/1944

Spouse: Ruth Montgomery Schini

Parents: Regina Barbara Zimmerman (George[deceased]) Schini

On 17 November 1944, Walter Schini, 24, was killed in action in Patton's tank destroyer division in Germany. He served 34 months, including 16 months in the European war zone. He had relatives in Francesville. He was buried in the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery in Fowler. He was married with one child.



Walter Schini (Collection of Jeff Banwart) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/88347883/person/152145584450/media/eedd7138-fa21-46eb-9da6-ce0401a1d9ca.

Sgt. Walter Schini, son of Mrs. Regina Schini of Francesville, was killed in action November 17 on the German front. The word was received this week by his wife, who makes her home with her parents at Evansville. Twenty-four years old, he was in the tank corps, and had been acting as an interpreter after our forces entered Germany. Surviving are his wife, a baby daughter, eighteen months old, his mother, two brothers and eight sisters. Sgt. Schini was born March 24, 1920, and entered service January 21, 1942. He had been overseas since a year ago last August. His mother moved to Francesville about two years ago, but Sgt. Schini had never made his home in that community.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Dec 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

John Merle “Merle” Hunt

Merle’s body was returned on the same ship as George Freeman’s and Henry Helm’s.

Born: 9/21/1922

Entered: 12/17/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35574962,PFC

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 11/19/1944

Parents: Lester George and Ethel Quinn Hunt

On 19 November 1944, Merle Hunt, 23, died from his wounds from an artillery barrage on Leyte Island in the Philippines. He served 35 months, including 4 months in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He was born in Francesville. He was buried in the Davis Cemetery in Burnettesville.



Pvt. Merle Hunt, in the armored division, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hunt of Grass Creek.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Mar 1943: 1.

Former West Side Boy Is Killed on Leyte

PFC Merle Hunt, former resident of Pulaski county, died shortly after he was wounded in action on Leyte island in the Philippines last November 19, it has been learned by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hunt of the Grass Creek vicinity.

Merle was twenty-two years of age. He was born near Francesville and was employed on the Pennsylvania railway after attending high school at Grass Creek. Entering service on December 26, 1942, he received training at Camp Hood, Texas, and was home on furlough shortly before going overseas last July.

Besides the parents, he leaves two sisters and three brothers—Mrs. Viona Williams of Monon; Mary, Nolan and Raymond at home, and Cpl. Arthur, somewhere in Germany.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Apr 1945: 1.

Final Rites Here Next Sunday for Another of County's War Victims

Funeral services for PFC Merle Hunt, Pulaski county soldier who lost his life on the Philippines during the late war, are to be held at the Kennedy chapel in Winamac next Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The body reached here yesterday and now lies in state at Kennedy's.

PFC Hunt was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hunt of the eastern part of Van Buren township. He was born while the family lived near Francesville on Sept. 21, 1922, and entered service in 1942, shortly after his twentieth birthday. It was two years later, on Nov. 19, 1944, that he suffered a fatal wound when caught in an enemy artillery barrage while his company was making its way to support the infantry at Colosian Point, on the island of Leyte. He was given burial in a temporary cemetery at Carigara.

A graduate of Grass Creek high school, Merle was employed on the Pennsylvania railway before entering service. His basic training was at camps in Texas, and he was sent overseas about four months before the fatal encounter.

Besides the parents, who live east of Thornhope, he leaves two sisters and three brothers—Mrs. Viona Williams of Grand Rapids,



Mich., Mary, Nolan, Arthur and Raymond at home.

The services on Sunday will be under auspices of Post-Jones post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Rev. O. P. Manker will officiate, and final burial will be in the cemetery at Burnettsville. Mothers of World War No. 2 will hold services at Kennedy's Friday night at eight o'clock.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Feb 1949: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Boyd William Crook

Boyd was the nephew of an Indiana State Senator.

Born: 3/14/1911

Entered: 9/12/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,6270354,S1c

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 11/24/1944

Spouse: Wilda "Billie" Loree Conn Crook

Parents: William P. and Lyle Mae Leffel Crook

On 24 November 1943, Boyd Crook, 32, initially reported missing as the USS Liscome Bay sank near Gilbert Island after being torpedoed, was declared dead in 1945. He served 14 months, including 2 months in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His wife had relatives in Medaryville. He was memorialized at the Courts of the Missing (Court 5) at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI, and at Mount Hope Cemetery in Logansport. He was married with a child.



Boyd Crook (Collection of pclark217) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/113638332/person/400116351334/media/73eeb4ce-4e28-40af-8b18-85e617cd670a.



South Bend (IN) Tribune 6 Dec 1943: 9.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

On Torpedoed Carrier.
LOGANSPOUT, Ind., Dec. 6 (Spl.)
—Boyd W. Crook, age thirty-two, shipfitter, third class, is believed to have been one of the men aboard the Liscome Bay, escort aircraft carrier reported sunk by a torpedo from a Jap submarine on November 24 during the Gilbert islands operations.
Mrs. Crook and five-year-old daughter, Connie, were in Los Angeles with Seaman Crook just before the ship sailed September 13.

Indianapolis (IN) News 6 Dec 1943: 12.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Seaman Boyd Crook was reported missing Nov. 24, on the Liscome Bay which was sunk during the Gilbert Island battle, according to word received from the Navy Department. Mrs. Boyd Crook is a niece of Mrs. M. R. Clarke of Medaryville.

Winamac (IN) Republican 16 Dec 1943: 8.

Save a Yank. Buy a War Bond.
**CROOK'S NEPHEW
MISSING AT SEA**
Boyd W. Crook, 32, of Logansport, Ind., nephew of State Senator Thurman C. Crook, of South Bend, who was believed to have been assigned to the Liscome Bay, escort aircraft carrier sunk by torpedo action during the Gilbert island operations on Nov. 24, has been officially reported by the navy department as a member of the carrier and listed among the missing. His wife, Wilda, formerly Wilda Conn, of South Bend, one-time student of Riley High school, and her five-year-old daughter reside in Logansport.

South Bend (IN) Tribune 23 Jan 1944: 12.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Richard J. Good

When their bodies were returned after the war, Richard and his brother, Cortlund, were buried side-by-side.

Born: 3/14/1920

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36448286/O-517525,2LT

Medal: Bronze Star

Died: 11/26/1944

Spouse: Flora Elizabeth _ Good

Parents: Forrest Everett and Alvina Matilda Zank Good

On 26 November 1944, Richard Good, 24, died from wounds incurred the previous day in action in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He had relatives in Monterey. He is buried in the Southland Cemetery in South Bend. He was married with one child.



James Whitcomb Riley High School

Relative of Monterey Man Killed in Germany

Relatives at Monterey received word Sunday that 2nd Lt. Richard J. Good, son of F. E. Good of South Bend, was killed in action in Germany on November 25. He was first reported seriously wounded, but on Saturday word came to his wife at Champaign, Ill., that he had died. He is a cousin of Charles Good of Monterey and has visited there often. Lt. Good graduated from the University of Illinois, took his basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky., and was overseas two months with a mechanized armored division. An older brother, Courtland, died in Africa on October 12, 1943, and another brother, Capt. Wesley Good is in service in Florida.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Dec 1944: 1.

TWO BROTHERS WILL BE BURIED

Double Memorial Rites Scheduled For Wednesday.

Double memorial services will be conducted at 3 p. m. Wednesday in the Hay funeral home for two brothers, Sergt. Cortlund R. Good and Lieut. Richard J. Good.




RICHARD GOOD. CORTLUND GOOD.

Good and Lieut. Richard J. Good, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Good, of 1511 High street, both of whom died in service overseas in world war II.

The bodies will arrive here Tuesday forenoon and will be taken to the Hay funeral home where friends may call after 7 p. m. Tuesday. Rev. R. H. Parker, pastor of Indiana Avenue Christian church, of which both young men were members, will read the rites. Burial will be in Southlawn cemetery where military honors will be accorded by members of South Bend post No. 6, Disabled American Veterans.

Served in Algiers.

Sergt. Cortlund Good was serving with the adjutant general's department with offices in Algiers, North Africa, where he died of meningitis on Oct. 12, 1945. His brother, Lieut. Richard Good was with Company A, 67th armored division, 14th armored division, in France, where he was wounded in action on Nov. 25, 1944 and died on Nov. 26.

Sergt. Good was born in South Bend Oct. 24, 1911, attended Studebaker school, and was graduated from Riley High school in June, 1932. He was graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1937, and attended Wittenburg college, Springfield, O., and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Returning to South Bend he taught French, English and music in Riley High school from 1937 until he was inducted into military service June 23, 1941. He trained at Fort Sill, Okla., and went overseas in June, 1943.

Graduated From Riley.

Lieut. Good also was born in South Bend, on March 14, 1920, attended Studebaker school and was graduated from Riley in 1938. He attended the University of Illinois, at Champaign, where he was graduated in January, 1943. He played football both for Riley and the university.

He was inducted into the army on Feb. 12, 1943 and trained at Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Campbell, Ky. He was married at the Kentucky camp in 1944 to Jeanne Duncan, who now is Mrs. John Wrenn, of East Moline, Ill. He went overseas on October, 1944.

The young men are survived by their parents and a brother, Dr. Wesley Good of South Bend. Lieut. Good also leaves a daughter, Richey J. Good, of East Moline.

South Bend (IN) Tribune 20 Mar 1949: 35.

Webpage (ancestry.com:CarolSmith12101114)

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Emil R. Piazza

Emil demonstrated outstanding bravery, earning a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

Born: 12/19/1919

Entered: 8/8/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35388664,PFC

Medals: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart

Died: 11/29/1944

Spouse: Helen Marie Shearer Piazza

Parents: Otello Dalla and Grace Ruth Gerichs Piazza

On 29 November 1944, Emil Piazza, 24, was killed in action by a sniper in France while placing his machine gun to help a rifle company. He served 27 months, including 4 months in the European war zone. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. His wife was from Winamac. He was buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold, France. He was married.



Mrs. Helen Shearer Piazza of Winamac was informed Tuesday by the War department that her husband, PFC Emil Piazza, was killed in action on November 29 in France. In the infantry, PFC Piazza was twenty-three years of age and was employed in Akron, Ohio, before entering service in August, 1942.

He was married to Miss Helen Shearer, former resident of Akron, in May, 1944, at Indian Town Gap, Pa., and was sent overseas the following July. Mrs. Piazza lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Shearer of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Dec 1944: 1.

Emil Piazza (Collection of JEngel66) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/70687141/person/32222860029/media/9a71ed45-5b10-4367-9fa9-f1a89d5383d3

One Killed

One soldier whose wife resides in Winamac was reported killed according to War Department information released this week.

Pfc. Emil R. Piazza, 23 years old, and husband of Helen Shearer Piazza, was reported killed in action in France on Nov. 29. His widow resides with her parents on Summit street and is employed at the Kingsbury Ordnance plant.

Pfc. Piazza was a native of Ohio and before entering the army in August, 1942, was employed at the Goodyear Aircraft Corp. in Akron, O. He has been overseas since July.

Winamac (IN) Republican 14 Dec 1944: 1.



Akron (OH) Beacon Journal 31 Dec 1944. 3

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Wife Learns Soldier Is Killed by Sniper

In answer to her request for further information regarding the death of her husband, Pvt. Emil R. Piazza, Mrs. Helen Shearer Piazza of Winamac received a letter from the War Department which said in part:

"The report states that Private Piazza was instantly killed by an enemy sniper on November 29, 1944, in the vicinity of Merten, France, while placing his machine gun to help relieve pressure on a rifle company."

Mrs. Piazza, who makes her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Shearer, recently received the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously to her husband.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Apr 1945: 1.

Mrs. Helen Shearer Piazza of Winamac received a Bronze Star Medal this week awarded posthumously to her husband, PFC Emil Piazza, who was killed in action November 29, 1944, in France. She was informed that an Army officer would personally present a Silver Star, also awarded PFC Piazza.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Sep 1945: 1.

Silver Star Medal Is Presented at Ceremonies Sunday

The Silver Star, which has been posthumously awarded PFC Emil R. Piazza, was presented to his wife, Mrs. Helen M. Piazza of Winamac, at a special ceremony at Fort Benjamin Harrison Sunday afternoon. The medal was awarded PFC Piazza by direction of the President for gallantry in action against the enemy on November 20, 1944.

"When a German counter-attack lunged savagely and threatened to destroy his company's position, PFC Piazza, with his squad leader, set up a machine gun on ground

enveloped by German shelling and delivered a terrible enfilade on the assaulting enemy. Lethal fire from his boldly emplaced machine gun inflicted such heavy casualties that the Germans were compelled to withdraw. The heroic conduct of PFC Piazza, who was killed in action on November 29, 1944, reflects lasting honor on him and exemplifies the highest traditions of the military service."

The young man was inducted at Fort Harrison on August 8, 1942. He received training at Camp Swift, Texas, Los Angeles, Calif., and Indiantown Gap, Pa., before going overseas in August, 1944.

Others attending the ceremony were Mrs. Piazza's mother, Mrs. Ernest Shearer, sisters, Donna Lee and Joan, brother Ernest, and uncle Vincent Smith, all of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Nov 1945: 1.

Mrs. Helen M. Piazza of Winamac was presented with a Silver Star Sunday at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis which had been awarded posthumously to Private First Class Emil R. Piazza, her husband, for gallantry in action against the enemy on Nov. 20, 1944. Pvt. Piazza was killed in action on Nov. 29, 1944.

The medal was presented by William A. McKinzie by direction of President Truman. Piazza set up a machine gun in the face of German shelling and the firing compelled the Nazis to withdraw.

"The heroic conduct of Pfc. Piazza reflects lasting honor on him and exemplifies the highest traditions of the military service," the citation said.

Others who attended the ceremony were Mrs. Ernest Shearer, Mrs. Piazza's mother, Donna Lee and Joan, sisters, and Ernest Shearer, a brother of the war widow and an uncle, Vincent Smith.

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Nov 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Paul Joseph Baumgartner

Paul's ship was attacked by six Japanese planes.

Born: 5/2/1922

Entered: 9/1/1942?

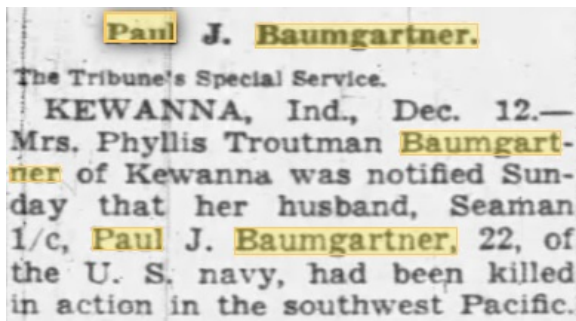
Branch,SN,Rank: USN,6267081,S1

Died: 11/29/1944

Spouse: Phyllis Ardeen Troutman Baumgartner

Parents: Emil Oliver and Minnie Alice Russell Baumgartner

On 29 November 1944, Paul Baumgartner, 22, was killed when four Japanese "Oscar" planes attacked his ship in the Leyte Gulf, Eastern Visayas, Philippines. He served 50 months, including 7 months in the Pacific war zone. His wife lived in Kewanna. He was buried in the Greenlawn Memorial Park in Fort Wayne. He was married with a child.



South Bend (IN) Tribune 12 Dec 1944: 13.

Webpage (newspapers.com).

Memorial for County Navy Men Killed in War

A wreath of red roses, one flower for each of the ten Pulaski county Navy and Marine men lost during World War 2, will be cast on the ocean on Navy Day, Sunday, October 27, in a tribute to their memory. The nation-wide ceremonies will be conducted by the Navy League. The roses will be sent to Chicago by the Ladies' Auxilliary of the Winamac post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and, with other flowers from all over the United States, will be sent to special ships and planes for transport to sea, where the services will be held.

The list of Pulaski county men for whom the flowers will be scattered upon the waters includes Marion Appel, Paul J. Baumgartner, John M. Conn, John W. Hickman, Harry A. Kocher, Thomas K. Parkison, David L. Jones, Lyle Weinder, Marion L. Welsh, Robert W. Jenkins.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Oct 1946: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

John Chris "Johnny" Pfladderer

John's body was the first returned to Pulaski County after the war for reinterment closer to family.

Born: 10/9/1913

Entered: 2/4/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: ?,35255633,SGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 12/5/1944

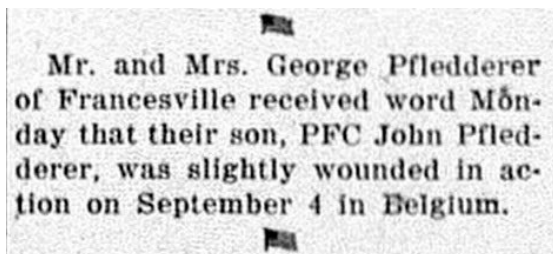
Parents: George Carl and Maria Luise Remm Pfladderer

On 5 December 1944, John Pfladderer, 31, was killed in action in a tank division in Germany. He served 33 months, including 15 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He lived in Francesville. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville.



John Pfladderer

John Pfladderer. Veterans of Pulaski County.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 1.

Sergeant John Pfladderer was killed in action in Germany on December 5, according to a War Department telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Pfladderer. He was in action with a tank division.

Sgt. Pfladderer joined the service on February 3, 1942 and had been overseas since October 10, 1943.

He was born near Francesville, October 9, 1913.

Surviving, besides the parents, are the following brothers and sisters: Leslie, Raymond, Jeanette and Alice, at home; Corporal Adam Pfladderer, in the Southwest Pacific area; Sgt. Robert Pfladderer, with the armed forces in Germany; Al Pfladderer, of near Rensselaer; Paul of Rochester; William, of New Castle; Mrs. Marie Spaeth, of Chicago; Donna Rose Pfladderer, of Chicago; Mrs. Anna Henzler, Mrs. Katherine Rosenkranz, and Mrs. Clara LaHue of Francesville.

