

Bear, Willard P.

LEHIGH GRADUATE DIES FOLLOWING AIR CRASH

Commissioned as Ensign on
Graduation Day—Resigned
Rank to Become Air Cadet.

Aviation Cadet Willard P. Bear, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Bear, of Friedens, Slatington, R. D. 1, died at the Naval Reserve Air Base, Lambert Field, St. Louis, Mo., Monday of injuries received in an airplane crash Sunday.

Cadet Bear was born in Weisenberg Township, Lehigh County, a son of Francis G. and Sallie M., nee Welker, Bear. He graduated from North Whitehall Township School, 1932, and from Slatington High School, 1936. He took a post-graduate course at Slatington High in 1937.

He attended Lehigh University, graduating in 1941 as an electrical engineer. On the day of his graduation he became an ensign in the Naval Reserve. He spent seven weeks of training at the Naval Reserve station, Washington, D. C., and then was sent to Hawaii, where he spent a year being promoted to a lieutenant, junior grade.

Cadet Bear then resigned his commission and was transferred to California, where he became a pre-flight student as a naval cadet. He was assigned to Lambert Field, Mo., November 11, 1942, where he remained until his fatal crash.

He was a star scout in the Boy Scouts and was a cornet player in the band while attending Lehigh.

Feb 9, 1943