

The Price Of World War II Victory . . .

Killed In Action

S. Sgt. Lester L. Pyles (March, 1944)

According to word received from the War Department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Pyles, living in the Decatur vicinity, Staff Sgt. Lester Lee Pyles, 22, formerly of Latham, was killed in the Anzio Beachhead Battle in the Italian campaign.

S. Sgt. Pyles, best known to his friends as "Bud", enlisted in the Army in Sept. 1940, and in Oct. 1942, landed in North Africa, fought in the battle of Tunisia, then in the Sicilian campaign, and participated in the initial campaign of Italy.

Pfc. Lewis Dean Berry (May, 1944)

Pfc. Lewis Dean Berry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Berry, of this city, was killed in action on the Italian battlefield, May 12, according to a telegram received Friday by his parents, from the War Department.

Young Berry, who entered the service of his country on June 9, 1943, went overseas just before Christmas as a volunteer, a unit made up of men with two years training at Camp Walters, Texas, after having only 17 weeks experience. He was one of 47 who volunteered to fill the quota to complete the contingent.

He was first sent to North Africa and about six weeks ago was with the troops invading Italy and he saw action around Cassino.

Pfc. Donald D. Landis (June, 1944)

Pfc. Donald D. Landis, who was born on a farm south of Mount Pulaski, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Landis, and went with the family to Quincy, Ill., about 16 years ago, where he attended the Ellington public school, was killed in Saipan on June 16, according to word the War Department wired to his sister, Mrs. Robert Hellhake, 824 College Ave., in Quincy.

Pvt. Roscoe Allen (Aug. 24, 1944)

Mrs. Roscoe Allen, living on North Marion St., Mount Pulaski, received a message Wednesday from the War Department, conveying the sad news that her husband, Pvt. Roscoe Allen, with the U. S. Infantry in France, was killed-in-action on August 1st. No further details were given. He was aged 36 years, 6 months and 19 days.

Cpl. F. W. Durchholz (Aug. 31, 1944)

Cpl. Frederick W. Durchholz, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Durchholz, of Elkhart vicinity, was killed-in-action in France on Aug. 1, according to a War Department message received in Lincoln last Saturday by his wife, Mrs. Clara Purviance Durchholz. She had received word Aug. 17th that her husband was missing in action.

Besides his wife, and parents, he is survived by one brother, Albert; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Durchholz of Mt. Pulaski.

Cpl. Wilbur D. Mann (Sept. 21, 1944)

Mr. and Mrs. George Mann, formerly of Mount Pulaski vicinity, now residing on a farm between Elkhart and Middletown, received a message Saturday, Sept. 16, from Gen. A. A. Vandergift of the U. S. Marine Corps, notifying them of the death of their son, Cpl. Wilbur D. Mann. The message did not state when or where his death occurred.

Besides his parents he is survived by one brother, Ensign Harold C. Mann, a naval flyer with the Pacific Fleet. Surviving relatives living near Mount Pulaski are his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Strampp and aunt and uncle, Miss Maude and Charles Mann.

TAPS SOUNDED FOR WORLD WAR II HEROES



S. Sgt. Zachary Taylor (Nov. 2, 1944)

Another Logan county soldier has made the supreme sacrifice in the war. Staff Sgt. Zachary Thomas Taylor, 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Taylor of Elkhart, was killed in action in Italy on Oct. 13, a War Department message informed his parents last Sunday. He was a radio-man and waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber.

Cpl. Joe Houchin (Feb. 1, 1945)

Harry Houchin, located a short distance east of Mount Pulaski, received word Monday evening, about 7 p.m., from the War Department, conveying the sad news that his son, Cpl. Joe R. Houchin, had been killed in action in Belgium, Friday, Jan. 12, 1945. Cpl. Houchin left for overseas duty May 21, 1943 and had been serving in glider aircraft duty and as an anti-tank gunner.