Winamac (IN) Republican 28 Dec 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

First Body Of Veteran Returned

The body of the first Pulaski county soldier to be returned from abroad—that of Sgt. John C. Pfledderer, of Francesville—reached the Salem township town Tuesday and following services this (Thursday) afternoon was buried in Roseland cemetery.

Sgt. Pfledderer, son of George and Marie (Remm) Pfledderer, was born near Francesville, October 9, 1913, and died in the services of his country on December 5, 1944, during the terrific fighting in the "Battle of the Bulge," in Belgium.

He grew to manhood in the Francesville community, and entered the service. He attended the Christian Apostolic church at Francesville.

Surviving, besides his father and mother, are the following brothers and sisters: William, of New Castle; Mrs. Anna Henzler, of Chicago; Mrs. Marie Spaeth, Mrs. Katherine Rosenkranz, Albert Pfledderer, and Mrs. Donna Faris, all of Rensselaer, Paul of North Manchester; Adam, Mrs. Clara LaHue, Leslie and Raymond, all of Francesville, and Robert, Alice and Jeannette, at home.

Services were held at 2 o'clock this afternoon (Thursday) at the Apostolic Christian church, with Rev. Philip Gutwein in charge.

Winamac (IN) Republican 11 Dec 1947: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Howard Wayne "Wayne" Parks

Wayne returned from being missing in action to meet death three months later.

Born: 11/29/1923

Entered: 3/2/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35094968,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 12/9/1944

Parents: Melvin Tribbey and Lennie Wampler Parks

On 29 August 1944, Wayne Parks, 20, was reported missing in action in France. Three weeks later, his parents received a telegram from him saying "All well and safe" and that he was returning to action. On 9 December 1944, he was reported missing in action again, this time in Germany. After nearly another 3 years, a letter arrived indicating that he had been killed in action on December 9, 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He served 21 months, including 5 months in the European war zone. He was from Francesville. He was buried in Roseland Cemetery in Francesville.

West Side Man Is Reported Missing

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Parks of Francesville received a message from the War Department Monday evening, stating their son, PFC Wayne Parks, who was with an infantry division in France, was reported missing in action on August 29.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1944: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Parks of Francesville received a cablegram last week from their son, Pfc. Howard W. Parks, saying, "All well and safe. Please don't worry. All my love." On the day following they received a message from the War Department saying their son had returned to action after having been reported "missing in action" a few weeks ago.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Oct 1944: 1.

Notified Son Killed in Action Three Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin T. Parks of Francesville received a letter a few days ago from the war department concerning the fate of their son Howard, who had been reported missing nearly three years ago on the European front. The letter, dated August 8 and signed by Edward F. Witsell, Major General, read in part:

"An official report has now been received which states that he was killed in action on 9 December, 1944, in District 30, Hurtgen Forest, Germany. This change in status from presumed dead to killed in action was based on burial information received from the Commanding General, European Theater."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Aug 1947: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Donald W. “Don” Allee

Don’s infant son was presented with a \$1,000 war bond by his fellow officers in the Ninth Air Force.

Born: 2/10/1921

Entered: 4/8/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,O-747184,1LT

Medal: Air Medal, Purple Heart

Died: 12/19/1944

Spouse: Celia Irene Folbridge Allee

Parents: Etta Jane Bush (George Webster) Allee

On 19 December 1944, Don Allee, 24, was killed in action while flying a P-29 fighter over Belgium. He served 46 months, including 12 months in the European war zone. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. He was from Medaryville. He was buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium. He was married with one child.



Don Allee (Collection of Donald W. Allee, Jr.) -
awon2.org/fathers/awallee.html



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Apr 1943: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Lt. Donald Allee

Mrs. Etta Allee of Medaryville has received a message from the War Department stating that her son, 1st Lt. Donald Allee, was killed in action over Belgium on December 19. His wife and eight-month-old son, Donald W., live at Freeport, Ill.

A graduate of Medaryville high school in 1939, Lt. Allee enlisted in the Air Corps on February 11, 1942. He held a medal for meritorious achievement in combat and received promotion to first lieutenant last October. He is also survived by five sisters, Mrs. Ruth O'Donnell of Hammond, Mrs. Elizabeth Manning of Michigan City, Mrs. Mary Patta of Medaryville, Mrs. Betty Schultz of the Winamac vicinity, Mrs. Ruby Schmier of Flint Mich., and their brothers.

Lt. Gerald Allee, who also is in the Air Corps, stationed at Muroc, Calif., and Pvt. Ronald Allee of Camp Fannin, Texas, are spending

Air Casualty



LT. DONALD ALLEE

a few days with their mother. Her fourth son, Roy J. Allee, F.C. 1/c, is in the south Pacific.

Memorial services are to be held Sunday afternoon at Freeport, Ill.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 Jan 1945: 1.



Lieut. Donald Allee of Medaryville who was reported killed in action over Belgium on Dec. 19.

Winamac (IN) Republican 11 Jan 1945: 1.

Lieut. Donald Allee of Medaryville.

Mrs. Etta Allee received word from the War Department this week that her son, Lieut. Donald Allee, had been killed in action while flying a P-29 Bomber over Belgium on December 19.

Lieut. Allee enlisted in the Air Force on Feb. 11, 1942 and has been overseas for the past year. Other details were withheld.

Survivors include the widow, a son, his parents and five sisters and three brothers.

Officers Present Bond To Baby Son of Pilot

(Medaryville Correspondence)

The "raid" part of an air show, sponsored by the Army in conjunction with the opening of the Seventh Bond Drive, held at Chicago airport on May 13, was followed by the presentation of a \$1,000 bond to Donald W. Allee, infant son of a Ninth Air Force fighter pilot, who met death during the battle of the bulge.

The presentation was made to the child's mother, Mrs. Donald W. Allee, on behalf of Ninth Air Force officers. Lt. Donald W. Allee was a son of Mrs. Etta Allee of Medaryville, and a graduate of the Medaryville high school.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 May 1945: 1.

Donald W. Allee II, infant son of Lieut. Donald W. Allee of Medaryville, fighter pilot killed in the Battle of the Bulge," was presented with a \$1,000 war bond by 9th Air Force officers during the program opening the Seventh War Loan Drive at the Chicago airport May 13.

The presentation was made to the child's mother. Lieut. Allee was the son of Mrs. Etta Allee of Medaryville.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 May 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Kent Hubbell McKenney

Kent, part of the initial parachute jump into the night before D-Day, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Born: 7/7/1922

Entered: 11/13/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35347618,SSGT

Medal: Purple Heart

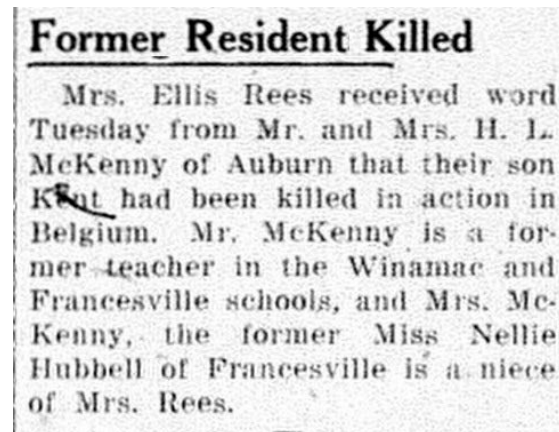
Died: 12/23/1944

Parents: Howard Lathrop and Nellie May Hubbell McKenney

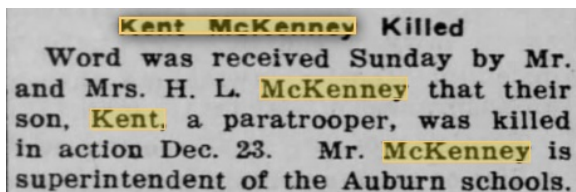
On 23 December 1944, Kent McKenney, 22, was killed in action in Holland. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His mother was from Francesville. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, as well as a memorial in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.



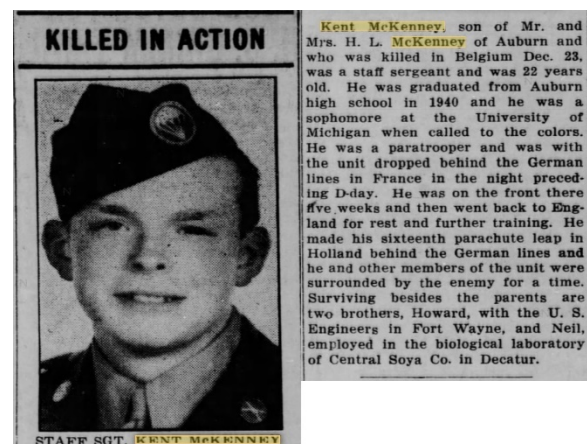
Kent McKenney (Collection of Lance Dyckman) - findagrave.com/memorial/49255726/kent_h-mckenney/photo#view-photo=255047052.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Jan 1945: 1.



Garrett (IN) Clipper 15 Jan 1945: 1. Webpage (newspapers.com).



Garrett (IN) Clipper 18 Jan 1945: 4. Webpage (newspapers.com).

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Vincent Craigmile

It was a tragic Christmas Eve for Robert.

Born: 6/8/1921

Entered: 12/12/1939

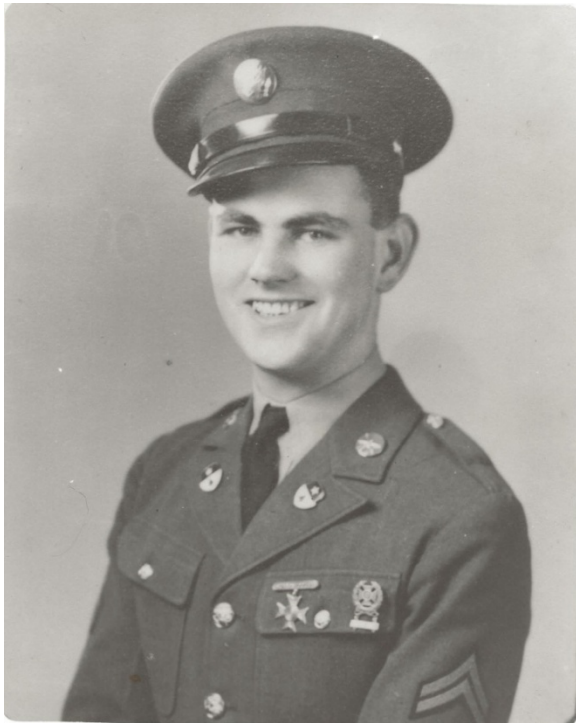
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,06669412,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Died: 12/24/1944

Parents: Vernard E. and Josephine T Foster Craigmile

On 24 December 1944, Robert Craigmile, 23, was killed in action in Belgium, probably during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He had relatives in Medaryville. He was buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery.



Robert V. Craigmile - (Collection of Kathy Stone)

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	1201	SYMBOLS
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.	A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT	(19)	DL = Day Letter NL = Night Letter LC = Deferred Cable NLT = Cable Night Letter Ship Radiogram
The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.			
C118 INTL=CD AMAMET VIA RCA 61 74 157		1944 MAY 12 AM 11 24	
EFM MRS VERNARD CRAIGMILE=			
1208 WEST 3 ST AN=			
YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME MY LOVE AND GREETINGS ON MOTHERS DAY PLEASE DONT WORRY=			
ROBERT CRAIGMILE.			
<p>5946</p> <p>Telephone No. <i>Robert</i></p> <p>Phoned 1944 MAY 12 AM 11 44</p> <p><i>Anderson</i> ANDERSON, IND.</p>			
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE			

Mothers Day Greetings 12 May 1945 (Collection of Kathy Stone)

CLASS OF SERVICE	WESTERN UNION	1201	SYMBOLS
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.	A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT		DL = Day Letter NL = Night Letter LC = Deferred Cable NLT = Cable Night Letter Ship Radiogram
The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.			
C42 31 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 15 851A		1945 JAN 15 AM 8 21	
MRS EA CRAIGMILE=			
1208 WEST THIRD ST AN=			
THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON PRIVATE ROBERT V CRAIGMILE WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON TWENTY FOUR DECEMBER IN BELGIUM CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS=			
DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.			
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE			

KIA Telegram 15 Jan 1945 (Collection of Kathy Stone)

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Mrs. Bessie Hansell of Medaryville received a telegram from her nephew, Vernard Crigmile of Anderson, stating that his son, Robert Crigmile, was killed in action in Belgium on December 24.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Jan 1945: 1.

Robert Crigmile of Anderson, who has relatives in Medaryville. Mrs. Bessie Hanesll of Medaryville, received word this week from her nephew, Vernard Crigmile of Anderson, that his son, Robert Crigmile, was killed in action in Belgium on Dec. 24.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Jan 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

Jesse Franklin Vories

Jesse died of hypothermia after the truck in which he was riding overturned into a ditch on Christmas Day.

Born: 5/26/1924

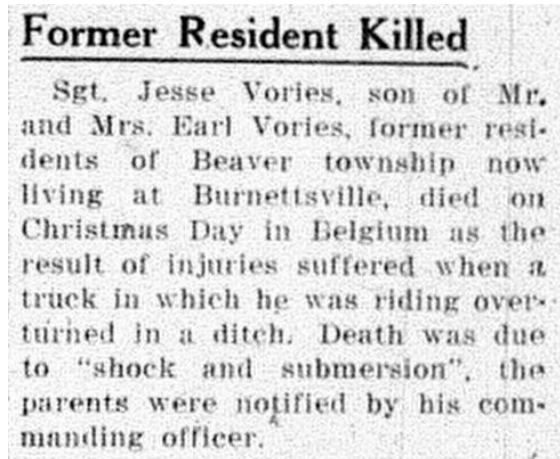
Entered: 3/25/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35099470,T4

Died: 12/25/1944

Parents: William Earl "Earl" and Merle Marie Roach Vories

On 25 December 1944, Jesse Vories, 20, died of shock and submersion when the truck in which he was riding overturned in a ditch. He served 21 months, including 3 months in the European war zone. His parents were former residents of Beaver Township. He was buried in I.O.O.F. Riverview Cemetery in Monticello. He was engaged to a girl from Twelve Mile.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Feb 1945: 1.

Jesse Franklin Vories (Collection of cranehunter2006) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/9275614/person/160021522191/me
dia/cc3ae573-d388-461b-9986-055585d3af50

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

PARENTS RECEIVE DETAILS ON SON'S DEATH IN BELGIUM



Details of the drowning of their son, Jesse F. Vories on Dec. 25 in Belgium have been received by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Vories, of route 1, Burnettsville, in a letter from his commanding officer, Capt. Alf O. Trulson.

The letter follows:

"It is my unpleasant duty to inform you of the death of an excellent soldier, your son, T/4 Jesse F. Vories. He was under my command from April 4, 1943, and I have always found him to be thoughtful, considerate, clean, and obedient.

"Jesse was riding in the rear of a truck on Christmas day when the road caved in, causing the truck to overturn into a canal. The accident was observed by other members of this unit, thus enabling immediate action on extracting him from the truck.

"Unfortunately the water was extremely cold and the combined effects of shock and submersion made all efforts to revive him through artificial respiration and other means of no avail. His friends gave him artificial respiration tirelessly for three hours and ceased only when advised to do so by army medical doctors.

"Capt. V. C. Buttermore, a chaplain of Protestant faith, officiated at the ceremony which was held in Belgium. A military formation was held by this company in honor of your son. Jesse was well liked by all his comrades and was held in their highest esteem.

"His grave is located in Belgium and due to censorship regulations an exact location cannot be given at this time; however, the War department will inform you as to the location at the earliest moment."

—V—

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 1 Feb 1945: 7.

1944: In the Thick of It – The Dead

John William Bortell

When the year 1944 ended, so did John.

Born: 1/9/1917

Entered: 6/2/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36058158,PFC

Medals: Bronze Star, Purple Heart

Died: 12/31/1944

Parents: Earl and Adah Catherine Bortell

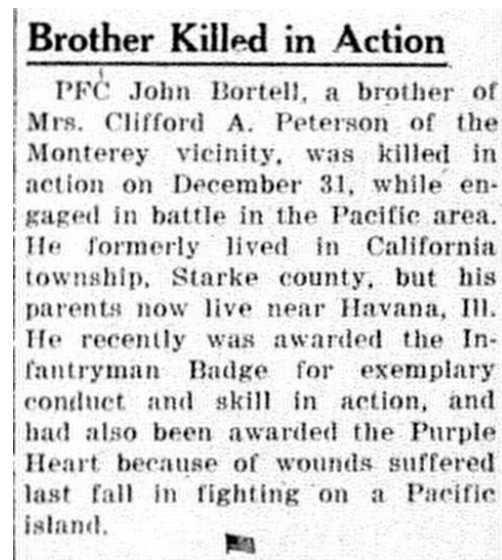
On 31 December 1944, John Bortell, 27, was killed in action by a land mine in the Pacific on Negesebus in the Palau Islands. He served 30 months, including in the Pacific war zone. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He lived in Starke County, but had a sister in Monterey. He was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana, IL.



John William Bortell (Collection of Kathy Bradley) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/1509697/person/492770141/media/
b7ee576d-670c-43f6-a7c3-7ff4829bfb4c

Born to Earl & Adah Catherine Bortell in 1917. John enlisted in the US Army WWII on Jun 2, 1942. His regiment was 81st Infantry Division known as "Wildcats". He was killed Dec 31, 1944 in an explosion from a War land mine. He was involved in 3 Japanese invasions in Pacific on Peleliu Islands under the command of General McArthur. He received a Purple Heart and Combat Infantry badge for exemplary conduct and great skill in actions against the enemy. He was buried on the island at the US Armed Forces Cemetery but later was sent home to be buried in Havana Illinois.

Website (findagrave.com)



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Jan 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

James Marshall Rudd

During his 1944 arrest for fighting, James was discovered to have been AWOL for the first of two times that year.

