

Auburn Pilot Gives Life, Missing Sergeant, Prisoner

Auburn—A Catholic glider pilot has made the supreme sacrifice in action over Germany and a staff sergeant, previously reported missing, is now a prisoner of Germany, the casualty list from this area state this week.

Second Lieut. Leo W. Benson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo H. Benson, of 114 Wall Street, a glider pilot, who took part in the "D" Day invasion, served in Belgium and Holland and was with the American armies invading the Rhineland, was killed in action over Germany on March 24.

Lieut. Benson is a graduate of St. Aloysius School and East High School. He enlisted in June, 1942, and has been overseas for 13 months. He was stationed at Mitchell Field, Grand Forks, N. D.; Lubbock, Tex.; Bowman Field, Ky.; Sedalia, Mo.; and Camp Mackall, N. C. Lieut. Benson was appointed a flight officer on April 30, 1943, and was only recently commissioned a second lieutenant. He was the holder of the Presidential Unit Citation, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, five bronze campaign stars and the bronze arrow head.

Lieut. Benson has two brothers in the army, Pfc. Joseph, stationed in Germany, and Corp. William, in a hospital in Germany. Two other brothers, Robert and James, are at home.

On Monday morning, April 16th, a memorial Mass was offered in St. Aloysius Church by the Rev. John E. Crowley. The Mass was said at the request of the Holy Name Society of the Parish. The Mass was sung by the All City Choir of St. Aloysius Church and was one of the most beautiful services ever held in the church.

Lieut. Benson was the second member of the Class of 1935 of St. Aloysius to make the

supreme sacrifice. The other member of the class was Frederick A. Bishop, who was killed in action on July 28, 1944. Joseph B. Sullivan and George P. Diehl also of the Class of 1935 have been wounded in action. The Service Flag of St. Aloysius Church has 137 stars and five of them are gold.

Staff Sgt. Ralph A. Galiso, of the 159th Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Galiso, Jefferson Street, who was reported missing in action December 18, in the Luxembourg area is now a prisoner of Germany. The information came to the parents and family on a postal card from their son. Galiso has been in the service three years and has been overseas for two years.

Paratrooper is Home From Overseas Duty

Geneva — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Soles, of 71 Wadsworth street, were happily surprised on Saturday evening, April 7, when their son, Corp. Paul F. Soles, of the Parachute Troops returned from fourteen months overseas in the Eastern Theatre of Operations.

He was a member of the 101st Airborne troops over Germany and recently returned to this country on a fifty-day furlough. He is in good health and happy to be home again.

Trains as Bomber Pilot

Second Lieut. William F. Lawson is now receiving his final phase of training as pilot on a B-24 Liberator bomber at Walla Walla Army Air Field, a base of the Fourth Air Force in the State of Washington.

Youth Director



Rev. Charles E. Birmingham, Director of Youth work in the Diocese of Brooklyn, who has been named Director of Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare conference in Washington. Father Birmingham succeeds the Rev. Paul F. Yonker, of Milwaukee, recently named Assistant General Secretary of the N.C.W.C.

Takes WAC Training

Geneva — Pvt. Antoinette A. Gringeri, 60 High street, is taking basic military training at the Third WAC training center as a member of one of the newly organized WAC medical companies.

On completion of training, she will be assigned to the Enlisted Women's Technician School to be trained as a medical technician or a medical clerk. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gringeri.

Deanery Priests, Youth Advance Sodality Movement

Geneva — Plans for formation of Sodalists in individual parishes to aid in safeguarding and elevating the ideals of youth, were discussed by priests of Geneva deanery, Friday noon April 13.

The priests of the various parishes met at an informal luncheon sponsored by Geneva Deanery Sodality Union at Hotel Seneca.

Benediction was given by the Very Rev. William H. McFadden, V.F., Pastor of St. Stephen's Church. The informal discussion was led by the Rev. Francis P. LeBuffe, S.J., Director of Sodality Activities in the Eastern States.

Present also were: the Rev. Roy H. Morphy, Rochester Diocesan Sodality Union Director; the Rev. Robert H. Fennessy, Geneva Deanery Sodality Director; the Rev. Edward B. Simpson, Phelps; the Rev. George W. Doud, East Bloomfield; the Rev. Joseph V. Curtin, Clyde; the Rev. Edward K. Ball, Pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; the Rev. Henry Bleier, Ovid; the Rev. William J. Ayers, Stanley; the Rev. Francis Harding, Palmyra; the Rev. Raymond P. Nolan, Director of DeSales High School Sodality; the Rev. John N. Brill and the Rev. V. A. Jankowiak.

A "get-together" for various sodality representatives in Geneva Deanery was held at the Knights of Columbus home, Friday night. Discussion was led by Father LeBuffe. Boys and girls from DeSales Sodality acted as hosts and hostesses for the visiting representatives from East Bloomfield, Palmyra, Lyons, Stanley and Canandaigua. The entire meeting was dedicated to and offered up for President Roosevelt.

