

Braucci, Domenic

Eye-Witness Tells of Death of Lt. Braucci, Reported Missing

First Lieutenant Domenic Braucci, aged 24 years, son of Mrs. Frank J. Braucci and the late Mr. Braucci, 727 East Fifth Street, who had been reported missing in action Jan. 27 on the Island of Luzon in the Philippines has been informed by a friend of her son, Captain John H. Congdon, of Battery C, 103 Field Artillery Battalion, that he was instantly killed in an airplane crash.

The letter from Captain Congdon to Mrs. Braucci read in part:

"A few days ago, I had a call from the chaplain giving me the news that Dom had been found and that he had been instantly killed. It was a terrible shock, of course, particularly as it ended the last glimmer of hope and yet it was definite information which was a tremendous relief, as I shall try to show you as I tell you what happened.

"Dom was on a routine flight over enemy territory and although he had an observer with him, was busy adjusting fire on enemy targets, in fact, he was right in the middle of a mission when the accident happened. Our own plane from my battalion was over the same area, on the same type of mission as Dom's. Somehow, they got too close to each other and collided with Dom's plane running head-on into ours. Our plane miraculously was able to land safely, but poor Dom's crashed in enemy territory, without regaining control of the plane. It was obvious, however, when he was recovered the other day, it was found that he had been instantly killed at the moment of the crash.

I know the horror you feel, as you read this, at the thought of Dom lying for so long, unattended, in enemy territory. I assure you that it could not be helped, everything possible was done to speed getting to him but the enemy simply held the ground and it took a long time for our troops to win it.

"I am thankful that the enemy did not touch him, he was entirely unmolested and he was laid to rest with dignity in a beautiful cemetery. The chaplain assured me that a



FIRST LT. DOMENIC BRAUCCI

service was held for him."

Lieut. Braucci was graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School, joined the National Guards and was trained at Fort Monroe, Va. He left with the 213th Coast Artillery Regiment, in September, 1940, for Camp Pendleton, Va.; later going to Camp Stewart, Ga., and Fort Hamilton, N. Y. From there he was sent to Officers Candidate School and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in May, 1942, in Cadre of the 79th Division at Camp Pickens, Va., and Camp Blanding, Florida.

He later was sent to the Flying School in Denton, Texas, as a liaison pilot trainee. He left for overseas Dec. 28, 1943, joined the 43rd Division in New Guinea and was in the invasion of the Philippines.

Besides his mother there survives a brother, Louis J., and two sisters, Consuelo R. and Anne M., at home. Arrangements for a Memorial Requiem Mass in Holy Rosary Church will be announced.

Mar 31, 1945