Born: 6/18/1924

Entered: 7/11/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35148489,PVT

Discharged:

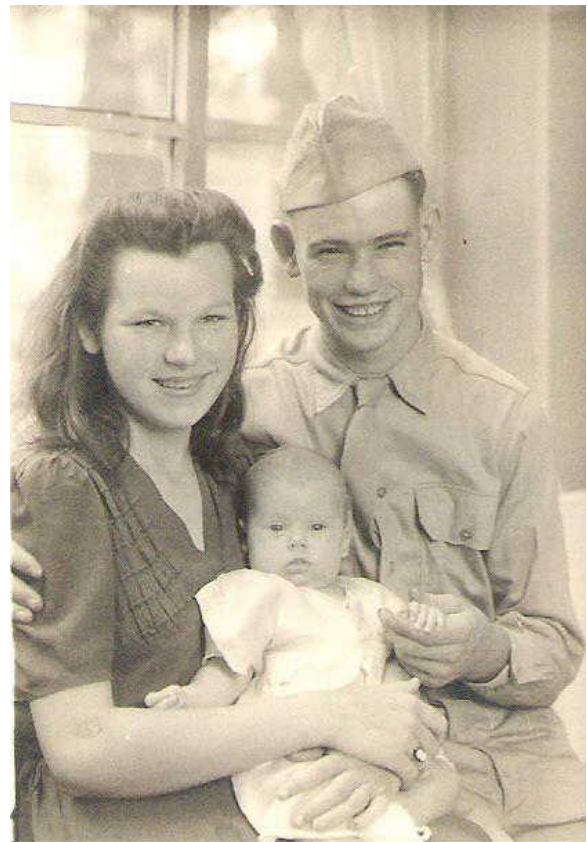
Died: 10/22/1955

Spouse: Rosetta Steward Rudd

Parents: William Hobart and Arminta "Mint" King Rudd



James Rudd with momma (Collection of amh011066) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/27123139/person/2001449210/media/8bc040d1-1067-4679-afb1-16348814778e



James Rudd with wife and baby (Collection of amh011066) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/27123139/person/2001449210/media/150c205e-7258-4fc2-aafb-cff21a16dc65

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Pvt. James Marshall Rudd was taken into custody at North Judson last week for fighting in the street. Upon investigation it was found by police officials that he was AWOL from Camp Chaffee, Ark., since December 20. Military police came Wednesday from Indianapolis for Rudd. He was inducted from the Denham vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Jan 1944: 1.

Deputy Arrest on AWOL

Deputy Turner also apprehended James M. Rudd, alleged to be away from the army without official leave. He was taken into custody Thursday at the home of his mother in Rich Grove township and turned over to military officials Tuesday.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jul 1944: 1

A. W. O. L. SERVICEMEN

J. A. Robella was picked up Friday by Matt Winter for being AWOL from Great Lakes. He was visiting in the William Hoover home north of town.

Pvt. James Marshall Rudd was arrested last week in North Judson for fighting on the street. Upon investigation it was found by police that he was AWOL from Camp Chaffee, Ark., since Dec. 20. Military police arrived Wednesday from Indianapolis. Pvt. Rudd was formerly from the Denham vicinity.

Winamac (IN) Republican 13 Jan 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Noble Edward Walther

Noble wrote a letter in support of home folks buying war bonds.

Born: 8/19/1919

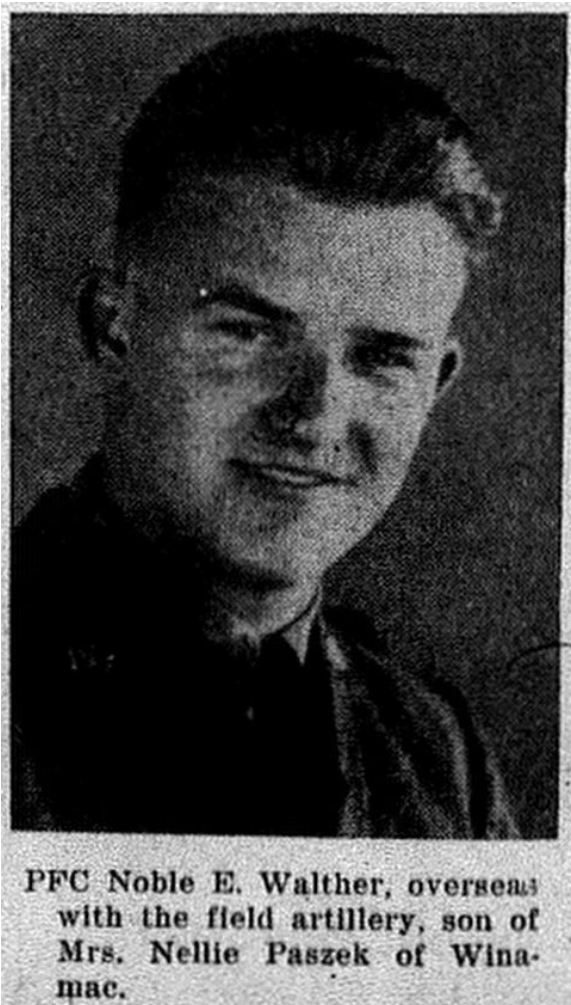
Entered: 1/31/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PFC

Discharged: 9/3/1945

Died: 3/1/1996

Parents: Nellie E. Tabler (Frank E.[deceased]) Walther (Pete) Paszek



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Feb 1943: 1.

From Ireland

I would like to write something that would help in the bond drive, but hardly know what to say that will pass the censor.

Have now been in the Army three years, most of that time overseas. And I am not the only one from good old Pulaski county. There are a lot of the boys, here in the same organization with me, who came in the same day I did. And we are all trying to do our part.

But how can we do our part without help from the folks back there in the good old U. S. A.? I know—they can buy War Bonds. All of us boys over here are buying bonds, and I know that the folks back there have been buy-

ing bonds, too. But they must keep on buying more of them. Maybe they can't see what good they are doing when they buy a bond, but I can say this much—if they were over here in a pair of G. I. shoes, they sure would know. We can see just what things are here. And I don't mean maybe. If only you folks over there knew how things are over here.

Of course, it isn't so bad here where I am, but there are a lot of places not as good as Northern Ireland. This is the third place overseas that my organization has been in, and God only knows where else it may be sent before it comes back home again. We all had hopes of coming back at one time, but now we don't even think of it.

PFC NOBLE E. WALTHER.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Harold James "Skip" McKinley

Skip wrote a letter in support of folks at home buying war bonds.

Born: 9/11/1909

Entered: 6/3/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35160469,T/4

Discharged: 11/2/1945

Died: 7/13/1992

Parents: Calvin "Cal" and Eva M. Little McKinley



Pvt. Harold McKinley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McKinley of Wynamac, in the coast guard artillery at a U. S. outpost.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Nov 1942: 1.

Soldier Letters

Dear Folks —

Haven't had time to write outside of the card. We have been moved around quite a bit. All the companies are split up here and they are around airplane factories. We are on a hill across from one plant. We are digging trenches to the 37mm. guns and ammunition boxes and to our dugouts. We sleep in three airplane motor boxes put together with bunks built in. There are eight of us sleeping in a room about seven feet wide and twelve feet long. There is not even room to turn around in. We are putting guns on the hill and they are building barracks for us.

They haul us about three miles from here in trucks to eat every day and also drive us over to another place to take a shower. We work all day and stand guard two hours every night.

They are sure getting ready for invasion here. They don't intend to be surprised. Every place you look you can see guards and guns. They even have machine guns on the roofs of the airplane factories. We have a machine gun down by the road and no cars are allowed to stop at all. Streets going past the plant are closed and sand bagged.

Haven't had a pass yet, but I think we new fellows will get ours about the last of the week. Passes are only good for six hours now.

Well, this is about all I can think of now. If you have written, I haven't got the letter yet, but probably will tomorrow as some of the fellows' mail came in today from the other address that I sent you.

Would like to hear from some of the fellows, but haven't had time yet, so if any of them ask give them my address and tell them to write and I will write later on.

HAROLD MCKINLEY
Btry H, 203rd C.C. (AA)
Santa Monica, Calif.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Feb 1942: 3.

From the Aleutians

At an outpost like this, our only source of supplies is by boat, weather permitting. This makes our mails very slow. By the time I get the county paper it is a month old.

I have noticed that the sale of war bonds hasn't been so very good sometimes, and I am wondering what attitude people take toward the war. Are they getting used to it, and pass it off as one of those things that will wear itself out some time?

From the North Pacific to the South Pacific our boys are buying all the bonds they can possibly afford, besides giving their service

and possibly their lives to their country. So it seems to me that the least people at home could do is to back them up with war bonds.

I have now been isolated from civilization for nearly two years, most of that in the dreary, wind-swept and fog-bound Aleutians. I know that the boys here are buying lots of bonds every payday, hoping that it will hasten the day that they can get back to civilization again. Some day the boys will be coming home from the battle fronts of the world, looking for jobs to help pay for the peace and democracy they fought for.

Back the bucks with bonds.

PFC HAROLD MCKINLEY.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for friends.

Harold heard from folks in Winamac that Dean was on the same Aleutian island, only a mile apart, but they met only after the weather improved enough to travel.

Harold James "Skip" McKinley

Born: 9/11/1909

Entered: 6/3/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35160469,T/4

Discharged: 11/2/1945

Died: 7/13/1992

Parents: Calvin "Cal" and Eva M. Little McKinley

Wilford Dean "Dean" Bartlett

Born: 2/8/1916

Entered: 3/1/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35153835,T/4

Discharged:

Died: 6/30/1985

Parents: Amanda May Sheets (Charles Lamont) Bartlett (John F.) Bledsoe and Charles Lamont Bartlett



Pvt. Harold McKinley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McKinley of Winamac, in the coast guard artillery at a U. S. outpost.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Nov 1942: 1.



Sgt. W. Dean Bartlett, in the quartermaster division, son of Mrs. Amanda Bartlett of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Jan 1943: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

In a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cal McKinley of Winamac, their son Harold tells of a recent meeting with Dean Bartlett, another Winamac boy in the Aleutians. Through correspondence with home folks each learned of the other's presence on the same island, a mile apart, but weather conditions prevented travel. When the first nice day came Harold made the trip. Both young men have been stationed in Alaska and the Aleutians for more than two years and this was their first meeting.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for brothers.

After meeting his brother, Bob, in a nearby camp in February, Ed wrote to their folks, "Fifteen miles sounds close to you, but it isn't always that way here, and one is not always sitting around his tent waiting for visitors from home. I may not get to see him again, but this meeting did us both a lot of good.". They got to meet again in June. Four months later, Bob was killed.

Edwin Lawrence "Ed" Fagner

Born: 3/1/1911
Entered: 5/19/1942
Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35354646,S/SGT
Discharged:
Died: 6/30/2003

Parents: Thomas Lee and Emma Dahl
Fagner



Ed Fagner, Veterans of Pulaski County.

Robert Lee "Bob" Fagner

Born: 10/24/1924
Entered: 3/25/1943
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35130505,SGT
Awards: Purple Heart
Died: 10/4/1944

Parents: Thomas Lee and Emma Dahl
Fagner



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Oct 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

MEN AND WOMEN IN WAR SERVICE

County Men Meet in Italy, Hawaii, Alaska and on Board Ship.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fagner of Jefferson township received a letter this week from their son Ed in which he tells of a meeting with his brother Bob in Italy. When a third brother Wayne, at home, sent Ed the new address of their brother Bob it proved to be in a camp fifteen miles distant from Ed's camp in Italy. Ed was fortunate in getting transportation there, and a week end pass. In his letter Ed said: "Fifteen miles sounds close to you, but it isn't that way here, and one is not always sitting around his tent waiting for visitors from home. I may not get to see him again but this meeting did us both a lot of good." Bob has been promoted to private first class.

In a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cal McKinley of Winamac, their son Harold tells of a recent meeting with Dean Bartlett, another Winamac boy in the Aleutians. Through correspondence with home folks each learned of the other's presence on the same island, a mile apart, but weather conditions prevented travel. When the first nice day came Harold made the trip. Both young men have been stationed in Alaska and the Aleutians for more than two years and this was their first meeting.

John Rafferty, WT 3/c, of Star City, was aboard an aircraft carrier for some time when his presence was discovered by Petty Officer Clyde Robertson, formerly of Winamac. Robertson, who has been a member of the ship's band since he was assigned to duty nearly two years ago, recently spent a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson of Chicago.

Pvt. Joseph Schmicker wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Schmicker of the Winamac vicinity, that he had met Cpl. Jim Nuffer in the Hawaiian Islands recently. Pvt. Schmicker is now stationed at a south Pacific island. Mrs. Schmicker's brother, PFC Gerald Gilsinger, has written her that he is now located in the south Pacific also.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fagner received a letter from their son Robert Tuesday, telling of his meeting his brother Ed in Rome, and that they had seen each other three times after that. They had also met last December in Italy.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Jun 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for friends.

John and Clyde discovered they were on the same aircraft carrier.

John Patrick Rafferty

Born: 7/11/1917

Entered: 7/16/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,WT3c or F1c

Discharged: 11/5/1945

Died: 2/7/1973

Parents: John Mathias and Nellie Veronica
Silver Rafferty



John Rafferty, F 1/c, on an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic fleet, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rafferty of Star City.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Nov 1943: 1.

Clyde Paul Robertson Jr.

Born: 6/19/1920

Entered: 1941?

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,Mus. 3/c

Discharged:

Died: 3/24/2000

Parents: Clyde Mondeau and Anna Ida
Couch Robertson Sr.



Clyde Robertson, Mus. 3/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson of Chicago, formerly of Winamac, in the Navy.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Apr 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

John Rafferty, WT 3/c, of Star City, was aboard an aircraft carrier for some time when his presence was discovered by Petty Officer Clyde Robertson, formerly of Winamac. Robertson, who has been a member of the ship's band since he was assigned to duty nearly two years ago, recently spent a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson of Chicago.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for friends.

Joe met **Jim** in the Hawaiian Islands.

Joseph William "Joe" Schmicker

Born: 9/13/1922

Entered: 11/7/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: ?,35567596,CPL

Discharged: 12/5/1945

Died: 3/14/1993

Parents: William Fred and Katherine Celcilia
Gilsinger Schmicker

James G. "Jim" Nufer

Born: 5/12/1914

Entered: 10/16/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: ?,36130312,CPL

Discharged:

Died: 5/7/2001

Parents: John Badis and Rose Agnes Bigler
Nufer



Pvt. Joseph W. Schmicker, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Schmicker, west of Winamac, with quartermaster corps in southwest Pacific,

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Aug 1944: 1.



Pvt. Jim Nufer, stationed overseas with the coast artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Nufer of the Winamac vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Feb 1943: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

MEN AND WOMEN IN WAR SERVICE

County Men Meet in Italy, Hawaii, Alaska and on Board Ship.

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Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for Joe, Claude, and James.

Joseph Mathias "Joe" Bauer Jr.

Born: 8/22/1920
Entered: 5/?/1943
Branch,SN,Rank:
USN,,PO3c or SC2c
Discharged:
Died: 5/15/2016

Spouse: Wilma Jean Smith
Bauer

Parents: Joseph Anthony
"Joe" and Mary Lorette
Mulkerin Bauer

Claude Edgar Vanaman

Born: 4/5/1914
Entered: 9/10/1942
Branch,SN,Rank:
USN,,M.M.3c
Discharged: 12/5/1945
Died: 2/11/1973

Parents: Henry Edgar and
Emma Jeanetta Cramer
Vanaman

James Eakin Carson

Born: 1/11/1918
Entered: 5/21/1942
Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,F1c
Discharged: <12/13/1945
Died: 12/30/1993

Parents: Armor Roy and
Bessie Priscilla Plank
Carson

Three Pulaski County Men Meet In Hawaii; Pose for Cameraman



Three Pulaski county navy men recently got together in Hawaii and had their pictures taken. They are Joseph Bauer, SC 2/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bauer of Monterey; Claude E. Vanaman, Mo. M. M. 3/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Vanaman of Franklin township; James Carson, Mo. M. M. 2/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Carson of the Winamac vicinity. Bauer and Carson had been on the same boat. All three are now stationed at Pearl Harbor.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Feb 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Verne Elmer "Verne" Trinoskey

After his plane collided with another over Greece, Verne parachuted and was rescued and cared for by Greek citizens.

Born: 7/15/1920

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,,S/SGT

Medal: Air Medal

Discharged:

Died: 7/16/1978

Spouse: Bernice Lucile Kopkey Trinoskey

Parents: Elmer Edward and Bertha M Born Trinoskey



S/SGT. VERNE TRINOSKY

Winamac Girl's Husband Listed Missing in Action

S/Sgt. Verne Trinosky of North Judson, whose wife is the former Miss Burnice Kopkey of Winamac, is reported missing in action in a flight over Greece. The message came Sunday by telegram to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Trinosky of North Judson. He is a tail gunner on a bomber.

There were rumors around Winamac to the effect that Mrs. Trinosky had received later word of her husband's death, but she informs The Democrat that no information of any kind has come except the report that he is missing.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Feb 1944: 1.

Winamac Man Reported Missing In Greece Raid

WINAMAC, Ind. — Staff Sgt. Verne E. Trinosky, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Trinosky, of North Judson, has been reported missing in action during a raid over Greece instead of "killed in action" as previously reported.

Sergeant Trinosky, a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber, has been missing since January 11, the War Department message said. The missing man's wife, the former Burnice Kopkey, lives in Winamac.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 3 Feb 1944: 5.

A small V-Mail letter brought to Mrs. Bernice Trinoskey, an employe of the Kruger Grocery, the best wedding anniversary present she could have—a letter from her husband, Sgt. Verne Trinoskey, who was reported missing after an aerial action over Greece January 11. The couple's first wedding anniversary is tomorrow, (Friday).

"What I really want you to know is that I am all right. Just shaken up a little and excited about being back in good hands again," the letter said, adding "by the time you receive this I should be well on my way back to the states."

The letter was the first word Mrs. Trinoskey had received since the War Department reported her husband missing.

Casually, in the latter part of the letter, Sgt. Trinoskey said, "If this sounds like a very poor letter you will just have to excuse me, as it is the first time I have written since my escape."