Sgt. Orville Munyon (Feb. 15, 1945)

Sgt. Orville Munyon, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Munyon of Lake Fork, serving in the U.S. Infantry, was killed in action in Luxembourg, during January, according to a message from the War Department.

Only the day before, a message came saying he was missing in action. Besides his parents, he is survived by his wife in Tennessee, one brother and three married sisters.

Pvt. Frank R. Stengel (June 14, 1945)

Pvt. Frank R. Stengel, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Stengel, Sr., living 6 miles northwest of here, was killed in action on Luzon, Philippine Islands, May 15, 1945, according to a message from the War Department, received by his wife and parents.

During April, 1941, he married Miss Mildred Harnish, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harnish of Mount Pulaski vicinity.

Sgt. Marvin McVicker (July 26, 1945)

Sgt. Marvin G. McVicker, 28, of Chestnut, son of Mrs. Julia McVicker, 861 S. State St., Lincoln, was killed in action on Luzon, in the Philippines, June 26, 1945, according to a telegram received from the War Department and a letter from the chaplain of the Sergeant's company.

Mrs. McVicker is employed at the Lincoln State School and Colony, and has gone to the home of another son, Lewis E. McVicker, in Bement.

Pvt. Jas. W. Centers (Nov. 1, 1945)

Another Logan county soldier has answered the final summons. Pvt. James W. Centers was killed while in service on Luzon, Philippine Islands, Wednesday, Oct. 17, according to word received in Latham by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Centers, Sr., from the War Department. No details were given.

1st Lt. Russell W. Jones (Nov. 29, 1945)

1st Lt. Russell W. Jones, 23, of Lawndale, pilot of a B-26 Marauder medium bomber and flight leader of a veteran Army Air Forces group, lost with his crew over Northern Italy on Nov. 16, 1944, while on a bombing mission, has been officially declared dead, according to a message from the War Department received last week by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones, of Lawndale vicinity, who formerly lived southwest of Mount Pulaski. At that time Russell attended Mount Pulaski Township High School and was a member of the basketball team.

Died In Prison Camp

Robert Vandevender Gulso, son of Mrs. Minnie Gulso, now of Blue Mound, Ill., and former resident of Mount Pulaski, died on June 6, 1942, in a Japanese Prison Camp.

"Chet" Goodman First Pulaskian Killed In Action (Jan. 6, 1944)

A terse telegram received by Mr. and Mrs. James Goodman of Mount Pulaski, Sunday, informed them of the death of their son, Pvt. Chester R. Goodman, a paratrooper, who was killed in action in Italy on Saturday, Dec. 11, 1943.

Thus to this community comes the first fatal casualty of active warfare on the battlefronts throughout the world, and another Gold Star is today speaking silently, but eloquently from a window in our little village.

The telegram received by the dazed parents read as follows:

"The Secretary of War desires to express his deep regret that your son, Pvt. Chester R. Goodman, was killed in action in defense of his country on December 11 in Italy."

Adjutant General. "Chet," as he signed his letters home, enlisted as a paratrooper Aug. 21, 1942, and was sent to Scott Field. Although paratrooping was one of the most dangerous branches of the service, yet it held so much appeal to young Goodman that he pleaded with his parents to give their consent as he was not yet of age, and would have been 21 years old had he lived until the 11th of this month.

Louis G. Bender Killed In Texas Training Camp (Dec. 17, 1942)

Aviation Cadet Louis G. Bender, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bender, living 4 miles northeast of Mount Pulaski, was instantly killed at 5:15 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, 1942, in a plane accident at the Foster Field Advanced Aerial Gunnery School near Victoria, Texas.

The young army man met his death in an unusual accident. He had been riding in the cockpit of a plane just landed, when a second plane, making a landing, crashed into the rear of the ship in which Bender was riding. No other person was injured.

