

Declared Dead



LIEUT. JOSEPH RILEY

Joseph Riley Now Declared Lost In Action

DEC 5 1945
Lieut. Joseph Tuttle Riley, oldest son of School Director and Mrs. John H. T. Riley, 632 Seventh Avenue, was reported lost in action in a letter received by his parents yesterday from James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy.

The letter read in part, "I know what little solace the formal and written word can be to help meet the burden of your loss, but in spite of that knowledge, I cannot refrain from saying, very simply, that I am sorry. It is hoped that you may find comfort in the thought that your son gave his life for his country, upholding the highest traditions of the Navy."

Lieut. Riley was listed on the official Navy records as missing in action as of October 25, 1944, when the plane he was piloting was lost during an attack on enemy fleet units east of Samar Island, Philippines.

In addition to the Purple Heart, the Air Medal and the Navy Cross, the young naval officer held the Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded him for "heroism and extraordinary achievement." He took part in combat in all the major actions from the Coral Sea engagement to the Philippines.

A graduate of Liberty High School, he was attending Lehigh University when he enlisted in naval aviation in January, 1941. Commissioned an ensign in October of the same year, he was assigned to the Pacific area six days before Pearl Harbor.

His two younger brothers were recently discharged from the service, Lieut. John Riley Jr., a night fighter with the North Atlantic Fleet, and Lieut. Charles E. Riley, who also holds the DFC.

A solemn memorial mass will be offered in Lt. Riley's honor Friday morning, 9:30 o'clock, in SS. Simon and Jude Church, West Broad Street.

Riley, Joseph T.
Riley Jr., John
Riley, Charles E.

December 5, 1945