No other details of the escape were given, but it is presumed that Sgt. Trinoskey parachuted to safety and then managed to escape capture through the efforts of friendly Greeks.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Apr 1944: 1.

Gunner Escapes From Nazi-Held Territory

S/Sgt. Verne Trinoskey arrived in Winamac Monday night to spend a twenty-day furlough with his wife and with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Trinoskey of North Judson. He expects to go from here to Miami, Fla., and will be accompanied by his wife, who was Miss Burnice Kopkey before their marriage. He reached the States Saturday, flying from Casablanca, Africa.

Sgt. Trinoskey was listed as missing in action January 11, when his plane collided with another on a mission over Greece. He was one of three men who parachuted to safety, although he was wounded by flak before reaching the ground. He was cared for by friendly natives of the Nazi-held territory and eighty-nine days later escaped to an Allied base. He is under oath not to tell of his experiences until after the war.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 May 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Harold Carl Kripisch

Harold earned his Silver Star by moving to an exposed place to get a better field of fire for his weapon, repelling two attacks from artillery and mortar fire and from hand grenades.

Born: 10/8/1918

Entered: 2/3/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35090726,PVT

Awards: Silver Star

Discharged: 9/27/1945?

Died: 1/22/1973

Parents: Herbert and Mary Hall Kripisch



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Sep 1943: 1.

Receive Medals

Pvt. Harold C. Kripisch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kripisch of Medaryville, has been awarded the Silver Star for bravery and conduct during a battle in Italy. A recent report said: On February 11 and 14, 1944, as an automatic rifleman, he fought with his company against an enemy counterattack on a hill position. As the assault became more threatening, he moved from his position to an exposed place subject to intense enemy artillery and mortar fire, because it offered a better field of fire for his weapon. He fired so accurately and rapid that the enemy was forced to withdraw from his sector. Again the enemy attacked, this time sneaking close to his position and attempting to blast him out with hand grenades. He countered with rifle fire, killing and wounding so many enemy that they were again forced to withdraw.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Back to visit the old boss were Kenneth, George, and William.

Kenneth Allen Heater

Born: 9/8/1913
Entered: 10/15/1942
Branch,SN,Rank:
USA,35563270,T/3
Discharged: 2/13/1946
Died: 5/5/1979

Parents: Charles Ora and
Ora Pearl Hoch Heater

George Hadden Depoy

Born: 9/18/1925
Entered: 5/4/1944?
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PFC

Discharged:
Died: 1/19/2014

Parents: Della Forence
Rinebarger (Oscar
Arl[deceased]) Depoy

William Edward "Bill" Larkin

Born: 12/9/1922
Entered: 11/16/1942?
Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,A/S

Discharged:
Died: 11/17/1998

Spouse: Margarie M.
Parrish Larkin
Parents: Agnes Ethel Ware
(William U[deceased])
Larkin



Sgt. Kenneth Heater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heater of Winamac, in the engineering corps.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Mar
1944: 1.



George Depoy, S 2/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Depoy, east of Winamac, on sea duty with the Merchant Marines.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr
1944: 1.



A. S. William Larkin of Winamac, taking officers' training, son of Mrs. Agnes Larkin of South Bend.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Oct
1943: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

The merits of the various military services were threshed out over the week end at the Duggleby Motor Sales when three former employees returned home on leave.

Sergeant Kenneth Heater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heater, stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; George Depoy, Seaman 2-C of the Merchant Marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Depoy, and Seaman William Larkin, stationed at Oxford, O., son of Mrs. Agnes Larkin of South Bend, formerly of Lucerne, all visited with their former employer, Charles Duggleby.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Mar 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for Nordine and Stanley to meet in India by coincidence.

Anne Noreen "Noreen" Bauer

Born: 7/30/1915
Entered: 8/24/1942
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,LTC
Discharged:
Died: 2/25/2003

Parents: Joseph Anthony "Joe" and Mary
Loriette Mulkerin Bauer



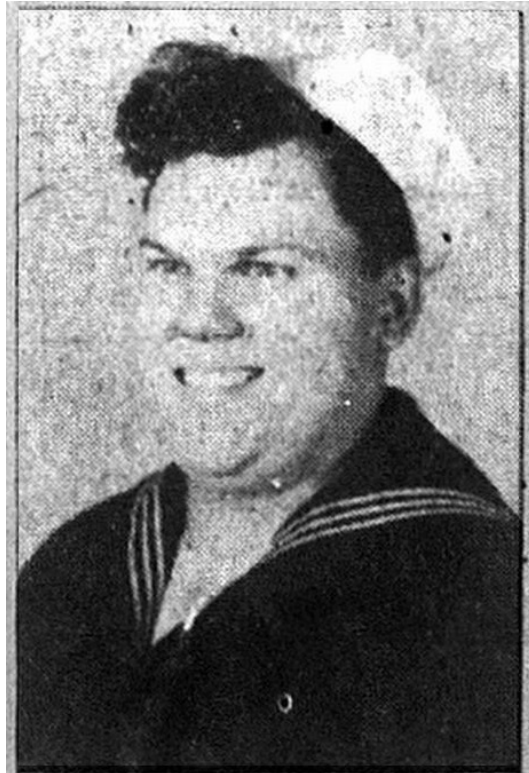
Lt. Noreen Bauer, in the nurses' corps of the Army, now in foreign service, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bauer of Monterey.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Feb 1943: 1.

Stanley Keith Henry

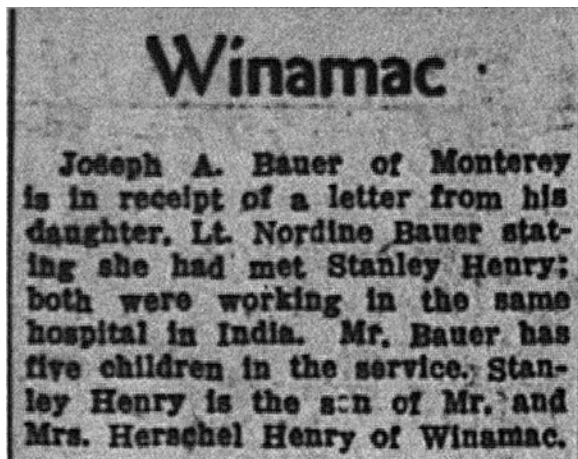
Born: 5/5/1920
Entered: 11/16/1942
Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,PhM3c
Discharged: 10/25/1945?
Died: 12/19/1971

Spouse: Lois Charlotte Zellers Henry
Parents: Herschel Emerson and Edith
Margaret Bader Henry



Stanley K. Henry, ph. mate 3/c, in the Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Henry of Winamac. His wife is the former Miss Lois Zellers.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Jul 1943: 1.



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 21 Mar 1944: 9.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for Ralph and Harry to meet in England.

Ralph Francis Miller

Born: 6/11/1916

Entered: 5/12/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35159979,SSGT

Awards: Bronze Star

Discharged: 9/28/1945

Died: 12/19/2006

Parents: Frank Anthony and Cecelia C.
Gilsinger Miller

Harry Edward (or Edmund) "Ed" Miller

Born: 9/11/1922

Entered: 2/3/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35090721,PFC

Discharged:

Died: 1/6/2015

Parents: Frank Anthony and Cecelia C.
Gilsinger Miller



S/Sgt. Ralph Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller of Winamac, in an armored division.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Aug 1943: 1.



PFC Harry E. Miller, with a mobil unit, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 26 Aug 1943: 1.

Miller Brothers Meet In England

S-Sgt. Ralph Miller and Pfc. Harry E. Miller, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller of Winamac, were together for the first time in two years when they met at Plymouth, England, two weeks ago. The brothers crossed on the same convoy without knowing of the other's presence. Through correspondence with their parents they learned that they were stationed in England. Having planned twice to meet, their plans were altered on both occasions.

Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Mar 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for Betty and Dick in New Guinea.

Elizabeth "Betty" Dodd

Born: 3/6/1919

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USNC,,LT

Discharged:

Died: 2/8/2007

Parents: Thomas Calvin and Harriet Jenette
Ritter Dodd

Richard Ritter "Dick" Dodd

Born: 4/16/1913

Entered: 3/26/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35111564,SGT

Discharged:

Died: 4/5/2001

Parents: Thomas Calvin and Harriet Jenette
Ritter Dodd



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Apr 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

It's a Small World (War II) for James, Tony, and who? in the South Pacific.

James found a Pulaski County Democrat along the side of a road in the South Pacific; it wasn't dropped by Tony from Winamac in a separate nearby unit, so who?

James Burton Warriner

Born: 6/25/1916

Entered: 7/1/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,CPT

Discharged: 3/28/1946

Died: 5/10/1995

Parents: William Burton and Julia Emma
Guild Warriner

Joseph Anthony "Tony" Snyder

Born: 3/12/1911

Entered: 10/1/1942?

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,TEC3

Discharged:

Died: 5/26/1962

Parents: George W. and True E. Asmus
Snyder



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr 1944: 6

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

John Jackson Hall

John was frustrated that the censor's directions took more than half of his allotted time in a phone call to his wife and mother.

Born: 9/27/1916

Entered: 10/16/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,CM2c

Discharged:

Died: 8/30/1999

Spouse: Pauline Velta Clements Hall

Parents: Guy Herbert and Inez May Crowder Hall



John J. Hall, CM 2/c, with the Seabees in the Pacific, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hall of Winamac. His wife was formerly Miss Pauline Clements.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Sep 1943: 1.

One of the more exasperating phases of life in war time was the experience Sunday of Mrs. Guy Hall and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Pauline Hall. C-M John Hall, on duty with the Navy at Pearl Harbor, called his wife and mother by telephone. Scarcely had greetings been exchanged when the censor interrupted with directions about what to say and in the end he occupied more of the allotted time than John did.

Winamac (IN) Republican 13 Apr 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

It's a Small World (War II) for Ray and Clyde, both company musicians, meeting in North Africa.

Raymond Joseph "Ray" Stevens

Born: 7/17/1916

Entered: 6/27/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36355237,SGT

Discharged:

Died: 12/9/2010

Parents: Leo A. and Clotilde Evangeline
Rabig Stevens



Sgt. Ray Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stevens of Winamac, with the Army in Italy.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 11 Jan 1945: 1.

Clyde Paul Robertson Jr.

Born: 6/19/1920

Entered: 1941?

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,Mus. 3/c

Discharged:

Died: 3/24/2000

Parents: Clyde Mondeau and Anna Ida
Couch Robertson Sr.



Clyde Robertson, Mus. 3/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson of Chicago, formerly of Winamac, in the Navy.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Apr 1944: 1.

Winamac Boys Meet In Africa

Another story about Pulaski County boys in service includes the information that Ray Stephens son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stephens of Winamac, wrote in a recent letter to his mother that he and Clyde Robertson, formerly of Winamac, had met somewhere in the North African theatre.

Winamac (IN) Republican 18 May 1944: 1.

Winamac Boys Meet in North Africa

WINAMAC, Ind., May 18—Winamac is not a large city; nevertheless, two local youths had to go all the way to North Africa to meet for the first time.

The service men, both company musicians, who became acquainted in Africa, are Ray Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stevens, and Clyde Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 18 May 1944: 16.



Ray Stevens (Collection of LynnHerklotz) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/26344126/person/1825879453/media/89a2da7f-520f-404c-8b15-f5ada31d5d65

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

John Tennyson "Jack" Russell

In a letter to a friend, Jack described serving in China.

Born: 6/13/1924

Entered: 3/30/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35138535,SGT

Discharged:

Died: 9/11/1984

Parents: Elvin John "John" and Glenna Viola Swayzee Russell



PFC Jack Russell, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Russell of Winamac, with the cryptography branch of the Air Corps in China.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Jun 1944: 1.

The following interesting letter from Jack Russell to Velma Long comes from China.

Dear Velma:

Since last writing you I've seen quite a bit of the world—South Africa, India and finally China. I know you're wondering if I saw our mutual friend Gandhi. Well, no, but I did see evidence of his work everywhere I turned. Kasturba Gandhi died while I was there and a large proportion of the shops in the city closed on her account.

But I really like China much better, except that India is a much easier place in which to buy foreign goods. My salary here amounts to about \$15,000 a month although the U.S.-China official rate of exchange is 20 to 1, the black market here, which we G. I.'s patronize, gives us about 230 to 1. But inflation keeps us from being rich. I wanted a bottle of Quink the other day—\$10,000?

Naturally it's much worse on those things that are made outside of China, since importation is impossible now for anything except war materials and Chinese dollars (which are printed in the U.S.). Since arriving overseas I've discovered I'm really in the Air Force. Practically all my traveling has been via airplane. In fact, the thrill of riding in a plane has gone.

In China our major means of private transportation is via rickshaw. At first it rather hurt my

conscience to be carted about in such a way, but the coolies don't seem to mind it. In fact all the people are a pretty happy lot. They really like the Yanks and go out of their way to make us comfortable. The Chinese government furnishes our hostels, our servants and takes care of our laundry. Our particular hostel has a Christian Chinese manager, educated at an American-Methodist university in China. He's a splendid fellow and speaks English quite fluently. He's giving us Chinese lessons 3 times a week.

Sunday (Palm Sunday) we had some missionaries from the city to conduct services. So far we have no chaplain.

Did I ever thank you for the note in the autograph book the kids at the store sent? I'm afraid I couldn't quite make out the Latin exhortation. Does that discourage you after trying for 3 years to teach me Latin? Right now most of my Latin consists of legal and ecclesiastical terms.

I've got a Josephine Culbertson book now and am striving to improve my contract bridge, so watch out when I come home.

I'm not flattering when I say you write some of the most interesting letters of all my correspondents. Don't write V-mail when you write. Use air mail. It's much faster and more enjoyable.

Give my love to Vera and all the kids.

Love, Jack.

Winamac (IN) Republican 4 May 1944: 3.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Virgil Earl Russell

In a letter to his momma, Virgil wrote about the importance of winning the war.

Born: 8/22/1920

Entered: 7/8/1942

Branch, ID, Rank: USN, 6265952, MM2

Discharged: 10/16/1944

Died: 5/6/1991

Parents: Walter Earl and Gladys Eula Smith Russell



Virgil Earl Russell, M.M. 2/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Russell of Jackson, Mich., residents of Pulaski county until three years ago.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Aug 1944: 1.

Former Local Sailor Tells Feelings in War

Virgil Earl Russell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Russell of Jackson, Mich., formerly of Pulaski county, has been in the Navy for three years. He was born in Ripley, attended school in Star City and graduated from Royal Center high school in 1939. Much of his time in the Navy has been spent at sea. During his first trip out he wrote the following letter:

Dear Mom:

This letter may never be delivered to you. It will go to New York and many other places before you receive it.

About the war I can say nothing, only that I am proud to be a part of the fight that is being made over here, and would not, even if it were possible, leave the service until this damn war is over and won.

I have seen some horrible things happen, but I have seen some wonderful acts of courage, sacrifice and loyalty. At least, I have found that job which I have searched for all my life—a cause

and a job in which I can lose myself completely and to which I can give every ounce of my strength and mind. I have mentally and spiritually conquered my fear of death. My prayer each night and morning is that God will send you, who are suffering so much more than I, His strength and peace.

During the past few months I have been a part of the most unselfish, co-operative efforts that have ever been made by a group of individuals. Mistakes have been made, but that has nothing to do with the manner in which my shipmates have reacted to their trial by fire. If the same spirit were devoted to world betterment in time of peace, what a good world we would have.

The purpose of this letter is to send you my love for just being my family. My prayer is not of myself but of you, and people like you. Remember, if we don't win this war, we will always be fighting. Nothing matters but winning this war. If we don't win it, nothing matters.

Your son, VIRGIL.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 May 1944: 6.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Norman Stanford Thompson

In one year, Norman and his fellow soldier mail clerks handled 25 million letters.

Born: 12/3/1919

Entered: 1/3/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35578366,SGT

Discharged:

Died: 10/31/2014

Spouse: Marjorie Brinker Thompson

Parents: Haakon and Florence Irene Rolleston Thompson



Norman Thompson (Collection of Jean Thompson) -
ancestry.com/mediaui-
viewer/collection/1030/tree/803305/person/-
2047616457/media/7d822055-1153-4987-8054-b39e63322068

Local Sergeant Helps Set Overseas Mail Record

Sgt. Norman S. Thompson is a soldier mail clerk in the Ninth Base Postoffice in the Mediterranean theater, according to recent press release from Major Raymond D. Ferguson, the post office's commanding officer in Allied headquarters in that area. Sgt. Thompson's wife lives in the Winamac vicinity.

According to Maj. Ferguson, Sgt. Thompson and his fellow workers have handled approximately twenty-five million letters during one year of overseas operation.

The report stated that fifty per cent of the mail the office handles currently is V-mail while air mail consumes thirty per cent and ordinary letters twenty per cent.

"For speed in delivery, V-mail is consistently the fastest," said Maj. Ferguson, "It takes from eleven to thirteen days for it to arrive here from the States, while it takes from twenty-one to twenty-five days, as a rule, for regular mail. Now and then an air mail letter will arrive in four days but in the long run it takes longer than V-mail."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 May 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Raymond Anthony Hartman

Raymond was the first Pulaski County man to marry in England.

Born: 7/10/1919

Entered: 2/3/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,36315402,SGT

Discharged: 10/29/1945

Died: 4/1/1988

Spouse: Dorren Owen Hartman

Parents: Henry Albert "Bert" and Aurelia Agnes Fox Hartman



Winamac (IN) Republican 25 May 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Challie Howard

Challie had enough of the Army in May 1943, but the Army didn't have enough of him when he was found working in a potato field.

Born: 12/31/1922

Entered: 2/16/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 4/20/1963

Parents: Goble and Cora Corizelious Barnett Howard



Challie Howard (Collection of Casey Martin) -
findagrave.com/photos/2022/98/19928065_4e92a235-61f9-46bb-9bb9-62d129956bc4.jpeg

Arrest Army Deserter

State Patrolman Delvie Master-son and Deputy Sheriff Omar Turner arrested Challie Howard at his home in Rich Grove township Tuesday on charges of deserting the Army. According to reports he had left the Army in May, 1943, at Camp Hood, Texas. He was taken to Rochester jail to await action by military authorities.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Jun 1944: 1.

