



F/O LAVERNE DAVID

Rapids Flier, Missing Since 1944, Is Dead

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. David, 640 Seventh street north, received word Friday from the war department, that their son, F/O LaVerne V. David—has been given up as killed in action. The Wisconsin Rapids airman had been missing in action over the island of Truk since March 30, 1944.

Flight Officer David, pilot of a Liberator B-24 bomber, was on a mission over Jap-held Truk from his base on Bougainville when he failed to return. Seven days earlier, on a similar mission, he had been struck in the leg by Jap flak but was not injured seriously.

Born in Canada

LaVerne was born January 22, 1919, at Camrose, Alberta, Canada. He came to Wisconsin Rapids about 20 years ago and attended SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Grade school and Lincoln High school, from which he was graduated in 1937.

He then entered the Wausau Business Institute, from which he was graduated in 1939. Prior to entering the service in July, 1940, he was employed by the City Gas company.

After enlisting at Wausau, David served as head payroll clerk for the commandant at Kelly Field, Tex. In July, 1941, he was transferred to Las Vegas, Nev., where he worked in a similar capacity. He received an appointment as an air cadet in August, trained at Brayton and Brady fields, Tex., and received his wings March 7, 1942.

Graduates at Forth Worth

Following service at several more air fields, he graduated from the army air force pilot school at Fort Worth, Tex., in August, 1943.

On December 24, 1943, David married Miss Thelma Franks of Fort Worth at Mountain Home, Ida., where he was then stationed. He went overseas from California, February 5.

In addition to his parents and wife, LaVerne is survived by one brother, Leon, who resides at Cedar Rapids, Ia., and two sisters, Vivian, who is a registered nurse in Milwaukee, and Mrs. Marie Stoner of this city.

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