

Wallace, Robert W.

Allentown Pair With Parallel Navy Careers Reported Missing

Two Allentown boys who were sworn into the Navy six months ago as members of the group of "Pearl Harbor Avengers" Tuesday were reported "missing in action" by the Navy Department.

They are Robert W. Wallace, 21-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Wallace, of 124 North Fourteenth Street, Allentown and John H. Williamson, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey J. Williamson, of 2123 Hanover Avenue (Rittersville), Allentown.

The two Allentonians were shipmates on a transport ship which was reported sunk off Casablanca during the recent African invasion.

The Navy careers of the two boys ran parallel lines. After their enlistment they were assigned to Newport, R. I., for three months of basic training, were promoted to firemen, third class, at the same time, and held second class seamen's ratings

a ship sunk off Casablanca.

The parents have not lost hope for the safety of their sons. Their belief that the landing barges, to which the boys were assigned, may have been away from the transport at the time it was torpedoed was strengthened by the eye-witness story of the sinking told by Seaman Second Class Albert J. Kline, Jr., of Allentown.

Kline, home Tuesday on a 48-hour leave after his return from Africa, said in an interview that landing barges were busy taking survivors from the water after the transport was hit. His own ship, Kline said, was forced to slip anchor and escape, leaving its barges and their survivors to land on shore.

A graduate of Catasauqua High School in 1939, Wallace played basketball and was a cheerleader. After graduation he worked as an apprentice at the Bethlehem Steel Company until he joined the Navy on June 7.

Williamson, too, was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company prior to his enlistment. He attended Allentown High School. He is the only son of the Williamsons, who also are parents of a daughter, Mrs. Norman Geisinger, of 922 Hanover Avenue, Allentown. He was a native of Allentown and a member of St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church.

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JOHN WILLIAMSON

at the time of the African action. Both received training in barge landing tactics off Norfolk, Va.

The Navy Department telegrams stated simply that the two seamen were "missing following action in the performance of their duties" but did not reveal the location of the theater of action. It is known, however, that they were assigned to

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