U. S. Deserter Arrested Here

Challe Howard, former army private charged with deserting at Camp Hood, Texas, in May, 1943, was arrested Tuesday by Deputy Sheriff Omer Turner and State Policeman Delvie Masterson.

Howard was working in the potato field on the Gumz Brothers farms north of Medaryville when he was arrested. Military police at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis were notified that Howard is being held in the Rochester jail.

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Jun 1944: 1.

HELP WANTED

Men, Women, Boys and Girls

To Weed Onions and Peppermint

GOOD PAY

FROM \$6.00 to \$15.00 per DAY

PIECE WORK

Truck Leaves Monterey Daily At 6 A. M. From Main
Corner And From Winamac At 6:30 A. M. From In Front
Of Court House.

Arthur P. Gumz Farms

North Judson and Newland

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Jun 1944: 3.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Gilbert Preston Bailey

Gilbert described Tokio Tillie, one of several women on Japanese radio charged with trying to demoralize U.S. troops. Gilbert edited the *Delphi (IN) Citizen* after high school from 1933 to 1935. He earned a B.S. and M.S. from Indiana University. He was a reporter and editor for the *New York Times* from 1946 to 1953.

Born: 5/19/1914

Entered: 10/13/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,468615,MSGT

Discharged: 2/27/1946

Died: 9/16/1955

Parents: Cleveland Alvey and Bertha Miles Bailey



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Jun 1944: 7.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Lawrence Cyril Pugh

Lawrence earned his Silver Star and Purple Heart by scaling a cliff under fire and knocking out a protected enemy observation post while incurring wounds.

Born: 6/5/1923

Entered: 11/4/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USMC,,CPL

Awards: Purple Heart, Silver Star

Discharged: 11/9/1945

Died: 8/21/1992

Parents: Leroy "Roy" Eugene and Alwilda Mays Pugh



Pvt. Lawrence C. Pugh, overseas with a Marine anti-tank company, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pugh of Franklin township.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Sep 1943: 1.

Marine Awarded Silver Star for Gallantry in Action on Saipan

PFC Lawrence Pugh, with the Marine Corps in the Pacific war theatre, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pugh of Winamac, has been awarded the Silver Star medal and the Purple Heart award for wounds sustained in the action which won the young Marine the medal. The following citation from Headquarters Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, describes the service rendered by PFC Pugh:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against enemy forces on Saipan, Marianas Islands, on June 22, 1944, while serving in a Marine Infantry battalion. While on patrol duty behind enemy lines, PFC Pugh's squad was pinned down by enemy machine gun fire. He unhesitatingly, with complete disregard for his own safety, scaled a steep cliff despite enemy fire, and knocked out a protected observation post with anti-tank grenades. Although wounded during the action, PFC Pugh silenced all enemy action. His outstanding devotion to duty and aggressive fighting spirit were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Another son of the Pughs, T/Sgt. Arthur W. Pugh, is now in a hospital in France, suffering from pneumonia. In a letter written March 4, he told his parents he was getting along all right.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Mar 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's **All in the Family** with Francis and Steve and their WWI veteran daddy.

Nicholas Francis "Francis" Ream Jr.

Born: 8/13/1920

Entered: 9/4/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,A.M.M.3c

Discharged: 11/13/1945

Died: 5/26/1985

Spouse: Helen K Hertel Ream

Parents: Nicholas "Nick" Frances (Millicent
"Millie" H. Bolton[deceased]) Ream Sr

Stephen Lyle "Steve" Ream

Born: 8/26/1926

Entered: 10/31/1945

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35969665,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 7/20/2013

Parents: Nicholas "Nick" Frances (Millicent
"Millie" H. Bolton[deceased]) Ream Sr.



Steve, daddy (in WWI cap), and Francis Ream (Collection of ToToBelle) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/23860023/person/1607016857/media/8f49d22a-0b60-4cb4-a695-d9e36dfb4103

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Darwin Deloss Sayers

Darwin earned his Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and Purple Heart during 31 missions in Europe.

Born: 5/20/1918

Entered: 3/17/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,15080144,1LT

Discharged: 6/25/1943

Died: 10/3/1989

Spouse: Betty Jo Moyer Sayers

Parents: Floyd Ephraim and Cora June Neely Sayers



LT. DARWIN SAYERS

Lt. Darwin Sayers, son of Trustee and Mrs. Floyd E. Sayers of Van Buren township, was commissioned a second lieutenant and received his silver wings Saturday morning in graduation exercises at the Pampa Army Air Field, Tex. Lt. and Mrs. Sayers arrived here Monday night for a 10-day furlough with relatives. He will report at Pyote, Tex., on July 8 for further training piloting flying fortresses.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Jul 1943: 1.

I'm in the Army Now

As I have been ordered to report for duty in the Air Corps, Feb. 4, I will sell my entire personal property at the Mrs. E. C. Geier place, two miles east on blacktop and half mile north of Star City, on

Monday, Feb. 2

Beginning at 12:30 P. M.

28 Head of Cattle: 12 head milk cows, 7 head Jersey 3 yrs. old to freshen from Feb. 1. to April 1; Jersey cow 5 yrs. due in April; Guernsey cow 7 yrs. old giving 5 gal milk; Shorthorn heifer 2 yrs. old calf by side; roan cow 4 yrs. old to freshen soon; roan cow 2 yrs. old to freshen in March; 8 head of heifers and steers; Shorthorn bull 8 mos. old; 7 head small heifers 7 mos. old; yearling Guernsey bull.

2 Head of Horses: Matched team of bays, 3 and 4 years old.

31 Head of Hogs: 5 brood sows; 3 registered and 2 Grade Hampshire, all due to farrow in March; registered Hampshire boar from the Gilbert Gardner herd; 24 head of shoats.

24 Head of Sheep: 24 head of breeding ewes 2 to 5 yrs. old due to lamb in April.

Hay and Grain: Approximately 200 bu. oats; some hay.

Farming implements: F-20 Farmall tractor on rubber, 14 inch two bottom Allis Chalmers plow; 13 inch Wards Hammermill with 3 screens and several lengths of pipe; 50 ft. endless belt; 18x8 hog house for 3 sows; 10 ft. hog feeder; numerous other articles.

Terms: Cash.

Darwin Sayers

J. H. Hepp, Auc.

Russell Dilts, Clerk.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Jan 1942: 7.

Lieut. D. D. Sayers Is Awarded DFC

Darwin D. Sayers, first lieutenant in the U. S. Army Air Forces, formerly of Star City, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement, the commanding general of an Eighth AAF Bomber Station in England has announced. His wife, Betty Jo Sayers, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd E. Sayers, live in Star City.

A veteran of 30 missions over Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe, Lieutenant Sayers, former farmer, has participated in some of the Eighth Air Force's toughest air battles including those at Frankfurt, Bremen, Berlin, Schweiffurt and Augsburg. He holds the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action during a mission to northern France.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 18 Jul 1944: 9.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

James Victor Samsel

"A member of the signal corps, Sgt. Samsel, during the drive to Brest, greatly aided the excellence of communications with his radio link team. As wire chief, he displayed and imparted to his men his excellent technical knowledge and by his outstanding leadership instilled in them a deep sense of cooperation and teamwork."

Born: 2/20/1921

Entered: 8/25/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,S/SGT

Discharged: 11/27/1945

Died: 8/13/2010

Parents: Mary Merle "Merle" Stevens (William Homer "Homer" [deceased]) Samsel



Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 2 Jul 1945: 4.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

John William "John Bill" Kelly

In 1944, John earned the Air Medal and was recognized on a radio broadcast.

Born: 12/3/1919

Entered: 3/3/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,19080701,MAJ


Medal: Air Medal

Discharged:

Died: 11/26/1983

Parents: Daniel "Dan" and Hazel Netherton Kelly

He Has His Wings Now



Lt. John W. Kelly, who recently received his silver wings as an Army pilot, is now at the Army Air Base at Warrensburg, Mo. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kelly and is following in the footsteps of his father, who was a captain of infantry in the World war I.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Nov 1942: 1.

Awarded Air Medal

Capt. John W. Kelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kelly of Winamac, has been awarded an air medal in recognition of meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the European theatre of operation during the period November 4, 1943 to July 1, 1944.

Capt. Kelly is pilot and assistant operations officer of a Ninth Air Force troop carrier command squadron. He took part in the initial invasion, dropping paratroops and supplies in enemy-held France.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 3 Aug 1944: 1.

Mentioned in Broadcast

Several Winamac people who were listening to a London broadcast on their radios Saturday night at ten o'clock received a thrill when "Captain John Kelly of Winamac" was mentioned as pilot of one of the planes which carried paratroopers to Eindhoven in the invasion of Holland on September 17. The broadcast was based on the story of a correspondent who was the second man to jump when the invasion started. After mentioning in particular the "Indiana Special," a plane piloted by Capt. Kelly, whose co-pilot and crewman are from Evansville and Fort Wayne, respectively, the announcer said these boys were doing a swell job which took "plenty of brain, brawn and guts." Capt. Kelly is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kelly of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Merl Galbreath Hutto

Merl attended West Point.

Born: 8/18/1923

Entered: 6/3/1946?

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,COL

Discharged:

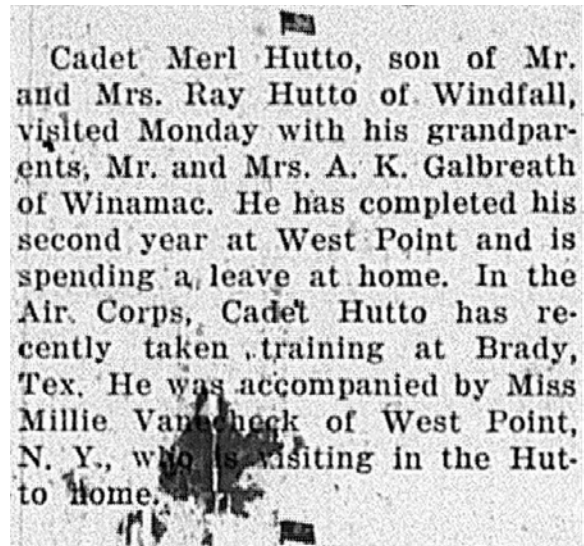
Died: 3/30/2015

Parents: Ray Lindsay and Iva May Galbreath Hutto



Merl Hutto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hutto of Windfall, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Galbreath, Winamac. He has completed a year at West Point.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Jul 1944: 1



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Jun 1945: 2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Lewis Hetzel

Robert was awarded the Air Medal, and the Distinguished Flying Cross the following year.

Born: 5/6/1918

Entered: 4/22/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,19039040,AC

Medals: Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross

Discharged:

Died: 3/16/1981

Parents: Robert Newton and Floy Lola Hoch Hetzel



Winamac (IN) Republican 16 Sep 1943: 1.

Mrs. Etta Hoch has received word of the promotion of her grandson, now Major R. F. Hetzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Hetzel of Long Beach, Cal., and former Winamac residents. Major Hetzel is a veteran of 2000 hours in the air, and one time was personal pilot for General George Patton and General Mark Clark. He piloted the second transport plane to land in North Africa, and landed the first ship on two airfields in Tunisia and Algeria that were taken from the Germans. He was later assigned to India, and flew the "hump" into China for three months. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the American Defense Ribbon, the American Campaign Ribbon with four stars, and the Southwest Pacific Theatre Ribbon with one star, each star representing action in a major campaign. He received his wings four days after Pearl Harbor, was commissioned in June, 1942, and made Captain in the following August when he flew to England. He is now serving in Rome as Operational Officer.

Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Jul 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

It's a Small World (War II) for Dick, Jim, Lowell, and Don in New Guinea.

While recovering from a broken ankle in New Guinea, Dick noticed two local boys visiting, Jim and Lowell, who were soon joined by Don.

Richard Frank "Dick" Dickensheets

Born: 10/29/1919

Entered: 2/19/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35259747,T4

Discharged: 9/27/1945?

Died: 10/13/1967

Parents: Carl Elmore and Freda Evert Dickensheets

Willard James "James" "Jim" Abbott

Born: 5/9/1923

Entered: 1/13/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35580828,CPL

Discharged:

Died: 4/7/1974

Parents: Nathan Simmian and Norma C. Fall Abbott

Lowell Everett Strand

Born: 3/9/1923

Entered: 1/12/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35580852,PVT

Discharged: 12/6/1945?

Died: 6/22/1965

Parents: John Arthur and Ella Louis Warkentien Strand Jr.

Donald D. "Don" Marquis

Born: 8/11/1923

Entered: 5/31/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35145682,T/5

Discharged: 1/6/1946

Died: 2/27/1976

Spouse: Lois Eleanor "Eleanor" Dawson Marquis

Parents: James Issac and Opal Bernice Fry Marquis



Winamac (IN) Republican 10 Aug 1944: 1

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Albin Francis "Alvin" Shank

Albin earned his Bronze Star and a field commission after he used his assault gun to drive the enemy from a bridge they were preparing for demolition. On a later occasion, he and another officer captured 123 with only one shot fired.

Born: 2/19/1917

Entered: 5/12/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35160042,2LT

Awards: Bronze Star

Discharged:

Died: 5/18/2006

Parents: Bernard "Barney" Frank (Caroline "Carrie" E. Gilsinger[deceased]) Shank



Sgt. Albin Shank, in the armored division, son of Barney Shank of Pulaski.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Jan 1943: 1.

Pulaski Sergeant Is Awarded Bronze Star for Meritorious Service

S/Sgt. Albin F. Shank of Pulaski, has been cited for meritorious service in combat in France and awarded the Bronze Star. As reported to The Democrat by Fourth Armored Division Headquarters, the citation reads in part: "On the morning of August 31, 1944, at Ligne, France, S/Sgt. Shank was responsible for placing fire on the enemy with such accuracy with his assault gun that he drove the enemy from the bridge which they were preparing for demolition, thus saving the following elements time and casualties."

The young man is platoon sergeant in a mechanized cavalry reconnaissance squadron. A graduate of Pulaski high school, he entered the Army in May of 1941.

Cpl. Carl Shank, another son of Barney Shank, is now home on three weeks' furlough. He recently returned to the states after two years in the Mediterranean theater.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Nov 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

All In the Family

Bill and Alice were one of the couples who were both in service.

Willard Virgil "Bill" Harrell

Born: 4/1/1919

Entered: 3/31/1944

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35830206,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 9/22/1975

Spouse: Ruth Mabel Katschke "Alice"? Harrell

Parents: Ross D. and Dessie Pearl Elea Harrell

Ruth Mabel Katschke "Alice"? Harrell

Born: 7/9/1920

Entered: ?

Branch,SN,Rank: USNNC,,HA1c

Discharged:

Died:

Spouse: Willard Virgil "Bill" Harrell

Parents: Berthold "Bert" Henry and Katherine M. Hausen Katschke

Pvt. Bill Harrell from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and his wife H. A. 1-c Alice Harrell from Indian Head Camp, Maryland, left Wednesday after spending a week with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Harrell. They had a 16-day furlough and will spend the rest with relatives in Columbus, O. Other guests over the week-end in the Harrell home were: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harrell and children from Valparaiso, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Harrell and children, Hammond, Mrs. Ruth Harrell and children, Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Harrell and son from Warsaw.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 24 Aug 1944: 8.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Francis Leonard Roth

Francis was the first Pulaski County soldier to vote in the 1944 election in person since he was home on leave at the time. Another 79 "soldier ballots" had been mailed.

Born: 1/23/1919

Entered: 4/15/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35176305,SSGT

Discharged: '1946

Died: 2/29/2000

Parents: William Theodore and Gertrude Mary Senn Roth



Sgt. Francis Roth, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Roth of Pulaski, in the field artillery.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 5 Nov 1942: 1.

First G. I. Vote Cast In County

Sgt. Francis Roth became the first Pulaski County soldier to vote in the 1944 election under the new Indiana War Ballot Law when he visited County Clerk Virgil Rinebarger this week and cast his vote.

Mr. Rinebarger reported that he had received a total of 80 requests for soldier ballots including Sgt. Roth's. Tuesday night, the clerk had the 79 ballots in the mail.

Winamac (IN) Republican 24 Aug 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

All in the Family

Lorraine became engaged to Wilbur, a Star City boy, and married him at the war's end.

Lorraine Isabelle Hulverson Galbreath

Born: 6/12/1916

Entered: 12/16/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,760-17-07,S2c

Discharged:

Died: 1/9/2011

Spouse: Marion Wilbert Galbreath

Parents: Lawrence Oliver and Myra E. Wells
Hulverson

Marion Wilbert "Wilbert" "Wilbur" Galbreath

Born: 9/22/1909

Entered: 6/30/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35163054,SGT

Discharged:

Died: 11/11/1994

Spouse: Lorraine Isabelle Hulverson
Galbreath

Parents: Robert and Mary Nida Felker
Galbreath

Announcement is made of the
engagement of Lorraine Hulverson,
S. 2-c, Volga, Iowa, and Sgt. Mar-
ion W. Galbreath, of Ft. Lewis,
Wash., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Galbreath of Star City.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 26 Aug 1944: 5.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Robert Emil "Bob" Strasser

Bob earned a Bronze Star for disregarding his safety, leading the clearing of a minefield, and constructing a temporary river ford to enable the construction of vital communication lines, likely the reason for his field promotion to lieutenant.

Born: 4/7/1920

Entered: 2/1/1941?

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35153113,2LT

Awards: Bronze Star

Discharged: 12/13/1945?

