

Schaffer, David F.

## Northampton Man First From Valley To Die at Makin

Oct 3 1943

Lieutenant David F. Schaffer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schaffer, of 843 Main Street, Northampton, is believed to be the first Lehigh Valley soldier to be reported dead in the fighting for Makin in the Gilbert Islands.

Ironically the family received a letter from the lieutenant on the

same day as the message from the War Department.

Lieutenant Schaffer had been in the Army since Jan. 21, 1942, when he left East Stroudsburg State Teachers College to enlist. A year later he was graduated from officer candidate school and last April went overseas with an invasion force.

He was on the grid squad at Northampton High School during his sophomore and junior years and in his senior year won a varsity position.

Always interested in athletics, he majored in physical education at East Stroudsburg College and during his Summer vacations served as a leader at several boys' camps, one

year going to Canada in that capacity.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Northampton.

Surviving are his parents; three brothers, Melvin, with an Army military police unit in Norfolk, Va.; Arthur, of Northampton, and Foster, of Catasauqua; two sisters, Miriam, wife of Harry Schweyer, of Hoken-dauqua; and Mary, wife of Marine Lieutenant Louis Courtright, who also is in the Gilbert Islands.

December 3, 1943