Cadet Bender, known to all his friends as "Cotton" is believed to be the first Mount Pulaski casualty in World War II. He had completed his training at Foster Field and had qualified as a member of the Army Air Forces' Gulf Coast's largest graduating class on Sunday, Dec. 6, and on Thursday received his coveted silver wings as a pilot. He was anxiously awaiting the time on Sunday, Dec. 13, when he would receive his commission and orders for assignment to flying duty as a lieutenant, in ceremonies at the Gulf Coast Training Center, Randolph Field, Texas. But death intervened, and the young Mount Pulaskian never reached the goal he had so eagerly worked for.

CPL. WAYNE L. GOODPASTER DIED AT VETS HOSPITAL (Aug. 3, 1944)

Cpl. Wayne Leo Goodpaster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Goodpaster, W. Jefferson St., Mt. Pulaski, died at 8:35 a.m., Monday, July 31, 1944, in the Veteran's hospital in Danville, Ill., where he became a patient on June 10. His illness dates back to his Army service in the Guadalcanal campaign in the southwest Pacific.

Coming back to the U.S.A. he was hospitalized for a time, then given an honorable discharge, after which he returned home. His health gradually failed and he entered the hospital in the hope that his condition could be benefited. He was aged 34 years, 6 months, and 17 days.

Depression: A period when people do without things their parents never had.

S. Sgt. Thomas E. Deibert (January 3, 1946)

S. Sgt. Thomas E. Deibert, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arie Deibert of Mt. Pulaski, a side gunner on a Flying Fortress has been officially listed as dead, according to a telegram from the War Department to his wife, Mrs. Helen Shilling Deibert. The latter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Schilling, Lincoln, is completing her training as a registered nurse at the Children's Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Sgt. Deibert's plane was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire on a mission over Germany, December 18, 1945, the plane exploding in midair. This was the official date listing his death.

Memorial Services For S. Sgt. Ralph Meister (Nov. 9, 1944)

Memorial services will be held in the Mount Pulaski Christian Church at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 for the late Staff Sgt. Ralph Meister, son of Mrs. Mertice Meister of this vicinity, who died Sept. 21, in a hospital in England, after being ill a short time and undergoing an operation. The service will be in charge of the pastor, Rev. J. Wayne Staley, assisted by Rev. F. E. Neumeyer of the Methodist Church.

Memorial Services For Cpl. Wilbur Mann (Oct. 12, 1944)

Memorial services were held at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 8, in St. John's Lutheran Church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Ray O. Zumstein, for Cpl. Wilbur D. Mann, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mann, formerly of Mount Pulaski, who are now residing near Middletown, who was killed in action on Guam Island, July 27, 1944, during a battle when the island was recaptured from the Japs.

Thanks Merchants For Special Issue (March 29, 1945)

Somewhere in the Pacific January 29, 1945

Dear Harry:—
I would like to borrow a few moments of your time to tell you a few things, on what a swell paper you edit.

My copy comes regular each week and I do not skip a word of it.

The Special Pictorial Section that you and the merchants made possible for we in service — it was grand — and I am sure that all of us Pulaski boys and surrounding towns, could have received nothing any finer from the old home town.

I enjoy very much watching all of the boys reading their home papers — we switch them around. You have received numerous compliments on the Times-News and especially on the Pictorial Section.

Just keep on doing a swell job as you have been. A real morale booster, and I do hope I can keep on receiving the paper.

These Pacific Islands are beautiful, but sorry to say they cannot compare with the old hill.

I must close — and thank you and the merchants for the special edition.

Sincerely,
Harvey M. Davis, Coxswain,
San Francisco, Calif.

S. Sgt. Charles Allison, Of Latham, Reported Dead, July 28, 1945

(May 30, 1946)
Mrs. Marilyn Allison, of Latham, an employee of the J. C. Penny Co., Decatur, has been notified by the War Department of the death of her husband, Staff Sgt. Charles R. Allison, who was reported missing in action over Kyushu, Japan on July 28, 1945.

They gave their ALL—for us!