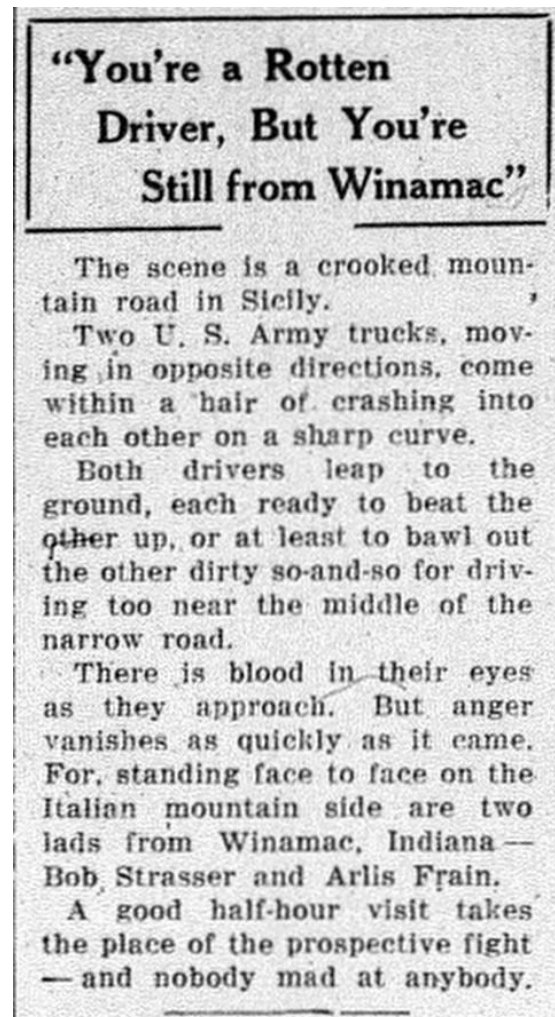
Died: 9/30/1970

Spouse: ?

Parents: Oscar Edwin and Verda Winona Davis Strasser



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 29 Apr 1943: 1.



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Dec 1943: 1.

From Italy

Uncle Sam didn't forget us on Thanksgiving. We had turkey and all the trimmings. Everyone sure enjoyed it, as we get very few meals with fresh meat. I don't know what Christmas will bring. I hope it's snow. The mud and rain here are kind of bad on my morale. It hasn't been so very cold yet, though. Jack Frost has visited us twice.

The boys don't kick too much, though, for there are plenty of people here wading in mud and water barefoot. I can't see how some of them can possibly live. Many of them are homeless, hardly any clothes, and very little to eat. I was talking to a man who has a wife and four children. All they have been eating was nuts and figs. All of these people, from the smallest to the oldest, know what war is.

I'd like to see some of those gripers back home take their place for just one day. Most people in America don't know what war is.

M/SGT. ROBERT STRASSER.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 27 Jan 1944: 1.

Notes About Home Folks in Armed Forces

Winamac Sergeant Is Awarded Medal for Meritorious Service

A bronze star medal for meritorious service has been awarded M/Sgt. Robert Strasser. It was revealed in a letter received this week by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strasser of Winamac.

The citation explains the award in these words: "Sergeant Strasser, platoon sergeant of a construction company, led and co-ordinated the operations of his platoon so that

it was able to furnish consistently successful wire circuits from Army to its advance units during both the Sicilian and Italian campaigns, despite the varied obstacles presented by the enemy and terrain. Disregarding his own personal safety, he led the clearing of mine fields and the construction of temporary river fords, thus enabling the construction of vital communications lines in a minimum of time."

M/Sgt. Strasser entered service three years ago last February, and has been overseas for nearly two years. He is in an armored signal battalion, and in his last letter expressed the opinion that "we are now beginning to see our way out." The letter was postmarked in France.

Two other sons of Mr. and Mrs. Strasser are in service. Wayne is an instructor at Aberdeen, Md., and Richard is about to complete his course at Great Lakes Naval station.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 1.

Master Sergeant Robert E. Strasser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strasser, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious service in connection with military operations from July 10, 1943 to July 14, 1944 including the Sicilian and Italian campaigns. "Sergeant Strasser," the citation continued, "platoon sergeant of a construction company, disregarding his own personal safety, led the clearing of mine fields and the construction of temporary river fords, thus enabling the construction of vital communication lines in a minimum of time." . . . during both the Sicilian and Italian campaigns.

Winamac (IN) Republican 7 Sep 1944: 1.

Winamac Sergeant Selected as 'Soldier of Month' at Ft. Monmouth

M/Sgt. Robert E. Strasser, a wire division instructor in the signal school at Ft. Monmouth, N. J., was selected as the outstanding soldier of the month, a monthly award honoring a soldier for his scholastic standards, exemplary performance of duty, superior military bearing and knowledge and fidelity of purpose.

The twenty-nine-year-old Army veteran from Winamac, will receive a commendation from Maj. Gen. Francis H. Lanahan, Post Commanding General, a three-day tour of New York City over the week end and will review the troops in the next garrison parade.

Sgt. Strasser, with nine years of Army service, is assigned to an instructor company. To date he has conducted seventy-four classes in the signal school.

During the war, Sgt. Strasser served in the European theatre for three years, where he was decorated with five battle stars and an arrowhead. He was awarded the bronze star for clearing landmines and establishing river crossings through the Italian campaign.

Prior to entering the Army, Sgt. Strasser attended Winamac high school and was employed for



three years as a power lineman for the Municipal Light & Water Works.

While in New York, he will be joined by three other honor soldiers from Fort Jay, Fort Dix and Fort Hamilton. Their tour will include radio interviews, television shows, meeting the press and social items.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strasser of Winamac, is married and has three children.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 13 Apr 1950: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Donald Joseph "Don" Caseley

Don treated the British flyer found trapped in his wrecked plane for eight days, about whom Ernie Pyle wrote.

Born: 1/24/1912

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,LT

Discharged:

Died: 2/2/1997

Spouse: Elizabeth "Bess" Gorrell Caseley

Parents: Rev. Audren LaMane and Mabelle Francis Casely



Lt. Donald J. Caseley, with a general hospital in England. His wife is the former Miss Bess Gorrell of Winamac.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Oct 1943: 1.

With Ernie Pyle at the Front

Trapped 8 Days in Plane, Ace Lives and Grins

*Courageous Allies See War at
Its Worst and Carry On*

By Ernie Pyle

ON THE WESTERN FRONT.—When you're wandering around our very far-flung front lines—the lines that in our present rapid war are known as “fluid”—you can always tell how recently the battle has swept on ahead of you.

You can sense it from the little things even more than the big things—

From the scattered green leaves and the fresh branches of trees still lying in the middle of the road.

From the wisps and coils of telephone wire, hanging brokenly from high poles and entwining across the roads.

From the gray, burned-powder rims of the shell craters in the gravel roads, their edges not yet smoothed by the pounding of military traffic.



Ernie Pyle

From the little pools of blood on the roadside, blood that has only begun to congeal and turn black, and the punctured steel helmets nearby.

From the square blocks of building stone still scattered in the village streets, and from the sharp-edged rocks in the roads, still uncrushed by traffic.

From the burned-out tanks and broken carts still unremoved from the road. From the cows in the fields, lying grotesquely with their feet to the sky, so newly dead they have not begun to bloat or smell.

From the scattered heaps of personal debris around a gun. I don't know why it is, but the Germans always seem to take off their coats before they flee or die.

From all these things you can tell that the battle has been recent—from these and from the men dead so recently that they seem to be merely asleep.

And also from the inhuman quiet. Usually battles are noisy for miles around. But in this recent fast warfare a battle sometimes leaves a complete vacuum behind it.

The Germans will stand and fight it out until they see there is no hope. Then some give up, and the rest pull and run for miles. Shooting stops. Our fighters move on after the enemy, and those who do not fight, but move in the wake of the battles, will not catch up for hours.

There is nothing left behind but the remains—the lifeless debris, the sunshine and the flowers, and utter silence.

An amateur who wanders in this vacuum at the rear of a battle has a terrible sense of loneliness. Everything is dead—the men, the machines, the animals—and you alone are left alive.

One afternoon we drove in our jeep into a country like that. The little rural villages of gray stone were demolished—heartbreaking heaps of still smoking rubble.

We drove into the tiny town of La Detinais, a sweet old stone village at the “T” of two gravel roads, a rural village in rolling country, a village of not more than 50 buildings. There was not a whole building left.

Rubble and broken wires still littered the streets. Blackish gray-stone walls with no roofs still smoldered inside. Dead men still lay in the street, helmets and broken rifles askew around them. There was not a soul nor a sound in town; the village was lifeless.

As we stood there talking in the lonely field a soldier in coveralls, with a rifle slung over his shoulder, ran up, breathlessly, and almost shouted:

“Hey, there's a man alive in one of those planes across the road! He's been trapped there for days!”

We stopped right in the middle of a sentence and began to run. We hopped the hedgerow, and ducked under the wing of the upside-down plane. And there, in the next hour, came the climax to what certainly was one of the really great demonstrations of courage in this war.

We ran to the wrecked British plane, lying there upside down, and dropped on our hands and knees and peered through a tiny hole in the side.

A man lay on his back in the small space of the upside-down cockpit. His feet disappeared somewhere in the jumble of dials and rubber pedals above him. His shirt was open and his chest was bare to the waist. He was smoking a cigaret.

He turned his eyes toward me when I peeked in, and he said in a typical British manner of offhand friendliness, “Oh, hello.”

“Are you all right?” I asked, stupidly.

He answered, “Yes, quite. Now that you chaps are here.”

I asked him how long he had been trapped in the wrecked plane. He said he didn't know for sure as he had got mixed up about the passage of time. But he did know the date of the month he was shot down. He told me the date. And I said out loud, “Good God!”

For, wounded and trapped, he had been lying there for eight days!

His left leg was broken and punctured by an ack-ack burst. His back was terribly burned by raw gasoline that had spilled. The foot of his injured leg was pinned rigidly under the rudder bar.

His space was so small he couldn't squirm around to relieve his own weight from his paining back. He couldn't straighten out his legs, which were bent above him. He couldn't see out of his little prison. He had not had a bite to eat or a drop of water. All this for eight days and nights.

Yet when we found him his physical condition was strong, and his mind was as calm and rational as though he were sitting in a London club. He was in agony, yet in his correct Oxford accent he even apologized for taking up our time to get him out.

The American soldiers of our rescue party cursed as they worked, cursed with open admiration for this British flier's greatness of heart which had kept him alive and sane through his lonely and gradually hope-dimming ordeal.

One of them said, “God, but these Limies have got guts!”

It took us almost an hour to get him out. We don't know whether he will live or not, but he has a chance. During the hour we were ripping the plane open to make a hole, he talked to us. And here, in the best nutshell I can devise from the conversation of a brave man whom you didn't want to badger with trivial questions, is what happened—

He was an RAF flight lieutenant, piloting a night fighter. Over a certain area the Germans began letting him have it from the ground with machine-gun fire.

The first hit knocked out his motor. He was too low to jump, so—foolishly, he said—he turned on his lights to try a crash landing. Then they really poured it on him. The second hit got him in the leg. And a third bullet cut right across the balls of his right-hand forefingers, clipping every one of them to the bone.

He left his wheels up, and the plane's belly hit the ground going uphill on a slight slope. We could see the groove it had dug for about 50 yards. Then it flopped, tail over nose, onto its back. The pilot was absolutely sealed into the upside-down cockpit.

“That's all I remember for a while,” he told us. “When I came to, they were shelling all around me.”

Thus began the eight days. He had crashed right between the Germans and Americans in a sort of pastoral no-man's-land.

For days afterwards the field in which he lay surged back and forth between German hands and ours.

His pasture was pocked with hundreds of shell craters. Many of them were only yards away. One was right at the end of his wing. The metal sides of the plane were speckled with hundreds of shrapnel holes.

He lay there, trapped in the midst of this inferno of explosions. The fields around him gradually became littered with dead. At last American strength pushed the Germans back, and silence came. But no help. Because, you see, it was in that vacuum behind the battle, and only a few people were left.

GI Wounded Never Give Up

The days passed. He thirsted terribly. He slept some; part of the time he was unconscious; part of the time he undoubtedly was delirious. But he never gave up hope.

After we had finally got him out, he said as he lay on the stretcher under a wing, “Is it possible that I've been out of this plane since I crashed?”

Everybody chuckled. The doctor

who had arrived said, “Not the remotest possibility. You were sealed in there and it took men with tools half an hour to make an opening. And your leg was broken and your foot was pinned there. No, you haven't been out.”

“I didn't think it was possible,” the pilot said, “and yet it seems in my mind that I was out once and back in again.”

Doctor Related Here Writes Sequel To Ernie Pyle Story

The story of a British flyer who was trapped in a wrecked plane for eight days—and still living when discovered by rescuers—is graphically related by Ernie Pyle in his column on page six of this paper.

When Pyle wrote his article, he stated that “we don’t know whether he will live or not, but he has a chance.”

A letter which reached Winamac this week reveals that the pilot’s life was saved.

The letter was written by Capt. Donald J. Caseley, who is an orthopedist in the U. S. Army medical corps and is now stationed in England. The pilot was among the scores of wounded men brought daily to the hospital with which Dr. Caseley is connected, and it fell to his lot to care for the flier’s broken leg.

The doctor’s wife is the former Miss Bess Gorrell, who is now making her home in Winamac. It was she who received the letter, in which was mentioned the same pilot whom Ernie Pyle had written about.

“The subject of the column was a patient of mine and a very interesting and swell guy,” wrote the doctor. “Every word about his modesty, reticence and courage is more than true. He not only ‘probably will survive’ but will probably fly again, or I can’t judge patients’ conditions.”

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Donald Richard Strong

Donald, as a truck driver, earned his Bronze Star working 36 hours without relief under fire to evacuate casualties during a river crossing, finally incurring a serious wound from shell fragments.

Born: 1/20/1925

Entered: 3/30/1943

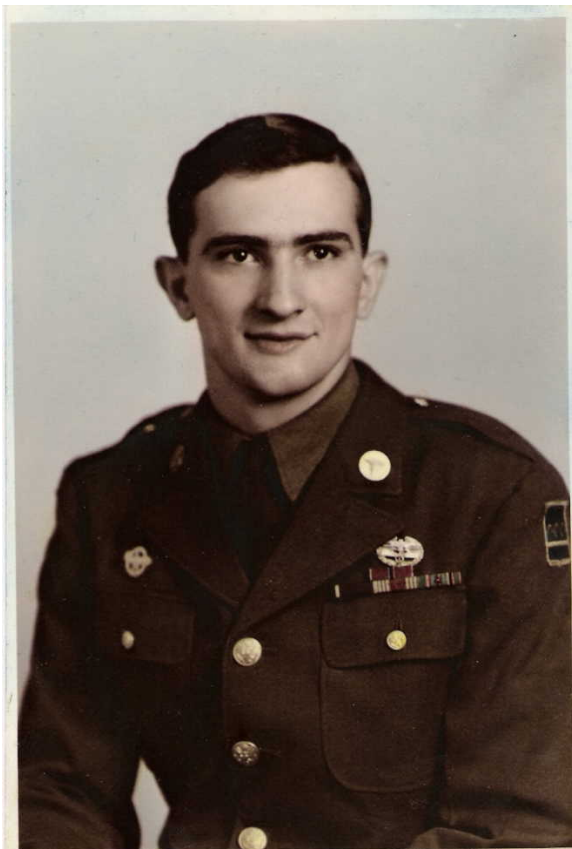
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35138516,PVT

Awards: Bronze Star

Discharged:

Died: 12/24/1966

Parents: Katherine Luella Dempsey (James Walter[deceased]) Strong



Donald Strong (Collection of hassettk) - ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/104839070/person/120041006648/media/0317c5e5-0059-484b-9385-2373111c6e7f

**Ambulance Driver Wins
Bronze Star for Heroic
Service in France**

Pvt. Donald R. Strong, son of Mrs. Katherine Strong of Thornhope, has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic service in France, according to a report to The Democrat from the commanding general of the Eightieth Infantry division. Pvt. Strong is in a medical battalion of the Army. The report said:

"During the period September 12 to September 15, Pvt. Strong distinguished himself by his conduct as a driver. At this time, while the division was engaged in operations connected with a river crossing, it was impossible to evacuate casualties either by ambulance or litter because of heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire. With utter disregard for his own safety, he volunteered to attempt evacuation with a litter one-quarter ton truck and for a period of thirty-six hours worked without relief in the evacuation of casualties. At all times, Pvt. Strong was subject to enemy fire and finally was wounded seriously by shell fragments. His heroism in action and unselfish devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces of the United States."

Pvt. Strong entered the Army in March, 1943. He attended Thornhope and Star City schools.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Jan 1945: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Henry Roy Roe

Just days before his pre-induction physical, Henry was getting out of a car, when he was hit by a passing car and knocked to the pavement, incurring cuts and bruises on his head, postponing his pre-induction physical a month.

Born: 1/14/1916

Entered: >9/20/1944

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,

Discharged:

Died: 6/13/1977

Spouse: Marietta June Hiatt Roe

Parents: James Quincy and Edna Violet Baugh Roe

Sustains Head Injuries When Hit by Passing Car

Henry Roe of Star City sustained head injuries Saturday night when he was knocked to the pavement by a passing car. Roe had stopped his auto on South Monticello Street in Winamac and was alighting on the street side. H.C. Billerbeck was driving past and failed to see the pedestrian. Roe was thrown a short distance after being struck by the other auto and suffered cuts and bruises on his head. He was confined to the hospital for a day or so. Marshal Ralph Curtis and Nightwatchman Harold Shannon investigated the mishap and regarded it as entirely accidental.

Men To Take Examinations, Others Inducted

The following registrants will leave soon from Pulaski county for pre-induction physical examinations at Indianapolis.

Henry R. Roe Star City
Everett E. Rans Winamac
Kenneth K. Hood Winamac
Robert Arrowsmith Jr. Medaryville
Maxie L. Jones Star City
Gordon E. Vollmer Francesville

Of the men inducted last week, the following were taken into the Army and are at Camp Atterbury, now the induction center for this area: Robert E. Timm, Medaryville; Paul M. Scheffer, Leo E. Fox, Star City; Robert W. Burget, Richard K. Gudeman, Francesville; Kenneth L. Brown, W. Carter Deeds, Robert E. Simmermaker, James G. Gordon Jr., Winamac. Harold C. Baker was accepted by the Navy Air Corps.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 7 Sep 1944: 1.