Movies taken at the DeSales High Sodality "May Day Celebration" last year, followed by refreshments concluded the program.

Guild Renames Staff

Auburn — April Meeting of the Flower Guild of Merry Hospital was held in the Lounge of the Imperial with forty members present. Miss Loretta A. Donahue, president was in charge of the business meeting. Recollections of officers took place as follows: Miss Loretta A. Donahue, president; Mrs. Frederic Kerr, vice-president; Mrs. Harold Wright, treasurer; Miss Nadine Cunningham, secretary; and Mrs. Claude Jetty, financial secretary.

'Missing' Soldier Returns to Duty

Geneva — Pfc. John Morabito, 23, who was previously reported missing in action has returned to combat, according to a War Department telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale Morabito, Border City.

A correction was made in a previous report which was received last week stating that he was missing in action.

Private First Class Morabito was listed as missing in action in Germany as of March 24, but his parents had received a letter from him dated March 27, so they were hoping that he would be found. They were happy to learn that he is once more back on duty with his unit.

Squires, Sodalists Plan Minstrel Show

Auburn — The Columbian Squires and the Sodality of Our Lady of St. Alphonsus Church will present a minstrel show, on April 30 and May 1 evenings, with a matinee Sunday afternoon, April 29 for the school children in Holy Family Auditorium. The minstrel show is being directed by Gerald Conroy and Father Dobbertin. Tickets may be purchased from any Sodalist or Squire.

The Squires held their meeting at the K. of C. Home in Geneva Street on Sunday evening. Chairman Graney of the Athletic Committee showed sport movies as a part of the Athletic Committee's program. Following the showing of the movies a ping-pong tournament between the Knights and the Squires was held.

Helps Bomb Japan

Sgt. George F. Ricker, of the 77th Bomb Squadron, now has membership in the "I Bombed Japan" club by active participation in an aerial bombing mission of the Kurile Islands on March 19.

Armed Services Keep Auburn Youths Active At Posts Throughout World

Auburn — Home on furloughs this week are Richard G. Anderson, S 2/c of the Navy who has just completed his training; John P. Callahan of the Navy who has just completed his boot training at Sampson; First Lieut. John J. McCarthy, son of Mrs. Mary McCarthy, Bayouport, who has just returned to the States after 18 months service in the Philippines; and Staff Sgt. James J. Murray, of the 54th Infantry Regiment, who has just returned to the States after 23 months overseas in France.

Corp. Ralph J. Casbarro, Wall Street, has arrived at a United States Air Force Station in England and will pursue a brief course of training before going into combat service. Pfc. Joseph E. Bryant, Grant Street, is with the 24th Infantry Division in the Philippines and has seen considerable action in Cebu with the 24th Infantry Regiment.

has been promoted to Ph. M. 3 c petty officer from the rank of hospital apprentice 1/c. Before entering the service he was a pre-medical student.

Pfc. Anthony J. O'Connell has returned to the United States after 26 months of service at an Air Transport Command hospital at Trinidad. Corp. Bernard O'Connell of Geneva is home on a 30-day furlough after more than three months in a base hospital in England after being wounded in the fighting in Germany. O'Connell wears the Purple Heart and the campaign ribbons of Normandy and France. John F. Brennan who was wounded at Aachen last December is home for the first time in two years and is visiting his father Thomas J. Brennan, Holy Street. Corp. Brennan has been in the service since April 14, 1943, and has been overseas a year.

Miss Jean Donovan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Donovan, Fifth Avenue has been commissioned an ensign in the Naval Nurse Corps and has reported to Sampson for basic training. She is a graduate of East High School and Auburn City Hospital School of Nursing.

Staff Sgt. Bernard J. Connelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Connelly, Market Street, has been in Italy for 18 months and is entitled to wear two bronze campaign stars. Connelly has been in the service for the past two years and is a crew chief in a veteran B-24 heavy bombardment group attached to the 12th AAF in Italy. Staff Sgt. John G. Sherry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sherry, Market Street, has been in Italy for 18 months and is entitled to wear two bronze campaign stars.

Staff Sgt. James J. Murray of the 54th Infantry has completed his course in radio training at Stout Falls. Murray is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Murray, 42 Nelson Street, and has been in the service since April 11, 1944.

Corp. Hugh E. Casey and Fred Casey, brother, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Casey, of 23 Catlin Street, met in France on March 20. When his brother met in France they met and a 30-day furlough. The furlough was the first since going overseas in 1942 with the 24th Infantry Regiment. Casey was in Germany during the invasion of France on June 6, 1944, and was overseas in Germany, France and Italy and was in Italy.

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