County Selectees To Have Physical Examinations Soon

The following men from Pulaski county will leave soon for physical examinations at the Selective Service center in Indianapolis.

Guy Passmore Winamac
Henry R. Roe Star City
Thomas Badger Medaryville
Robert G. Arlt Francesville
Stanley E. Gudeman Francesville
Robert L. Widner Winamac

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

Henry Roe of Star City has enlisted in the Army and expects to go to Indianapolis soon for his examination.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 20 Sep 1944: 12.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Kenneth and Keith got to visit their momma and, briefly, with each other for the first time in two years.

Kenneth Omer Henry

Born: 11/21/1919

Entered: 3/26/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35111572,SSGT

Medal: Purple Heart

Discharged:

Died: 1/22/2013

Spouse: Mildred "Mid" Marie Lidgard Henry

Parents: Nellie Myrtle Hodge

(Omer[deceased]) Henry

Vernon Keith "Keith" Henry

Born: 12/1/1922

Entered: 1/14/1943?

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 7/4/2012

Parents: Nellie Myrtle Hodge

(Omer[deceased]) Henry



STAFF SGT. KENNETH HENRY

Staff Sgt. Kenneth O. Henry, son of Mrs. Nellie Henry of Winamac, is a member of an armored regiment and is an instructor in reconnaissance at Camp Beale, Cal. He is the husband of the former Mildred Lidgard and has been in the Army since March, 1942.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Jul 1943: 1.



PVT. V. KEITH HENRY

Pvt. Keith Henry, youngest son of Mrs. Nellie Henry, is a member of a chemical company at the Herbert Smart airport at Macon, Ga. He has been in the service since January 20, 1943.

Winamac (IN) Republican 29 Jul 1943: 1.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Henry from Fort Benning, Ga., came Sunday for a visit with his wife and children and with his mother, Mrs. Nellie Henry. He is a paratrooper. Another brother, Pvt. Keith Henry, left Monday for Riverside, Calif., after a visit in the same home. It was the first time the brothers had met in two years. Mrs. Effie Locks of Gary is spending a few days in the same home. Sunday guests also included Mr. and Mrs. Russell Shrader and sons, Bobby and Dick, Mr. and Mrs. John Henry and children, Jack, Jane and Judy.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 4 Oct 1944: 12.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Ann Amelia "Amelia" "Deanie" Kruzick Stahlberg Dixon Selle

Until her two grown sons asked about a picture they found shortly before she died in 2013, Amelia had not told them that she married and divorced another man during the war before she married their father.

Born: 8/8/1921

Entered: 10/12/1944

Branch,SN,Rank: WAC,A-222738,PFC

Discharged: 3/26/1946

Died: 7/6/2013

Spouse: Charles Francis Stahlberg

Parents: John Michael "Papa" (Rosa Eldridge Poole[deceased]) Kruzick



Ann Amelia Kruzick-Stahlberg (Collection of Jim Phillips).



Ann Amelia Kruzick-Stahlberg (Collection of Jim Phillips).


1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE											
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL STAHLBERG ANN A			2. ARMY SERIAL NO. A-222738		3. GRADE PFC		4. ARM OR SERVICE AAF		5. COMPONENT AUS		
6. ORGANIZATION SQ "D" 42ND AAF BU			7. DATE OF SEPARATION 26 MAR 46		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION SEP CTR FORT DIX NJ						
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 917 NO RIVERSIDE DRIVE WINAMAC INDIANA					10. DATE OF BIRTH 8 AUG 1921		11. PLACE OF BIRTH WINAMAC INDIANA				
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE MAINTAINED SEE #9 PULASKI COUNTY					13. COLOR EYES HAZEL		14. COLOR HAIR BLONDE		15. HEIGHT 5'2"		
					16. WEIGHT 110 LBS.		17. NO. DEPENDENTS 0				
10. RACE W		11. MARITAL STATUS W		12. U.S. CITIZEN YES		13. DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND NO. FOUNTAIN DISPENSER 2-27.61					
MILITARY HISTORY											
21. DATE OF INDUCTION 25 SEP 44		22. DATE OF EXPIRATION 11 OCT 44		23. DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE ASBURY PARK NJ		24. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 1401 7TH AVE NEPTUNE NJ					
25. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA WAC		26. COUNTY AND STATE WAC		27. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 1401 7TH AVE NEPTUNE NJ							
28. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. CLERK GENERAL 055				29. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND NO. (If 1, Infantry, Aviation, or a marksmanship qualification, etc.) NONE							
30. CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPAIGN NUMBERS NONE											
31. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS AMERICAN SERVICE MEDAL WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL											
32. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NONE											
33. LATEST EXPIRATION DATE 20 OCT 44		34. LATEST EXPIRATION DATE 11 NOV 44		35. LATEST EXPIRATION DATE 20 DEC 44		36. SERVICE OF NON-CONTINGENT U. S. AND RETURN NONE					
37. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		38. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		39. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		40. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
41. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		42. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		43. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		44. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
45. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		46. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		47. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		48. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
49. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		50. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		51. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		52. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
53. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		54. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		55. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		56. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
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73. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		74. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		75. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		76. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
77. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		78. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		79. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		80. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
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85. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		86. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		87. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		88. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
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117. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		118. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		119. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		120. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
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129. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		130. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		131. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		132. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
133. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		134. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		135. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		136. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
137. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		138. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		139. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		140. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
141. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		142. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		143. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		144. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
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437. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		438. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		439. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		440. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
441. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		442. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		443. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		444. DATE OF DEPARTURE 0					
445. DATE OF DEPARTURE 1		446. DATE OF DEPARTURE 3		447. DATE OF DEPARTURE 15		448. DATE OF					

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

26 A 12 JWD

Army of the United States



SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

"SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST"

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL STARBERG ANN A			MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS		
2. ARMY SERIAL NO. A-222 738			10 MONTHS 11. GRADE 12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY		
3. GRADE Pfc.			1 1/2 Pvt. 521 WAC Basic Training		
4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. Unknown			6 Pfc. 535 Supply Clerk		
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State) 917 North Riverside Drive Winamac, Pulaski County, Indiana			7 Pfc. 055 Clerk General		
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 11 Oct 1944		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 25 Mar 1946		8. DATE OF BIRTH 6 Aug 1921	
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION SEPARATION CENTER, FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY					
SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS					
10. TITLE DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION CLERK GENERAL:					
<p>Was assigned to Message Center at Maxwell Field, Alabama for 7 months. Was in charge of the mail room and supervised 2-3 temporarily assigned clerks in the receiving, routing and proper filing of all incoming mail. Was responsible for the filing of technical orders and special orders according to the Dewey Decimal System. Checked indexes quarterly for completeness, offices and typed requisition forms to order any missing material.</p>					

Separation Qualification Record (1of2) 26 Mar 1946.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

MILITARY EDUCATION				
14. NAME OR TYPE OF SCHOOL—COURSE OR CURRICULUM—DURATION—DESCRIPTION				
1st CLASS: Maxwell Field, Alabama 1 week (5 days per week, 1 day for 4 weeks)				
CIVILIAN EDUCATION				
15. HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	16. DEGREE OR DIPLOMA	17. YEAR LAST SCHOOL	18. OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLING	
10th F. E.	None	1938	General Academic Subjects (Practical Mathematics, English, History, Geography)	
19. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED			20. DURATION	
Elmore High School Elmore, Indiana			6 months	
21. MAJOR COURSES OF STUDY			Completed	
Commercial			American School Chicago, Illinois	
CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS				
22. TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER—INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION				
CASH M-SPE-SER				
Service Club Beverly Provision Company, Maryland 1942 to 1943				
Was in charge of soda fountain and supervised 5 girls. Made sandwiches, malted milk, sodas, etc. Made out advertisements for supplies. Sold cigarettes and candies.				
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION				
23. REMARKS				
None				
24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED		25. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER		26. NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped)
<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>		W. V. VOL SCH 10000 100-230

Separation Qualification Record (1of2) 26 Mar 1946.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Lester Joseph Wilcox

Lester earned his Distinguished Flying Cross, "in the face of intense enemy opposition, adverse weather and poor topographical conditions, flew supplies, ammunition and heavy equipment, and was therefore, highly instrumental in the successes of the allied forces in this sector....".

Born: 2/14/1920

Entered: 2/16/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,35258471,SGT

Medals: Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross

Discharged: 9/5/1945

Died: 8/1/1985

Parents: Ray Sanford and Dottie May Tunis Wilcox



Pvt. Lester J. Wilcox, in the Air Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilcox of North Judson.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 22 Feb 1943: 1.

The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Sgt. Lester J. Wilcox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilcox of the Denham vicinity, "for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights over enemy held territory in northern Burma, totaling more than two hundred hours." According to the report The Democrat received from headquarters of the India-Burma sector, the citation reads in part: "In the face of intense enemy opposition, adverse weather and poor topographical conditions, these men flew supplies, ammunition and heavy equipment, and were therefore highly instrumental in the successes of the Allied Forces in this sector. This display of devotion to duty and a degree of efficiency above and beyond that normally expected reflects great credit upon themselves and the Army Air Forces of the United States."

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 12 Oct 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Charles William Jolly

Storming Anzio beach in Italy, Charles was shot in the kneecap and lay in a creek bed for 6 hours; the man on his one side was also wounded, and the man on his other side was killed.

Born: 5/3/1925

Entered: 8/24/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,PVT

Medal: Purple Heart

Discharged: 2/8/1946

Died: 12/21/2004

Parents: Peter "Pete" Daniel Jolly and Elizabeth Catherine Braun Jolly

**War Veterans
Arrive Home**

Pfc. Charles Jolly, 19, and Pvt. James Gregory, 20, Home From Italy.

Pfc. Charles W. Jolly, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jolly, 700 Helm street, and Pvt. James Gregory, 20, son of Mrs. Rose Gregory of Minor street, are home on furlough after returning to the United States from Italy on the same boat.

Jolly was wounded on the left knee cap by German shrapnel last May 25 at Cisterna while he was firing an anti-tank gun in the drive on Rome. He had another narrow escape on Feb. 28 when the ship upon which he traveled to the Anzio beachhead was hit. The man on one side of him was killed and the man on the other side was wounded.

Jolly is here on convalescent furlough from Billings general hospital at Indianapolis, where he has been a patient. He has the Purple Heart and Good Conduct medals. In the army 14 months, he was in Italy seven months.

A brother, Pfc. Harold Jolly, 20, a member of the armored infantry, was killed in action at Brest, France, on July 16. He has two other brothers in the service, Sgt. Edward Jolly, in France, and Ensign Frank Jolly, in the navy on an attack transport vessel.

Private Gregory spent five months with a B-25 bomber squadron on Corsica. An armorer, he wears the Good Conduct medal and a Presidential Citation for bombing in southern France.

He has been in the army a year and a half and overseas 6 months. He will go to Lincoln, Neb., at the expiration of his furlough.

He and Jolly attended Washington school together.

—V—

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 27 Sep 1944: 14.

Picked up by medics after lying six hours in a creek bed in Italy, Private Charles Jolly was transported down the creek, which medics were using as the safest route back to the aid station. Private Jolly, an anti-tank grenadier, was hit by shrapnel from a German 88 during a tank battle while his company was fighting near Cisterna on the way to Rome. He also fought in Sicily and Anzio. He has the purple heart award and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Jolly of Logansport. Two brothers, Ensign Frank John Jolly and Sergt. Edward Peter D. Jolly, are serving in the armed forces. Another brother, Private First Class Harold Joseph Jolly, was killed in action at Brest on June 16.

Indianapolis (IN) Star 15 Oct 1944: 19. Website (newspapers.com)

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Ralph Henry "Pete" Kasten

While Pete was in the service, his wife oversaw his elected position as the county treasurer through two terms.

Born: 7/13/1913

Entered: 3/8/1944

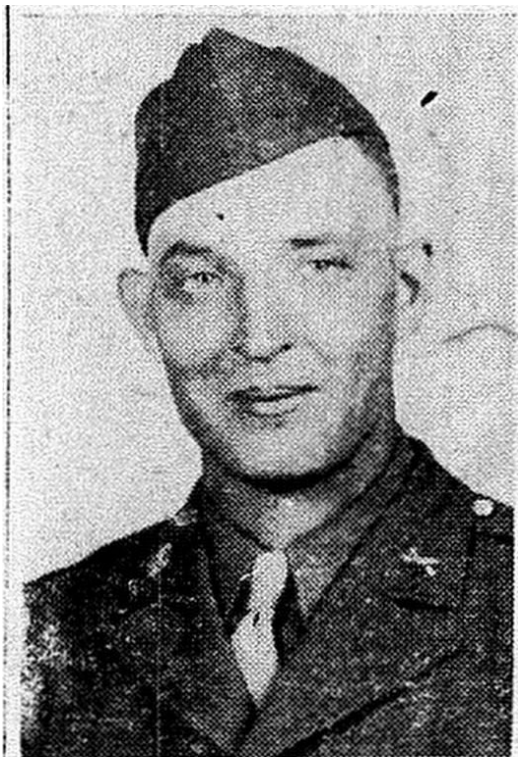
Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35244929,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 2/25/1996

Spouse: Alma Opal Hinderlider Kasten


Parents: Fredrick Edward and Clementine Angeline Cox Kasten



Pvt. Ralph H. Kasten

Pvt. Ralph H. (Pete) Kasten, Republican candidate for Pulaski county treasurer, is now serving as a mechanic with a field artillery company. He is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. His wife is in charge of the treasurer's office until his return.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Oct 1944: 1.



**TO THE
VOTERS
of Pulaski
County**

Although unopposed in the forthcoming election and due to my being in the armed forces, and being unable to call on each and everyone of you as I would very much like to do, I take this method to thank you for your vote of confidence on November 7.

R. H. "Pete" KASTEN
Republican Candidate for re-election as
County Treasurer.

Winamac (IN) Republican 19 Oct 1944: 5.

Republicans Win Pulaski County Offices

O'Brien, Short-Term Senator
Nominee, Only Democratic Can-
didate to Lead

WINAMAC, Ind., Nov. 8—All Re-
publican nominees on the Pulaski
county ticket won the race in
Tuesday's election, according to the
complete official tally, and the only
Democrat lead in this county on
either state or national tickets was
for O'Brien, who took 2,473 votes
for U. S. Senator, short term, com-
pared to Jenner's 2,053 ballots.

Charles A. Halleck, Republican
incumbent, defeated James O. Cox,
Democratic nominee, and John W.
Root, Prohibition party nominee, in
the race here for representative in
Congress from the second district.
Halleck's total was 3,172 and Cox's
2,467.

Total returns for the state and
national ballots were as follows:
Dewey 3,208; Roosevelt 2,509; Cape-
hart 2,918, Schricker 2,664; Jenner
2,053, O'Brien 2,473; Gates 3,074,
Jackson 2,600; James 3,061, Hem-
mer 2,508; Alexander 3,044, Flem-
ing 2,509.

County returns, other than for
Congressman were: Prosecuting
attorney—George Collins 3,277, un-
opposed; joint representative, Ful-
ton-Pulaski—Alpha Hoesel 3,117,
Frank Stephens 2,471; county tre-
asurer—Ralph H. Kasten 3,294, un-
opposed; county recorder—Ralph
E. Williams 3,095, Mrs. Dorothy I.
Roth 2,474; sheriff—James M. Bru-
ce 3,087, Ulva C. Budd 2,596; cor-
oner—William A. Logan 2,957, Cl-
aude V. Burson 2,604; county sur-
veyor—A. M. Van Meter 3,083, Cl-
arence Paul 2,483; county commis-
sioner, second district—Henry Br-
ust 2,924, Forest James 2,521; coun-
ty commissioner, third district—Th-
omas A. Nogle 2,923, Samuel W.
Busch 2,744.

—V—

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 8 Nov 1944: 2.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Walter Sam "Sam" Patrick

Pinched in Pulaski County as AWOL, probably visiting relatives in Star City.

Born: 1/9/1924

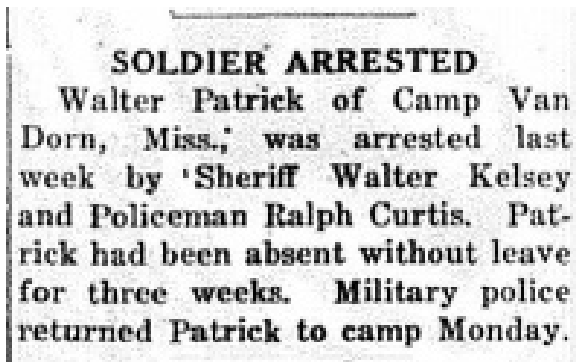
Entered: 3/14/1943

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35550040,PVT

Discharged:

Died: 1/17/1987

Parents: Clarence Earl "Thomas" and Josephine Brooks Patrick



Winamac (IN) Republican 16 Nov 1944: 8.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Arthur William Pugh

Arthur earned a Bronze Star by exposing himself to draw enemy fire, enabling his platoon to discover and knock out enemy positions.

Born: 3/2/1918

Entered: 5/12/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,35159981,SGT

Awards: Bronze Star

Discharged: 9/20/1945

Died: 6/22/1991

Parents: Leroy "Roy" Eugene and Alwilda Mays Pugh



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Sep 1943: 1.

T-Sgt. Arthur W. Pugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pugh of near Winamac, a platoon sergeant with an armored infantry battalion, has been cited for meritorious service in combat and awarded the Bronze Star, according to an announcement from France.

Sgt. Pugh's platoon was ordered to cross a section of open ground. Sgt. Pugh exposed himself to draw enemy fire and his men discovered the enemy positions and knocked them out.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

County Men Are Members of Hard Fighting Division

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Pugh received a letter this week from their son, T/Sgt. Arthur Pugh, in which he enclosed a copy of the war record of the Fourth Armored Division, including T/Sgt. Pugh, Lt. Albin Shank, S/Sgt. Ralph Miller, T/5 Ernest Clouser and S/Sgt. Philip Brucker. The last two named have suffered wounds and Sgt. Brucker is now in the hospital at Fort Benjamin Harrison.

The War Department disclosed that the Fourth Division spearheaded the 3rd Army advance across France. After landing in Normandy on D-Day, it went on to cut off Brittany peninsula and was identified with the hardest fighting in the liberation of France.

The division was credited with smashing 400 enemy tanks, 140 large artillery pieces, 1500 miscellaneous vehicles, and taking 15,000 prisoners, all at relatively low cost to itself. It destroyed the Nazi 77th, 91st, 243rd infantry divisions, the 6th paratroop division and the 281st cavalry battalion. The Germans regarded the men of the Fourth Armored as "Supermen."

The reaction of a German Colonel of shock troops is typical. The Nazi officer, captured by the Fourth, said, "Having been a commander of army units in Russia, I must admit that the American troops are not only equipped with the best material, but what strikes me especially is the excellence of organization under which these men now function. I would be pleased to know the commander of this division."

The Germans described the Fourth as the American Elite Fourth Armored Division and Fourth Panzer, and called the men "ruthless fighters. The unit, commanded by Maj. Gen. John S. Wood, served as part of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 23 Nov 1944: 1.

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

Donald Richard "Don" Hair

Don wrote his daddy about a 5-day sea battle, including when an enemy ship was struck, and "There were Jap survivors all over the place. The oil was thick on the water from their ships that were sunk. The monkey faced creatures were trying to swim through the oil and they looked like black balls bobbing around in the water."

Born: 6/24/1924

Entered:

Branch,SN,Rank: USN,,S1c

Medal: Purple Heart

Discharged: 12/12/1945

Died: 5/22/2012

Parents: Milo Edward (Esther Marie Stiles[deceased]) Hair



Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Sep 1943: 1.

Hair-raising tales of naval battle in the Pacific were relayed to Pulaski county this week by men in the thick of the fighting.

In a letter to his father, Milo Hair, Seaman 1-C Donald R. Hair reported "I was in the Philippine Islands where we bombarded the beaches of Leyte Island. Don't think the Japs can't shoot because they can, with accuracy.

After the bombardment we intercepted the Jap fleet. We made torpedo runs on their big ships. That's where the big explosions came. The torpedoes knocked them sky high.

There were Jap survivors all over the place. The oil was thick on the water from their ships that were sunk. The monkey-faced creatures were trying to swim through the oil and they looked like black balls bobbing around in the water.

"We were at our battle stations almost continuously for five days. Jap planes came day and night. Dad, I'm very thankful that all of this has passed and I came through with a big smile on my face. Ha!"

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Nov 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Donald Eugene Wentzel

Donald reported that he was among the first Americans to enter Paris and that he wrote that he had never been kissed so much in his life in a letter - to his wife!

Born: 4/7/1914

Entered: 7/21/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,O-405676,MJR

Medal: Croix de Guerre

Discharged: 2/18/1946

Died: 1/15/1968

Spouse: Myrtle Roberta Wheatley Wentzel

Parents: Charles Wesley and Nellie Mabel Kelso Wentzel



Capt. Donald E. Wentzel, with the Air Corps in England, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wentzel of Kewanna. His wife was Myrtle Wheatley of Monterey.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Mar 1944: 1.

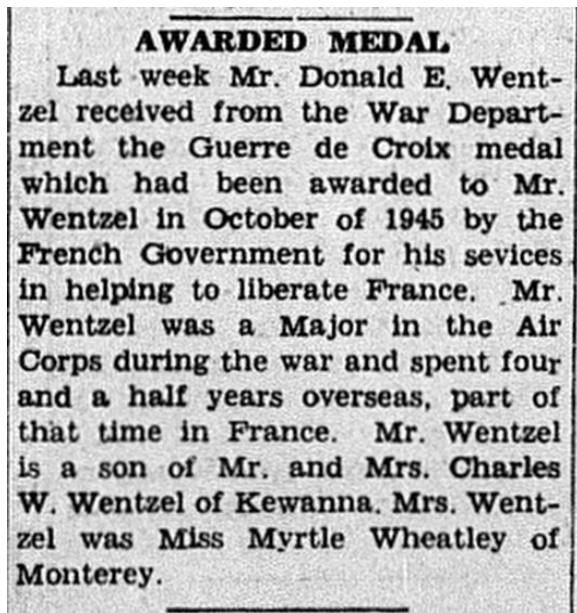
In another phase of the war, Capt. Donald E. Wentzel of the Army Air Force, reported in a letter to his wife living in Monterey, that he was among the first Americans to enter Paris and that he had never been kissed so much in his life.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Nov 1944: 1.

A Monterey Air Corps major was received in audience by the Pope while he was in Rome, Italy. it was revealed this week when Major Donald E. Wentzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Wheatley, returned home on leave after 38 months' service overseas.

Major Wentzel's wife and daughter are living with his parents. The major revealed that the Pope holds audiences for U. S. service men regardless of their religion.

Winamac (IN) Republican 8 Nov 1945: 1.



Winamac (IN) Republican 5 Jun 1947: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

Ivan Martin Bierrum

During the Great Depression, Ivan was a barnstormer, and died in a nursing home in Iron River MI, coincidently an enclave of the author's maternal family (likely where his son happened to be living during the last years of Ivan's life).

Born: 12/13/1912

Entered: 9/10/1942?

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,,S/SGT

Awards: Purple Heart, 2 Air Medals

Discharged: 5/19/1945?

Died: 9/12/2002

Spouse: Edna Mae Kersey Bierrum

Parents: Peter and Mary Barbara Fillman Bierrum



SGT. IVAN M. BIERRUM

Sgt. Ivan M. Bierrum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bierrum, of near Francesville, is completing his training as a member of a Liberator bomber crew at the Army Air base, Pueblo, Colo. Sgt. Bierrum is being trained by the Second Air Force to carry the fight to the enemy in the near future.

Sgt. Bierrum, a former resident of Winamac, joined the Armed Forces in September, 1942.

Winamac (IN) Republican 23 Sep 1943: 1.

Seems Like an
AirNewsColumn
Will Have To Be Added
to Newspapers One
of These Days.

Several well known air men visited the Winamac airport Sunday. Clarence McElroy was host to Hiram Snyder, manager of the South Bend airport; Dr. Snyder, designer of a new plane known as the "Arup," and Mr. Post, also of South Bend; Joe Smith and Bill Kaiser of Niles, Mich., who flew a "Davis Ship," and Bob Peters of Hollywood, Fla., formerly of the Riverside Military school of Gainsville, Ga.

Mr. McElroy, Joe A. Grant and O. H. Keller flew to Rochester yesterday to attend a Kiwanis meeting, and E. G. Gorrell accompanied them on the return. The trip was made in a four-place Waco cabin plane, "Miss Winamac," driven by Mr. McElroy, and included an air view of the federal park project, of which Mr. Grant is in charge.

Ivan Bierrum made his first freight delivery by air Tuesday in a cross-county flight to Francesville with a radio for a customer in that place.

Mrs. Lenore Harper was at Lafayette Sunday where she took part in the American Legion air show.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 May 1936: 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McElroy, Ivan Bierrum and James Dilts Jr., are on the state air tour this week. Mrs. McElroy is flying her own plane and Mr. McElroy, Ivan Bierrum and James Dilts are in the Waco plane.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 25 Jun 1936: 1.

PLANE TOURISTS ARRIVING HERE

DAREDEVILS BURNING THE
SKIES; McELROYS, BIER-
RUM AND DILTS
ON TOUR

With a clear blue sky for a perfect ceiling and ideal weather conditions, the 50-some planes of the eighth Indiana Air tour roared over town this afternoon for their scheduled stop at the local port and to thrill the several thousand air minded residents with their antics in the air.

From the tiniest Taylor Cub to the largest tri-motored Stinson and the loudest army plane all were prepared to enjoy the afternoon at the port and entertain the crowd. The stunt parade, led by the famous Lieut. Joe Mackey and his world known Linco flying circus, and Wild Mike Murphy of

Kokomo was all that anyone could expect. The stunt pilots put their planes through power dives, spins of all kinds, barrel rolls and tapered off with sky writing and upside down flying.

Many spectators availed themselves of the opportunity to see the crowd and the country from the field when they took rides, in the various planes, piloted by notables.

The tour, which began Monday morning at the Indianapolis airport, has been stopping at various towns putting on their show and otherwise enjoying themselves.

Local persons on the tour are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McElroy, Ivan Bierrum and James Dilts, Jr. The latter is the first from Winamac, not a licensed pilot, to follow the tour. McElroy, pilot, Bierrum and Dilts are in Bierrum's taper wing Waco, while Mrs. McElroy is flying her own Rearwin Junior.

Bill Moose, formerly of Denham and now of Russiaville, has been getting his share of publicity on the tour by having as a passenger Lola Mae, a Jersey calf.

Winamac (IN) Republican 25 Jun 1936: 1.

State Air Tour Brings Thrills to Winamac Crowd

Hundreds of Pulaski county people gathered at the Winamac airport last Thursday afternoon to welcome more than forty planes making the annual Indiana Air Tour; to inspect the variety of ships, ranging from a tiny "Cub" to giant tri-motor cabin planes, and to enjoy the thrills afforded by exhibitions of stunt flying.

The first of the planes arrived shortly after 3:00 o'clock, and from then on for nearly an hour they came floating in, most of them circling the port before landing. They were taxied into long rows on two sides of the field, just within the long lines of automobiles that had brought the local visitors.

Lieut. Joseph Mackey of Findlay, Ohio, didn't take time to land before he put on an exciting exhibition of rolling, diving, upside-down flying and other tricky stunts. Then followed a similar exhibition by Mike Murphy of Ko-

komo, who kept the spectators in a state of awe as he drove his small machine into every conceivable kind of twist. Both flyers received rounds of applause on landing.

Home Folks In Party.

The tour carried no little local interest because four Pulaski county people were in the party—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McElroy and James Dilts Jr. of Winamac, and Ivan Bierrum of Francesville. They made the entire trip over the state, except that they flew home Wednesday evening instead of spending that night with the party at Michigan City.

Friday, the day after the stop here, marked the fourth anniversary of Mr. McElroy's crash in the jungles of Central America, where his plane struck a mountain during a storm and he lay injured for seventeen days before a native Indian boy rescued him.

The tourists came here from Rochester, after a previous stop at Rensselaer. After an hour of refreshment they started out in groups of one to three for Culver, where they spent the night. The state tour ended Sunday.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Jul 1936: 2.

Wounded Plane Gunner Pictures War End Far Off

"Don't let anybody tell you that the war in Europe is nearly over. Jerry is the kind of fighter who never gives up, and we have a long way to go yet before we lick him."

This warning was expressed at the Kiwanis meeting Tuesday by Sgt. Ivan Bierrum, wounded plane gunner, now home on furlough after a series of missions out of a base in England. He attended the Kiwanis meeting as a guest of James Freeman.

Without exposing any military secrets, Sgt. Bierrum kept his hearers interested by relating numerous experiences during his training period, his trip by air to England during stormy weather, his splendid treatment at the hands of English people, and a few facts about bombing flights over targets in continental Europe.

It was on one such flights, last March, that he was hit on one leg by a piece of flak. He has sufficiently recovered from the injury to make the trip home for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Peter Bierrum of Francesville; his wife, who lives in Winamac, and other relatives.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 9 Nov 1944: 1.

Obituaries

Ivan Bierrum

Ivan M. Bierrum, age 98 of 1202 W. St. Rd. 14, Winamac, IN, passed away Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Iron River Care Center. He was born Dec. 13, 1912 in Francesville, IN; son of Peter Bierrum and Mary Barbary Fillman Bierrum.

Mr. Bierrum married Edna Ruth Kersey on Dec. 18, 1937 in Huntington, IN and she preceded him in death on Sept. 26, 2000. He was a Life member of the VFW Post No. 1728 Winamac, IN and was a self-employed construction worker. He flew as a barnstormer pilot during the Great Depression years. He had lived all his life in Pulaak County. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in Sept. 1942 and received training as a combat aerial gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber. Arriving in England he was posted at Station 114 in Hethel, Norfolk as a member of the U.S. 8th Air Force, 2nd Division, 389th Bomb Group 566th Squadron, where he attained the rank of Staff Sgt. He was wounded on his 23rd bombing mission over enemy territory on March 20, 1944 and was awarded the Purple Heart by order of Lt. General James Doolittle. Attending the award ceremony were Supreme Commander General Dwight David Eisenhower and Charles DeGaulle leader of the Free French. SSgt. Bierrum was also awarded the two Air Medals, the Presidential Unit Citation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, two Good Conduct Medals, the WWII Victory Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button. These medals, earned 58 years ago, had been lost but were recently replaced by the Dept. of the Army with the valuable assistance of the office of Congressman Steve Buyer, his assistant Beverly Hopkins, and Pulaski County Veterans Service Officer Bill Mohr. He was preceded in death by five sisters, Clara and Ida Bierrum, Lottie Capper, Maude Roach and Gladys Amaun and four brothers, William, Francis, Henry and Clarence Bierrum.

Ivan is survived by one daughter, Marla Bierrum of Burlington, IN; one son, Gary Bierrum of Crystal Falls; three grandsons, Michael (Kelly) Bierrum of Star City, IN, Martin (Tina) Bierrum of Winamac, IN and Charles Lemerom of Noblesville, IN; one granddaughter, Lori Bierrum; one sister-in-law, Marguerite (Richard) Wiebusch of Burlington, IN; six great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Frain Mortuary in Winamac, IN. Clergy Rev. Glen Meyers officiated. Burial took place Sept. 17 in the McKinley Memorial Gardens in Winamac. The Frain Mortuary Inc. was in charge of funeral arrangements and local arrangements were handled by the Jacobs-Plowe Funeral Home of Crystal Falls.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002 THE CRYSTAL VIEW

(Crystal Falls MI) Crystal View 25 Sep 2002 (Collection of bigfish3).
Website (ancestry.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

William Richard "Richard" "Dick" Heinke

Dick, who named his A-26 Invader bomber, "Winamac Werewolf", earned his Air Medal bombing road and rail junctions in Kall, Germany.

Born: 7/2/1921

Entered: 2/27/1941

Branch,SN,Rank: USAAC,16029199,1LT

Medal: Air Medal

Discharged:

Died: 10/14/1987

Parents: Cleo Marcellus Richardson (William Roland Lewis[deceased]) Heinke (?) Dunn

'Winamac Werewolf' and Dick Heinke



Lieut. Richard Heinke

1st Lieut. Richard Heinke, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Richardson of near Winamac, spoke on an international radio hookup from France Saturday. Lt. Heinke, a flight commander with the 9th Air Force, has had 17 missions. Asked if he would return to the farm after the war, Lieut Heinke said he would like to become employed in airline work. His comment on the food was that it was good but not like home.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Mar 1945: 1.



(Collection of theywerethere). Website (ebay.com).

Plane Named for Winamac

An American warplane in France has been named the "Winamac Werewolf," after the old hometown, by its pilot, Lt. Richard Heinke, he told his grandfather, A. H. Richardson, in a letter written in France November 26 and received here December 9. Lt. Heinke said he finally found a man who knew where Winamac was and also said his mail and Christmas packages were slow in arriving. A graduate of the Winamac high school in 1939, Lt. Heinke has been across for two months.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 14 Dec 1944: 1.

Our Boys: A Community During World War II

First Lt. Richard Heinke of Winamac, a pilot with the Ninth Air Force in Europe, has been awarded the Air Medal and an oak leaf cluster. His thirteenth mission, on January 25, was an attack on a road and rail junction at Kall, Germany, according to a release from headquarters sent to The Democrat. Lt. Heinke flies an Invader, the Army's newest and fastest bomber, a twin-engine plane introduced into combat by his unit. He is a grandson of A. H. Richardson of the Winamac vicinity.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Mar 1945: 1.

Lieut. William R. Heinke, grandson of Asa H. Richardson of near Winamac and son of Mrs. Cleo M. Dunn of Warsaw, a pilot with a 9th Air Force unit, has been awarded the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, according to a dispatch from Europe.

The award was presented for his work on January 25 of bombing road and rail junctions at Kall, Germany.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Mar 1945: 1.

Friends and relatives were thrilled Saturday to hear Lt. Commander Richard (Dick) Heinke, who is stationed somewhere in France, talk over the radio WLS, Chicago, on a recording record. He is a grandson of Ace Richardson, west of here, and has always made his home with him.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 14 Mar 1945: 9.

Winamac Man Broadcasts

Numerous Winamac acquaintances heard Lt. Richard Heinke broadcast over a Chicago radio station Saturday afternoon. He is now in France flying an A-26 Invader, and was interviewed on his work, how he liked France and what he intended doing after the war. Lt. Heinke also mentioned Winamac and his grandfather, A. H. Richardson, who lives southwest of here. His plane is named for his home town, the Winamac Wierwolf.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Mar 1945: 1.

'Winamac Werewolf'



(Collection of 416th BG Archive) Apr 1945. Website (416th.com).

1944: In the Thick of It – War Stories

William Hugh "Billie" Trayler

William earned his Bronze Star when he rushed into a burning ammunition dump to rescue a truck.

Born: 6/24/1921

Entered: 7/1/1942

Branch,SN,Rank: USA,,LT

Medal: Bronze Star

Discharged: 7/2/1946

Died: 2/5/2005

Parents: Woodford Fitzhugh Scraper and Sadie "Sally" Petry Traylor

Lieutenant William H. Trayler, who is in the Field Artillery under the provisions of Army Regulations, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "Meritorious Service" in support of combat operation. He also received citation for meritorious service in support of combat operations from May 28, 1944, to October 1, 1944, in Italy as assistant Counterbattery officer of a Corps Artillery Headquarters. Lieut. Trayler's initiative and devotion to duty are highly commendable and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States. He entered military services at Indianapolis. Lieut. Trayler is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Trayler of Indianapolis. Mr. Fitzhugh Trayler was a former teacher in the Medaryville High School and his wife was the former Miss Sadie Petry of Medaryville.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Feb 1945: 5.